

Laufenburg (Baden) -- Let Hans Show You Around The Hotzenwald

Just across from Laufenburg, Switzerland on the [River Rhine](#) is the [German town](#) of Laufenburg (Baden). It's home to one of the oldest Carnival celebrations in [southern Germany](#); and the place is an all-around pretty town, if you like that sort of thing.

Of course you like that sort of thing; otherwise you wouldn't be here (or, have clicked on this page). ;-)

One of the coolest characters you'll meet in Laufenburg is Hans Graf. Who? Hans Graf is a character who takes visitors along a 2-hour guided tour of Laufenburg's sites. Well, he does if you're visiting from May to October. And with tours starting every 15 minutes, you're pretty much guaranteed not a long wait. Busy guy, right? ;-)

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Well, I'll help good old Hans out and fill you in on some of Laufenburg's highlights. After we're done, we'll all head over to neighboring [Bad Säckingen](#) for a massage and dip.

Hans will take you to see the Holy Spirit Church, which has been rebuilt twice (1377 & 1883) since it was built in 1314.

Even older is the Parish Church of St. Oswald and Pelagius. The part Romanesque and Gothic church's tower stands 38 meters above the town; and on the inside is the charming St. Anne Chapel.

Some of Laufenburg's other historical buildings can be found in the Old Town at Hauptstraße 28

(built 1562) that's been a hotel since 1933, Hauptstraße 14 (built 1565), and the *Rathaus* (built 1801) at Hauptstraße 30. Just about a hundred years later an American couple built the *Schlössle*, which now belongs to the town.

When Hans' tour ends it's time to get out into the Hotzenwald, a forest full of bicycle and walking trails. As lovely as Laufenburg's buildings are, you sure don't want to spend all your time inside.

Make sure you're back in time for *Fastnacht* (Carnival — usually February right before the start of Lent) where the festivities are full of brightly garbed folks, food, and lots of beer. For which I'm late meeting Hans — excuse me. ;-)