



presenting
Heidelberg For All Seasons



AJY TRAVEL GUIDE FÜR HEIDELBERG

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Please enjoy perusing this Travel Guide and finding inspiration for your next trip to Heidelberg! If you have any questions, want additional information, or need help planning your stay, please reach out to us. We also hope you make time to stop by the AJY Study Center and visit us!

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1. Transport

If traveling by plane, the closest airport to Heidelberg is [Frankfurt International Airport](#). From there you have several options to get to Heidelberg, the cheapest is via train. The train station in Frankfurt is built into the airport and accessible by foot. You can use the Deutsche Bahn [website](#) or app to look for connections and buy your ticket. Alternatively, you can take the [Lufthansa Shuttle](#) from Frankfurt Airport to Heidelberg main station or book a taxi through [TLS](#), which will drop you off at any address in Heidelberg. These options are pricey but provide more comfort than public transportation.

Traveling to Heidelberg (or Germany) by train is very easy, as there are many train stations outside of Germany that have direct connections to either the Heidelberg or Mannheim main train stations.

Within Heidelberg you can get a day pass for public transportation for about 7-8€. You can find a map of all the different transportation routes [here](#). The AJY Study Center can be found at the bus stop *Universitätsplatz*.

2. Unterkunft

Heidelberg is one of the most expensive cities to live in. We want to help you find a comfortable and affordable place for your stay in Heidelberg. The places we've listed below vary in type, cost, and location, so that you have a wide variety to choose from. If you do not wish to stay in a hostel or at a hotel, there are also several apartments and rooms available to rent via [AirBnB](#), which can be cheaper. Accommodations are often sold out many months in advance, especially during the summer months and at Christmas time. Please make sure to book your stay in time.

Hostels

[Lotte - The Backpackers Hostel](#)

This hostel is right in the heart of the city. It is located directly below the castle which you can walk to in a couple of minutes. The cheapest room in a dormitory costs 25€.

[Jugendherberge Heidelberg International](#)

This hostel is on the other side of the Neckar in the *Neuenheimer Feld*. Because of its location you have direct access to the Zoo, and some rooms even have a view of it! Entry tickets can

be bought at the hostel's reception. The botanic gardens and an outdoor swimming pool are also within walking distance. Prices start at 35,50€.

[Steffis Hostel Heidelberg](#)

This hostel is very close to the main train station and used to be a factory site. An American Diner and a bowling alley are right next to the hostel, as well as several well-serviced bus stops. The *Neckarwiese* is only a 10-minute walk away.

Hotels

[Meininger Hotel](#)

This hotel is close to the main station in Heidelberg and is therefore easy to access via public transportation. As this is a hotel, it is more expensive than the previous alternatives, but might be more comfortable.

[Backmulde](#)

The Backmulde is located right in the center of Heidelberg. Both the Neckar and the *Hauptstraße* can be reached in less than a minute. Two nights there will cost about 230€ without breakfast and 250€ with breakfast. The price stays the same for two people if they share a room, as single rooms are not available here. A minimum stay of two nights is required.

[Hotel Heidelberg](#)

This hotel is in *Kirchheim*, which is a bit outside of the main city, but is very well-connected due

to public transportation. It is furnished in a German cottage style. One night for one person will be about 60€; for 70€ you can get a room with a small balcony. Breakfast costs 14,50€ per person.

[Leonardo Hotel Heidelberg](#)

This chain has two hotels in Heidelberg. One is in the city itself, the other is in *Kirchheim*. The one in the city costs about 120€-190€ per person and night, depending on the time of year. The one in *Kirchheim* is a little cheaper, offering one night per person for about 90€-140€.

[Hotel & Restaurant Weißer Bock](#)

This hotel has an amazing location for partygoers, as it is located right at the start of the *Untere Straße*, a street known for its bars and nightlife. Being in the city center, the *Hauptstraße* and its many shopping opportunities are right around the corner. One night for one person starts at 90€.

3. Essen und Trinken

German Cuisine

[Palmbräugasse](#)

The Palmbräugasse is a unique restaurant in Heidelberg, as it has an entrance both on the *Hauptstraße* and the *Untere Straße*. Enter through the *Hauptstraße* and you get authentic German food and a really nice atmosphere. Enter through the *Untere Straße* later that night, and you get an even better atmosphere and a bar area.

[Schnitzelbank Heidelberg](#)

If you love Schnitzel, then this is the place for

you! From traditional Schnitzel to typical variations of Schnitzel to things you never thought belonged on a Schnitzel, you can find everything here. The Schnitzelbank is, however, very touristy and not the most authentic restaurant you can find. Nevertheless, the food is good and it's worth the experience.

