

Allgäu®

Memmingen

A Town with Vision



mm





You'll find us here, in the green building on Marktplatz - the Town Information Office

i Town Information Office

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Opening times:
Monday to Friday 09:00 - 17:00
Saturday 09:30 - 12:30

"We would be delighted to help you if you have any questions!"
- The Town Information Team -



Welcome!

A very warm welcome to Memmingen. Memmingen is the town of towers and gates, gables and façades. On the one hand, the townscape is characterised by its medieval history, yet on the other hand, it reflects the modern spirit of the times... narrow lanes, inviting pedestrianised areas, bustling squares and quiet oases for sitting back and relaxing.

It is a town where you can really feel at home. Discover Memmingen from a local's perspective and get to know the sights, attractions, leisure activities, art and culture, and even the local proverbs and insider tips with this brochure. We hope you enjoy exploring our diverse town,

Memmingen Town Information



Memmingen old town from above



History was made in 1525, on Memmingen Weinmarkt square, when rebel peasants drew up the Twelve Articles. They are considered to be one of the first declarations of human rights in Europe. Today, there is a fresco painting on the Kramerzunft (Merchants Guild) building to commemorate this event.

"We are aggrieved by the appropriation by individuals of meadows and fields which at one time belonged to a community. These we will take again into our own hands."
 – The 10th article –

History



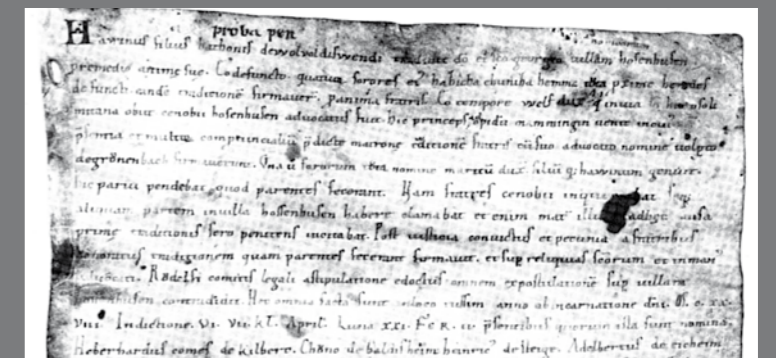
Memmingen – Part of Bavaria since 1803

The Memmingen town coat of arms includes the cross as a symbol of the Marktfrieden (market peace pledge) and the (half) eagle representing the free imperial town.

Memmingen is a town steeped in history, with its very first origins dating back to the 4th century. It wasn't until 1128 that the first reference to the town was documented and Memmingen was officially made a town in the middle of the 12th century under the Duke, Welf VI. Thus enabling a significant historical event - the drafting of the Twelve Articles - to take place in 1525 in the progressive independent town. During the first quarter of the 16th century, Memmingen became the centre of the Reformation alongside Zurich, Geneva and Wittenberg - as well as becoming Protestant, which is still reflected now in the townscape. Ever since Memmingen became part of Bavaria at the start of the 19th century, the town has developed into a vibrant centre.



In 1630, during the Thirty Years' War, Duke Wallenstein spent several months in Memmingen. "As long as the Duke was in town, we were safe and contented", wrote one chronicler.



In the confirmation of a deed of donation for Ochsenhausen Abbey, Memmingen was mentioned in writing for the first time in 1128 as "mammingin" (in the fourth line from the top).

In diesem Haus versammelten sich im März 1525 die aufständischen Bauern

Sights



This multi-level renaissance building from the 16th century, now the Town Hall, is at the heart of Memmingen's "nice part of town", Marktplatz.



The Lindauer Tor (Lindau gate), constructed in 1371, is the west entrance to the old town. Can you find the cannon ball built into the wall?



Town wall at Luginsland



The Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady) is one of the oldest shared churches in the whole of Bavaria. This is apparent from the fresco paintings in the church, as they reveal the Protestant as well as the Catholic history.



Martinsturm, affectionately known as Mate. Memmingen can be seen from a different perspective during the daily tours up the tower.

Standing at the top of Martinsturm (St Martin's church tower), you will enjoy a breath-taking view beyond the boundaries of the town. In one of the guided tours, visitors are told exactly which landmarks, towers and gates can be seen within the city wall when looking out in all directions. Memmingen has a 1.4 km-long, extremely well-preserved wall around the old town punctuated by 5 historical gates. There are also 5 towers, e.g. the Pulverturm (powder tower) or the Hexenturm (witches' tower). It would certainly be interesting to ask your tour guide why everything comes in fives. You will also find a lot to impress you on squares like Marktplatz or Schranenplatz, such as the Großzunft (Great Guild) building or Memmingen's oldest wine tavern dating back to 1590, today known as Weinstube zum goldenen Löwen.

