City Tour

DANUBE CITY CASTLE

Experience history

www.sigmaringen.de
History was well meaning towards Sigmaringen. A beautiful, famous castle is situated right in the center of Sigmaringen. It is surrounded by an Old City inviting visitors either for a stroll, a shopping tour or simply to enjoy life. The river Danube flows along city and castle, Sigmaringen citizens and their guests walk along the banks of the river on picturesque paths and cross the princely parks. Persons of all ages are using the swings – the »Way of Swings« is one of the charming remainders of the Garden Show in 2013.

Nature, too, was very well meaning towards Sigmaringen. The Hohenzollern city is situated in the middle of the Nature Park »Upper Danube«, where the river cut out its bed through impressive rocks and forests. Paddlers, bikers and hikers – all of them having their own velocity and perspective on their way through the Sigmaringen »countryside« – don’t want to stop marveling at the vivid green or the scenic spectacle of which they have become part here on the »Alb«. In Sigmaringen and its surroundings, they all find their own paths and ways seemingly especially designed for them, lined with attractions, a variety of activities on offer and excellent Swabian cuisine.

Sigmaringen is well meaning towards YOU!
Only a few cities might be comparable to Sigmaringen. Above all this is due to the impressive castle housing the Old City and standing directly next to the water. It is worth seeing each corner of the small streets opens a new perspective: you will find either historical buildings or numerous streets with the names of important past inhabitants. The Sigmaringen citizens are proud of living in a prince city. This pride is understandable – just stroll through eastern city and you will directly feel good. This is due to the spacious parks, the long, idyllic Danube banks and the hospitality.

For our presently valid “list of hosts” please see the tourist information office or check the internet at www.sigmaringen.de.

At the foot of Sigmaringen castle, the Danube cycle track passes through Sigmaringen.

What a canyon! It is spectacular to see how the river Danube dug its way through the rocks of the Swabian Alb. A first look at the huge rocks partly hidden in the forests next to the river. You will find marked trails, both along the river crossing green valleys and up to the beautiful viewpoints on top of the rocks. Take a hike through the canyon and enjoy the scenic river valleys of Lauchert, Fehla and Schmeie and find beautiful cycle tracks there as well. Other tracks will lead you to the banks of the Zielfingen lakes or to the gates of the princely parks. Have fun and pedal along the roads following the itineraries proposed, the scenery, the attractions …

All cycle tracks are listed in the bike tour book being available at the tourist information office or in the internet at www.sigmaringen.de.
Knight Sigmar – legend tells that he is the founder of Sigmaringen

Have a look at the one or other building of the Old City. You will directly see the obvious influence of history on today’s cityscape.

The remains of our ancestors plying with stone tools 12,000 years ago are proven history but rarely visible. Later, the Celts lived here, followed by Roman farmers. The Roman Empire ended at the Danube riverbanks. The Alamanni followed the Romans. Legend tells that one of them, Signer, founded Sigmaringen around 1,600 years ago. In the mid of the 13th century, the city was officially founded. At that time, the fortress was already situated on the huge Danube rock for more than 200 years.

In 1535, the first Earl of Hohenzollern started living in Sigmaringen Castle. At that time, Sigmaringen was a residential city. It remained a residential city when almost 300 years later Napoleon ruled over the relations within Europe and many of the so far independent German cities had to obey the House of Hohenzollern remained independent, as they held an important trump card. Amalie Zephyrine of Salm-Kyrburg, married to one of the Sigmaringen earls, was a member of the French Court. She was a good friend of Joséphine de Beauharnais, the first wife of Napoleon and Empress of France. This excellent relationship between Sigmaringen and the emperor’s court is mentioned during almost every palace tour.

Even after the breakdown of the Napoleon empires in 1815, Sigmaringen remained sovereign principality until 1850. During this time, amongst others the Prince’s Building, the administration buildings around Leopold’s Place, the Ständehaus and the Royal Theatre were erected — all of the representative buildings are still characterizing and enriching the townscapes. After the reforms of the 1848/49 revolution, the principality became a part of Prussia in 1871. Sigmaringen became official residence of the Prussian president for the Hohenzollern countries. The cityscape was now characterized by Prussian town officials strolling along the classicist facades.

Almost 100 years later, Sigmaringen and Sigmaringen Castle were in the focus of public attention again: from September 1944 until April 1945, the Hitler regime holed up the Vichy authorities in Sigmaringen Castle. Those authorities were loyal to Germany and had to flee from France. The princely family was accommodated in the castle of Wilflingen.

