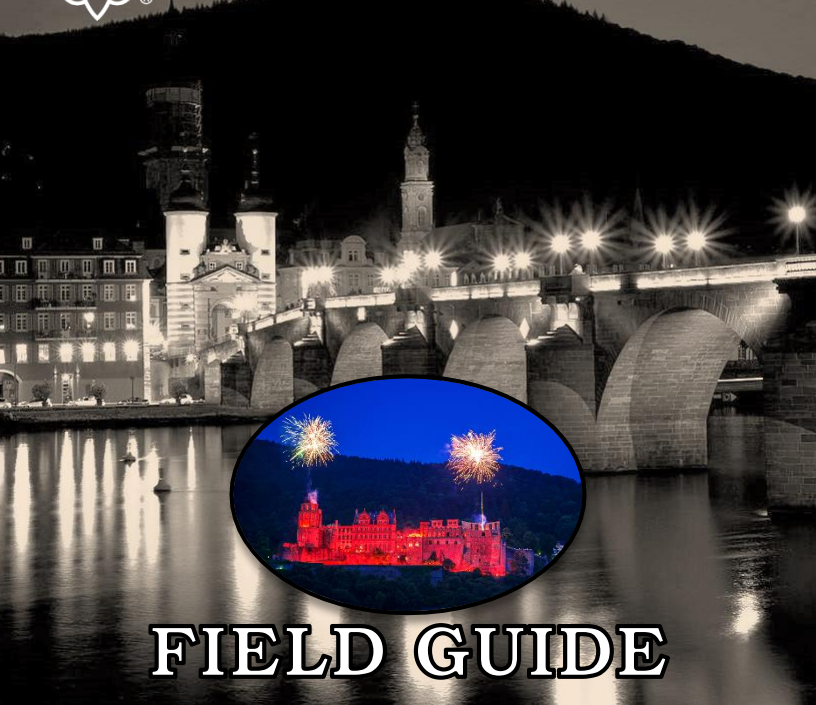




HEIDELBERG, GERMANY HISTORIC TRAIL



FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Heidelberg Historical Trail designed by a members of the Transatlantic Council in the 1970s and updated by Ms Kerstin Lambert of the Heidelberg Cub Scout Pack in 2017. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit Heidelberg in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Admin@tac-bsa.org or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: The Karl Theodor Bridge or Old Bridge and the Brückentor
Front Cover Inset: Heidelberg Castle Illuminations



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GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.
10. Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.



WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

A tour of the romantic city of Heidelberg, quietly nestled on the Neckar River, presents a unique opportunity to Boy Scouts of the Transatlantic Council for several reasons. Heidelberg, as the once established capital of the palatinate, exerted great influence over the political affairs and history of Central Europe. Americans living in Europe and American visitors to Germany feel a special affinity to Heidelberg; an affinity nurtured through a relatively simple yet, totally loved story of a "Student Prince." Finally, it is one of several historic trails available to Boy and Cub Scouts in Europe.

The hiker will find no test at the end of these instructions. The best part of the Heidelberg story, is the sights and sounds of the city itself. A scout leader may, should he/she desire, require a written or verbal report by the Scouts upon their return to their home troop, pack or crew. Each of the sites is coded with one or more of the following letters: BS for Boy Scouts; CS for Cub Scouts. The intent is to offer general guidance to the hikers as to which sites would provide or captivate the interests of the respective Scouts.

Combine the Heidelberg Historic Trail with a summer night when the burnings of the castle are commemorated with a huge firework display. The **Heidelberg Castle Illumination** or **Heidelberger Schlossbeleuchtung** take place three times a year (first Saturday in June, second Saturday in July, and first Saturday in September).

All participating Scouts and their leaders are expected to wear their complete Scout uniforms. As you walk the trail and interact with others, this fleeting experience with American Boy Scouts is the only one visitors may have in their lifetime. Consequently the Scouts are expected to personify the Scout Law and Oath and conduct themselves accordingly.

The Trail is completely self-guided, meaning that all the information you need is contained within this packet. Read it thoroughly, walk the Trail, and...

ENJOY YOURSELF - VIEL SPAß!



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Where and How to Start

The trail starts at the Bismarckplatz in front of the Galeria Kaufhof Department Store.

There are several parking garages in the area if you drive to town. If you are staying at the local campground (Camping Heidelberg see page 32 for more info) , you can take the #35 bus to Bismarckplatz to start the trail.

You may also want to buy the HeidelbergCARD before you start. It includes:

- Castle ticket incl. funicular
- Free use of public transport in Heidelberg
- Discounts from more than 60 partners including restaurants, shopping and culture
- HeidelbergGUIDE with city map

The price as of February 2018 is:

1 Day – 15€ 2 Days – 17€ 4 Days – 19€

Family 2 Days – 36€ (2 adults + 3 kids under 16 or 1 adult +4 kids under 16)

Distance and Time

The entire hike is about 9 kilometers from the first to last stop and will take about 3 hours of walking, if you do not stop to see the sights. It will take about 5 hours of walking if you stop in the churches, and outdoor places of interest, and look for the history behind them all. Finally, it will take about 6 to 8 hours to complete the trail and go into the museums as well. Please note that the optional hike on the Philosophenweg will add about 5 km and 1-2 hours to the trail.

There is no set “break time” during the hike. You decide when you want to stop and take a short break for drinks or food. There are numerous restaurants, cafes and stands along the route. The best time to start on the hike is around nine in the morning as most shops along the route will be open (except on Sundays) at those times. Just remember, the goal is the trail, not the finish.



