

Short Trips from Reutlingen

Trip Ten: Historic Schwäbisch Hall

Features:

- Visit the charming and historic town of Schwäbisch Hall.
- A chance to shape your own visit - by now you've learned what you like to see most: museums? churches? landscape? medieval cityscapes?

Time Needed:

- Day Trip; the trip involves two train changes (just over two hours) so plan.

Expense:

- Transportation (train to Schwäbisch Hall and back).
- Entrance fees to museums (depending on your interest).
- Discretionary: restaurant meal or picnic.

This is your chance to build the day around your interests. Schwäbisch Hall is an extremely old settlement that got its start with salt mining - salt was tremendously important in previous days for preserving food. The city has an array of medieval half-timbered houses (Fachwerkhäuser), but the monumental buildings (churches and government buildings) include romanesque/gothic (St. Michael's) and lots of baroque (including the Rathaus or city hall).

Go to the city's website and use its English version first. Under "Welcome" click on "History." Under "Tourism" click on "Sightseeing." Finally review everything under "Culture." After you have this initial orientation you'll have a sense of what you'd like to do and see.

But now use your German and go to the much more thorough German version of the site. Under "Tourismusstadt" there are many downloads (including a map and a guided tour - Stadtrundgang). Under "Kulturstadt" you'll find all of the information about opening times and fees. Be sure to click on Museen, because that is where you'll find information about churches too. (And about the fire brigade museum!). If you like local history, go to the Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum.

For a great view of the city go to the island in the river - it is on the way from the train station to the old part of town.

The train trip involves transferring in Stuttgart-Bad Canstatt and then again in Schwäbisch Hall-Hessental. Check the schedule ahead of time, but you can go about once each hour.

Create your own day by studying the city's website carefully:
www.schwaebischhall.de

