

Ilsfeld Totally Reloaded After 1904

It's the year 1904. Trains roll through town bringing well-dressed folks to this area of [Baden-Württemberg](#). Kids are off playing with whatever it is that kids play with. Wives are working hard in their kitchens. Then all of a sudden a huge fire breaks out, burning down their beloved Ilsfeld.

It does tell a horrid tale about this picturesque town where more than 125 buildings and almost a hundred farms were leveled, not to mention almost a thousand people were left without homes.

Sure, it would be a sad tale if Ilsfeld hadn't recovered, rebuilding itself; and it's a good thing that not all of Ilsfeld's timber-framed houses were burnt to a crisp. Otherwise, you wouldn't have any to look at while you're here (the old Pharmacy, *Gasthaus Ochsen* are still here).

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And it's also the reason you'll find an Art Nouveau Town Hall, instead of a Renaissance or medieval one.

Some of the original St. Bartholomew Church still remains, mainly its late-Gothic tower and choir. The church is also the site of the *Ilsfelder Holzmarkt* (Ilsfeld Timber Market), a 500 year old event that takes place on the last weekend of August.

At the Desert House, there is a remnant of a 15th century chapel — which wasn't destroyed in the 1904 fire. I would also recommend seeing the ruins of Helfenberg; this too wasn't destroyed in the great fire, it's been like this for eons.

I did tell you Ilsfeld rebuilt itself, didn't I? No way better to see it than enjoy a day at the outdoor

swimming pool or horseback riding around the countryside. Which I know you'll really enjoy since its on the Württemberg Wine Route, so giddy-up & get drinking! ;-)

You'll see more vineyards if you're cycling around on the Schozach Alb-Neckar Cycle Route (or just around the [Swabian-Franconian Forest](#)). Yeah, if you're gonna be drinking, it's best to walk or go by public transport.

I'm really sorry that so much was destroyed here at the turn of the last century, but I really like Ilsfeld as it is today; and I think you will, too.