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Start Point – Bismarckplatz (BS, CS)

The start of the Heidelberg Historic Trail is at the **Bismarckplatz**. Look for the main fountain and grab a seat on one of the benches nearby. It is impossible to miss...once you are near it. There is a large Galeria Kaufhof department store (ultra-modern designed building); also, virtually every form of mass transportation servicing Heidelberg stops at **Bismarckplatz**.

Just standing at **Bismarckplatz** itself can be a study in the history of Heidelberg. As you look at Galeria Kaufhof turn to the left towards the town. You would be looking at what many “old” Heidelbergers consider to be the western limit of the city. An interesting fountain (notice the square and cube shaped stones so inviting to walk, run and romp on...but be wary in warm weather...the water comes on when you least expect it). Okay, now that you have dried your younger Scouts out, continue on north for no more than 50 meters and you will come to a bust of Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck became Chancellor of Prussia (compare to Prime Minister) in 1862. Bismarck was ruthless, but also brilliant and prudent. He melded the German states into a unified empire. In spite of the fact that there was no love lost among members, when outside threat presented itself, members banded together to fight common foes.

A good way of starting this portion of the tour is to ask the Scouts who have younger brothers or sisters. Then ask if they like to tease or even hit their younger siblings. Inevitably, several will raise their hands. Then using this point as a stepping-stone, compare the independent German pre-Bismarck kingdoms to fighting siblings. Provide an explanation of Bismarck's role in unifying Germany by making these points. In 1870, Bismarck provoked France into war (France declared war on Germany). This war stirred the feelings of nationalism and patriotism, which were the cement that unified Germany. Germans under Bismarck won this Franco-Prussian war “big time” (use these words, younger Scouts will understand!).

49°24'33.94"N, 8°41'35.39"E – Bismarckplatz, 69115 Heidelberg

Head to the northeast corner of the Bismarckplatz and head east on Neckerstrasse for about 500 m to your next stop, the Stadthalle.



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Checkpoint #2 – Stadthalle (BS)

Built between 1900 and 1901, it is a concert hall, opera house, or city auditorium.

The **Stadthalle** is rich in the 1900's style of architecture. On the façade of Stadthalle you can find various heads of composer, including Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. Above the south-east side entrance is the first strophe of Joseph Victor of Scheffel's "Old Heidelberg, you fine". The second stanza of the song can be found above the north-east side entrance. On the east façade of the Stadthalle are the busts of the former Chancellor Otto von Bismarck and the military strategist Helmut Graf von Moltke. The coats of arms of the eight largest cities in Baden are attached to the north and south façade of **Stadthalle**.

49°24'44"N, 8°41'59"E – Neckarstaden 24, 69117 Heidelberg

Coming out of the front of the Stadthalle turn right or north towards the River. Cross Neckarstaden (carefully – it's another busy street) and move to the stone steps that lead down to the River.

Checkpoint #3 – Riverside (BS)

Grab a seat on one of the benches down by the **Necker River**. This is the closest you will actually come to the **River** on the entire tour. Key point you might want to remember and note here is this: The Neckar has flooded several times in the history of the city. While you are here, look out along the riverbanks. On a good day, and if you are lucky, you can see ducks, swans, scull boats (single and crew), maybe paddle boats, sailboats, and cruise boats. These can normally be seen tied up on the Southern bank (the same side you are on). A fun type excursion is to take one of the cruise boats up the Neckar River on a sunny spring or summer day.

49°24'45"N, 8°41'59"E – Neckarstaden 1/3, 69117 Heidelberg

Come back up the stone steps you used to get to the River and move west along Neckarstaden to the Theodor Heuss Bridge (It's the one with the streetcar tracks). Turn right onto the bridge and stop at one of the pedestrian overlooks, conveniently located on the Theodore Heuss Bridge.



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Checkpoint #4 – Theodor Heuss Bridge (BS, CS)

Get a first panoramic view of Old Heidelberg on the right; and the Heiligenberg or “Holy Mountain” on the left. Caution to the leaders: on warm spring days and even more so on hot summer ones, the northern banks of the River Neckar are filled almost to capacity with sun bathers. Germany being just a bit more “progressive” than what we are used to in the States might give just cause for some of the sunbathers to be rather less clad than what you are used to. Therefore, to put it tastefully, the Scout might experience a unique biological experience.

49°24'45"N, 8°41'33"E – Theodor-Heuss-Brücke (B3), 69120 Heidelberg

From your position on the Bridge, continue north to either Neuenheimer Landstraße or one block farther to Ladenburger Straße. In either case, you will end up turning right. In the former you will have to walk one block down, turn left, then walk yet another block to Philosophenweg. In the latter case you turn right, then walk one block straight ahead and arrive essentially at the same spot. You should be able to see the sign to Philosophenweg from where you stand.

As you start up the hill, and we do mean up the hill, start looking for a school building-like structure on the right side of the Philosophers' Walk. It is just about at the point where you think you cannot take another step. The Scouts, especially the younger ones, will want to run up the Hill, while the older ones, as well as the adults, will want to quit.

Checkpoint #5 – Physics Department (BS, CS)

Find the bench on Albert-Ueberle-Straße and grab a seat. The **Physics Department Building** provides an excellent opportunity to relate the importance of Heidelberg University to the existence of Heidelberg as a city. In 1386, the University of Heidelberg established by Prince Elector Ruprecht (one of the seven German Princes who had the right to vote for the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire).



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Checkpoint #5 – Physics Department (cont.)

