



### THE HISTORY OF MILLS

In the early Middle Ages, the miller was held in high esteem, not least due to the fact that he was instrumental in helping to feed the populace. He was also admired for his technical understanding and his command over the elemental force "water". To be a member of the milling industry promised wealth and recognition. At the same time, a certain disreputable air clung to millers as it was thought they cheated when weighing the flour or were prone to converting some of it to their own use.

The isolated location of the mills outside villages may have had something to do with this reputation; it also offered scope for superstition, inexplicable and uncanny ghost tales and scary stories. Up until the end of the nineteenth century, mills were actually one of the most important economic factors in a community. In the Swabian Forest, the mills - not least because of their double function as flour mills and sawmills - have been one of the most important industries throughout the past few centuries.

In the region around Welzheim alone there were 26 mills. The flour mills were usually composed of a ground floor built of stone with a half-timbered storey above. This was usually given over to the living quarters of the miller.

The sawmills, on the other hand, were almost always simple, one-storey wooden structures.

As sawmills were often common mills, owned by several farmers and used communally, there was no need for outbuildings and living quarters (as is the case with the Hummelgautsche). As they were built of wood, the sawmills often fell victim to fires and were also subject to deterioration due to climatic influences. This is why most of the sawmills in the Swabian Forest no longer exist. If the mill was a combination flour and sawmill, the two buildings were often linked by a roofed walkway (e.g. the Heinlesmühle). At the Heinlesmühle one can still see two of the mill wheels.

At the tourist association (Fremdenverkehrsgemeinschaft) Schwäbischer Wald you can buy the mill book "Mühlen" for € 12.80 as well as the lovingly illustrated children's book "Melchior die Mühlenmaus im Schwäbischen Wald" for € 14.80. Both books are in German and can be ordered via the internet at [www.schwaebischerwald.com](http://www.schwaebischerwald.com) or by e-mail from [info@schwaebischerwald.com](mailto:info@schwaebischerwald.com)



#### 1 KLINGENMÜHLE

The Klingenmühle was first mentioned in a document in 1668. The deep gorge (Klinge) at the upper reach of the Wies River gave the mill its name. The flour mill building still exists; however, the water wheel is missing. The sawmill has been long gone. It is supposed to have been a favourite haunt of the poet Justinus Kerner who immortalized it in his poem "Der Wanderer in der Sägemühle" (The wanderer in the sawmill). Today, with its 'Antik Café & Biergarten', the Klingenmühle is an idyllic destination for hikers and offers a wild and romantic backdrop for private and business events.

Opening times for the Antik Café & Biergarten: April 1 - October 31 Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. For events, times outside the regular opening times can be arranged.

→ [www.klingenmuehle.com](http://www.klingenmuehle.com)

AudioTour 0 71 92 - 97 90 - 110



#### 2 HAGHOFER ÖLMÜHLE

The most recent mill along the Mill Hiking Trail was built in 1833 as an oil mill and sawmill. There, mainly edible oils from rapeseed and linseed were produced in rolling and crushing processes. The mill building from the nineteenth century and the now dried-up mill race are still to be seen. The Haghofer oil mill is used today purely as an agricultural property. Only the race, where the rushing waters once turned the mill wheels, remains as a reminder of the former mill.

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#### 4 MEUSCHENMÜHLE

In the Eisenbach valley stands the oldest mill on the Mill Hiking Trail. It was first mentioned in 1553 as the "Nibelgau Mühle" but it was probably already in existence in the thirteenth century. The origin of the name "Meuschenmühle" has not been satisfactorily explained. The half-timbered building possesses a water wheel with a diameter of 7 metres (about 23 feet) which is the second-largest water wheel, after that of the Kirchenkirnberger Mühle, of all the mills in the Swabian Forest. Commercial flour milling in the mill was shut down in 1970. However, the mill with its equipment from the period around 1900 and its millstones (two milling gears and a special one for spelt) is still fully operational.