Facts:

- 5 gates**
- 1.4 km of town wall**
- 5 towers**

"We absolutely love Memmingen. We are full of admiration whenever we go for a stroll through the old town."
– Riedel family –



A Town of Myths and Legends



A supposedly dead woman comes back to life? That is as probable as a horse in a cradle! Indeed, that's how legend has it, and the fresco painting in Kalchstraße was created in memory of this story.



It is also said that a basilisk had been up to mischief in a house in the Hintere Gerbergasse. In any case, several mysterious deaths have been attributed to him on this site.



Whoever thinks they can see St Hildegard on the tower wall of Martinskirche is much mistaken. The artist, Bernhard Strigel, chose to immortalise the Staufian Town Lord, Prince Konradin.



The Memminger Mau (moon) is not a landmark, but it is important enough to give the town its nickname: Maustadt (Moontown). This relates back to a story in which a couple of drunken townspeople attempted to fish the Mau out of a bathing tub one night so that they could make use of its light whenever they needed. Even the Americans were informed about the true ownership of the Mau when the first man landed on the moon.



At one time, there was a portrait of the green devil in Memmingen's Martinskirche (St Martin's Church). Unfortunately, this treasure was irretrievably lost in the Second World War when the roof and the end face of the choir was protected with fire-proof paint. However, visitors to the church can still be on the lookout for the other hidden devils that are still visible.



The Wasserkunst (Waterworks) in Memmingen was a masterpiece of medieval water systems which allowed water to be directed through the town at different levels. Unfortunately, a large proportion of this creation fell victim to later town developments.



The Siebendächerhaus (House with Seven Roofs) owes its name to its unusual construction. The reason for this is that the house was used for tanning and drying skins and so they needed as many roofs as possible for laying them out. The gable is also counted as a roof alongside the six side roofs.



When it comes to the Blaue Saul (blue pillar), no one really knows how it came to be. But according to the myth, the pillar turned blue when a Memmingen councilman, who had spent many many hours at the wine tavern, lent against it to escape the clutches of the night watchman. In German, "blue" is another word for being drunk, and this councilman was so "blue-drunk" that he turned the pillar blue too!

The 7 Landmarks of Memmingen

Experience



There's time for families and young people to rest, have fun and play games in the green spaces of Neue Welt town park.

With its old town, Allgäu-region charm, cafés and restaurants, parks, visitors can explore much of the town of Memmingen and find out about its history by themselves. But if you really want to delve into the past and discover the local traditions and peculiarities, it's best to join one of the many authentic tours through the town. Be it a ghost tour with the night watchman, a culinary town tour or gossip and tragic tales of the 17th century with the Desperate Housewives - there's something for everyone with over 30 different town tours on offer.

Memmingen can also be experienced during celebrations and festivals. But if you want to escape the hustle and bustle, you can visit our Neue Welt (New World) town park. In the former state horticultural show area, you are invited to take a walk along the beautiful paths and watch the activities on the beach volleyball field or at the wakeboarding centre while enjoying a refreshment in the beer garden.

"We are the Desperate Housewives of the 17th century. We invite you to accompany us as we go about our daily life as the upper and lower classes of Memmingen."

– Heidi Stölzlin and Sabina Streckin –



Shopping in Memmingen

The pedestrianised area in Kramerstraße is the centre of Memmingen's shopping area. There's a certain special charm to making a purchase in the historical buildings. And the cafés and restaurants, big and small, invite you in for a relaxing break.



Swabian Maultaschen (hearty stuffed dumplings) are a long-standing tradition in Memmingen. Since the beginning of the 19th century there have been Protestant Maultaschen (with a vegetable filling) and Catholic Maultaschen (with a meat filling). It is only since Memmingen became part of Bavaria that there has also been the Catholic variant. Even though their confessions will have been very different back then, both Maultaschen variants are simply delicious.



There are around 50 traders selling fresh and healthy produce at the Memmingen weekly market, which is held every Tuesday and Saturday on Marktplatz (Market Square). You'll be able find everything you need to make a good meal and, on top of that, you'll always meet all kinds of interesting people. The weekly market is a well-loved meeting place to spend a relaxed and happy morning grocery shopping.

