



F r a n k e n



ENGLISH

## ORTSPROSPEKT

A Guided Tour



**IPHOFEN**

*Franckens  
Weinstadt mit Kultur*



## WELCOME TO IPHOFEN – WELCOME TO PAST AND PRESENT DAYS

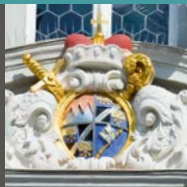
The wine town of Iphofen stands out for its warm hospitality, excellent wine and culinary delights. Just like a precious painting, its meticulously restored ancient centre is framed by completely intact town walls. Its double town gates and towers bear witness of its strong fortifications, and a stroll on the “Herrengarten” along the town walls will take you back to the Middle Ages and to the days of lookouts, hangmen and executioners.

Iphofen offers everything for unforgettable holidays in any season. Wine tasting and a variety of cultural events, historical sights and leisure time activities not only appeal to wine connoisseurs.

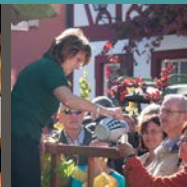
*Tradition*



*Objects of art in detail*



*Events around the wine*



AN EPITOME OF WINE AND CULTURE



## IPHOFEN – BLESSED BY NATURE

**“Gypsum, wood and wine – these are our pride”** – this old saying on Iphofen’s “assets” holds still true today.

With roughly 300 hectares of vineyards and 2,200 hectares of forest, Iphofen is – at the foot of Schwanberg – surrounded by beautiful landscape. Excellent paths for hiking and cycling, a basin for “Kneipp” water treading, an indoor swimming pool with a kids’ pool zone and the charming surroundings with idyllic villages forming part of Iphofen’s municipality are further attractions for visitors.

**Great wines** grow on a unique ‘terroir’ in Iphofen with its sunny slopes, mild climate and Keuper soil from the late Triassic. The Schwanberg location of “Julius Echter” is a unique combination of topography, geology, soil, water, microclimate and types of grape. A highlight for wine tourists is Iphofen’s **geo-ecological educational trail** on the Schwanberg.

14 info panels spread along a path of roughly one kilometre on the sunny slope above “Kronsberg” offer various information on the topics of wine, geology, history, forest, plant and animal life as well as other interesting, amusing and perhaps unknown peculiarities on both sides of the trail.

But the Schwanberg region is not only famous for its wine but also for another peculiarity which today forms the basis of an important industry – large **gypsum deposits**. Products of Knauf Gips company, which is based in Iphofen, are known all over the world.

Iphofen’s forest is dominated by deciduous trees. This sparsely grown forest offers a retreat for many endangered animals and plants. A peculiarity is **Iphofen’s “Mittelwald”** (coppice-with-standard forest), a historical way of forest management, in which a system rotating over 30 years entitles citizens to fell the 30-year-old coppice as firewood. 180 of these historical entitlements have survived to this day, 120 of them are still exercised.