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#### 6 HUMMELGAUTSCHE

The Vaihinghofer sawmill - locally known as the "Hummelgautsche" - was first mentioned in the fourteenth century. It is a sawmill and still has its water wheel. In 1973 the sawmill was bought by the Alfdorf community and extensively renovated. Adjacent to the mill is a pleasant barbecue area with a playground.

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#### 8 HUNDSBERGER SÄGMÜHLE

The Hundsberger Sägmühle was built between 1500 and 1600 as a pounding mill for grain with a breastshot waterwheel. Later it was used as a community mill. Until about 1935, the mill used water power. The derelict mill wheel was replaced in 1980 and renovated in 2005. Parts of the transmission from the beginning of the previous century are still in existence. Today the sawmill is driven by electricity.

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#### 11 EBERSBERGER MÜHLE

This mill was built in 1604 in the valley of the river Blinde Rot. The sawmill, which at that time had a breastshot water wheel, was owned by the Adelberg Monastery. The mill today is driven by a turbine. The sawmill building and the "Wasserstube" in which the mill wheel turned can still be seen. In the entrance there is a remarkable oven tile cemented into the wall with the date 1604.

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Further mills in the Swabian Forest that are not indicated on the map:



#### STEGMÜHLE | ASPACH

Historical documentation made up of texts and photographs tells the history of the Stegmühle in Großaspach built in 1799. Since 1815 the mill has been in the possession of the Trefz family. Until 1998 the belts were still operating, a turbine from 1928 supplying the power to drive the mill.

Mill shop: Flour, muesli, fresh eggs, pasta and tinned sausage  
Opening times: Monday: 9am - 12 noon; Thursday and Friday: 9am - 6pm; Saturday: 8.30am - 1pm



#### RÜMELINSMÜHLE | MURRHARDT

In the year 1471 this mill was already in existence and known as the "Wolfsmühle" (Wolf's mill). The Rümelinsmühle, located above the inflow of the Dentalbach into the Murr, was operated as a flour mill from 1831 to 1835. With its listed half-timbered house dating from 1799, the mill is a property right off a picture postcard with a main house, barns, stables, bakehouse and vegetable garden. It is the only producing mill in the Swabian Forest and still able to hold its own by partial use of its water wheel. The mill-race system, as described in the monastery ledger of 1576, is still in use here.

Mill shop with mill bakery Rümelinsmühle  
Monday to Wednesday: 8.30am - 1pm and 2pm - 6pm;  
Thursday and Friday: 8am - 6pm; Saturday: 8am - 1pm  
Baking days: Thursday and Friday

→ [www.ruemelinsmuehle-murrhardt.de](http://www.ruemelinsmuehle-murrhardt.de)

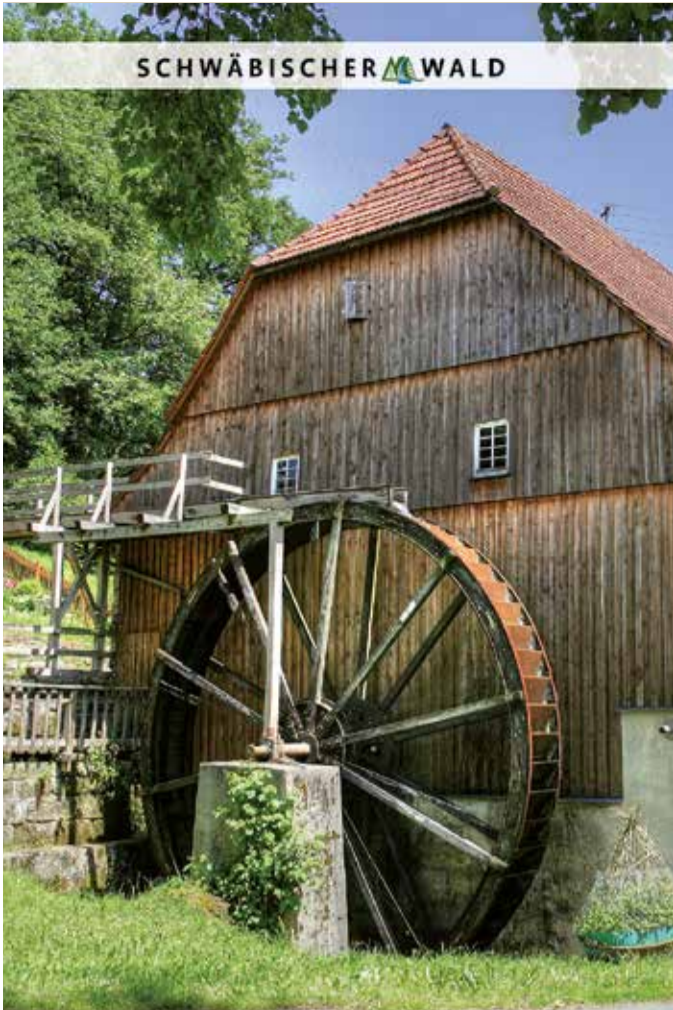
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#### SEEMÜHLE | WEISSACH IM TAL