Art and Museums



Even the building itself is a work of art. The late-baroque Hermansbau townhouse houses the town's museum and the baroque gallery of the painter, Johann Heiss.



The former Bavarian Royal Post Office has been home to the MEWO Kunsthalle (art gallery) since 2005. Contemporary art exhibitions are hosted regularly here.



The Kreuzherrnsaal - a real treasure on the Oberschwäbische Barockstraße (Upper Swabian Baroque Route).



In the Strigel Museum you have the rare opportunity to view exhibits of work by the local Memmingen Strigel family of artists.



In the oldest, still historically preserved Antoniterklosteranlage (Antonite Monastery Complex) in Europe, you will find examples of healing methods, early business principles and everyday life in the Hospital Order at that time.

Make your way through Memmingen's old town to see the history and its art at close quarters. Many different buildings and half-timbered houses tell the story of different artists who originate from Memmingen or worked here. They have left footprints in which art enthusiasts of today can now walk. Allow yourself to be guided by the history and art throughout the town, its museums, squares and historical buildings, and prepare to be amazed!

Facts:

- 5 museums**
- 8 private galleries**
- 1460 Bernhard Strigel**
- 1640 Johann Heiss**
- 1885 Max Unold**

Culture



Insider tip: PIK (An alternative ground-floor theatre in Künerhaus)

The stage is set for alternative small-scale works and, operating as a non-commercial cultural project, PIK has been offering up a sophisticated programme of international artists almost every weekend – ever since 1978! A relaxed, cosy atmosphere is guaranteed.



The Landestheater Schwaben triumphs with a varied and sophisticated theatre programme for young and old.



At the Memminger Meile cultural festival, for two whole weeks the town becomes a stage for music, cabaret, art and comedy.

“Every year I look forward to the open-air cinema on Marktplatz (Market Square) – The atmosphere is always unique!”
– Andrea Lindner –



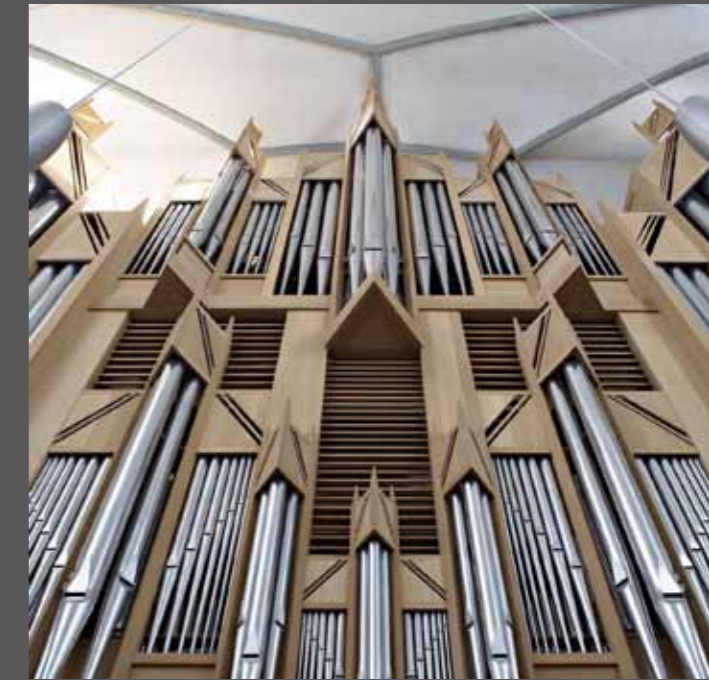
Memmingen has developed its own unique culture, characterised by different people and lifestyles, which still prevails today. You can drop into a performance at the Landestheater Schwaben (Swabian State Theatre), listen to an organ concert in the churches, delight in various musical offerings or even enjoy big music and comedy acts in the Stadthalle venue. Be it fairs, the Memminger Meile festival, the Kaminwerk venue or many other events – there's something for everyone!



Stadthalle – with big fairs, live acts, conferences and much more on offer.



Bands, films, show acts, parties... there's always an event in the cultural calendar at Memmingen's Kaminwerk.



You can expect there to be many classical concerts throughout the year in Memmingen. The town is well-known for these within the region and beyond and it is a veritable magnet for culture lovers.



