

VISITOR INFORMATION

HOURS	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
ST. PETER AND PAUL (HIRSAU MONASTERY)	Open to the public during daylight hours	Open to the public during daylight hours
ST. AURELIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH	Mon – Sun and holidays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; (closed Tue 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM)	Mon – Sun and holidays 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; (closed Tue 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM)
<i>External grounds and herb garden open to the public during daylight hours</i>		
HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM	Tue – Fri 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM; closed Sat, Sun and holidays 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM	

ADMISSION	04/01 – 10/31
HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM	
Adults	€ 2.50
Discounted	€ 1.50
Groups of 10 or more	€ 1.50 (per person)

TOURS	05/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 04/30
ST. PETER AND PAUL (HIRSAU MONASTERY)	Sat 2:30 PM; Sun and holidays 11:00 AM	
<i>Tour in German; No tours during the Calw Summer Festival; group tours of all sites by arrangement; special tours as per online program. For more information please visit www.calw.de/Gruppenreisen</i>		

ST. PETER AND PAUL	(Combination ticket with tour, incl. admission to the monastery museum)	
Adults	€ 8.00	
Adults with guest pass	€ 6.00	
Discounted	€ 6.00	

ST. PETER AND PAUL (group tours)		
Groups	€ 80.00 flat fee (up to 25 people)	€ 80.00 flat fee (up to 25 people)
· incl. St. Aurelius	€ 100.00 flat fee (up to 25 people)	€ 100.00 flat fee (up to 25 people)
· incl. Monastery Museum	€ 140.00 flat fee (up to 20 people)	€ 140.00 flat fee (up to 20 people)

Visit our website for more information on disability access, discounts, special tours and other important details regarding your visit.

CONTACT

ST. PETER UND PAUL (HIRSAU MONASTERY)
Klosterhof
75365 Calw-Hirsau
www.klosterhirsau.de/en

ST. AURELIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Aureliusplatz 7
75365 Calw-Hirsau

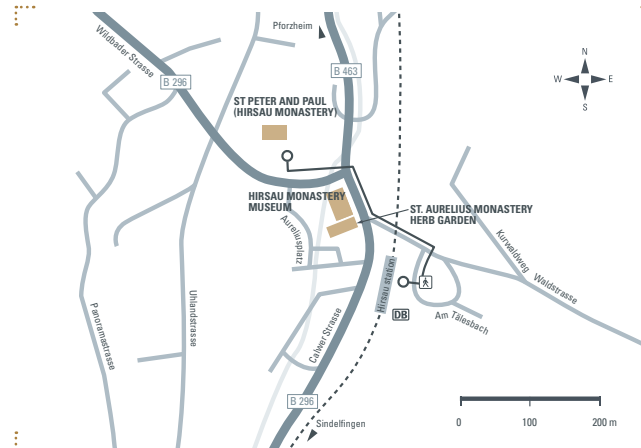
GENERAL INFORMATION AND TOUR REGISTRATION
Calw Tourist Information
Phone +49(0)70 51.1 67 - 3 99
touristinfo@calw.de
www.calw.de/Kloster-Hirsau

HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM
Calwer Strasse 6, 75365 Calw-Hirsau
Phone +49(0)70 51.5 90 15
klostermuseum@calw.de
www.calw.de/Klostermuseum

Version: 09/2022; All information subject to change!



HOW TO FIND US



By public transport:
Use the "Kulturbahn" train line from Pforzheim to Tübingen via Horb, the Monastery is approximately a 10 minute walk from Hirsau train station.
Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR MONUMENTS

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg
Schlossraum 22a · 76646 Bruchsal · Germany

Phone +49(0)72 51.74 - 27 70
Daily 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
(information only; no reservations/ticket sales)
info@ssg.bwl.de



www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en



A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT
ABBNEY IN SCENIC SURROUNDINGS