Plaster stone

Protection of species

A fruitful yield

Quarrying gypsum

Forest management

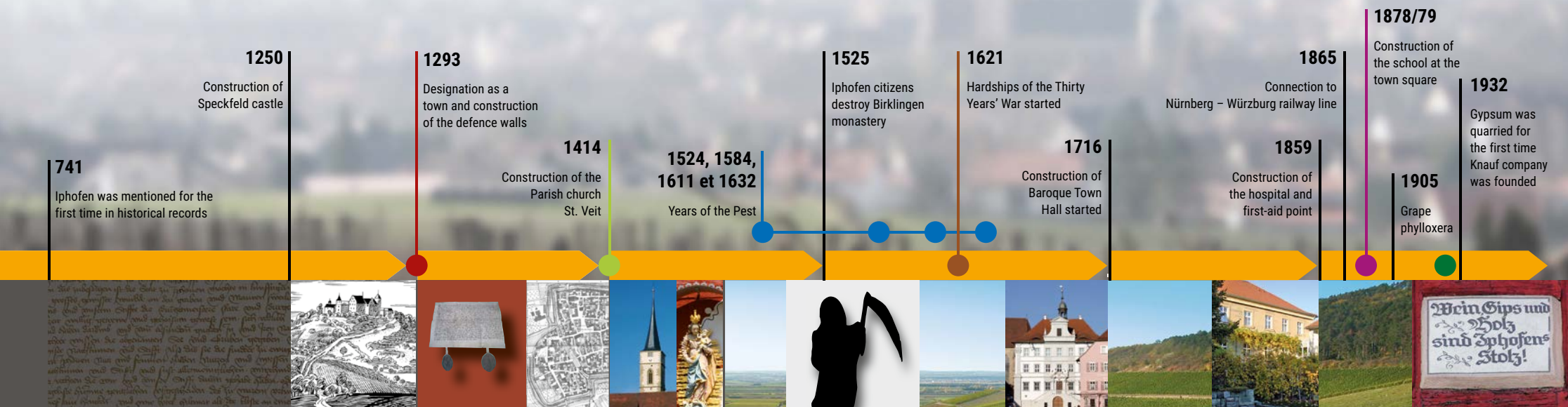


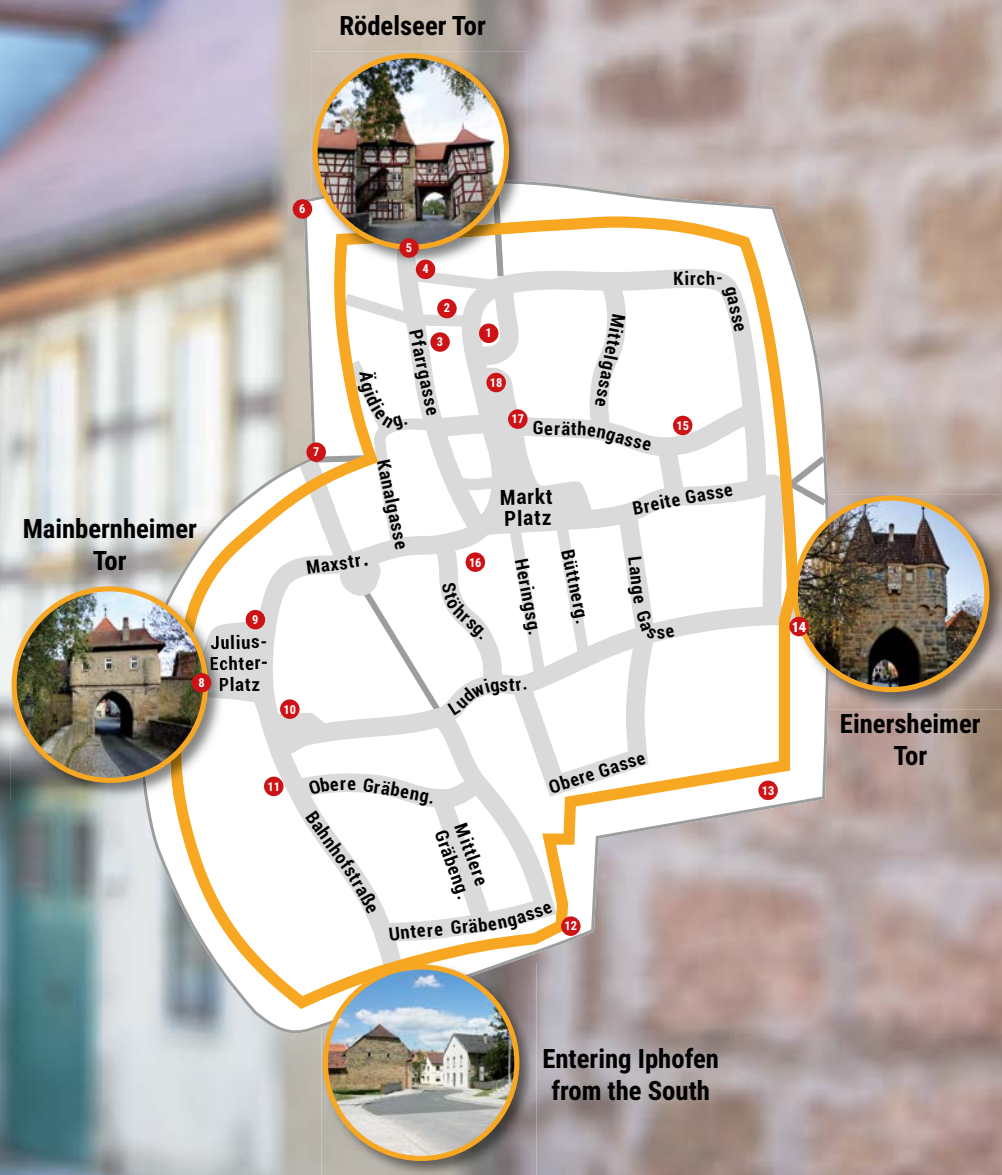
GYP SUM, WOOD AND WINE – THESE ARE OUR PRIDE



