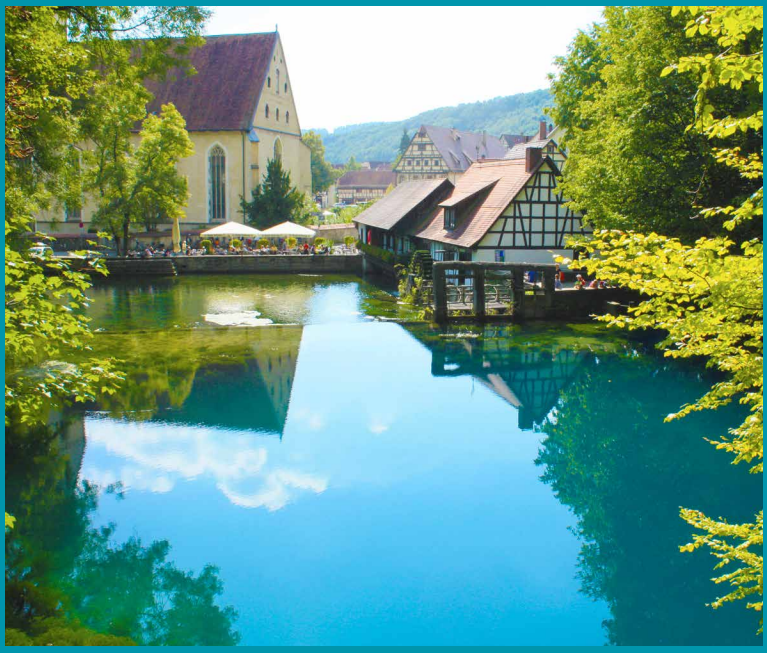
English

Discover Blaubeuren



Blautopfstadt
Blaubeuren

Welcome to Blaubeuren

The small picturesque town of Blaubeuren nestles snugly in the valley of the ancient Danube, surrounded by wooded slopes and rocky outcrops. Its geological and geographical situation, its historic buildings and its cultural as well as archaeological treasures have earned it the epithet **"Pearl of the Swabian Jura".**

The historic old part of Blaubeuren is **one of the best preserved medieval town centres in the south-western part of Germany.** Its half-timbered houses, the remaining parts of the old town wall, twisting lanes and hidden places add up to the allure of the town. Since 2010 the historic town centre, the former monastery and also the mill quarter have all been distinguished as listed. Small shops, cozy cafés and inns around the Parish Church are ideal spots for taking a break.

Guided Tours in English

For groups | reservation needed

The **"Highlights of Blaubeuren-Tour"** takes you to the Venus from Hohle Fels in the Museum of Prehistory, the historic tanners' quarter, the monastery with its renowned high altar and the famous Blautopf. (90 min)

The **"Guided Walk through Blaubeuren"** takes you to the finest half-timbered houses in the historic old town, to the monastery with its cloister, fountain chapel and its high altar and to the Blautopf. (90 min) → www.blaubeuren.de

We would like to invite you to absorb the charm of the mystic **Blautopf** (Blue Pool) and the aura of the awe-inspiring **monastery** with Germany's only preserved monks' bathhouse.

Enjoy the idyllic atmosphere of the medieval parts of the town and admire the extraordinary prehistoric artefacts found in the nearby caves and exhibited in our **Museum of Prehistory.**

Since 2017, three of the caves in the Ach Valley near Blaubeuren and three more in the Lone Valley were designated as the **UNESCO World Heritage site "Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura".**
We wish you a lovely stay in our quaint little town.

The little train "Blautopfbähnle"

Panoramic Tour for individuals |
no registration needed
April – October | Friday 2:30 pm | 4 pm
Saturday, Sunday 11 am | 2 pm I 3:30 pm | 5 pm
(60 min) Tickets available on the train | Departure point: Blautopf

Panoramic Tour for individuals | on demand
Groups can book the little train "Blautopfbähnle",
which takes you on a panoramic tour in and around the town
(60 min, minimum 20 persons) → www.blautopfbaehnle.de

Blautopf

The Blautopf (Blue Pool) is Blaubeuren's best known sight. It is Germany's most beautiful **karst spring**. The spire of the neighbouring former Benedictine monastery is reflected in the strikingly blue water of the **almost 22 m deep** funnel-shaped pool. After some days without precipitation, the water appears as a mystical deep turquoise blue, which is the result of the refraction and reflection of the light. All long-wave colours are absorbed, whereas the short-wave blue is reflected and thus becomes visible. Every now and then the Blautopf 'boils over', which means that huge quantities of water gush out, even up to 32,000 l/sec. On average the source discharges **2,300 l/sec.**

Why do we find this spring at the foot of the southern rim of the Swabian Alb? The bedrock of this mountain range is limestone. This is why precipitation drains away very quickly. In the course of many millennia a vast **cave system** has been washed out in the belly of the mountain behind the Blautopf. Speleologists have so far explored and mapped more than 18 km of passages and shafts. An end to their explorations is not yet in sight.