HIRSAU MONASTERY

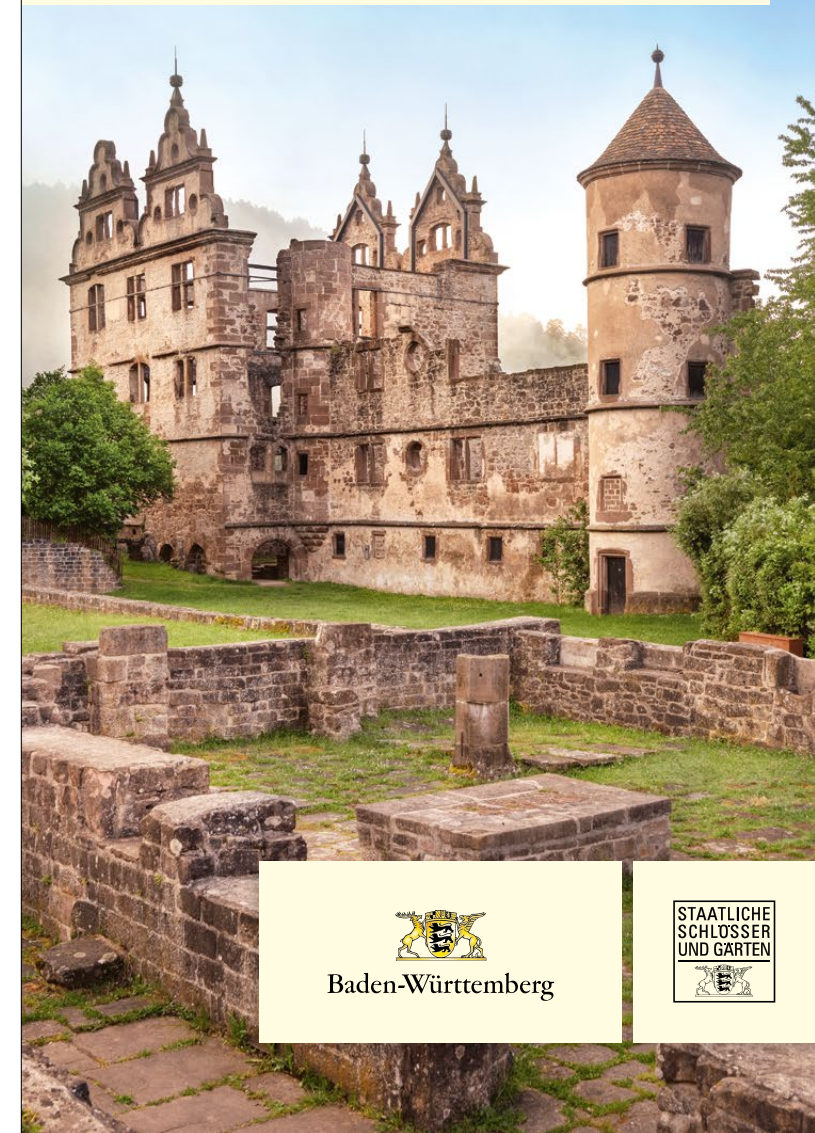


IMAGE CREDIT: SSG/TMZ; cover photo Günther Bayer; 1 Andreea Buchele; 2 Dieter Geffler; 3 Armin Weischer; 4 Author unknown; 7 Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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Baden-Württemberg

STAÄTLICHE
SCHLÖSSER
UND GÄRTEN


Between the densely wooded hills of the Black Forest, in the Nagold Valley, lie the ruins of Hirsau Monastery (*Kloster Hirsau*). Also known as the Monastery of St. Peter and Paul, the former Benedictine abbey is of great architectural significance.

The crumbling walls still hint at the erstwhile size and significance of the abbey. In the 11th century, under Abbot Wilhelm, Hirsau Monastery was part of the Cluny Reform movement. From here, the reforms, which emphasised the independence of the Church, spread across much of southwestern Germany. As a loyal supporter of the Pope, Hirsau played an *active role in the Investiture Controversy*, a power struggle between the Church and European monarchies.

RISE AND FALL OF A MIGHTY MONASTERY


The first monastery in Hirsau was consecrated in 838. The Monastery of St. Aurelius was built in 1059 on the foundations of the origi-

 *Magnificent Renaissance gables still adorn the ruined hunting palace of the dukes of Württemberg*



 *The Romanesque Owl Tower, with its enigmatic statues, merits closer inspection*

nal structure. In 1082, construction of the Monastery of St. Peter and Paul began on the opposite bank of the Nagold River. Upon completion, St. Peter and Paul was the *largest monastery building* in German-speaking Europe and one of the largest Romanesque structures in what is now southwestern Germany.

 *The Church of St. Aurelius recalls the once-majestic proportions of the monastery's Romanesque buildings*

After the Reformation, the former monastery became a Protestant boarding school. In the late 16th century, a Renaissance-style hunting lodge was constructed for the dukes of Württemberg. A grand structure with three wings, the palace abutted the enclosed grounds of the monastery, on the site of the former abbot's residence.

In 1692, while occupied by French soldiers, the palace and monastery were destroyed by fire. In the aftermath, local residents plundered the remains for building materials, partly for the reconstruction of the town of Calw, which had been damaged in the war.

DRAMATIC RUINS IN A PICTURESQUE SETTING

Today, the former monastery complex is a beautiful, atmospheric place, the *striking Romanesque and Gothic ruins* set against the scenic backdrop of the Black Forest. Rising above the landscape, the 37-meter high Owl Tower features a frieze of mysterious figures. The late Gothic Church of St. Mary and an assortment of monastic buildings offer a glimpse into everyday life at an abbey that was once one of the most influential spiritual and economic centers of the region.

