

Short Trips from Reutlingen

Trip Seven: The Wurmlinger Kapelle

Features:

- Hike the wooded ridge that runs west from Tübingen to Wurmlingen.
- Visit the famous Wurmlinger Kapelle (Wurmlingen Chapel).
- On the way back stop at the Schwärzlocher Hof for a cool beverage or meal - enjoy a terrific beer garden and traditional restaurant on the edge of the woods.

Time Needed:

- Day Trip; dry weather is needed since this is all about the outdoors.

Expense:

- Transportation (train to Tübingen and back).
- Discretionary: food and drink at the Schwärzlocher Hof - or take a picnic.

Ludwig Uhland (1787-1862) was a famous German poet from Tübingen who is known for his enlightened political positions and for his romantic poetry. One of his best-known poems is called Die Wurmlinger Kapelle. It tells of a young shepherd boy who watches a funeral procession heading up the hill to the chapel; the poet knows that someday, long in the future, the shepherd boy will also be laid to rest there. It is a beautiful poem about the cyclical nature of life and death and about continuity of place.

Print a copy of the poem and take it with you to the chapel to read aloud, knowing that generations of Tübingen students have done the same.

Take the train to Tübingen and go immediately to the castle (Schloss Hohentübingen). Enter the courtyard of the castle and straight ahead you'll see a mysterious passageway. Go through the passageway, take a left down the stone stairs and you'll find your way to the Schloßbergstraße. Go straight ahead and then at an intersection take Lichtenberger Weg to the left (not Burgholzweg). Eventually these two roads will come back together (at a little parking lot). Now just keep heading west, following signs for the Wurmlinger Kapelle. (Notice signs for the Schwärzlocher Hof - that is where you can go for a nice meal on the return trip - for now keep going west to the chapel.)

Two more things:

1. Visit the gravesite of Frau Waltraud Heimes at the chapel. Frau Heimes was a friend of Valpo, who helped facilitate a magnificent exhibit of baroque manger scenes from Rottenburg on our campus in 2003. Say a prayer and think of her.

2. When you return to Valpo check out the engraving in room 105 of the German House; it shows the chapel and poem.