Next to the Blautopf there is a water-powered drop hammer mill, which was a working smithy from 1804 to 1889. In 1964 it was turned into a museum. It illustrates how in the old days iron was forged with the help of drop hammers.

The Beautiful Lau

The Blautopf is steeped in legend. Its various shades of blue were a source of inspiration for the poet Eduard Mörike who wrote "The Story of the Beautiful Lau". It is a romantic fairy tale about a water nymph from the Black Sea who lived at the bottom of the Blautopf.
Back home she had suffered from a deep sadness, so she could only give birth to stillborn children. Her mother-in-law predicted that she would only be able to give birth to healthy babies after laughing out loud five times. As the Beautiful Lau failed to do so her husband, the Water King of the Black Sea, banished her from the court and sent her to the Blautopf in Blaubeuren, where she eventually regained her good spirits after socializing with some locals. When she experienced some amusing episodes in their company she laughed out loud and thus was cured from her evil curse. Every now and then you can still hear her pealing with laughter at the Blautopf.

The film "Dunkelblau" (Dark Blue)

This film portrays the vast cave network behind the Blue Pool. You can watch it for free in the auditorium of the Museum of Prehistory during its opening hours.

Trailer → www.blaubeuren.de/blauhoehlen

The Monastery and the Monks' Bathhouse

The courtyard of the former Benedictine monastery is another idyllic spot in Blaubeuren. It is encircled by the church and the cloister, medieval workshops and storehouses, the administration building and the bathhouse of the monks. These late Gothic style buildings were erected between 1466 and 1510.

The monastery complex with its **beautiful cloister** and inner courtyard is truly worth seeing. The focal point of the monks' choir is the absolutely amazing **high altar**, a variable winged altarpiece consecrated in 1494. The **oak stalls**, where the monks gathered for prayer several times a day, were carved by Jörg Syrlin the Younger.

After the Reformation, the Catholic monks left Blaubeuren. The regent Duke Christoph transformed the monastery into a Protestant monastic school. Today the monastery compound houses a Protestant boarding school called **Evangelisches Seminar**, which is a grammar school with an excellent reputation.

Monastery

Opening hours March – October • daily 10 am – 5 pm
November – December • Monday – Friday 2 – 4 pm
• Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 11 am – 4 pm
January, February • Thursday and Friday 2 – 4 pm
• Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 11 am – 4 pm
Info → www.blaubeuren.de
• Tourist-Info, Phone +49 73 44 96 69 90

Germany's only preserved monks' bathhouse was built in 1510. The rooms on the ground floor were designed as a heating room with three fireplaces: one for the changing room, one for the boiler room and one for the vaulted, hot steamy room for bathing. Here the visitor is made familiar with the Benedictine monks' bathing culture.

The first floor was reserved for aristocratic guests who celebrated their successful hunts in the **gorgeous banquet hall**. Its walls are adorned with frescoes showing lots of hunting scenes with various hunting methods.

The monks' bathhouse also accommodates the **Museum of Local History** with a collection of splendid ivory artworks. The exhibition shows decorative and functional items carved by local ivory carvers at the beginning of the 20th century, when this trade flourished in Blaubeuren.

Monks' Bathhouse

Opening hours April – October • daily 10 am – 4 pm
Info → www.blaubeuren.de
• Tourist-Info, Phone +49 73 44 96 69 90

Caves and Ice Age Art

During the last Ice Age, Neanderthals and later anatomically modern humans repeatedly occupied the caves in the Ach Valley near Blaubeuren. As hunter-gatherers they practised a nomadic lifestyle. Early modern humans arrived there for the first time about 43,000 years ago. Not only did they develop new tool making techniques, they also manufactured personal ornaments, the **earliest musical instruments** and the **world's oldest known figurative artwork** from mammoth ivory. This was a huge leap in the cultural development of mankind and bears testimony to the new self-awareness of modern humans.