The Great Schism of 1378 made it possible for Heidelberg, a relatively small city and capital of the Electorate of the Palatinate, to gain its own university. The Great Schism was initiated by the election of two popes after the death of Pope Gregory XI in the same year. One successor, Pope Clement VII, resided in Avignon (elected by the French) and the other, Pope Urban VI, in Rome (elected by the Italian cardinals). The German secular and spiritual leaders voiced their support for the successor in Rome, which had far-reaching consequences for the German students and teachers in Paris: they lost their stipends and had to leave.

Ruprecht I recognized the opportunity and initiated talks with the Curia. After having received permission from Pope Urban VI to create a school of general studies, the final decision to found the university was taken in June 1386. As specified in the papal charter, the university was modelled after the University of Paris and included four faculties: philosophy, theology, jurisprudence, and medicine. On 18 October 1386, a special Pontifical High Mass in the Heiliggeistkirche, marked the establishment of the university. On 19 October 1386 the first lecture was held, making Heidelberg the oldest university in Germany.

Now is probably the best time to take just a few seconds and compare Heidelberg University to a typical American University. In America, one finds a relatively homogeneous campus with a city or a town that has developed around the outskirts of the University. In Heidelberg, one finds the opposite true. The city is really interspersed with the University buildings appear on both banks of the Neckar and throughout the old city, as well as in some, if not most, of the 'modern suburbs' of Heidelberg.

49°24'53"N, 8°41'43"E – Philosophenweg 12, 69120 Heidelberg

After you stop at the Physics Department, come back out to Philosophenweg and move to the east (right as you come out). Stay on Philosophenweg until you go beyond the last house or residence on the road. Shortly after that, (50-100 yards at the most) you will come to a set of steps leading off the right (riverside) of Philosophenweg.



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Checkpoint #6 – Philosophers' Garden (BS, CS)

There is a small grassy area surrounded by park benches, an area, which presents a nearly perfect panoramic view of Heidelberg, the Dream City.

Rambling up the southern side of the Heiligenberg, across the Neckar from the castle, one will find the Philosopher's Walk. Its name, it is said, stems from the fact that university professors and philosophers walked there, perhaps using the solitude of the forest and the incredible views of the city and surrounding area for inspiration.

In the Philosopher's Garden you will find exotic vegetation. This has several flower beds and some benches as well, which allow visitors to sit, relax, and enjoy the view. Also in the garden is a memorial stone to Joseph von Eichendorff, a romantic poet who studied in Heidelberg from 1807-8.

49°24'54"N, 8°42'1"E – Philosophenweg 27, 69120 Heidelberg

Now it is time to move on; move back up to the Philosophenweg. On spring and summer days there is a small "Schnellimbiss," or German answer to McDonalds, where you can purchase snacks and drinks and postcards. Remember that a Scout is clean, so put your trash in the receptacles provided. At the snack stand there is a fork in the trail.

For those hearty groups that want to add some extra kilometers to the hike, the path that goes to the left and up the hill will eventually lead to the top of the Heiligenberg and the sites at optional checkpoint #7.

If your group wants to skip going all the way up the hill, just continue farther along the lower branch of the path to checkpoint #8, the Liselottestein. But be sure to look up the hill and read about the sites including the Thingstätte and Saint Michael's Basilica before continuing on.



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Optional Checkpoint #7 – Thingstätte And St Michael's Basilica (BS)

The early settlements in Heidelberg rose on the northern bank of the River, the same side you are currently on. These settlements as such date back to the Celts who were in the Heidelberg area before the birth of Christ. However, the history of man dates back far beyond 2000 years. Just a few miles southeast of Heidelberg a jawbone of a human being (known as "Heidelberg man") was located in the village of Mauer. Modern carbon dating process, when applied to this jawbone, revealed the age to be 550,000 years!

Look north up the hill at what the Celts called the "holy" or "saintly" mountain, the Heiligenberg. Remnants of a wall dating before the birth of Christ still exist on top of the hill. However, that is not all that is up on top of this special mountain. Up beyond the Celtic wall is a special kind of city auditorium. Its German name is "**Thingstätte**". What it is really, is an amphitheater that was built not centuries ago, but just a few decades ago. It is a bit of a unique site in Heidelberg. It was built for Hitler Youth Organizations in the 1930's.

In addition, while it was built for other purposes it presents an acoustical marvel. It is a stone city hall. You can stand on the stage of this amphitheater; speak in a normal tone, yet a person sitting in the top row of the theater (nearly 200 meters away) will hear you. Almost as well if you were standing next to any member of the audience.

However, the story of the Heiligenberg does not stop here. One continues up the hill to the restored ruins of **Saint Michael's Basilica**, which dates back to the 8th century AD but the story of the Heiligenberg somewhat ends with the trek up to Saint Michael's. One suggestion – be sure to climb one of the two restored towers to get a magnificent view of Mannheim.



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Optional Checkpoint #7 – Thingstätte And St Michael's Basilica (BS) (cont.)

Now you can turn your attention to the city on the south side of the River. You can see two church steeples – one is almost on a southeast line to the Castle. This is the Church of the Holy Spirit, the Heiliggeistkirche. The second noticeable church steeple is a bit deeper into the city but to the right on the Holy Spirit Church. Heidelberg really experienced a Protestant versus Catholic disagreement, the Reformation, which eventually reached a fever pitch in Heidelberg.

By 1705, the Catholics and Protestants built a wall in the former church. This is used to separate the two different services. About the same time the Catholic order of priests, known as the Jesuits, were building the second Heiliggeistkirche. Local rumors or legends suggest the elector at the time, not wishing to share his other church with the Protestants, had the second church specifically built and named to spite the Protestants.

49°25'23"N, 8°42'23"E – Auf dem Heiligenberg 1, 69121 Heidelberg

Return back down to the last checkpoint and continue farther along the lower branch of the path to the next stop, the Liselottestein.