## MILESTONES IN IPHOFEN'S HISTORY

- 741** Iphofen was mentioned for the first time in historical records.
- 1293** Würzburg bishop Manegold von Neuenburg grants Iphofen the privileges of a town including the entitlement to build walls, rampart and moat. In the same year Iphofen started to build its defences, among them the famous "Rödelseer Tor" (Rödelsee gate). Construction took more than 10 years. ●
- 1323** Emperor Ludwig der Bayer confirms the bishop's act and thus the privileges of Iphofen as a town, among them the right to hold three markets.
- 1414** Construction of the Parish church St. Veit was started. Construction took more than 200 years. ●
- 1524** 1584, 1611 and 1632 were recorded as the "Great Years of the Black Death" in the town's chronicle. The name of the "Pesttor" still reminds us today of those horrible years. The dead bodies of those killed by the plague were carried through it to St. Martin cemetery outside of town. ●
- 1525** Iphofen citizens destroyed the Birklingen monastery.
- 1553** Margrave Albrecht Alcibiades came to Iphofen, burnt down the "Spitalmühle" and extorted 6,340 guilders from Iphofen.
- 1621** Hardships of the Thirty Years' War started. ●
- 1716** Construction works of the Baroque Townhall were started and completed in 1718. Master builder was Josef Greising, the predecessor of Balthasar Neumann, architect of the famous Würzburg Residence.
- 1859** Construction of the hospital and first-aid post (today used as a home for the elderly).
- 1865** Iphofen was connected to the Nürnberg – Würzburg railway line.
- 1878** Construction of the school at the Town Square. ●
- 1905** The appearance of grape phylloxera seriously damaged the vineyards. After the introduction of grafted rootstocks, vineyards were replanted again and viticulture developed into one of the main pillars of Iphofen besides gypsum. ●
- 1932** Gypsum was quarried for the first time.





The Old Town

## 1 VINOTHEK

The original building was a two-storey eaves house with a barrel-vaulted cellar which was occupied by the sacristan of St. Veit. The listed building was restored and turned into a vinothèque which has become the centrepiece of Iphofen's touristic, cultural and vinicultural diversity. On 600 m<sup>2</sup> and four levels you will find, among other things, a wine centre where Iphofen's wines are represented and can be tasted, an art gallery, a vaulted cellar and a lecture room with a stucco ceiling in its original state.

## 2 STADTPFARRKIRCHE ST. VEIT

As early as in 1293, when Iphofen was granted a town's privileges, a chapel dedicated to St. Vitus could be found on the site where the parish church stands today. Construction work lasted almost 200 years from 1414 to 1612 and, in a sense, went far beyond the power of Iphofen's citizens (roughly 1,800 at that time). But despite this long period in which the late Gothic style was followed by renaissance and early baroque architecture, its result was a harmonious and splendid church building which is certainly among the most beautiful churches in Franconia. Its most precious treasures are, apart from Tilmann Riemenschneider's John the Evangelist, the original chancel glass windows from the 15th century and the "Fine Madonna of Iphofen" carved in lime-tree wood. The altarpiece of the high altar with its magnificent early baroque body in black and gold depicts the martyrdom of St. Veit, the patron saint of this church.

## 3 MICHAELSKAPELLE

The Gothic St. Michael's Chapel is the oldest religious building preserved to this day. It served as a grave chapel as long as the cemetery was there. The east wall shows remains of paintings from the time of its construction (around 1380). The basement houses the only still existing ossuary in Lower Franconia. The bones which are piled up in the ossuary date back to the late Middle Ages. Ossuaries usually served as a place of secondary burial for the remains of bones which were found when tombs were dug up again. Since the space of the graveyard was very limited in the Middle Ages the erection of an ossuary was almost inevitable.

## 4 MITTAGSTURM

Next to the parish church of St. Veit towers the high and powerful 'Mittagsturm'. In the Middle Ages it served as a place of custody for "malicious persons", i. e. people who had committed a criminal offence. The passage-way still reveals traces of a former portcullis and remains of the installation of a drawbridge. Clearly visible changes in the upper part of the stonework indicate that the tower was later raised by another two storeys. In former times, a wooden bridge flanked by two walls connected 'Mittagsturm' and the Rödelsee gate.