Three caves in the Ach Valley and three in the Lone Valley have been designated as the **UNESCO World Heritage Site "Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura".**

World Heritage Caves

More information about the World Heritage Caves and current accessibility → www.weltkultursprung.de

Cave Hohle Fels

Open May - October
Information and accessibility
→ www.schelklingen.de

The **Museum of Prehistory** (URMU) is the central Museum of Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura. Visitors are made familiar with the living conditions and dexterity of Ice Age hunters roaming through our valleys. The museum takes pride in being the home of the original **Venus from Hohle Fels**, the oldest depiction of a woman worldwide. The statuette is carved out of mammoth ivory. Visitors can also see and listen to the world's oldest flutes. They are about 40,000 years old. One is carved out of a swan bone, one of of the radius of a griffin vulture and one is even elaborately made of mammoth ivory.

The museum building is the former Heilig-Geist-Spital, a medieval residential home for Blaubeuren's old, ill and handicapped inhabitants. The rooms of the former residents have been transformed into "treasure chambers" with stunning exhibits of Ice Age Art.

Museum of Prehistory | URMU and Ice Age Art

Opening hours

April – October • Tuesday – Sunday 10 am – 5 pm
November – March
• Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 12 noon
• Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 11 am – 4 pm
URMU • Kirchplatz 10 • Phone +49 73 44 96 69 90
→ www.urmu.de

Hiking and Biking

Blaubeuren, with its famous karst spring, is located within the **Swabian Jura UNESCO Global Geopark,** where lovers of nature can explore and enjoy numerous caves, rocks, quarries, dry valleys, forests and juniper heaths.
The town is ideally situated for outdoor activities like walking, cycling and rock climbing. From the Memorial Ruckenkreuz (Rucken Cross) or from the top of the Blaufels you have a **spectacular panoramic view**. A walk along the Blau River and up to the castle ruins of the Rusenschloss displays the magnificent scenery of the Blau Valley.
Three well-signposted walking trails offer tours of different levels of difficulty.

Circular walking trails

Blaubeurer Felsenstieg (Rocky path) – to the most beautiful viewpoints
Distance: 10.4 km (6.5 mi) | Duration: 3.5 h |
Elevation gain: 464 m (1,520 ft)

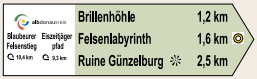
Eiszeitjägerpfad – following the footsteps of the Ice Age hunters
Distance: 9.3 km (5.8 mi) | Duration: 3.25 h |
Elevation gain: 433 m (1,420 ft)

Kleine Blautour – Tracing water – springs, sources and rivulets
Distance: 5 km (3 mi)

→ Hiking map "Blaubeuren umwandern"

The **Kleine Blautour** is an easy, gentle walk in the beautiful Blau Valley, ideal for families. **Blaubeurer Felsenstieg** and **Eiszeitjägerpfad** are more challenging, however their twisting paths and stunning views will fill hikers with enthusiasm.

Impressive cliffs in and around Blaubeuren, such as the Klötzle Blei, Blaufels or Glasfels, are top **climbing spots** for beginners and experienced climbers. Cyclists can enjoy various cycle-friendly routes through the valleys and up to the plateau of the Swabian Jura, but they also appreciate the fact that Blaubeuren is directly linked with the **Danube Cycle Path.**



The walking trails are marked with green signs and a circle symbol for the local circular routes.

Circular bike tours

Valley tour around Blaubeuren and onto the Swabian Alb
Blaubeuren • Lautern • Berghülen • Laichingen • Heroldstatt • Blaubeuren | 60 km (37 mi) | Tour 6

Circular tour on the Danube Cycle Path
Blaubeuren • Blautal • Ulm • Erbach • Ehingen • Schelklingen • Blaubeuren | 80km (50 mi) | Tour 9

Info → www.tourismus.alb-donau-kreis.de

Places of interest in the Old Town

Kirchplatz | The **Heilig-Geist-Spital**, founded in 1420, was a retirement and nursing home until 2008. Today it houses the Tourist Information Office and the Museum of Prehistory. The Protestant **City Church** of Saints Peter and Paul was built around 1500 in the Gothic style.

Webergasse | Das **Kleine Große Haus** (Little Big House) built in 1483 as a vicarage, is now a community and cultural center and an outstanding cultural monument. Around 1600, additional stories in the Renaissance style were added to the **Große Haus** (Big House), built in 1429 and now the city library.

Marktplatz | The **town hall**, dating from 1425, once served as a market hall. On the **market fountain**, documented since 1600, a lion displays the ducal coat of arms as well as the city coat of arms featuring the Blaumännle.

Rittergasse | The **Oberamtei**, an exceptional half-timbered house, was first mentioned in 1407. It served as the official residence of the Obervogt (Chief bailiff); later it housed the Royal District Office and now the police station.