The Seemühle has a history going back to between 1230 and 1245. The name derives from a "See", or lake, which no longer exists. The lake was designed and laid out in the sixteenth century for a ducal fish farm in order to supply the court at Stuttgart with fresh fish. Today the Seemühle runs a mill shop offering freshly baked bread, wheat flour of the best quality, honey, nuts and much more for sale. The substance of the existing building of this still-producing mill can be dated back to 1743, as stated by an inscription on the mill. Until 1973 water power was used to turn the wheels. Now, electricity supplies the necessary energy for the remaining mill production.

Mill shop with mill bakery:  
Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm; Saturday 8am - 1pm  
Baking days: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
→ [www.seemuehle-unterweissach.de](http://www.seemuehle-unterweissach.de)



### MILL | HIKING TRAIL

Hiking the romantic mill trail in the Swabian Forest



Mills are one of the oldest technical mechanisms known to mankind, and very few of us are immune to the veil of mystery that surrounds them. Their frequently idyllic, and generally isolated, location has been food for fantasy for centuries and has given rise to a number of ghost stories dealing with millers and their mills.

For many years now, with renovation and maintenance measures, the Rems-Murr district has been striving to conserve these important witnesses to the past.

In 1978 the "Mühlenwanderweg" (Mill Hiking Trail) was called into being and took the symbol of a mill as its logo. Along a 37-kilometre circular trail it connects eleven of the most beautiful mills still existing. For those who want a shorter hike there are three signposted circular routes of 10 to 15 kilometres.

#### Further Information

SCHWÄBISCHER WALD

Fremdenverkehrsgemeinschaft Schwäbischer Wald e.V.

Alter Postplatz 10 | 71332 Waiblingen  
Telefon 0 71 51 / 5 01 13 76

→ [info@schwaebischerwald.com](mailto:info@schwaebischerwald.com)  
→ [www.schwaebischerwald.com](http://www.schwaebischerwald.com)



**AUDIOTOUR | THROUGH THE SWABIAN FOREST** (only in German)  
→ 0 71 92 - 97 90 122  
Discover the romantic mills, forts and watchtowers of the World Heritage Site Limes and cities and communities of the Swabian Forest in a completely new way. With the audio tour, you have at your fingertips over 100 audio files dealing with the most popular sights.  
**This is how it works**  
Dial the number 0 71 92 - 97 90 and then add the three-digit number of the sight you are interested in. You can find the numbers of all the audio sites in the internet at [www.schwaebischerwald.com](http://www.schwaebischerwald.com).  
**The audio tour is also available as an app and ready for you to download from Apple's App Store**  
Independent of internet connection and telephone costs, WanderWater gives you access to the audio files combined with the topographical map and over 400 tours through the Swabian Forest.



