

Short Trips from Reutlingen

Trip Five: Schloss Lichtenstein and the Source of the Echaz

Features:

- Hike from the village of Honau up to the castle Lichtenstein, passing the source of the River Echaz on your way (yes, Reutlingen's little stream is the Echaz).
- Return to the valley after you tour the castle. Have a trout meal at the hotel and restaurant called Forellenhof Rössle (Forelle = trout).

Time Needed:

- Day Trip that includes a short, but steep hike. Go between April and October (or Saturdays in February/March) or you'll find the castle closed for the winter.

Expense:

- Transportation (bus to and from Honau, just south of Reutlingen).
- Entry fee to the castle is 5 € with student I.D.
- Discretionary: a trout dinner is *de rigueur* in the town of Honau (or take a picnic!)

Honau is a short bus trip from Reutlingen on the edge of the Alb. From the bus station in Reutlingen take Linie 7606, 7607 or 400 (check the schedules ahead of time). In Honau get out at the first bus stop. Go behind the Forellenhof Rössle (to its parking area) and follow the little stream (the Echaz) upstream until you reach its "Quelle" (source). Be sure to notice the trout farms on your way - that explains why this is the place to come for a trout dinner! From the "Quelle" just follow signs for Schloss Lichtenstein.

Schloss Lichtenstein isn't as old as it seems. The ruin of a medieval fortress is nearby, but it was not until Wilhelm Hauff of Honau wrote a novel about the ruin that Wilhelm Graf von Württemberg decided to rebuild it in 1840 using Hauff's fantasy description as his model. Think of Wilhelm as the "mad King Ludwig" of Württemberg! It is a little jewel of a castle!

Before you come down off of the Alb you might want to make short hikes to see the monument that honors Hauff (Hauff-Denkmal) and/or the ruins of the medieval fortress that originally stood in the vicinity.

Schloss Lichtenstein:

www.schloss-lichtenstein.de

Double-check open hours (and months!)

Forellenhof Rössle:

www.forellenhofroessle.de

If the weather is nice you might sit outside in the garden for your meal or refreshment.

Challenge: Read Wilhelm Hauff's *Lichtenstein*.
(Not to be confused with the country: Liechtenstein!)