## 5 RÖDELSEER TOR

The Rödelsee gate, the oldest and most famous of the three town gates preserved to this day, is the gem among Iphofen's famous buildings. Its unique tower covered with hollow tiles, its impressive half-timbered construction and its gate house turned it into the 'shooting star' of innumerable painters and photographers and at the same time Iphofen's landmark. It was built during the reign of Bishop Johann III. von Grumbach (1455-1466) whose coat of arms can still be seen on the machicolation. Worth mentioning is a small entrance hole, a door-in-the-door which was only opened when a late arrival asked to be let in.



## 6 BÜRGERTURM

The stolid "Bürgerturm" with its 'helmed roof' served as a prison for misdealing townspeople. The tower collapsed in 1596 burying a neighbouring cottage. When it was rebuilt in 1600, it took five weeks to dig deep enough to hit on rocky ground. The "lion's jaws" and arrow slits are evidence of the special importance the "Bürgerturm" had as a corner tower of the town's defences. A special point of interest is the medieval toilet facility built into a niche on the top floor. The seat is cut out of sandstone. The 'slide' leading into the open air is clearly visible from the outside.



## 7 HENKERSTURM

As its name already indicates, this tower served as a dwelling for the executioner. As this profession belonged to the "dishonest" occupations in the Middle Ages, the executioner and his family were regarded as "dishonest" people. He was carefully shunned by his neighbours. In the tavern as well as in church he was assigned a special seat, and he usually lived in isolation and far from neighbours. Executioners were not allowed to hold an honorary office, and in many cases they were even refused a Christian burial. Due to this outlawry, executioner families were forced to marry their own kind. In most cases, the father passed his job on to his son or his son-in-law.



## 8 MAINBERNHEIMER TOR

Next to the Mainbernheim Gate, which used to be called Spital or Outer Moat Gate, you still find the gatekeeper's cottage in front of the small barbican. The Mainbernheim Gate, whose time of construction is dated from 1533 to 1548, was the centre of the violent conflicts in 1533. Time and again, the grim disputes about the incoming road from Mainbernheim flared up between Iphofen and neighbouring Mainbernheim.

## 9 SPITALKIRCHE

Spitalkirche was built at the same time as the Bürgerspital St. Johannis Baptistae, which was founded in 1338. Its simple exteriors hide treasures to be found inside. Apart from the pretty early rococo interior, two sculptures, a Madonna with Child and a Bishop, catch the eye. Both sculptures are accredited to August Reuß, who was born in Iphofen and a Riemenschneider scholar.



## 10 KIRCHE ZUM HL. BLUT

The origin of the Church of the Holy Blood dates back to the year 1294. In 1329, the Würzburg Bishop Wolfram von Grumbach raised the ordinary prebendary to a rectorate with its own building and plentiful proceeds. Worth seeing is the high altar with its neo-Gothic body (1892). The calvary scene, which used to be part of the Gothic Apostle Altar, is assigned to the school of Riemenschneider.



## 11 ZEHNTKELLER

On the location of today's hotel "Zehntkeller" used to stand the Mönchshof of the Birklingen Augustinian monastery not far away from Iphofen, which was first mentioned in documents in 1486. After the monastery had been destroyed during the Peasant War, the monks, who were left without shelter, took refuge here. The spacious cellars were used to store the tithe wine for the Prince Bishop. The name "Tithe Cellar" has been kept to this day.



## 12 PESTTOR

The Pest or Dead Gate was bricked up in 1596. Its name reminds us of the days when the Black Death raged in Iphofen, and its toll was very high. Every night the plague victims were put on carts and taken to the cemetery outside of town where they were buried in large pits. The sturdy square tower got its name "Zentturm" from the Zentbüttel, who used to live here – the bailiff also responsible for collecting the tithe. It also served as the poorhouse in the 19th century.



## 13 EULENTURM

The slender Owls' Tower made of squared blocks served as a watchtower. The warden had a good view of the town and its surroundings. Downstairs was the sombre dungeon, where felons sentenced for life languished. Since their corpses were left there to rot, these towers are also called "Rotting Towers". Its door was so far above the ground that it could only be reached over a ladder.