#### 3 HAGMÜHLE

First mentioned in the year 1417, the Hagmühle was run as a flour mill and sawmill. In 1975 the Hagmühle was still in use as a flour mill. Today the old millstone room and the outdoor area are available for weddings, art exhibitions, concerts, and birthday and company celebrations with catering by the inn Gaststätte Hagmühle.

Opening times: From May 1 - September 30, Sundays and bank holidays 11.30am - 8pm and by prior arrangement.

→ [www.hagmuehle.de](http://www.hagmuehle.de)

AudioTour 0 71 92 - 97 90 - 114



#### 5 VOGGENBERGMÜHLE

The original flour mill was driven with the water from the Rot River. By 1524 at the latest, the mill and the hamlet of Voggenberg belonged to the Adelberg monastery. Today the mill is still in operation, although as the mill wheel is missing the work is done by a modern turbine. In an adjacent building there is a mill shop. Here you can find an impressive selection of flour types from different grains and in all degrees of fineness. The shop also offers a wide range of dried fruits, nuts and seeds, pasta in imaginative shapes and gluten-free products.

Opening times for the mill shop: Monday to Friday: 9am - 12.30 and 2pm - 6pm; Saturday: 9am - 2pm

→ [www.voggenbergmuehle.de](http://www.voggenbergmuehle.de)

AudioTour 0 71 92 - 97 90 - 118



#### 7 HEINLESMÜHLE

The Heinlesmühle, built in the twelfth century, is a combined flour mill and sawmill. The sawmill, built alongside the main building, is connected to the flour mill with a roofed walkway. The imposing half-timbered building is the only mill on the Mill Hiking Trail that still possesses two mill wheels. The water needed to turn them is brought via a long mill race from the Schwarzer Rot River. Up until the middle of the nineteenth century, the mill was sometimes used as the bailiff's office and the barn for Vordersteinenberg and was also a well-known inn, licensed as a hostelry, for weddings and other occasions.

Catering for events, with salt-cake from our own baking house. Beverages and ice-cream served all year round.

→ [www.heinlesmuehle.de](http://www.heinlesmuehle.de)

AudioTour 0 71 92 - 97 90 - 122



#### 10 BRANDHOFER ÖL- UND SÄGEMÜHLE

The Brandhofer oil mill and sawmill has an oat stamper which is the only one of its kind in the Swabian Forest and therefore a showpiece of an "old German oil mill equipped with a stamping mortar and wedge press". In 1830 an oat stamper and an oil mill were added to the existing mill. The oat stamper was started up by a water-wheel-powered cam shaft. In a roasting pan with a mechanical stirrer, the pounded grit was heated and then packed into the press. With a stamping pole driven by a second cam shaft, the pressing wedge was driven into the press thereby squeezing the oil out of the grit.

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#### 13 ÖLMÜHLE MICHELAU

→ This mill is not located on the Mill Hiking Trail  
Built in 1754, the Ölmühle Michelau is the oldest oil mill in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Until the 1950s, beechnuts, poppyseed, pumpkin seeds, walnuts and rapeseed were pressed here. Today, the interior comprises a winnowing machine, three roller mills, a pan mill, two preheaters, two sieve mills, one hydraulic pump, a grist mill and a heating oven. The flax museum in the upper storey shows machines for the processing of plant fibres. A show garden has been laid out in the outside area.

Mill kiosk for refreshments, Opening times: From May to October every Sunday and bank holiday from 1pm - 6pm. For schools and other groups, times outside the regular opening times can be arranged. Admission free.

→ [www.muehlenkiosk.de](http://www.muehlenkiosk.de)

AudioTour 0 71 92 - 97 90 - 136





### HIKING BOOTS INSTEAD OF PATENT LEATHER SLIPPERS ...

It was important for us to choose nature paths that led through woods and meadows while avoiding noise and traffic. We wanted to create a hiking experience that, on the way to the romantic mills, offered at the same time the opportunity to experience nature and the landscape in their original and diverse forms. The younger members of the party in particular will love such landscapes in their natural state as they make a hike interesting and varied. One must take into account, however, that hiking like this, on "nature trails", requires the right equipment, i.e. sturdy hiking boots and surefootedness. Depending on the weather some sections of the trail can become muddy, slippery and rough. We wish you a sure stride on all your paths and much pleasure in the beautiful landscape.