[Schnitzelhaus Alte Münz'](#)

Another restaurant with lots and lots of different Schnitzel! Its location right on the Neckar means you can enjoy your dinner with a beautiful view of the *Alte Brücke*.

Strahlenburg Schriesheim

If you are looking for a restaurant with a beautiful sunset view, this is the one. It will take you a while to get there without car, but it is worth it. Once you exit the streetcar, it is about a 20-minute walk through vineyards until you get to the small castle ruins that the restaurant is located in. Outdoor seating is also provided,

from which you have a beautiful view across the valley.

Essighaus

This is one of the oldest taverns in Heidelberg; its tradition reaching back to the year 1844. Today, it offers mostly regional German food with seasonal complements. It is in the Plöck, the parallel street to the *Hauptstraße* in the old town.

German Breweries

Vetter's

Vetter's is a traditional German brewery in the heart of the old town, very close to the old bridge. The restaurant has a beautiful interior and traditional atmosphere. Dine here to enjoy Bavarian specialties as well as their own beers.

meadows and cattle. You can reach it by foot via a 30-minute hike along the *Philosophenweg* or by public transportation. The beer that is made here varies in seasonality and is a favorite among AJY staff.

Klosterbrauerei

This organic brewery is in the historic monastery *Stift Neuburg* in *Ziegelhausen*, surrounded by

Kulturbrauerei

The Kulturbrauerei in the old town of Heidelberg is also a restaurant and a brewery. On the more expensive side, their menu and ambiance are a little more elevated.

Breakfast Places

Schwarzer Walfisch

Schwarzer Walfisch is in the *Weststadt* and serves breakfast and brunch. They have over 30 options of breakfast plates – anyone can find something to enjoy here!

Urban Kitchen

Urban Kitchen is a restaurant in *Bergheim*. Apart from the breakfast buffet, they also have a lunch and dinner menu with a wide variety of different cuisines.

Extrablatt

Located in the *Hauptstraße*, the Extrablatt is known for their extensive breakfast buffet, which offers both hot and cold specialties for a reasonable price. Besides the breakfast buffet, you can also go there to have a cocktail or eat dinner, these options can be more expensive.

Nomad

Nomad has three locations in Heidelberg, in the *Weststadt*, *Neuenheim* and *Handschuhsheim*. They offer bowls, smoothies, pancakes, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, and little snacks. A favorite amongst AJY students!

Other Cuisines

Flammkuchenhof (French)

The Flammkuchenhof is a unique restaurant in Heidelberg and great place for larger groups. As its name suggests, this restaurant serves all-you-can-eat Flammkuchen, which you share with the entire table. Once one is done, they bring you the next one! They have a large variety of savory Flammkuchen, and a couple of sweet ones. Make sure you go there hungry!

Mandy's Railway Diner (American)

Should you feel the need for American food, Mandy's Diner is the place for you! It's rather special because it is built in an old railway car from the 50s and its interior is decorated with loads of American trinkets. Although it is

somewhat pricey, it has all the typical American staple foods. We recommend the milkshakes!

Moe's Roadhouse (American)

This is another American Diner located right next to the bowling alley. It is somewhat cheaper than Mandy's, but it is more focused on burgers. They have excellent milkshakes though, which is obviously the most important criterion!

Gourmet City Heidelberg (Asian)

Gourmet City is an Asian all-you-can-eat buffet. They even have Mongolian barbecue! It is in *Rohrbach* but can easily be reached by tram. It is not a good idea to plan on doing something huge after your meal there, as you will probably have a very full stomach.

4. Saisonale Events und Veranstaltungen

Heidelberg, die Stadt der Dichter und Denker (the city of poets and thinkers, not quite as nice as in German)! Many cultural events and festivals with a wide variety of themes are hosted in Heidelberg every year, making the city deserve this title. Below, you can find a short description of every event in Heidelberg categorized by the seasons of the year. More detailed information on each specific event, their program and their dates can be found [here](#).

Frühling

Heidelberger Stückemarkt

The Heidelberger Stückemarkt is a theatre festival that lasts 10 days. It takes place in **April and May** and hosts a variety of plays, even some new releases!

[Heidelberger Frühling](#)

This international festival for classical music consists of several concerts and performances

at different venues throughout Heidelberg. It takes place every year in **March and April** and you definitely should find time for a concert if you are in Heidelberg then!

Queer Festival Heidelberg

During this yearly festival visitors can attend concerts, club nights, movies, plays or workshops that all focus on queer culture.