Checkpoint #8 – Liselottestein (BS, CS)

This is a **memorial** dedicated to Liselotte, the daughter of Prince Elector Karl Ludwig. She was married to the Duke of Orléans, the brother of Louis XIV. It was her inheritance to the Palatine region Louis tried to claim, unsuccessfully, which instigated the War of the Palatine Succession.

49°24'56.17"N, 8°42'08.03"E – Philosophenweg 20, 69120 Heidelberg

To get a good idea of how the city of Heidelberg looked before any of the wars began, follow the path a little farther along to the Merianblick.



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Checkpoint #9 – Merianblick (Merian's View) (BS, CS)

The **Merianblick** / Meriankanzel is an illustration of a 1620's copperplate engraving of Heidelberg, which shows the city and how it used to look before it was destroyed.

49°24'59.30"N, 8°42'17.00"E – Philosophenweg 27, 69120 Heidelberg

Continue east and take the right or lower of the two tracks. Approximately 300-400 meters up Philosopher's Way, you will come to a walking patch off the right side of the road. It has called the Schlangenweg or "Snake Way".

Take a right turn on to Schlangenweg and begin the descent to the River. Caution dangerous. WALK – DO NOT RUN down this pathway. You will eventually exit onto the Neuenheimer Landstraße (Neuenheim country road) immediately across from the "old bridge" or Karl Theodor Bridge. Cross the street at the pedestrian crossing, and head to the statue on the east bank of the bridge.

Checkpoint #10 – Karl Theodor Bridge (BS, CS)

Grab a seat on the bench at the **Old Bridge**. The **Karl Theodor Bridge**, commonly known as the Old Bridge, is a stone bridge in Heidelberg, crossing the Neckar River. It connects the Old City with the eastern part of the Neuenheim district of the city on the opposite bank. The current bridge, made of Neckar Valley Sandstone and the ninth built on the site, was constructed in 1788 by Elector Charles Theodore, and is one of the best-known and amazing landmarks and tourist destinations in the history of Heidelberg. It replaced an older and mostly wooden bridge.

49°24'51.31"N, 8°42'34.37"E – Alte-Brücke, 69117 Heidelberg

Having spoken of the Bridge, it's time to walk across it. The town, its castle or its bridge has been through lightning strikes, floods, and invading armies. Now one can enter the city under the "Bridge Gate".



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Checkpoint #11 – Brückentor (BS, CS)

The Gate was actually part of the city's original medieval fortification, but Karl Theodore added the two-towered gatehouse. The towers have dungeons in them to house felons while the portion above provided the cells of the debtor's prison. There is a plaque above the portcullis commemorating the defense of the city by the Austrian regiment against the invading French army.

The two towers of the bridge gate can be made out at the southern end of the bridge, while the monkey tower (German: Affenturm) is on the seventh pillar, towards the north end of the bridge.

49°24'47.98"N, 8°42'34.31"E – Neckarstadt 66, 69117 Heidelberg

After you pass under the gate, turn to your right (west along the river) for just a few paces and look for the Brückenaaffe of Heidelberg.

Checkpoint #12 – Brass Monkey (BS, CS)

Sit on the benches near the **brass monkey**. It is time to take your cameras out; you or your friend can stick your head into the **monkey's** head just behind his nose. Makes a neat picture! The inscription on the monkey liberally means "as you look at me, world (or traveler), don't laugh too quickly at me because if you were to look at humanity, or even into a mirror, you just might see something as funny as me."

49°24'47.89"N, 8°42'33.96"E – Neckarstadt 66, 69117 Heidelberg

After the monkey, head west along the river until you come to a large fortress complex of buildings. Just before you get to the large building that looks a bit like a barn, turn left and go up the street. When you come to what looks like a small parking lot with a rock in the center of it, you have come to your next stop.



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Checkpoint #13 – The Former Jewish Synagogue (BS, CS)

The **synagogue** was destroyed on 9 November 1938, during the infamous “Kristallnacht” or “Crystal Night”. The rock forms the basis of a unique fountain, for the water never gushes high in the air but rather seeps slowly and quietly over the rock; very much like tears rolling down the cheek. For that reason, some locals have come to call the site the “the Weeping Rock”.

49°24'47.06"N, 8°42' 22.29"E – Große Mantelgasse 1, 69117 Heidelberg

Now go back to the Fortress-like complex of buildings, which are actually part of our next stop, the Marstall.

Checkpoint #14 – Marstall (BS)

The **Marstall** served many purposes during its history, which dates back to medieval times when it was actually a part of the town's old ramparts. Its main purpose was that of any armory, and that includes a portion to house the Elector's stables. You can enter the **Marstall** and note the modern glass, concrete and metal building located inside. From the outside of the building, one can note the sculpture and ancient finds. You can also sympathize with many students of history, whose anger was stirred by the construction of this ultra-modern building in the midst of this antiquity. What makes it so painful is the fact that the building houses the Heidelberg University Department of Archaeology!

49°24'45.3"N, 8°42'16.5"E – Marstallstraße 1, 69117 Heidelberg

Now exit the Marstall from the same entrance you came in. Using the pedestrian crossings available, cross to the riverside of the road north of the Marstall and work your way east (back toward the old bridge) along the river to your next stop, the River Locks.



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Checkpoint #15 – River Locks (BS, CS)

Go up on the causeway by the **locks** and if you have time, watch the operation of the locks which, simply put, resemble an elevator taking boats from a higher river level to lower one or vice versa.