Since 1952, Hohenzollern is part of Baden-Württemberg. Since 1973, Sigmaringen is district town of the district Sigmaringen.

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY

Sigmaringen 6 7

Prince Karl Anton of Hohenzollern

Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern

HOFNIZOLLERN PRINCES COURTLY POMP

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HISTORY
VIBRANT EXCITING INVITING

WALKING THROUGH THE OLD CITY ON THE »HISTORICAL CITY TOUR«

Walking through the Old City of Sigmaringen, you may recall the fairytale of your childhood. Some of them are about little kingdoms and a chiefly ruled town with its beautiful castle watching the city, or craftsmen and court officials leading a free life.

The Old City of Sigmaringen with its narrow streets, close together houses and rising shops seems to be a beautiful scenery for such a fairy tale. At least this is my notion during my tour through the »historical city tour«.

Maybe you are not strictly following the suggestions for a city tour leading from the historical town hall via the Prince’s Garden to the old railway bridge crossing the Danube. At first, climb the stairs to Joseph’s Chapel. In front of the chapel is a well-positioned bench being not only appropriate to take a rest and recover but also to have a close look at the Old City. The view is fantastic! The castle is right in the middle of the city, the second highest tower belongs to St. Johann, which is viewpoint number 4 according to the brochure »Historical city tour through Sigmaringen«. The Sigmaringen parish church is almost 800 years old, this information you will find in the brochure. Famous baroque artists elaborated one of the most spectaculars churches here. You will also have a good view at Leopold’s Place and the Ständehaus, as well as the Prince’s Building and Fidelis House, although the latter one looks more impressive when you are in front of it than a quick look at the board next to Joseph’s Chapel where you will find the most important dates of this historical building. These boards are located next to each of the 28 addresses of the »historical city tour«.

Back in the Old City, on Saturday morning – and like Tuesday and Thursday – there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. So take a walk along the market stands with its regional offer of fruits, vegetables, cheese and the famous Swabian bakery products. In the triangle of Fürst-Wilhelm-Street, Schwab and Anton Street there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. Among the market stands of the town hall there is a restaurant called »Traube«. The former Court Theatre now houses the »Theater-Café« with its offer of fruits, vegetables, cheese and the famous Swabian bakery products.

Walking through the Old City of Sigmaringen, you may recall the fairytale of your childhood. Some of them are about little kingdoms and a chiefly ruled town with its beautiful castle watching the city, or craftsmen and court officials leading a free life.

The Old City of Sigmaringen with its narrow streets, close together houses and rising shops seems to be a beautiful scenery for such a fairy tale. At least this is my notion during my tour through the »historical city tour«.

Maybe you are not strictly following the suggestions for a city tour leading from the historical town hall via the Prince’s Garden to the old railway bridge crossing the Danube. At first, climb the stairs to Joseph’s Chapel. In front of the chapel is a well-positioned bench being not only appropriate to take a rest and recover but also to have a close look at the Old City. The view is fantastic! The castle is right in the middle of the city, the second highest tower belongs to St. Johann, which is viewpoint number 4 according to the brochure »Historical city tour through Sigmaringen«. The Sigmaringen parish church is almost 800 years old, this information you will find in the brochure. Famous baroque artists elaborated one of the most spectaculars churches here. You will also have a good view at Leopold’s Place and the Ständehaus, as well as the Prince’s Building and Fidelis House, although the latter one looks more impressive when you are in front of it than a quick look at the board next to Joseph’s Chapel where you will find the most important dates of this historical building. These boards are located next to each of the 28 addresses of the »historical city tour«.

Back in the Old City, on Saturday morning – and like Tuesday and Thursday – there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. So take a walk along the market stands with its regional offer of fruits, vegetables, cheese and the famous Swabian bakery products. In the triangle of Fürst-Wilhelm-Street, Schwab and Anton Street there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. Among the market stands of the town hall there is a restaurant called »Traube«. The former Court Theatre now houses the »Theater-Café« with its offer of fruits, vegetables, cheese and the famous Swabian bakery products.

Walking through the Old City of Sigmaringen, you may recall the fairytale of your childhood. Some of them are about little kingdoms and a chiefly ruled town with its beautiful castle watching the city, or craftsmen and court officials leading a free life.

The Old City of Sigmaringen with its narrow streets, close together houses and rising shops seems to be a beautiful scenery for such a fairy tale. At least this is my notion during my tour through the »historical city tour«.

