

## FRANCONIA



Imperial Palace Forchheim

## Franconia's magic cupboard

### INFORMATION

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#### The Travel portal of Franconia

Up-to-date and extensive information with tips, route suggestions, special offers, maps, event tips, accommodation and service addresses for specific areas, towns and villages, spas and health resorts.

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The writer Carl Leberecht Immermann, born 1796 in Magdeburg, fell into raptures over Franconia as a “magical cupboard. There are always new drawers that open, revealing colourful, shiny treasures.” Nine nature parks with their rock mazes full of nooks and crannies, mysterious moors and huge areas of forested countryside lure ramblers and cyclists to Franconia. The nature parks encompass an area of 15,000 sq. km, more than half of the total area of Franconia. Celtic castles of refuge, traces of Roman civilisation, medieval towns, baroque churches and palaces, first class museums, Franconian wine and beer and the many Franconian culinary specialties, particularly fish and venison dishes, all show you that Franco-

nia can be enjoyed with all your senses. And there are many “Ways” to explore Franconia, let alone the seven certified hiking trails.

A tip for families – Franconia is a cyclists’ paradise. The routes along the rivers take you through fantastic landscapes full of culture, nature and history, and all that without steep slopes. Mountain bikers will find really demanding trails.

And another tip for families: Since the Middle Ages toys of all kinds have been on display in Franconia’s toy museums.

And if you just want to relax in the Franconian Health Resort? There are 14 spas and resorts from classic rehabilitation to the Anti-Stress programme, in fact any treatment that makes you feel good.

left to right: Rothenburg/Tauber,  
Schweinfurt Town Hall.




## A journey into the Middle Ages

**Y**ou have seen museums and exhibitions featuring the Middle Ages, so now you would like to get an impression of life in those days? Then we can only recommend a journey into a picture book of the Middle Ages: Page after page, station after station you will find a new chapter: Franconia's former imperial capitals still show that they were able to put up a fight and have also kept their town centres as intact as possible.

The travelling kings of that time had many palaces built just like the one in Forchheim. Emperors and kings liked coming to rich

Franconia. They brought minnesongs and ideas for crusades. Otto von Botenlauben was famous as a minnesinger, but he found his wife and his fortune on one of the crusades to the orient. Wolfram von Eschenbach was one of the important minnesingers. He came from Wolframs Eschenbach. You should visit the Plassenburg in Kulmbach. Here you will find the largest collection of pewter figures in the world. The Zollern family originated here. Later they were made electors and margraves of Brandenburg. Count Friedrich of Nuremberg was the first known member of the Zollerns to become the lord of a major castle in 1192. The best known member of the family was the belligerent Albrecht Achilles who later became electoral prince. Just as in Siebenbürgen/Romania there are several fortified churches that bear witness to these eventful times.

 This project has been co-financed by the EU.

**Plassenburg (Kulmbach)  
on the Main Cycle Route.**

### TIP

#### The Franken KulTour Trail

If you want to experience the Middle Ages, travel along the Franken KulTour Trail. More than 40 municipalities have joined forces to contribute various facets of the Middle Ages. The secluded castle of Hundshaupten in "Franconian Switzerland" is as worthwhile a visit as Lauf an der Pegnitz with Wenzel castle or the former free city of Weißenburg in Bavaria. The Romanesque chapel of Kunigunde in Aub became a popular place of pilgrimage after Empress Kunigunde was canonized in the Middle Ages.  
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#### Imperial cities in Franconia

Subject only to the emperor, capable of defending itself, free citizens running their own internal affairs, that's how a Free Imperial City would describe itself. Of course it would have a seat and a vote in the Reichstag. Mighty fortifications were built. Rothenburg/Tauber, the Emperor's favourite Nuremberg, Schweinfurt, Bad Windsheim, Dinkelsbühl, Weißenburg in Bavaria: You are on the right track to experience the splendour of the Imperial Cities.

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