

Ladenburg -- Home Of Benz And Ambitious Romans

In the middle of [Heidelberg](#) and [Mannheim](#) is the ancient and utterly beautiful town of Ladenburg, another obligatory stop on the [Bertha Benz Memorial Route](#). If anything, Ladenburg is an enterprising town.

In case you're not familiar, Mrs. Benz rode through the [Baden](#) countryside in her husband's patented prototype, Benz Patent-Motorwagen #3. Her husband, Dr. Karl Benz (is the name Benz ringing a bell to anyone?) is considered the inventor of the automobile.

Dr. Benz moved to Landenburg in 1906 and just like his cars, he knew a good thing when he saw it.

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Long before automobiles, the Romans set up shops here. They had a weekly market, built a theater, and soaked in hot springs. They also put up a *Jupitergigantensäule* in the middle of town, just a good hundred years after the birth of this amazing town. The one there now with Athena, Juno, Mercury, and Hercules on the base is a reproduction. There is even a remainder of the Roman's original military wall. Ambitious fellows they were!

Ladenburg also has a medieval Old Town area, with a *Marienstatue* on the Marktplatz, the old *Martinstor* (a gate in/out of the walled town), its *Hexenturm* (known as Witches Tower in English), and its *Stadtmauer* (part of a defense wall) — and all so graciously maintained you'll think it was built just the other week.

There's also the *Sebastianskapelle*, a local Protestant "Chapel," and the Church of St. Gallus; with a crypt that goes all the way back to the 11th century, to visit. Plus, lots of timber framed houses

scattered throughout the old part of town.

Wow, seems like a lot to see indeed; and the Ladenburg local history museum does its best to sum up a lot of its history.

For something a bit modern, check out the Auto Museum (seems fitting to have one here), or take a bicycle ride out on the Neckartal Cycle Track, that goes along the [Neckar River](#).

Or, stick to the little streets and lanes of the old and new part of town like I personally enjoy doing whenever I'm here.

Oh, forget the bicycles and go rent a Benz, it'll make Dr. Karl proud! ;-)

Here's a Special Tip: After you've got your good fill of Ladenburg's culture and history, go eat a delicious steak (served on a hot stone) in the restaurant [Die Kartoffel](#) (Kirchenstraße 3). It's not only one of my top favorites but also frequently visited and enjoyed by countless US Americans and other international guests.