



Tour of the City



SchwäbischHall



Welcome to Schwäbisch Hall

Discover the smallest metropolis in the world in 90 minutes. We are starting our tour on the market place. When you leave the Tourist Information and walk up the steps in front of you, you will reach one of the most beautiful market places in South Germany. There you will find yourself surrounded by all different building styles from various centuries, united in harmonious unison. Right in front of you the town hall sits enthroned.



1. CITY HALL

It was built in the style of a baroque noble palace in the years up to 1735, after the town fire. After being hit by a bomb and burning to the ground in 1945 it was rebuilt at the same place in the same style and completed in 1955. On its right there is the former Citizens' Drinking Parlour.

2. CITIZENS' DRINKING PARLOUR

The building (*Am Markt 7/8*) has existed since 1510 and was rebuilt in Baroque style as well after the 1728 town fire.

3. SIBILLA EGEN HAUS

The Sibilla Egen Haus (*Am Markt 9*) with its magnificent crested portal was used as a drinking parlour for the nobility. In the previous building the rich widow Sibilla Egen established foundations for widows in need and for young craftsmen around 1500.



4. FOUNTAIN AND PILLORY

The Gothic style fountain used to serve as a fish depot on market days. The three sculptures of the demon conquerors St. Michael, St. George and Samson, as well as the Gothic style pillory, were created by the Schwäbisch Hall sculptor Hans Beuscher. In the Early Modern Age culprits had to atone for their minor crimes in the pillory. The crimes were judged in public under the court linden near the church. The timbered building beyond the fountain has been an inn since the 16th century, today it is the Hotel Goldener Adler. Near its roof a fire wall can be seen, which preserved all buildings upslope from the great town fire in 1728.

Now climb the 53 steps which take you up to St. Michael's church.



5. THE GREAT STEPS

The Great Steps were built in 1507. Here the Freilichtspiele Schwäbisch Hall have been taking place every year from June to August since 1925.

6. ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The church was consecrated in 1156. In the 15th century all romanesque parts of the church were torn down, except the West tower that is still preserved today. Starting in 1427 the nave and the late Gothic choir with their richly ornamented reticulated vault were erected. The building was completed 100 years later. Outstanding works of art inside include the Dutch Passion altar from the second half of the 15th century and the crucifix by sculptor Michel Erhart (1494). 160 steps lead through the steeple up into the belfry and the former tower watchman's apartment with a superb view over the whole city. The church was awarded the European Cultural Heritage Label.



Photo: Eva Maria Kraiss

After leaving the church through the side door, walk round the church building. To the right of the church you can see the street Pfarrgasse, next to the bookshop Am Klosterbuckel.



7. NO. 12 PFARRGASSE

The towering building no. 12 dates back to 1460 and was inhabited by teachers of the Latin school and by clergymen.

If you walk straight along the street you end up in front of the Reformer Johannes Brenz' former home (house no. 18).

8. JOHANNES BRENZ

The Reformer was a contemporary of Martin Luther, and after 1522 he introduced the Reformation step by step. Thanks to him Schwäbisch Hall was spared the Iconoclasm so that many old works of art have been preserved until today.

10.



Walk up the steps on your left, then turn right through the metal gate, then you will get to the lookout Schwalbennest and to the Neubau.

9. SCHWALBENNEST

From the observation platform you have a wonderful view of the town. From here you can see the Katharinenvorstadt, the Kunsthalle Würth, located in between the old half-timbered houses, St. Catherine's Church and the striking round New Globe.

10. NEUBAU

The Neubau was built between 1504 and 1533. The upper floors served as granaries and the ground floor as an armoury. Today the building is used as a concert and theatre hall as well as for conferences and festivities.

11.



12.

The spiral staircase on your left takes you down to the Schiedgraben bridge.

11. SCHIEDGRABEN

The Schiedgraben (*Schied Moat*) once separated the territory of the imperial city Schwäbisch Hall from the dominion of the Schenken von Limpurg, a noble family. At the place where the stainless steel sculpture by Edgar Gutbub is located there used to be the Limpurger Tor, a city gate, which Schwäbisch Hall kept walled up from 1431 to 1453 due to quarrels with the Schenken. They only re-opened it after having acquired the Schenken territory by purchase. Below the bridge there are the Siedehütte and the Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum.