Aachgasse | The former **tanners' houses** can be recognized by their covered wooden balconies. Here, the tanned hides could drip dry before being hung under the roof to finish drying. The most notable building is the **Hoher Wil**, meaning "steep roof."

Mauergasse | The **city wall** enclosed the old town of Blaubeuren until 1830.

For your well-being

Eating and Drinking

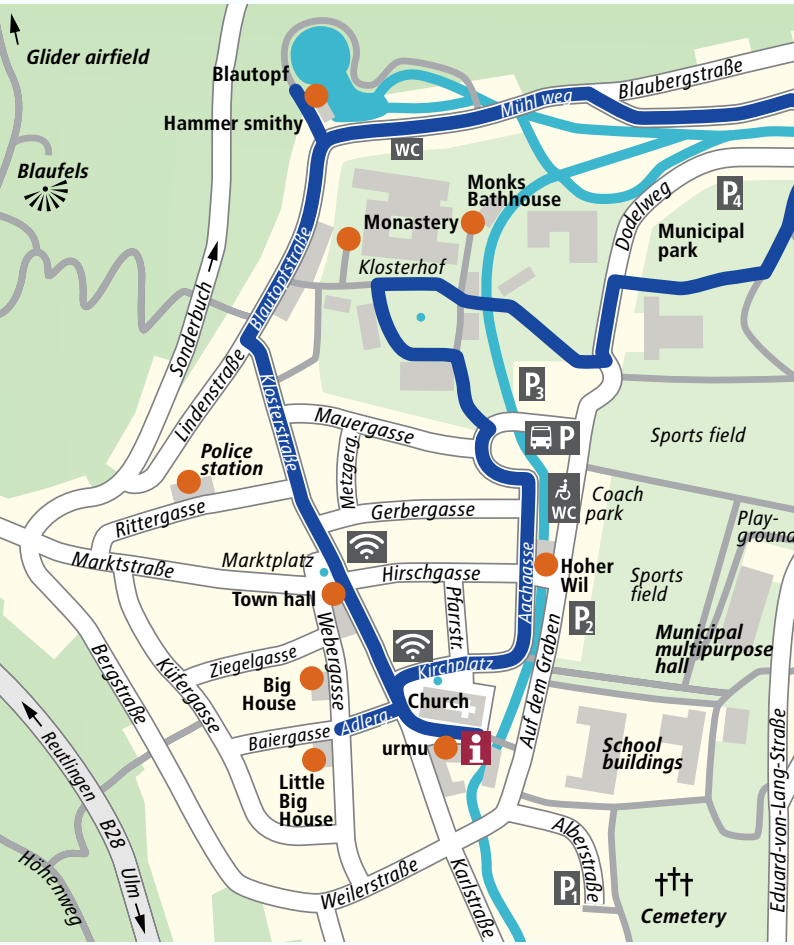
Enjoy regional and international delicacies in our restaurants and inns. Treat yourself to coffee and cake in our charming cafés, or relax in one of Blaubeuren's beer gardens or bistros. You are welcome!

Overnight stay

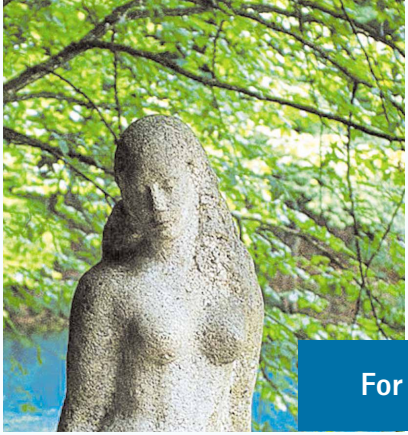
A lot of accommodation options with more than 1,000 beds are available, so you can easily find an appropriate cosy place for your overnight stay in the category that suits you best. Please book online or contact your accommodation provider directly.

What's on

Would you like to enjoy Blaubeuren to the fullest and not miss a thing? In our event calendar, you'll find dates and locations for entertaining cultural activities such as city tours, cultural events or arts and crafts markets.



Free WiFi Tourist-Info Buildings worth seeing



For your orientation

Digital city tour

Digital city tour

The approximately two-kilometre circular walk takes you to Blaubeuren's most beautiful sights: the historic old town, the Blautopf, the mill quarter, the municipal park, the monastery courtyard and back to the old town. Cube-shaped seats along the way feature QR codes that provide additional information.

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Blautopfstadt
Blaubeuren

Tourist-Info
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tourist@blaubeuren.de

Opening hours:
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Daily 10 am – 5 pm
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www.blaubeuren.de

Part of
Swabian
Alb!

2026