49°24'52.9"N, 8°43'04.4"E – Schlierbacher Landstraße 1, 69118 Heidelberg

When you have finished at the locks, use the underground pedestrian tunnel to move south to "Karl's Gate."

Checkpoint #16 – Karlstor (BS, CS)

This **gate** was once the eastern entrance to the city, and like many other parts of the city, formed part of the ramparts. It was built under the direction of Karl Theodor from 1775 to 1781, almost the same amount of time it took the United States to win their independence from Great Britain. Like other gates to the city, it too, provided a ready-made prison for debtors or criminals.

49°24'51.0"N, 8°43'05.0"E – Hauptstraße 250, 69117 Heidelberg

Okay, let's head toward the castle. Head west to the crosswalk going back toward the city side of Karl's Gate. Enter the city on the Hauptstraße staying on the left side of the street. About 150 meters down the street you will notice a brass plaque on one of the buildings that reads "THURINGIA CHORUS or KORPS"

Checkpoint #17 – Corps Thuringia (BS)

When the university is in session a tricolor or quad-colored flag will be flying from the building. **Corps Thuringia** is one of 28 fraternities in Heidelberg. An interesting point about some of Heidelberg's fraternities is that some still practice the rather dangerous sport of dueling. One thing the fraternities do have a reputation of unanimity on is their fondness for drinking beer. Many times a given fraternity will go to one particular Gasthaus to do their drinking; you can find the fraternity's flag flying from that Gasthaus as well as from its residence.



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Checkpoint #17 – Corps Thuringia (BS) (cont.)

One mansion (#235 Hauptstraße) was built in 1714 and is known as the Palais Weimar. The Palace's name is derived from William Ernest, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach who lived there for many years in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

49°24'49.0"N, 8°43'00.3"E – Hauptstraße 244, 69117 Heidelberg

Continue west on Hauptstraße until you come to "Friesenberg". There is a sign that reads "Zum Schloss" (to the castle) and immediately you will begin climbing up. Within 100-150 meters you'll find yourself on the castle grounds on a path leading up to switchback turns.

CAUTION: If there are older people on the walk, take the walk up these switchbacks slowly. Do stay on the path to prevent erosion of the soil. When you get to the top of the switchback path, you will be by the northeast corner of the Heidelberg Castle.

Checkpoint #18 – Heidelberg Castle Grounds (BS, CS)

It is a good time to take a break and catch your breath and appreciate the fact that some armies had to attack up the hill you just walked up! Even the adult leaders will probably want a breather at this point. The next few checkpoints are all inside the castle grounds.

49°24'44.1"N, 8°42'58.1"E – Friesenberg 6, 69117 Heidelberg

Now that everyone has caught their breath, it is time to get started again. Keeping the castle to your right, start up the hill and follow the winding path up to your first stop in the Castle, the Gardens.



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Checkpoint #19 – Castle Gardens (BS)

The **Castle Gardens** are on the east side of the castle, on the left from the direction you are traveling. Prince Elector Friedrich V, who became known as the “Winter King”, installed the Gardens. The Gardens were built in the early 1600’s at Friedrich’s direction. He had many of the rocks that were in the valley gorge broken up and the deep cut itself filled in. Many beautiful statues were emplaced in the Gardens, similar to the one of “Father Rhine”, which is the basis for the fountain that one can see there today. After a short period in the Garden area, head back toward the Castle itself.

49°24'37.0"N, 8°43'01.9"E – Schloß-Wolfsbrunnenweg 10, 69117 Heidelberg

After looking around for a few minutes, head back toward the Castle and stop at the southeast corner by the Krauturm.

Checkpoint #20 – Krauturm (BS, CS)

You are now at the Krauturm or the “Exploded Tower”. One’s imagination is not taxed to determine why the tower is nicknamed the “Exploded Tower”, for half of the tower, with walls 20 feet thick and a diameter of some 24 meters lies in the moat. It has been there since 1693, when the French, who lobbed a round into the tower that housed the castle’s gunpowder supplies, destroyed it. This was their second attempt at it having failed to destroy it in 1689.

49°24'37.1"N, 8°42'58.2"E – Schloßhof 1, 69117 Heidelberg

Before you go in the castle, look back over your left shoulder to the southwest. In late autumn, and through winter, you might be able to see a large white building up on the hill, which looks like a Gasthaus, called the Molkenkur. Now let’s head inside the walls of the castle.



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Checkpoint #21 – Heidelberg Castle

Early reports (circa 1225) mention a fortress in Heidelberg. Speculation is that the Molkenkur is on the site of the first **Heidelberg castle**. The current one is probably a second castle. Later reports (1303) indicate the existence of two castles, one at the present site and one higher up the vicinity on the Molkenkur. The latter provided a much better defense against an attack from the South, but that was not the cause of its destruction in 1537; rather it succumbed to a lightning strike.

At any rate, 1225 saw that start of construction on the **Heidelberg Castle**, and work on it still continues today. The man who really has the right to call himself the savior of the Heidelberg Castle was “Karl Graf von Graimberg” who, beginning in 1815, expended his own time, effort and money to restore it. At this time, the castle lay in its greatest ruin, when townspeople were pilfering the castle stones, bricks and other materials to build their own houses and other structures, Von Graimberg even paid guards to keep the pilfering and theft down. His restoration was the direct cause of the beginning of Heidelberg’s most lucrative industry, tourism.