12. SIEDEHÜTTE

Inside the hut behind the Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum the tradition of salt simmering lives on. Several times a year there are demonstrations of how real salt is obtained by simmering brine.



Turn right at Schiedgraben into Obere Herrngasse.

13. OBERE HERRNGASSE

The five- to six-floor houses in Obere Herrngasse have multi-storey cellars. The people in Schwäbisch Hall used to live from trade and stored their goods there. Especially large amounts of wine were stored for resale. In 1844 the Swabian poet Eduard Mörike lived in house no. 7 with his sister Klara. Today's Architects' House is located opposite.

14. ARCHITECTS' HOUSE

At this place the Jewish community's prayer room used to be located from 1893 to 1938.

15. HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE AT THE MARKET PLACE

Where Obere Herrngasse meets the market place a mighty half-timbered building (*Am Markt 2*) edges the junction. There are big round chain links on the wall. The chain that went with it was used for cordoning off the market place during knightly duels. These noble judges served to carry out non-arbitrable disputes with lances and swords.



16. SCHUHBÄCKGÄSSLE

Below Löwenapotheke you can see the alley Schuhbäckgässle. Together with St. Jacob's church (*now the location of the city hall*) the buildings no. 4 (*formerly named Stellwaghaus*) and no. 5 (*formerly named Widmannhaus*) were the Franciscan monastery. The name of the club Barfüßer (*barefooted*) in the building's basement goes back to these Franciscans, since the monks who lived there dispensed with shoes. The beautiful Baroque and Renaissance style portals on both buildings are noteworthy.

The tour now continues down Schuhbäckgässle into Untere Herrngasse.

17. UNTERE HERRNGASSE 2

The half-timbered house on Hafenmarkt (*Olli's*) is one of the oldest houses in Schwäbisch Hall. Scientific examination revealed that the wood which the houses were built with was felled in the winter of 1288/89. On the other side of the street the Sparkassengebäude (*savings bank building*) is located.



19.



20.

18. SPARKASSENGEBÄUDE

When the foundation for the building was built in 1939 a salt production site of the Celts was found during diggings. The site was dated to around 500 BCE. The wooden oriel on the building is decorated with woodcarvings of significant city motifs: saltsimmerers at the simmering pan, the Reformer Johannes Brenz who lived and worked in Schwäbisch Hall in the 16th century, as well as the Emperor Frederick I, named Barbarossa. There is also a depiction of the minting of Heller. In the 12th century Schwäbisch Hall became an imperial mint. For over 200 years the Heller was used as a coveted currency far beyond the borders of the German Empire.

Follow the road on the left which leads to the Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum. Here the eight-storey Keckenturm towers up.

19. KECKENTURM

From 1393 to 1545 the noble family Keck lived in this Staufian tower house, which was erected around 1240. The tower is a whole 18,5 m tall and today it belongs to the building complex of the museum.



21.

Photo: Eva Maria Kraiss

Keep walking straight on to get to the entrance of the city museum.

20. HÄLLISCH-FRÄNKISCHES MUSEUM

The Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum ranks among the most beautiful city museums in the state and offers a chronological and themed tour of the history of art and culture of the city of Schwäbisch Hall as well as the region Württemberg Franconia. The main focus areas are the collection of medieval sculptures, works of the important sculptor Leonhard Kern (1588–1662), the culture of the Baroque and the big collection of painted shooting match targets of the 18th and 19th century. Free admission.

21. STADTMÜHLE

The town mill which is part of the Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum, exhibits the local history from the French Revolution up to the end of the 20th century. The synagogue wainscoting from 1738/39 which is exhibited in the section on Jewish life is a world-class artwork. The tradition of salt production and its importance for the city is vividly documented in the salt and brine section. This section is closely related to the salt simmerers' cake and fountain festival which is held every year. Legend has it that the salt simmerers saved the mill and the miller's family in 1316 by helping put out a fire. To thank them the miller gave them a 99-pound cake. This cake was decorated with wreaths and carried to the city's fountains in a festive procession. Even today the cake is an inherent part of the three-day city festival.