## 14 EINERSHEIMER TOR

The Einersheim Gate is Iphofen's entrance from the east. This is the place where the Markt Bibart peasants wanted to invade Iphofen on April 4th, 1525 but they were driven back. Similar to the Rödelsee and Pest Gates, we can find a machicolation on the outside. Boiling tar pitch or hot water were poured down on the invading enemy. A stone cross in the passageway indicates the place where an Iphofen citizen was stabbed to death by the Swedes in 1632.



## 15 ALTENBETREUUNGSZENTRUM

Iphofen's Senior Citizens' Home was opened on July 1st, 1995 and is situated in the heart of the Old Town. It is a state-of-the-art institution for geriatric care. Specialised staff, state-of-the-art technical devices, all areas accessible for elderly and handicapped people allow a broad range of medical and caring services, including outpatient care, day care, short-term care, long-term care, assisted living, a meeting place for the elderly.



## 16 KNAUF-MUSEUM

This majestic early Baroque building, which had originally been built as an inn (1688-1693), later housed the Würzburg "Amtshof" and then the Bavarian bursary. Now it houses the Knauf Museum – 205 replicas represent the highlights from the great museums, such as the Egyptian Museum in Berlin or the Louvre in Paris. With the help of plaster casts, artworks from four continents and five milleniums could be assembled under one roof. The annual highlights are top-class special exhibitions presented by and in the Knauf Museum.



## 17 MARKTPLATZ MIT MARIENBRUNNEN

The Fountain of the Virgin Mary, which used to be the centre of communication in medieval Iphofen, is crowned by a Baroque Madonna statue. Since Iphofen had been granted town privileges, regular markets were held on the market square, a tradition which is brought back to life again in modern times (St. Martin's Market, Christmas Market). The Market Square also is the picturesque setting for Iphofen's annual wine festival – always taking place on the second weekend of July. It is turned into one big wine tavern during this event.



## 18 BAROCKES RATHAUS

The Baroque Town Hall with its double-helix staircase and magnificent portal was built by master builder Josef Greising. There are two "cells of shame" or "doghouses" right and left of the staircase (instead of a pillory) where citizens were punished for minor offences.

## WHAT TO KNOW AND WHAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST

**Guided tours** or **Experiencing-wine-with-all-senses** tours with qualified guides will get you acquainted with history, wine-growing, grape varieties and sites.

Sampling wines in a cozy atmosphere and accompanied by expert comments of winegrowers and winemakers will give you a better idea of the wines grown in Iphofen. Spending your holidays on a wine farm will provide you with deeper insights into a winegrower's life.

Private **Art Galleries** and the Art Gallery of the Iphofen Vinotheque present temporary exhibitions of contemporary artists.

An extensive and clearly signposted network of paths for hiking and cycling as well as educational and nature trails across vineyards and woods help you to escape from it all and to enjoy nature. You can also relax in Iphofen's **indoor swimming pool** with its **water wonderland for kids**. It offers one swimming pool with a separate non-swimmer section, dousing showers and jet-stream nozzles, a recreational area for sunbathing and a playground as well as a cafeteria.



## WHAT TO KNOW

## SOME CULTURAL INFORMATION

The **Knauf Museum** provides its visitors with the unique opportunity of throwing a glance at exhibits originating from five milleniums and four continents. Recreations of masterpieces from Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Hittite Kingdom are presented in several spacious halls and the idyllic inner courtyard. Annual highlights are top-class special exhibitions presented by and in the Knauf Museum.

The **Kirchenburgmuseum** (Fortified Church Museum) is situated in the heart of the village of Mönchsondheim, one out of seven villages around Iphofen incorporated into its administration. This "museum of easy walking distances" is a museum within a museum. Mönchsondheim presents itself as a living museum, a village left to grow over time. It centres around the impressive fortified church housing, among others, the Museum of Local Crafts, with the Town Hall, School Museum, a corner shop and an exhibition of traditional costumes in the Sacristan's House all within walking distance. All these buildings are easy and comfortable to reach within the small village complex. Particularly annual events such as the Fortified Church Festival (Kirchenburgfest) and the Autumn Festival (Kelter- und Herbstfest), when grapes are pressed and old traditions, crafts and traditional farm work are brought back to life, allow visitors to experience history.