Once inside the castle, there are indeed many things to see. Even the courtyard itself presents the setting of the presentation of “The Student Prince”, an operetta written by a young Austrian composer, Sigmund Romberg, and produced in 1924 in America. The American show was received far more successfully than the original German story it was based on. Some attribute the special feeling many Americans harbor for Heidelberg to this production. Some have gone so far as to suggest this Student Prince induced feelings that led to a kind of “hands off” Heidelberg during the Second World War. Heidelberg, the city, its castle, and environs did in fact suffer little or no severe damage during World War II. But also contributing to this fact was a long-standing good German/American relationship (one of the University buildings built after World War I was built from American contributions). Additionally, a special plea made by a group of city officials on behalf of the city to the attaching American Division Commander was instrumental.



HEIDELBERG HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #21 – Heidelberg Castle (cont.)

Even this effort came dangerously close to disaster, when American Artillery accidentally fired upon a group of officials, on their way back from a meeting with the US commander. Miraculously no one was hurt and a cease-fire went into effect on Good Friday (3 April 1945). The War was over for Heidelberg this time, breaking a long tradition of being destroyed by invading armies.

Now let us look at some things Scouts find most interesting. First there is the steel door ring, containing what legend says are the teeth marks of a witch who tried gaining possession of the castle. Second is the footprint embedded in the concrete in the north patio, the large balcony area on the riverside of the castle. Local legend has it that a knight made this footprint as he tried to save his princess from a burning castle. There are, however, other versions of how the footprint got there. One even culminates in the suggestion that if a Scout truly follows the Scout law, lives up to the Scout Oath, Motto, and Slogan, and his foot fits the footprint, he will be transformed into a Prince elector and become the owner of the Castle.

Just off the Castle courtyard is the Apothecary Museum. A small fee is charged and experience was shown that his tour does not go over very well with Scouts of Cub Scout age. There are also English speaking tours available of the inside of several of the Castle buildings. The costs vary, as does the time it takes to complete the tours. There is one last site that does warm the cockles of hearts of all ages: the Great Vat. The great Vat is located in the basement of the Friedrich building (signs adequately posted). The Vat was placed under the care of Perkeo, an Austrian dwarf who served as Court Jester and Royal Wine Keeper. It was suggested that Perkeo could drink 18 bottles of wine a day. So fond was he of the "fruit of the vine", that legend says Perkeo died when he took a drink of water instead of his usual glass of wine. Make sure the Scouts check out the timepiece near the Great Vat.

49°24'38.2"N, 8°42'55.3"E – Schloßhof 1, 69117 Heidelberg

Now head back out of the courtyard through the main entrance. Turn right, go about 50 meters and walk to the red stone arch, our next stop.



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Checkpoint #22 – Elizabeth's Gate (BS, CS)

This gate is really a story of true love. In 1615 Prince Elector Frederick V, "The Winter King" had this gate built literally overnight, as a gift, as a gift for his 19-year-old English born wife, Elizabeth Stuart. Find as many animals as you can on the gate.

49°24'35.0"N, 8°42'52.4"E – Elisabethentor, 69117 Heidelberg

Now it's time to leave the Castle grounds by going west through the small gate near the gift shops. Upon exiting, look for a set of steps off the right called the Kurzer Buckel. Take the steps down towards the city.

A game the Scouts can play on the way down is to count the number of steps. Keep going until you run out of steps. You'll end up near Burgweg in the city. If you continue to follow the northerly direction you've been going along the Burgweg, you'll end up at Kornmarkt Square. On the north side of the square is Hauptstraße. When you get to the Hauptstraße you will see the Rathaus, or City Hall, directly in front. Turn left and continue for a block or two until you see our next stop, the Heiliggeistkirche.

Checkpoint #23 – Heiliggeistkirche (BS, carefully for CS)

Prince Elector Ruprecht I laid the cornerstone for the **Church of the Holy Spirit** in 1400. It became the resting place for the princes of the Palatinate. To this day only Ruprecht I and his wife, Elizabeth von Hohenzollern, rest in the church. Invading French forces in 1693 mindlessly destroyed the remaining 54 elector's gravesites. In the course of its history, the Church of the Holy Spirit was used by both Catholics and Protestants, even simultaneously. Starting in 1706, a partition was inserted so that both congregations could hold their services without any mutual disturbance and with the exception of one year (1886 for the 500th anniversary of the University of Heidelberg) the wall remained until 1936 when the Protestants of Heidelberg bought the right to the Church from the Catholics. There are some interesting sites in the Church to include a walk to the belfry for a modest charge of 2 €.



HEIDELBERG HISTORIC TRAIL

Checkpoint #23 – Heiliggeistkirche (BS, carefully for CS)

As you come out of the Church and face south you will see a building built in 1592. An interesting fact that can be called to mind is the method of taxation in Heidelberg's early times. Tax was assessed on a building according to the number of windows and doors that opened onto the main street. Obviously the number of windows the Hotel Ritter presents to the viewer on the Hauptstraße confirms that its owner, Charles Belier, a Huguenot cloth merchant, was a very wealthy person!

49°24'43.6"N, 8°42'33.1"E – Heiliggeistkirche, Hauptstraße 189, 69117 Heidelberg

Continue west on the Hauptstraße for three blocks. You'll come to our next stop, the Three Kings Street.

Checkpoint #24 – Dreikönigstraße (BS)

At one time, **Dreikönigstraße** was the only lane in Heidelberg running perpendicular to the Neckar that was called "straße" rather than a "Gasse" like the other lanes. Local legend has it that this was a purposeful action on the part of one of the electors, Ruprecht II, and again it was visible evidence of the bigotry that can fest in a community. The street had previously been a "Gasse", Judengasse or Jewish Alley, to be exact. In the early 15th century, Ruprecht II wanted to rid Heidelberg of its Jewish population. He had them relocated to areas outside the city. And in order to ensure they would not return to their former residence, he had the street on which they lived renamed in honor of the Christian feast day for the Epiphany; hence, the name Dreikönig of Three Kings Street.