We begin our hike at the hiking parking lot (P3) near the viaduct at the Laufenmühle. The starting point is also easy to reach with the bus or the Schwäbischen Waldbahn (Swabian forest train). Below the viaduct two waterfalls fed by the Edenbach and Wieslauf streams are worthy of note. A small trail leads down to the **Klingenmühle**, located in a romantic spot on the shore of the Wieslauf. There is an „Antik-Café & Biergarten“ here, inviting one to have a rest. On the other shore of the Wieslauf, the path leads up the gorge and past the hiking parking lot slightly uphill to the Edenbachschlucht. This can be hiked through in about one hour on a varied path, crossing a number of small bridges. Before you reach the entrance to the village of Breitenfurt, you can refresh your feet in a Kneipp basin. Passing Ropbachsee, one climbs to Birkachhof and from there to **Hagmühle** via the **Haghofer Ölmühle**.

Here, the Mill Hiking Trail crosses the Limes Hiking Trail. Over the bridge near **Hagmühle** the trail leads us to Rienharz and then to the **Meuschenmühle**.

Now we follow the cycle path for a short while, then hike through Mannholz into the forest, past the hiking parking lot Voggenberg (P4) and then along the Kreisstrasse 1890 to the **Voggenbergmühle**. On the Rottalweg path along the Rot River, the trail leads us past the barbecue area "Klarahütte" to the parking lot Hagerwaldsee (P5). Here we recommend a detour to the idyllic lake where there is also an inn, an invitation to stop for refreshment.

Now the trail leads past the Hüttenbühlsee to the **Hummelgautsche**. Here, here you can find a pleasant resting place with a mountain hut and barbecue area. The trail continues through the valley of the Schwarze Rot, across a meadow, then along a paved lane, finally reaching the Heinlesmühle, one of the most impressive mills in the Swabian Forest.

We continue along the Schwarze Rot, past the hiking parking

lot **Heinlesmühle** (P1) to the **Hundsberger Sägmühle** and then shortly after, the **Menzlesmühle** and on through the village Menzles to the **Brandhofer Öl- und Sägmühle**. On the same path, a short distance back along the Hagbach stream, the path turns to the right and leads through the Damerswald and the nature conservation area Gauchhauser Tal to the leisure inn "Forsthaus Ebersberg". Here we recommend a detour to the wildy romantic Brunnen and Hägelesklinge gorge. Back on the trail we continue on to **Ebersberger Mühle**.

We hike a short distance along the Blinde Rot towards Aichstrut. Not far from the trail there is the amusement park "Schwabepark", a popular destination, especially for the youngsters. Following the shoreline of the Lein takes us to the Aichstruter Sägmühle. The trail then leads on to the hiking parking lot Obermühle (P2). From here it leads past the archaeological park Ostkastell, through the town centre of Welzheim and finally, on narrow paths down through the woods to the point of departure at the parking lot Laufenmühle.

### TIPP

On Whit Monday each year, the German "Mill Day" is held. Most mills are open to the public on this day as well as on the "Day of the Swabian Forest" in September, held on the first Sunday after the summer holidays. In addition to catering, entertainment is provided for visitors.

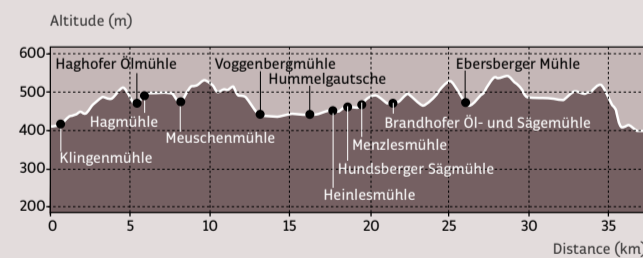
Information on mill tours can be found at the tourist association Schwäbischer Wald e. V., [www.schwaebischerwald.com](http://www.schwaebischerwald.com) and the nature park guides Schwäbisch-Fränkischer Wald, [www.die-naturparkfuehrer.de](http://www.die-naturparkfuehrer.de).