Maybe you are not strictly following the suggestions for a city tour leading from the historical town hall via the Prince’s Garden to the old railway bridge crossing the Danube. At first, climb the stairs to Joseph’s Chapel. In front of the chapel is a well-positioned bench being not only appropriate to take a rest and recover but also to have a close look at the Old City. The view is fantastic! The castle is right in the middle of the city, the second highest tower belongs to St. Johann, which is viewpoint number 4 according to the brochure »Historical city tour through Sigmaringen«. The Sigmaringen parish church is almost 800 years old, this information you will find in the brochure. Famous baroque artists elaborated one of the most spectaculars churches here. You will also have a good view at Leopold’s Place and the Ständehaus, as well as the Prince’s Building and Fidelis House, although the latter one looks more impressive when you are in front of it than a quick look at the board next to Joseph’s Chapel where you will find the most important dates of this historical building. These boards are located next to each of the 28 addresses of the »historical city tour«.

Back in the Old City, on Saturday morning – and like Tuesday and Thursday – there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. So take a walk along the market stands with its regional offer of fruits, vegetables, cheese and the famous Swabian bakery products. In the triangle of Fürst-Wilhelm-Street, Schwab and Anton Street there is a market taking place in front of the town hall. Among the market stands of the town hall there is a restaurant called »Traube«. The former Court Theatre now houses the »Theater-Café« with its excellent pastas. To make a rest before continuing the city tour with its attractions, please keep in mind that pastas only available from Monday until Friday. So a »Schöns« gratinated with ham and cheese plus a regional »Anten Pils« brewed in the Sigmaringen Zoller-Hof Brewery maybe another option. Great!
A lot of extraordinary things you will find in the old castle: a »Montafon gaming table« with a slate plate onto which the losses of card games were noted down.

In former times, Josephine was sitting on a chaiselonge in her boudoir – the use of French words was common in those days – thinking about her dresses. A wide staircase is leading from the »Kanonenhalle« to the splendid apartments, especially suitable for striding up and down. Embossed stones looking back on nearly thousand years of history are situated at the entrance of the castle’s court. »Nothing is without God« is the family motto of the house Hohenzollern. The family has been residing here for centuries now. A huge, precious Gobelin is hanging in the wide staircase. Imagine, a carpet knotter needed more than one year for one square meter.

So many treasures may be found here: when walking through the private rooms of Princess Josephine (1813–1900) and the Green, Black and Red Salon, the historical Dining Hall, the Ancestral Portrait Gallery and the Portuguese Gallery you’ll notice an unparalleled collection of furniture, vases, paintings and wall coverings. Assuming that you have already joined tours in other castles, you will probably agree. In addition, these magnificent rooms of Sigmaringen castle seem enlivened and clean, just as if Princess Josephine has left the room some seconds ago.

She will have rarely visited the armory. A crossbow may penetrate a knight’s armour over a distance of 100 meters. The showcases of the armory are well-equipped. The collection is world famous. It is one of the largest private collections in Europe. The walls of this long hall are covered with numerous halberds, in front of these walls armours of all sizes and centuries are displayed. Lances, muskets and one of Germany’s oldest »organ guns« – a rapid fire gun originating from the 15th century – are part of the Hohenzollern armory.

THE PRIVATE ROOMS OF JOSEPHINE
A GUIDED TOUR THROUGH SIGMARINGEN CASTLE
The eventful history of the two-wheeler and the automobile manufacturer.

The museum, located in Leopold Street, houses the history of the legendary vehicles built between 1917 and 1984. Hundreds of nostalgic bikes and cars – among them the famous »Janus« which could be entered both from the front and the rear – are part of the exhibition.

Opening hours: 01 April – 31 October: Sat+Sun 13:00 – 17:00 h | Thu–Sun (July–September) 13:00 – 17:00 h

Located in a round tower, called »Runden Turm«

The Sigmaringen museum of local history is located in the »Runden Turm«, the tower of the city’s former fortifications. Historical documents, maps, battle plans, furniture and photos tell the history of Sigmaringen and its inhabitants. Highlights of the exhibitions are the oil paintings of the Sigmaringen court painter Gustav Bregenzer (1812–1863) as well as the drawings of Richard Lauchert (1842–1868), who portrayed the European high nobility at those days.

Opening hours: Sat, Sun and public holidays 14:00 – 18:00 h | Wed (July–October) 14:00 – 17:00 h

»Nauf auf d’ Stang´, nauf auf d’ Stang« (in English it is »Climb the pole«)

– that is what you’ll hear everywhere in Sigmaringen during Fasnet.

During that time, one place is the center of interest of all: the market fountain in the city center, between Hohenzollern castle and the historical city hall. On the day following Carnival Monday, on Tuesday, all the newly wed men are »bräutelt«, which means that they have to take a seat on a pole and will be carried around the fountain.