Leave the museum and go downstairs on the left of the exit, towards the river. Turn right towards Steinerne Steg, then left across the bridge and then right again and walk across the wooden covered bridge, which takes you to Haalplatz.

22. HAALPLATZ

In the past Haalplatz used to be the source of all wealth because here the brine was bucketed from the 13 m deep well and simmered to salt. Up until the 19th century salt was the commercial base of the city. The city's name goes back to this tradition of producing salt. Today the Hall brine is still used for therapeutic purposes.

The Haalamt is located on the left of the wooden bridge with the Sulferturm.

23. HAALAMT

All the salt simmerers' issues used to be dealt with in the Haalamt (*Haal Office*). Today the Haal Scribe administers the pensions which are still paid to those entitled to inherit by the state of Baden-Württemberg as the legal successor of the former Kingdom Württemberg.

24. SULFERTURM

The Sulferturm was once used as a remand prison and dates back to 1250. It was rebuilt after the great town fire in 1728. The lower part is still the Staufian original. In the Middle Ages the horses and carts which were loaded with salt left Haalplatz via the archway and then forded the river. The salt, the white gold of the Middle Ages, was transported out of the town via Steinerne Steg and Untere Herrngasse in order to be sold on the big salt markets in Speyer, Frankfurt or Alsace. On the way back the carts carried mostly wine which was sold on as far as in today's Bavaria.



24.

Walk across the wooden bridge, back to Steinerne Steg again and turn right onto the Kocher island Unterwöhrd. From there you have a wonderful view of the historic old town on the hillside.

25. THE NEW GLOBE

Plays and concerts are performed in the circular New Globe building. The theatre with its 370 roofed seats is a replica of the medieval Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London.

The wooden bridge Roter Steg takes you to Katharinenvorstadt.

26. KATHARINENVORSTADT

The quarter Katharinenvorstadt was walled in the 14th century. Small craftsmen's businesses and manufactories settled here. Among others there were tanners, as can be seen in the entablatures of the furnishing shop Gräter.

Walk along Mauerstraße and just before you get to the restaurant Zum Löwen turn left into the narrow Brüdergasse. Then turn right and climb the steps to the Kunsthalle Würth.



27. KUNSTHALLE WÜRTH

The art gallery was built in 2001 and is a spectacular exhibition venue for international, modern and contemporary art. Presentations from the patron of art Reinhold Würth's collection alternate with special exhibitions, which are complemented with items on loan. From the courtyard you have a wonderful view of the historic city. Free admission.

From the courtyard walk past the old brewhouse up to Lange Straße.

28. ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH

St. Catherine's church with its valuable stained glass and the elaborately carved high altar can be visited at weekends. Presumably it is the oldest church in Schwäbisch Hall.

Turn right and follow Lange Straße, then turn right into Heimbacher Gasse to Henkersbrücke. Next to the department store WOHA there is Johanniterkirche, a secularized church dating from the 14th century.



Photo: Eva Maria Kraiss

29. JOHANNITERKIRCHE

Johanniterkirche is the home of the Collection of Old Masters, which is part of the Würth collection. In addition to many altarpieces there are works by Lucas Cranach or sculptures by Tilman Riemenschneider. The famous Holbein's Virgin of Mercy is the highlight of the collection. When the secularized 12th century church building was extensively restored the original Gothic roof framework from 1400-01 was uncovered. It is the oldest of its kind in southern Germany. Free admission.

Walk back to the bridge which takes you back to the city centre.

30. HENKERSBRÜCKE

The stone bridge was built in 1502. On the bridge the executioner of the imperial city collected wood as a bridge toll. It was blown up in 1945 and rebuilt in 1949. On the left on the bridge there is the hangman's house which houses a witty vending machine. Via the bridge you reach Neue Straße. In 1728 it was built as an efficient fire lane from the river Kocher to the market place. ◀ **The short tour ends here.**

The long tour takes you downstream on the Johanniterkirche side of the river, past Café Bar Ilge to Ringhotel Hohenlohe with the adjacent Solebad.

31. SOLEBAD

The Solebad with its warm 29°– 36°C healing and strengthening Schwäbisch Hall brine is an oasis of wellness and offers a large pool and sauna area.