### MAIN HIKING TRAIL

Hiking time: approx. 2 - 3 days  
Distance: approx. 37 km



Scan here for the interactive map



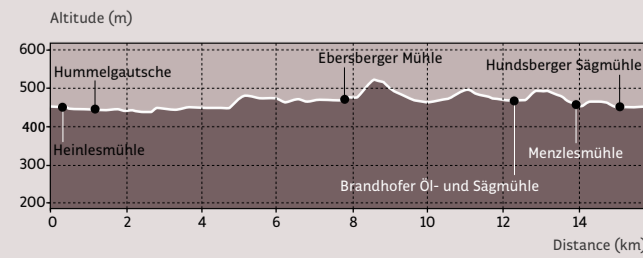
### CIRCULAR ROUTE 1

Hiking time: approx. 5 hours  
Distance: approx. 15.5 km  
Start: Parking lot P1



Scan here for the interactive map

Mills along the way: Heinlesmühle, Hummelgautsche, Ebersberger Mühle, Brandhofer Öl- & Sägmühle, Hagmühle, Menzlesmühle, Hundsberger Sägmühle



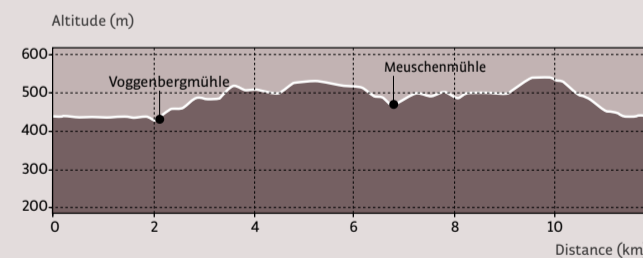
### CIRCULAR ROUTE 2

Hiking time: approx. 3 hours  
Distance: approx. 11.9 km  
Start: Parking lot P4



Scan here for the interactive map

Mills along the way: Voggenbergmühle, Meuschenmühle



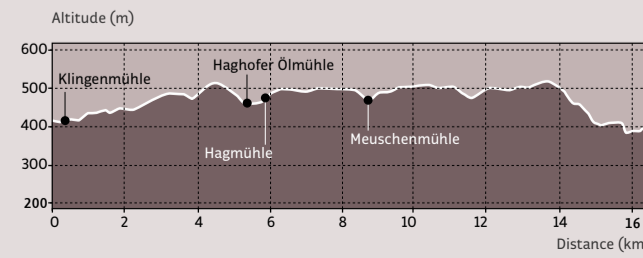
### CIRCULAR ROUTE 3

Hiking time: approx. 5 hours  
Distance: approx. 16.5 km  
Start: Parking lot P3



Scan here for the interactive map

Mills along the way: Klingenmühle, Haghofer Ölmühle, Hagmühle, Meuschenmühle



## Overnight lodging and stops along the Mill Hiking Trail

### HOTELS AND INNS

73553 Alfdorf  
1 Landgasthof Döllenhof Döllenhof 1  
73553 Alfdorf-Burgholz  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 88 26  
Rooms available  
[www.gasthof-doellenhof.homepage.t-online.de](http://www.gasthof-doellenhof.homepage.t-online.de)  
Closed: Monday to Friday, Open Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays. Exceptions possible pending prior notice by telephone

2 Gasthof zum Rößle Weilerstraße 44  
Alfdorf-Rienharz  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 82 08  
[www.roessle-rienharz.de](http://www.roessle-rienharz.de)  
Closed: Monday