Sigmaringen knows how to celebrate parties!

On the last weekend of June a versatile and interesting event program attracts thousands of visitors to join the Sigmaringen city festival in the city center. Bands and musical societies make music on two stages, offering music for all types of musical taste: from rock and pop up to the traditional Sunday morning music concerts.

»Sigmaringen on ice« – one of the region’s highlights in winter

In December and January, the city center of Sigmaringen turns into an atmospheric winter scenery. Skaters coming from the whole region are attracted by the skating rink. Scanty-minded mid-December skaters may use the open-air skating rink for their winter skate and pinecones in a unique atmosphere.
Sigmaringen is a worthwhile place to spend your holidays. Cycle, climb, walk or go trekking, hire a canoe, one of the many options are offered by the city and its surroundings.

The river plays quite an important role in the Nature Park »Upper Danube«. Here, the river is still idyllic; there are no ships, so the water sports enthusiasts may canoe in harmony with nature. There are many options both in the city and along the river until Hausen im Tal to rent either a canoe or even a Canadian canoe. Exploring the region by boats of course. «SOUTH West-Gau» by boat is calm and silent and offers many beautiful perspectives of the city, the countryside and nature itself. For example, the Riedendorf located in the »Prince’s Park« next to Inzigkofen is even more impressive when seen from the river.

In 2013, the Baden-Wuerttemberg Garden Show took place. The plantings and constructions once made are still part of the city and its surroundings. Without any doubt, they are a big enrichment for Sigmaringen. Such as the spectacular hanging bridge over the Danube, the restaurant »Bootshaus« with its large playground, the platform next to the Danube for theatre and music events, the skater’s park and the beach volleyball fields, the stone and grass garden, the »path with roses« or the »promenade of swings« with its different swings and seesaws on the Danube shore. In Sigmaringen, the word »local recreation area« may be taken seriously and is more than just a phrase. Sigmaringen and its surroundings offer many recreative options.

You should be an acrobat if you like to explore the nature park by climbing. The huge rocks of the valley invite you to do climbing tours of different levels of difficulty. Many visitors enjoy that here. You should be free from giddiness, a first »training session« may be performed in Sigmaringen by climbing on the high wire garden. Different courses are set in the climbing park – the most exposed one is ten meters above the ground.

This program fills more than one day… and we did not yet talk about playing a round of golf (there is an 18-hole course plus a driving range in Sigmaringen/Inzigkofen) and visiting the public swimming pool with its 80-meter slide. Enjoy and relax!
Laiz was already populated in Roman times; it is a nice place to discover. The art museum shows the history of the artist Prof. Dr. Josef Henselmann, born in Laiz in 1898. Moreover, you will find a nunnery here, built in 1308, and the pilgrimage church St. Peter and Paul. It is worthwhile visiting the Millennium Fountain in front of the city hall and the Christophorus’ Fountain next to the Danube bridge. You have a beautiful view of the Danube valley and the city itself when standing on the »Borren« rock.

Jungnau is seven kilometers north of Sigmaringen and situated in the beautiful Lauchert valley. Landmarks are the castle keep and the baroque church St. Anna. In 1333, the Jungnau fortress was built and later redesigned to a castle. Until 1806, it was residence of the local bailiff and then completely demolished. In 2013, the shores of the Danube were sustainably upgraded. Next to the restaurant »Bootshaus« with its beer garden directly beside the Danube and a vast playground for kids of all ages, numerous new recreation areas such as the Danube bay, the stone and grass garden, the spectacle gardens, etc. were constructed. In addition, an area especially designed for young people was created including a skating area, a calisthenics park and beach volleyball fields. A new hanging bridge is directly accessible from the city center and allows fast and adventurous access to this area.

In 2013, the shores of the Danube were sustainably upgraded. Next to the restaurant »Bootshaus« with its beer garden directly beside the Danube and a vast playground for kids of all ages, numerous new recreation areas such as the Danube bay, the stone and grass garden, the spectacle gardens, etc. were constructed. In addition, an area especially designed for young people was created including a skating area, a calisthenics park and beach volleyball fields. A new hanging bridge is directly accessible from the city center and allows fast and adventurous access to this area.

Laiz was already populated in Roman times; it is a nice place to discover. The art museum shows the history of the artist Prof. Dr. Josef Henselmann, born in Laiz in 1898. Moreover, you will find a nunnery here, built in 1308, and the pilgrimage church St. Peter and Paul. It is worthwhile visiting the Millennium Fountain in front of the city hall and the Christophorus’ Fountain next to the Danube bridge. You have a beautiful view of the Danube valley and the city itself when standing on the »Borren« rock.

