

HIRSAU MONASTERY



OPENING TIMES

ST AURELIUS

MON – SUN 10 AM – 5 PM

Free access to external areas and the herb garden

HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM

APRIL TO OCTOBER

TUE – FRI 1 PM – 4 PM

SAT, SUN 12 PM – 5 PM

ST PETER AND PAUL

(HIRSAU MONASTERY)

Free access to monastery complex

GUIDED TOURS

ST PETER AND PAUL
(HIRSAU MONASTERY)

MAY TO OCTOBER

SUN 11 AM AND 2:30 PM

Group tours in all sites
by arrangement

ADMISSION

HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM

- ADULTS € 2.50
- CONCESSIONS € 1.50
- GROUPS OF MORE THAN 10
- PER PERSON € 1.50

COMBINED TICKET

Guided tours in St Peter and Paul (Hirsau Monastery) and St Aurelius including admission to the Monastery Museum

- ADULTS € 3.50
- ADULTS WITH GUEST CARD € 3.00
- CHILDREN / YOUNG PEOPLE € 2.50

GROUPS OF UP TO 16

- ST PETER AND PAUL € 40.00
- + CHURCH OF ST AURELIUS € 50.00
- + MONASTERY MUSEUM € 70.00
- EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON € 2.00

DISABILITY ACCESS

Information is available at
www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/disabilityaccess

CONTACT US

HIRSAU MONASTERY

Klosterhof
75365 Calw-Hirsau, Germany

MUSEUM TICKET OFFICE

HIRSAU MONASTERY MUSEUM
Phone +49(0)70 51.5 90 15
klostermuseum@calw.de

ST AURELIUS

Kath. Kirchengemeinde
(Catholic parish)
Phone +49(0)70 52.26 10

CALW TOURIST INFORMATION

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stadtinfo@calw.de
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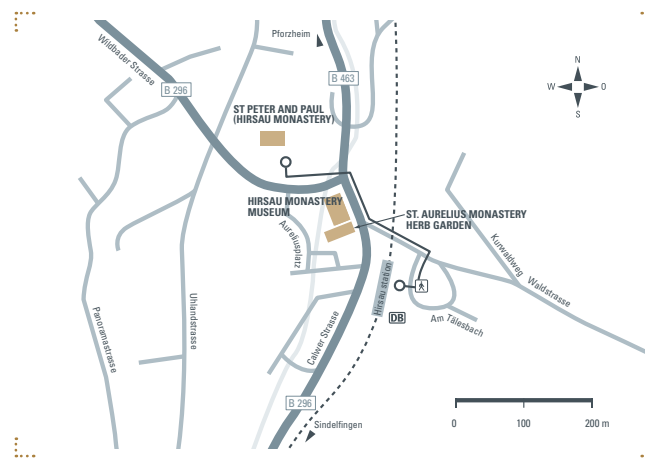
Last updated: November 2011
All information subject to change



A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT ABBEY IN SCENIC SURROUNDINGS

HIRSAU MONASTERY

HOW TO FIND US



GETTING THERE

By public transport:
Use the "Kulturbahn" train line from Pforzheim to Tübingen via Horb.
The Monastery is approximately 10 minutes' walk from Hirsau Train Station.

MORE INFORMATION

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten
Baden-Württemberg
Schlossraum 22a
76646 Bruchsal, Germany
Phone +49(0)72 51.74 - 2770
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www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en

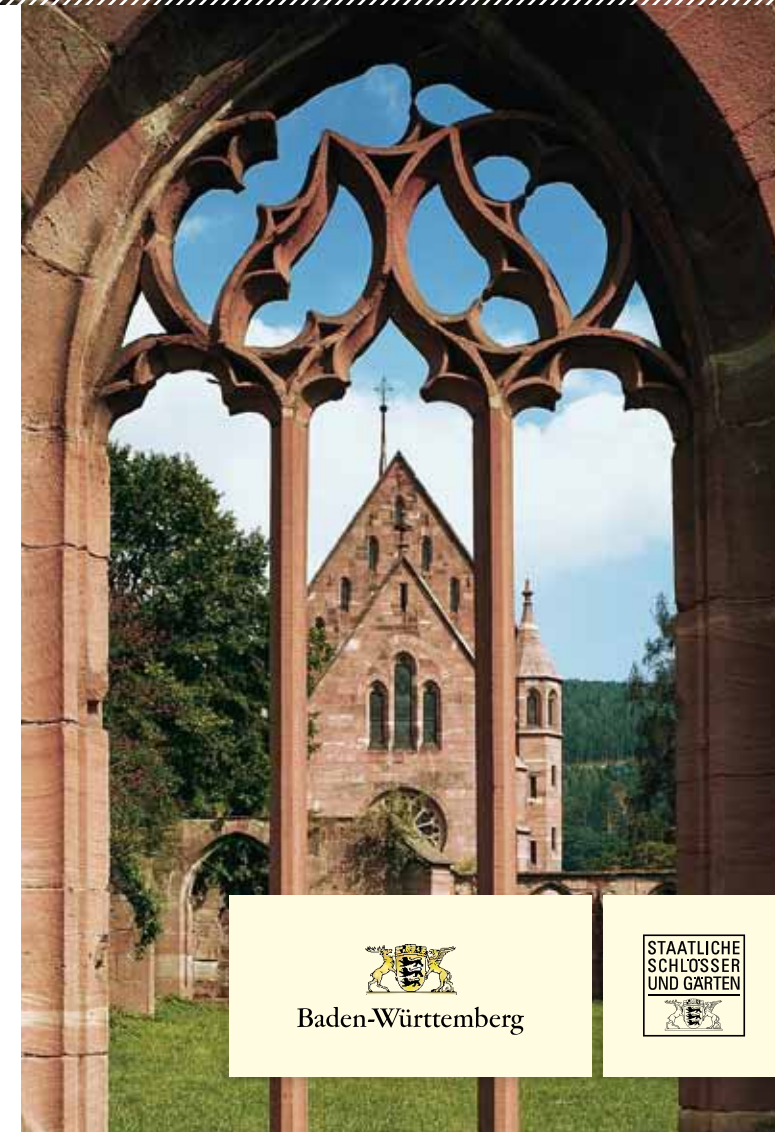


Photo credit: SSG, LMZ; concept & design: www.jungkommunikation.de

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Baden-Württemberg

STAATLICHE
SCHLOSSER
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 an architectural milestone.

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 original structure. In 1082, construction of the Monastery of St Peter and Paul began, on the opposite bank of the Nagold River.



🏰 *The Aureliuskirche (church of St Aurelius) recalls the once-majestic proportions of the monastery's Romanesque buildings*

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.

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

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 onto 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 was destroyed by fire. In the aftermath, local residents plundered the remains in search of 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 but atmospheric place, with the *striking Romanesque and Gothic ruins* set against the scenic backdrop of the Black Forest. Rising above the landscape, the 37-metre high *Eulenturm* (owls' tower) features a frieze of mysterious figures. The late Gothic *Marienkirche* (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 centres of the region.

🏰 *The Eulenturm, a Romanesque church tower, with its enigmatic statues, merits closer inspection*