Heidelberger Bürgerfest

The first event of the new year is the Heidelberger Bürgerfest. It takes place in **March** and offers a diverse program put on display by the city's clubs. There will be music and sports performances, information desks on what clubs

there are in Heidelberg and presentations about current topics. As Heidelberg has lots of families, there are many activities for children. Should you get hungry, there are lots of different food trucks that offer local specialties.

SommerHeidelberger Literaturtage

The Heidelberger Literaturtage is a literary festival. Events include readings, open discussions, workshops, poetry slams and many more.

Schlossbeleuchtung

The Schlossbeleuchtung is one of the most famous events in Heidelberg and a must-see! The firework display starts at dusk and can be seen in the castle and on the Old Bridge. There are many locations to watch the fireworks from, but make sure you get there early. The Schlossbeleuchtung takes places on the first Saturday in **June, July and September**.

Heidelberger Schlossfestspiele

During the Heidelberger Schlossfestspiele visitors can enjoy open-air theater and concerts right in the ruins of the castle. They usually start in **June and end in August**. Buy your tickets early, as they are quickly sold out.

Das Unterwegs-Theater

This event is all about art. There usually are dance performances and projects, but also art exhibits or musical and cinematic entertainment over the course of several weeks. It takes place in **June and July**.

Aktionstag Lebendiger Neckar

This day is organized to experience some of the places that are situated along the Neckar. The main venue is the *Neckarwiese*, where there are lots of activities, performances and information stands. It is a unique way to better experience and understand the Neckar river.

HeidelbergMan

The HeidelbergMan is Heidelberg's very own triathlon! There are separate runs for different ages, so everyone is welcome to participate. It usually takes place in **July**.

Metropolink Urban Festival

The Metropolink Festival is one of the largest and most famous art events in Heidelberg, situated on the former US military base Patrick-Henry-Village. To spruce up the military buildings, artists paint their facades with murals and graffiti. Workshops are also held throughout the festival. There even is a sight-seeing tour, where guides show other street art throughout Heidelberg. The festival takes place from the **end of July to the beginning of August**.

Herbst

Geist Heidelberg

This is an international science festival which usually takes place **from September to December**. Current scientific questions are debated amongst renowned scientists in public forums. Its aim is scientific education and to show how diverse scientific research can be.

Literaturherbst Heidelberg

Literature is one of the most salient means of education and Heidelberg is officially known as the UNESCO Creative City of Literature. This has resulted in the literature festival Literaturherbst Heidelberg, which lasts four weeks and offers a wide variety of events to bring people closer to literature, including readings and a variety of workshops.

Heidelberger Herbst

This city festival is another huge event in Heidelberg in **September**. Music, food and flea markets can be found all over the *Altstadt*. Lots

of shops and institutions in the city offer special events, like a tombola with sales discounts, vouchers for different activities or book-signing hours in bookstores. There's also a children's program with bouncy castles and magic shows. No matter where you go, stages with live music and performances can be found on every corner!

Heidelberger Weindorf

Winegrowing has been a tradition for centuries. To showcase this culinary aspect of the region, the Heidelberger Weindorf is hosted in **October** of every year and invites you to try the local wines.

Französische Woche

French-German relations are an important aspect all over Germany. Thus, Heidelberg introduced the Französische Woche in 2006, which takes place every year in **October**. Every aspect of culture and art finds its place here: from music and film to literature and theatre, from culinary art to history and society.

Winter

Internationales Filmfestival

This festival offers young newcomer film producers an opportunity to showcase their work in an inspiring and exciting environment. 30-40 movies can be seen every year. In addition to the movies, several other events are offered connected to the festival's topic, like live-concerts or public discussions with international experts. Some of the movies can even be streamed online. It usually takes place in **November** and lasts 11 days.

Heidelberger Weihnachtsmarkt mit Open-Air-Eisbahn

The Christmas market in Heidelberg attracts tourists from all over the world. Its 140 huts offer a variety of foods, drinks, artwork, Christmas decorations and other trinkets, which are scattered across six different locations throughout the city. A highlight is the ice-skating rink with a view of the castle. The Christmas market usually starts at the **end of November and lasts one month**.

Winter in Schwetzingen

This is an event perfect for people who love to go to the opera or who listen to classical music. There are several performances in the old rococo theater in the castle of Schwetzingen, which provides a wonderful ambience for this kind of art. It starts in **December and lasts until the beginning of February.**

Tanzbiennale Heidelberg

This event is all about dancing. The Heidelberg theater and orchestra cooperate to host daily

performances and a variety of workshops. Unfortunately, the event is only held **every two years, from the end of January to the beginning of February.**

Carambolage Festival

This festival offers cabaret and comedy performances. Along with well-known artists, newcomers get the chance to prove themselves during this festival. It starts every year in **January** and is guaranteed to make you laugh.