Jungnau is seven kilometers north of Sigmaringen and situated in the beautiful Lauchert valley. Landmarks are the castle keep and the baroque church St. Anna. In 1333, the Jungnau fortress was built and later redesigned to a castle. Until 1806, it was residence of the local bailiff and then completely demolished. In 2013, the shores of the Danube were sustainably upgraded. Next to the restaurant »Bootshaus« with its beer garden directly beside the Danube and a vast playground for kids of all ages, numerous new recreation areas such as the Danube bay, the stone and grass garden, the spectacle gardens, etc. were constructed. In addition, an area especially designed for young people was created including a skating area, a calisthenics park and beach volleyball fields. A new hanging bridge is directly accessible from the city center and allows fast and adventurous access to this area.

For further information, please see www.sigmaringen.de
In former times, the historical monastery complex of Beuron was an Augustinian convent for women. Nowadays, the complex houses the monastery museum as well as the adult education center and an interesting range of stores. The Peasant Museum located in the Zehntscheuer and a beautiful herb garden are worth to see.

Campus Galli offers an appealing travel- and middle school-friendly concept. It is located in a forest next to Meßkirch, customs and women claimed to construct a medieval monastery city. The only allowed means of construction are the technical possibilities of the 9th century. So man-power is used instead of machine-power, ox carts instead of trucks and historical clothes are worn instead of an overall.

The Heuneburg in Herbertingen is one of the most important archeological sites in Middle Europe. During the Iron Age between 620 and 480 BC, one of the most important settlement and economic areas as well as a center of power was situated here. The Heuneburg was a so-called early Celt princely seat. Nowadays, the Heuneburg Museum display archeological sites as well as enactments.

When you train your golf abilities at Seapark Golf, you can experience the obstacle park with more than 11 ski-jumps and sliders. Child or adult, you can try how to use a golf putter to overcome obstacles such as a cable car or a moving golf hole or even jumping hill to catch the ball. When playing football golf, the full is even bigger. In addition, you have your feet to play the game, too. With the technical possibilities of the 9th century, so man-power is used instead of machine-power, ox carts instead of trucks and historical clothes are worn instead of an overall.

Mainau Island lies just off the shores of Lake Constance and is known as the Mediterranean appeal – these are the characteristics of the flower island. The flower island, the baroque assembly of castle and church plus more than 150-year-old stock of trees, the Lush blooms all year round, a park with a lot of history and mythology is Mainau. The island was experienced by the Merovingians under King Dagobert I. According to a legend and an oral tradition, life of the poetess Annette von Droste-Hülshoff. L. Strauss, R. Stegmaier

In 1077, the Augustinian convent was founded in Beuron. Monastery and its territories became property of the powerful House Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. In 1862, the monastery was re-settled by Benedictine monks. As part of their buildings, original finds as well as enactments.

In former times, the historical monastery complex of Hohenzollern was an Augustinian convent for women. Nowadays, the complex houses the monastery museum as well as the adult education center and an interesting range of stores. The Peasant Museum located in the Zehntscheuer and a beautiful herb garden are worth to see.

Inzigkofen Monastery located in the Nature Park Upper Danube, Campus Galli www.campus-galli.de

Beuron Monastery located in the Nature Park Upper Danube, Water-Ski-Park Pfullendorf www.wasserskipark-pfullendorf.de

Inzigkofen Monastery | Peasant Museum | Inzigkofen Park, Celt Museum Heuneburg www.heuneburg.de

Campus Galli offers an appealing travel- and middle school-friendly concept. It is located in a forest next to Meßkirch, customs and women claimed to construct a medieval monastery city. The only allowed means of construction are the technical possibilities of the 9th century. So man-power is used instead of machine-power, ox carts instead of trucks and historical clothes are worn instead of an overall.

Beuron Monastery located in the Nature Park Upper Danube, Water-Ski-Park Pfullendorf www.wasserskipark-pfullendorf.de

Celt Museum Heuneburg, Hohenzollern Castle www.hohenzollern.com

Meersburg Castle www.burg-meersburg.de

Mainau Island lies just off the shores of Lake Constance and is known as the Mediterranean appeal – these are the characteristics of the flower island. The flower island, the baroque assembly of castle and church plus more than 150-year-old stock of trees, the Lush blooms all year round, a park with a lot of history and mythology is Mainau. The island was experienced by the Merovingians under King Dagobert I. According to a legend and an oral tradition, life of the poetess Annette von Droste-Hülshoff. L. Strauss, R. Stegmaier