49°24'43.2"N, 8°42'28.7"E – Dreikönigstraße 26, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany

Continue west on Hauptstraße and turn left on Augustinerstraße. About 40 meters on the right the Student Jail Museum.



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Checkpoint #25 – Student Jail (BS, CS)

Although the **Student Jail** was an official jail, it wasn't as strict as a regular one. Students were detained here for minor offences such as disturbing the peace, and so were still allowed to attend their lectures – as long as they returned when their class was over. In use between 1778 and 1914, the walls of the jail are filled with the incarcerated students' writings, images, and portraits. There is a small fee to visit if you are so inclined.

49°24'40.8"N, 8°42'24.2"E – Augustinergasse 2, 69117 Heidelberg

Continue to the end of the block, turn right and walk to the end of the building on your right and you'll enter the Universitätsplatz or University Square.

Checkpoint #26 – University Square (BS, CS)

Here in the **square**, one sees the famous Lion's Well and, immediately behind the well, the beautifully restored "Old University" building.

49°24'40.7"N, 8°42'21.2"E – Lions Head Well, Grabengasse, 69117 Heidelberg

As you head south from the square, the imposing building on your right is the Universitätsbibliothek or University Library, our next stop.

Checkpoint #27 – University Library (BS, CS)

If your Scouts can be quiet, a visit inside the library is a true experience. The University Library Heidelberg or Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg is the central library of the University of Heidelberg. It constitutes together with the 83 decentralized libraries of the faculties and institutes the University Library System. The main building was built between 1901 and 1905 of red sandstone. Today, the library system hold over 1.6 million books. Immediately across Plöck is St Peters Church, the oldest church in Heidelberg; at least the present structure's predecessor was predating even the Heiliggeistkirche.



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Checkpoint #27 – University Library (BS, CS) (cont.)

49°24'34.8"N, 8°42'21.6"E – Plöck 107-109, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany

Now return to the Hauptstraße again and head west until you come to Theaterplatz. On the southeast corner you'll see a theater building with coat of arms near the second floor window.

Checkpoint #28 – Wormser Hof (BS, CS)

The coat of arms is that of the Bishop of Worms and the building is the former **Wormser Hof**. It was also the residence of the Bishops of Worms whenever they had an occasion to visit to the city. There was a close relationship between Heidelberg's princes and the Bishops of Worms. It was from the latter that the Princes received authority to establish a fiefdom that eventually became Heidelberg, and a school that eventually became its University.

49°24'40.68"N, 8°42'14.04"E – Hauptstraße 110, 69117 Heidelberg

Again heading west on the Hauptstraße, about half a block down from the Wormser Hof, on the right, is our next stop, the Kurpfälzisches Museum.

Checkpoint #29 – Kurpfälzisches Museum (BS)

The Kurpfälzisches Museum or Palatinate Museum is a museum of art and archaeology in Heidelberg, Germany founded in the late 1870s. A visit to the museum could be one of the most meaningful experiences of your Heidelberg tour. You'll see things from a replica of Heidelberg man to religious and secular art paralleling the historical periods of Heidelberg itself.

After your visit, you are within one more stop of the end of your Heidelberg Historical Trail hike.

49°24'41"N, 8°42'10"E – Hauptstraße 97, 69117 Heidelberg

Go west, young man, go west on the Hauptstraße until you come to open courtyard on the right with a larger than life size statue of a man. Go to the statue and note the name on the pedestal is Bunsen.



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Checkpoint #31 – Friedrichsbau (BS, CS)

Behind the statue is the **Friedrichsbau**, which originally housed the Institutes of Physics, Mineralogy, Mathematics, Technology and Physiology of the Heidelberg University. Robert Wilhelm Eberhard Bunsen was a German chemist who worked in the **Friedrichsbau**.

In late 1852 Bunsen became the successor of Leopold Gmelin at the University of Heidelberg. In 1859, he joined Gustav Kirchhoff to study emission spectra of heated elements, a research area called spectrum analysis and discovered cesium (1860) and rubidium (1861).

For this work, Bunsen and his laboratory assistant, Peter Desaga, had perfected a special gas burner by 1855, which was influenced by earlier models. The newer design of Bunsen and Desaga, which provided a very hot and clean flame, is now called simply the "Bunsen burner", a common laboratory equipment. In 1877, Robert Bunsen together with Gustav Robert Kirchhoff were the first recipients of the prestigious Davy Medal "for their researches & discoveries in spectrum analysis".

Bunsen was one of the most universally admired scientists of his generation. He was a master teacher, devoted to his students, and they were equally devoted to him. When Bunsen retired at the age of 78, he shifted his work solely to geology and mineralogy, interests which he had pursued throughout his career. He died in Heidelberg at the age of 88.

