

## Mössingen -- Where The Wildness And Beauty Of Nature Collide

Dubbed the City of Flowers, Mössingen is a contrast study in the best and worst of nature. In 1983, four million cubic meters of land slid into the nearby area from the [Swabian Alb](#), creating a stark and primeval landscape and terrifying area residents.

A quarter century later, the return of plant and animal life to the area as resulted in a nature reserve as a tribute to the resiliency of the earth. A visit to the *Mössingen Bergrutsch* will allow you views of the massive scar left by the landslide.

As further evidence of nature's adaptability, ornithologists in the area have discovered that birds in the area have learned to mimic cell phone ring tones. Even experienced bird watchers have been fooled on more than one occasion.

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In the spring, on the hills outside Mössingen, thousands of fragrant fruit trees fill the air with their scent and the city appears to be surrounded by blossoms. Throughout the spring and summer, the town is filled with roses, flowers, and herbs on an epic scale giving it it's well-deserved title.

While in Mössingen be sure to visit the *Talheimer Bergkirche*, which dates to at least the 9th century and was at one time part of a Beguine convent. The Beguines were a lay community of women who lived and worked among the people of the towns. They did not take formal vows, but lived in informal convents.

Originally a one-room church, the *Talheimer Bergkirche* has been added to over the centuries. An altarpiece dating to the 16th century has been removed to a museum in Stuttgart and is considered

one of the jewels of the National Museum.

On the next to the last Sunday in June, visit the Rose Art Market and Gallery, a treat for art and flower lovers everywhere.