100 m further on you reach Lappeurantasteg, another covered wooden bridge. Cross the river Kocher and the adjacent square, walk past the Volksbank building and then up Badtorweg.

From Badtorweg you have a good view of the former prison which today accommodates the adult education centre and the music school, as well as of the Kocherquartier shopping centre. At the top of the lane you come across Gelbinger Gasse and Jostenturm.

32. JOSENTURM

Jostenturm is one of the originally 50 towers of the city fortifications, built around 1250 as the former chapel St. Jodokus.



Badtorweg



Turn left and follow Gelbinger Gasse for 100 m until you reach a small square. Here you can see the district office with its wide stairway and a sculpture in several parts by Hans Henning Seemann.

33. GRÄTERHAUS

On the left of the square you can see the most beautiful half-timbered house of the city. The Gräterhaus was built in 1605 by tanner Hans Gräter.

Now turn to walk into the city. You will pass the former Stadtpalais Engelhardt (no. 25 on your right) and reach Säumarkt.



34. SÄUMARKT

On your left you can see the Café Alte Wache. Its name refers to the Württemberg guardhouse with its classical portico which was built in 1811. Behind it Säumarkturm (*pre-1250, half-timbered upper part around 1600*) and the Malefizturm (*pre-1200, formerly a prison*) stand out. They used to be the northern entrance to the city. Between the two towers a part of the oldest city wall remains.

The former Hospital zum Heiligen Geist is located on Spitalbach. Today it houses a room for events (*Hospitalkirche*) and the Goethe-Institut. The other wing is used as a market hall.

Walk straight along Marktstraße, back to the market place. ◀ **The long tour ends here.**



Short tour

Long tour

P Car park

H Public transport

WC Public toilets

AV Elevator

Bus Stops for coaches. Free parking on the ZOB (Central Bus Station)

DJH Jugendherberge



Schenken-seebad

Neubausaal

P2 WC



St. Michael

Pfarrgasse

Oberer Herweg



Hällisch-Fränkisches Museum

Keckenhof

Spielplatz Ackeranlagen

Bootsplatz Minigolf

Kunstver Schwäbisch Hall e. V.

Rathaus

Stadtbibliothek

Goetheinstitut

Kocherquartier

Haus der Bildung

Haalbrunnen

Emil-Schmidt-Haus

Haalhalle

Neues Globe

Aktivpark Weilerwiese



Solebad

Wohnmobil Stellplatz Auwiese Zufahrt über Spitalmühlenstraße



Johanniterkirche

Brenzhaus

Kunsthalle Würth

Haus Lange Straße Nr. 49



Kirche St. Katharina



Freilandmuseum Wackershofen





CITY TOURS

Let our experienced tour guides take you through the city and see Schwäbisch Hall with different eyes.

GROUP TOURS

You are a couple, or a group up to 25 people? We are happy to offer you a guided tour of our city in English or other languages.

Guided tour of the old town

On our most popular guided tour you will experience the historic old town with its covered wooden bridges and narrow streets, but also the beautiful market square. *Duration:* 60 minutes without St. Michael's Church or 90 minutes including St. Michael's Church. *Languages:* English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese

Guided tours of the monastery Großcomburg

Immerse yourself in the former Benedictine monastery and visit art treasures of international standard in St. Nicholas Church. *Duration:* 60 min. *Languages:* English, French or Italian

Guided tour of St. Michael

Climb the steps of the open staircase to the church of St. Michael and discover the Romanesque-Gothic church from the inside during your guided tour. *Duration:* 60 min. *Languages:* English, Italian, French, Spanish or Portuguese

An overview of all group tours can be found at www.schwaebischhall.de/gruppenfuehrungen

For reservation, prices and more information please ring +49 791 751-386 or send a mail to touristik@schwaebischhall.de



→ Tourist Information

Hafenmarkt 3, 74523 Schwäbisch Hall

May to September: Mon – Fri 9.00 – 18.00 h. Sat 10.00 – 15.00 h

October to April: Tue – Fri 9.00 – 17.00 h, Sat 10.00 - 13.00 h



Herausgeberin:
Stadt Schwäbisch Hall, Fachbereich Kultur und Touristik
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