3 Golf- und Landhotel Haghof Haghof 3  
Alfdorf-Haghof  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 92 80-0  
[www.hotelhaghof.de](http://www.hotelhaghof.de)  
73667 Kaisersbach

4 Naturpark Hotel Ebnisee Winnender Str. 10  
73667 Kaisersbach-Ebni  
Telephone 0 71 84 / 29 2-0  
[www.naturparkhotel.de](http://www.naturparkhotel.de)

### RESTAURANTS

73553 Alfdorf  
9 Golf- und Landclub Haghof e.V. Gastronomie Haghof 6  
73553 Alfdorf-Haghof  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 46 12  
[www.glc-haghof.de](http://www.glc-haghof.de)

10 Gaststätte Hagerwaldsee Hagerwaldstr. 31  
73553 Alfdorf-Hüttenbühl  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 68 10  
[www.hagerwaldsee.de](http://www.hagerwaldsee.de)  
Closed: Monday and Wednesday

11 Biergarten Hagmühle Hagmühle 1  
73553 Alfdorf-Haghof  
Telephone 0 71 72 / 3 24 87  
hansi-schwarz@web.de  
[www.hagmuehle.de](http://www.hagmuehle.de)  
Catering Thursdays to Sundays during the summer months  
73667 Kaisersbach

12 Gaststätte Josefe Panoramaweg 42  
73667 Kaisersbach-Cronhütte  
Telephone 0 71 84 / 27 77  
[www.gaststaette-josefe.de](http://www.gaststaette-josefe.de)  
Closed: Monday and Tuesday

13 Terrassencafé Weller & Munz Im Feldle 3  
Telephone 0 71 84 / 9 10 10  
[www.holofenbaeckereiweller.de](http://www.holofenbaeckereiweller.de)  
Closed: Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday afternoon  
Only by prior notice!

73642 Welzheim  
→ Numerous restaurants and cafés in the centre of town (Café Westkastell, Eiscafé Il Nuovo Gelato, Ristorante Ionio, Gaststätte zum Grünen Baum, Café D'Amici, Eiscafé Garda, Restaurant Marathon, Taverne Sokrates, Resi-denzstube, Espresso Gleis 1, Pizzeria Da Camillo)

### CAMPING SITES

73553 Alfdorf  
20 Campingplatz Hagerwaldsee Hagerwaldseestraße 31  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 68 10  
[www.hagerwaldsee.de](http://www.hagerwaldsee.de)  
73642 Welzheim

21 Zeltplatz Aichstrutsee Campsite directly on the lake  
Telephone 0 71 82 / 70 81 oder 0 71 72 / 31 8 42  
→ This symbol indicates caravan sites - see map

### FREIZEITHEIM

(leisure facility)  
73667 Kaisersbach  
22 Forsthaus Ebersberg Address: Haus Nr. 22  
Available for self-catering groups. The 8-metre climbing tower can also be rented. Qualified supervisor/trainer can be arranged.  
Information and rental: EJV Bezirk Schorndorf  
Telephone 0 71 81 / 2 57 97 70  
[www.ejw-schorndorf.de](http://www.ejw-schorndorf.de)

Scale 1: 33.000



Map data © OpenStreetMap Mitwirkende  
[www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org)

- Main Mill Hiking Trail
- Circular route 1
- — Circular route 1 and main hiking trail
- Circular route 2
- — Circular route 2 and main hiking trail
- Circular route 3
- — Circular route 3 and main hiking trail

○ Access road to the Kirchenkirnberger Mühle and to the Ölmühle Michellau

Ⓜ Mill locations

P Parking lots with information boards

Ⓜ World Cultural Heritage Site Limes

H Bus stop Waldbus

H Bus stop Limesbus

H Bus stop Wald- und Limesbus

Ⓜ Station Schwäbische Waldbahn

● Inns and restaurants

Ⓜ Caravan sites

— Land and district roads

— Side roads and forestry tracks (negotiable)

— Forestry tracks (closed to traffic)

— Narrow footpaths and beaten tracks

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