5. Ausflugsziele innerhalb von Heidelberg

Philosophenweg

The Philosophenweg offers one of the prettiest views of the *Altstadt*, the castle, the old bridge and the *Königstuhl*. It is opposite the castle on the other side of the Neckar. The only way to get up there is by foot. You can either walk up the *Schlangenberg*, which starts right at the end of the old bridge or start your hike at the *Brückenstraße*. Even though it is a little exhausting to walk up there, it is worth the view!

Das Heidelberger Schloss

One of the most famous sights to visit and a must-see in Heidelberg is the castle. You can reach the castle by car, by foot, or by funicular. The garden of the castle is accessible for the public, so no fee is required. In one corner of the garden is a patio from where you have an incredible view of the *Altstadt*. You can also take a look at the courtyard inside the castle for a small fee or book a guided tour through the castle itself. When you pay for the courtyard, it also includes the *Apothekermuseum* and the

Große Fass. Our tip: once the castle guards leave in the evening, entrance to the courtyard is free and the view of the *Altstadt* at sunset is breathtaking!

Königstuhl

The funicular that takes you to the castle can also take you up to the Königstuhl. The Königstuhl has an amazing view of Heidelberg and is the perfect place to go for a hike. There is also a restaurant right at the funicular stop in case you come back hungry. The [Märchenparadies](#) is located on top of the Königstuhl, which is a small amusement park for children focused on German fairytales. You can also enjoy a bird show at the [Falknerei Tinnunculus](#).

Das Universitätsmuseum

The University of Heidelberg Museum is in the *Alte Uni* on the *Universitätsplatz*. It is rather small and consists of three rooms, but if you are interested in the story of the oldest university in Germany, then it is worth stopping by! You can

get an audio guide in German or English. It is also very close to the *Studentenkarzer* and the *Uni Shop*, where you can learn about the University prison and buy Uni Heidelberg merch.

Bowlinghalle

If you want to go bowling or play billiards, [Firebowl](#) in Heidelberg is a nice place to go. A small restaurant and a beer garden are attached to the bowling alley as well.

3D-Gleamgolf/ Minigolf

Everyone enjoys miniature golf! There are several locations to play in Heidelberg, either

[outside](#) or inside. If the weather is bad, you can also play inside in Eppelheim at the [3D-Gleamgolf area](#). It is a little more expensive than the outdoor minigolf but a completely different experience!

The Mark-Twain-Center

The Mark-Twain Center is a rather new place to visit. It is all about German American transatlantic relations and the former US military bases in Heidelberg and surrounding areas. A tablet guides you through the exhibit, making the experience very interactive and educational.

6. Ausflugsziele außerhalb von Heidelberg

Mannheim

Mannheim is the second largest city in the state of Baden-Württemberg. The *Mannheimer Schloss*, which now houses the University of Mannheim, has a museum we visit with AJY students every semester. The *Wasserturm* is the iconic landmark of Mannheim, from where you can easily reach the [Kunsthalle Mannheim](#), a new and innovative art museum. Or take a walk in the *Luisenpark*! A nice place to have dinner is the [restaurant](#) at the top of the *Fernsehturm*, 200 m in the air. The restaurant rotates, meaning you get to see the whole city during your meal!

Schloss Schwetzingen mit Schlosspark

This castle was built to mimic Versailles. It was used as a summer residence, which is why it is especially beautiful during the summer months. The castle gardens are the main attraction, but you can also book a tour to visit the inside of the castle. As you exit, you will find yourself in the middle of Schwetzingen. There are lots of

restaurants and cute cafés to walk around and enjoy.

Technik Museum Sinsheim & Technik Museum Speyer

These museums are one of a kind. Even if you are not interested in engineering or technology, the exhibits are stunning and interesting to see, as they showcase life-size models that you can even enter. Each museum has a different focus; the one in Sinsheim is more focused on cars and automobiles, whereas the one in Speyer has the largest space travel exhibit in all of Europe.

Neckarsteinach

Neckarsteinach is just a ten-minute train ride from here. It is known for its four castles, which were built to house four brothers who seemingly did not get along with each other. Spend your day hiking to the castles or walking along the Neckar! A highlight in Neckarsteinach is the beautiful biergarten at the Gasthaus Zum Schwanen, which has an awesome view.