

Hiking at nature's summit

Heidelberg is the insider's tip for active vacationers

Heidelberg, March 4, 2016 - Heidelberg is known for its romantic flair, but only insiders know that the university town and former royal city is the ideal starting point for hiking. Hikers and those in search of relaxation can explore the forest and marvelous surroundings close to the city. Heidelberg Marketing has put together a special package for active vacations called "Stift Neuburg Monastery" (from April to October). It includes not only overnight accommodations and a funicular railway trip to the castle, but also admission to the castle courtyard and the German Pharmacy Museum. After a tour through the winding alleys of the Old Town, entirely new perspectives of the town will be opened up to you with a boat trip on the Neckar. You will travel along the banks of the river up to Stift Neuburg Monastery with the Weissen Flotte. A guided tour through the abbey awaits you there. Then you will learn some interesting facts about the production of organic beer in a brewery tour. And to top it all off, hearty dishes await you in the "Gasthaus zum Klosterhof". A HeidelbergGUIDE with a city map are also part of the package.

For those that prefer to explore on their own and want to leave the noisy bustle of the city behind, there is the 330-meter-high **Holy Mountain** (Heiligenberg) located across from the Heidelberg Castle - the perfect destination for a day trip. The summit of the legendary mountain range offers the most beautiful view of Heidelberg. Since the 5th century BC, the mountain has played a special role in the ever-changing history of the region around Heidelberg. Some remnants from the Celtic, Roman, and Medieval times are preserved, restored, and enclosed in a pleasant circular hiking trail called the **Keltenweg** (Celtic Trail). Heidelberg's "own" mountain, the 567-meter-high **King's Seat** (Königstuhl), is an oasis of quiet and relaxation with a fantastic view of



View of the castle and Old Town from the Philosophers' Walk.
Photo: Heidelberg Marketing



Amazing views of the valley from the King's Seat.
Photo: Tony Buchwald



Heidelberg is the ideal starting point for hiking through forests and sunny vineyards.
Photo: Andreas Helder

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the city and the Neckar Valley. From the castle, the Himmelsleiter, a steep stairway, has offered an alternative to the funicular railway since 1907. From the King's Seat, a number of enticing paths for every requirement lead into the beautiful surroundings. The **Neckarsteig** is a challenge best suited to experienced hikers - it follows a 126-kilometer path from Heidelberg to Bad Wimpfen through one of the most romantic river valleys in Germany. The Neckarsteig was named a Premium Path by the German Hiking Association. For several years, there has also been a hiking pass available for the Neckarsteig. In Heidelberg, a stamp and a pass is available at the castle ticket office, at Zum Roten Ochsen restaurant located on Karlsplatz, and at the Tourist Information office in the Town Hall.

You will find sunny vineyards and peaceful woods along the **Burgensteig**, another hiking trail which starts in Heidelberg. The route leads 120 kilometers above the **Bergstrasse** from the Heidelberg Castle to Burg Frankenstein, just a few kilometers south of Darmstadt. More than thirty fortresses, castles, and places of worship can be found along this trail.

For more information about the hiking package, go to www.heidelberg-marketing.de, call us at +49 6221 - 58 40 228, or e-mail us at gruppen@heidelberg-marketing.de. Further information www.heidelberg-marketing.com.