49°24'39.47"N, 8°41'52.37"E – Hauptstraße 47-51, 69117 Heidelberg

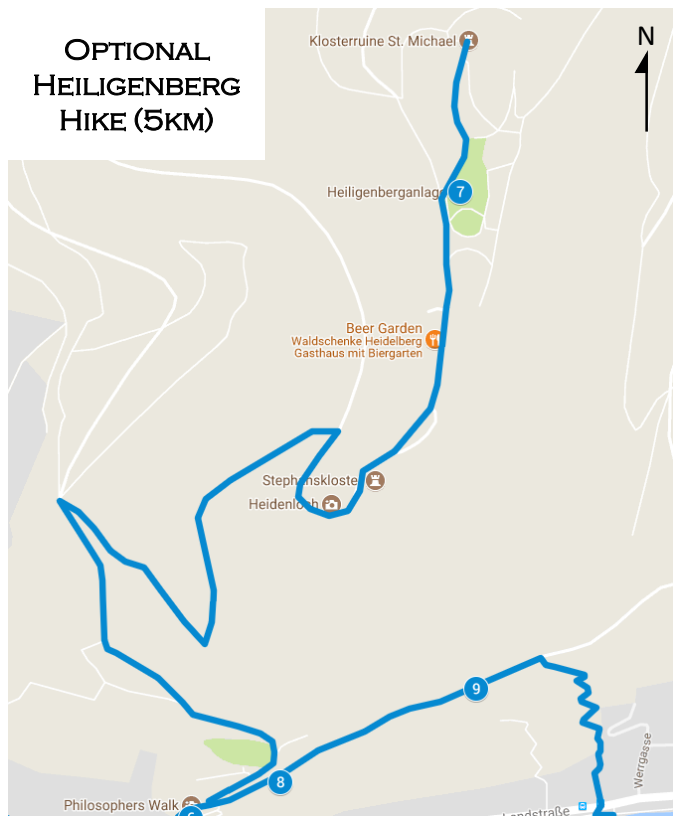
Congratulations... You have now completed your Heidelberg Historic Trail Hike. You need only now walk west along the Hauptstraße until you return to Bismarckplatz, your starting point.

Alternatively walk to the bus stop "St. Vincentius Krankenhaus" from where you can take bus #35 back to your car or camp ground.

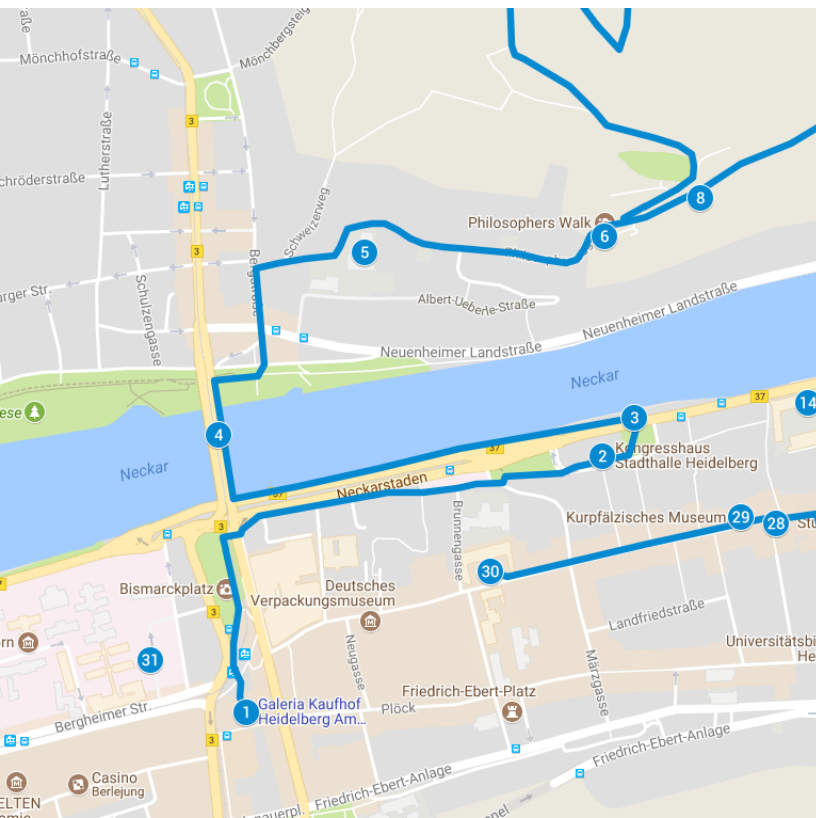


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OPTIONAL HEILIGENBERG HIKE (5KM)



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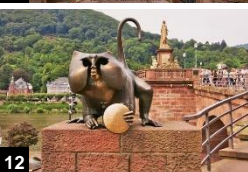
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19



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CAMPING

When the trail was originally developed, there were numerous US Army installations in the area that provided campgrounds for visiting scouts. Unfortunately, with the closure of the US facilities, they are no longer available. But there are still German campgrounds in the area. The closest and most popular is Camping Heidelberg.

Camping Heidelberg

Relax and enjoy the convenience and the international flair of Camping Heidelberg. The campground is located down riverside in the district named "Schlierbach", about 4 km away from the "Old Bridge" right on the Neckar River. The campground is open from the beginning of April to the end of October. You can get more information and make reservations on their website: www.camping-heidelberg.de.

49°24'51.2"N 8°46'13.1"E – Schlierbacher Landstr. 151, D-69118 Heidelberg

Phone + 49-(0)6221-802506, Fax + 49-(0)6221-802506

Email: camping-heidelberg@online.de



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BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Heidelberg Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:

Cub Scouts:

Tiger:

My Tiger Jungle
Tigers in the Wild
Tiger Tales

Req 1
Req 1, 2, 4
Req 7

Wolf:

Paws on the Path
Finding Your Way

Req 1-5
Req 4

Bear:

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns
Paws for Action

Req 1
Req 2B

Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout

Req 1-6



Scouts BSA:

Tenderfoot:

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

Second Class:

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

First Class:

Req 4a, 4b



*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



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This Historic Trail was originally put together by members of the Transatlantic Council in 1980s and updated by Ms Kerstin Lambert of the Heidelberg Cub Scout Pack in 2017.

Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.



UPDATED 29 OCTOBER 2019