*Special events*



*Living tradition*



*Kirchenburgmuseum*







## IPHOFEN – EXPERIENCES FOR ALL YOUR SENSES AND GOURMET EVENTS

Every spring Iphofen organises **Fränkische Feinschmeckermesse** (Franconian Gourmet Fair) with culinary delights from the region and in alternate years **Iphöfer Weinfreundschaften** (Iphofen Friendships in Wine), where Iphofen winegrowers present their wines in special combination with either wines from other regions or other delicacies around their favourite topic of enjoying good food and drinks. The annual **Winzerfest** (Wine Festival) in summer, **Weinkulinarischer Spaziergang** (Strolling through wines and culinary delights) and **Letzte Fuhre** (Last cartload of grapes) in autumn are all staged on the Market Square.

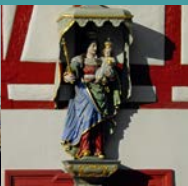
Please contact the Tourist Information for more information on events and special exhibitions in the museums.

Tourist Information

Friendships in Wine

Gourmet Fair

Contrasts



EXPERIENCING CULTURE



## VILLAGES AROUND IPHOFEN – SMALL BUT BEAUTIFUL

**Birklingen** has roughly 50 inhabitants, a restaurant and a holiday apartment

**Dornheim** offers accommodation on a working farm, two churches and a basin for “Kneipp” water treading

**Hellmitzheim** has a restored centre with lived rural culture

**Mönchsondheim** is a picture-perfect village; Fortified Church Museum

**Nenzenheim** is proud of its own wine festival and member of “Weinparadies Franken” (Franconian Wine Paradise)

**Possenheim** has an imposing community centre where cultural events are organised

Lived rural traditions, harmonious cooperation and administration under one roof as well as protection of the identity and individuality of all the villages belonging to Iphofen - these are the pillars of Iphofen's diversity.

The hiker or cyclist will discover natural landscapes, and the **Where to Eat and Sleep** offers enough to persuade visitors to stay a little bit longer. Iphofen has roughly 150km marked hiking trails through unspoilt landscape, not only leading to neighbouring Schwanberg but also through the beautiful countryside surrounding the picturesque villages. The Steigerwald Wine Trail (“Weinwanderweg”) covering roughly 30km from Prichsenstadt along the slopes of Schwanberg to Iphofen allows the hiker to stroll through vineyards on the hillside, to enjoy a rest at particularly idyllic places and catch breathtaking views of the surroundings. The Wine Trail is marked in both directions and can be combined with shorter local trails.



Mönchsondheim

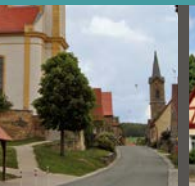
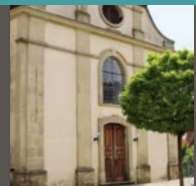
Possenheim

Nenzenheim

Birklingen

Dornheim

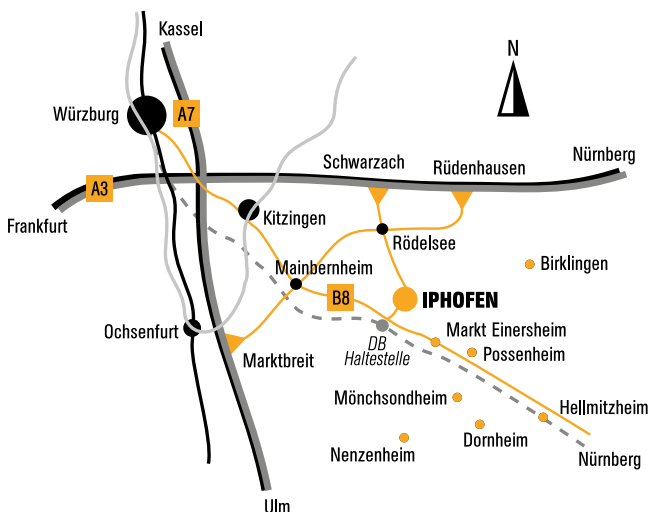
Hellmitzheim



VILLAGES AROUND IPHOFEN



The following leaflets will inform you on where to eat out, where to taste wine and where to go:



DLKM  
Photos: Stadt Iphofen, DLKM, Richard Schöber,  
Fränkisches Weinland, Krauf-Museum, Stefan Ernst  
Traduction: Monique Schweizer – Rousset

Iphofen and its park+ride railway station are part of the Greater Nürnberg transport association (VGN). It offers 85 parking places and toilet facilities. A VGN ticket allows you to use 500 bus and rail services. For more information, visit [www.vgn.de](http://www.vgn.de)



For further information, please contact

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