The Memmingen Wallenstein Festival is an important pageant with over 4,500 participants, 300 horses and around 40 carriages. Every four years the old town is taken back in time to the year 1630. Bread and dripping or flat breads, hearty beers and wines, jugglers, acrobatics, and riding contests - for a whole week long medieval society reigns.



Every October since 1541, the Jahrmakt funfair has come to Memmingen's city centre. On three of the nine days there is also the diverse Krämermarkt, an independent traders' market which is a must-visit for all the people of Memmingen.



The Memmingen Christkindlesmarkt (Christmas market) on Marktplatz is lit up by torches in time for the first day of Advent. Visitors can enjoy the lead up to Christmas with any number of treats.

Our Festivals

With the Kinderfest (children's festival), Fischertag (Fishing day), Jahrmakt funfair, Stadtfest (town festival), Weinfest (wine festival), Memmingen blüht (Memmingen in bloom), Christkindlesmarkt (Christmas market)...Memmingen is rich in festivals! Numerous festivals have evolved from the many and ancient traditions, which are known all over town and beyond. It is not uncommon for the whole town to be transformed into a festival ground. It is always worth ambling through the old town and enjoying the comings and goings of the crowds - for the young, and the young-at-heart, there is everything you could wish for.

**“Schmotz, Schmotz,
Dreck auf Dreck,
Schellakeenig,
wiaschta Sau.”**

**Sludge, sludge, dirt on dirt,
king of diamonds, ugly sow.**

– The Fishing day song –



Once a year, every year, since 1597, the people of Memmingen have fished in the Stadtbach canal until there are no more fish left to fish. And this tradition has given rise to the most important festival in Memmingen- Fischertag. A gun salute at 8am on Saturday means it's time for the fishermen to jump into the water and start fishing. Whoever catches the heaviest trout is crowned the new Fishing King.

“This jump into the Stadtbach has become a family tradition for us - it's now the absolute highlight of the year.”
– Father, son and uncle of the Hugel family –



Thanks to its central location and the availability of excellent transport links, you can quickly and easily travel from Memmingen to see the sights in the surrounding area. There are so many different options that one visit to the Allgäu region simply isn't enough. Particularly as everyone who has experienced our beautiful patch of land always wants to come back. As well as the three Königsschlösser (the royal palaces of King Ludwig of Bavaria), and many other castles, fortresses and monastery complexes, there is also - weather permitting - the option to relax on various lakes or go shopping in one of the neighbouring towns. Even the Bavarian state capital, Munich, is just a short trip away.

Which getaway destination will you visit first?

- 75 km to Neuschwanstein**
- 11 km to the Basilika in Ottobeuren**
- 11 km to the Bauernhofmuseum**
- 65 km to Lindau, on Lake Constance**
- 35 km to Kempten**
- 50 km to Kaufbeuren**
- 30 km to Mindelheim**

Excursions



Neuschwanstein Castle: This castle is one of the best-loved destinations in Germany and is known all over the world. Not least because it was the inspiration for Walt Disney's fairy tale castle.



The Swabian Bauernhofmuseum (farm-life museum) in Illerbeuren is one of the oldest open-air museums in Germany, where you can explore buildings from four different centuries, as well as bake your own bread, make soap or learn what Mother Nature has to offer in the herb garden.



Ottobeuren Abbey is one of the most beautiful Benedictine Abbeys, founded back in 764. Following your visit, it is definitely worth taking a relaxing break in the Abbey café.



Lindau Harbour - the gateway to Lake Constance, which is the second biggest lake in Central Europe, bordering Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Here, at the tri-border area, it's not just boating that's on offer, there are many different opportunities for a great day out.

"For us, getting active with the whole family is always a highlight. Memmingen is the ideal starting point. There's just so much to do."
 – Rück family –



Allgäu – Leisure Activities



You can explore the Allgäu region on the Illerradweg (cycle path) along the Iller river from Obersdorf to Ulm. And if you already know this route, you can always opt for a change of scenery on the other 450 km of the circular Radrunde Allgäu cycle path.



Our wakeboarding centre, WakeCity, in Memmingen's Neue Welt town park, provides hours of fun for the young and the young-at-heart on weekends.



You will also have the opportunity to improve your handicap on one of the many golf courses in the Allgäu region - weather permitting, of course.



You can enjoy beautiful views and see nature at its best on a good long walk, e.g. on the hiking trails of the Wandertrilogie (Hiking Trilogy). There are three main routes on different levels for walkers who want to get into the countryside and the moors (the Wiesengänger route), hike alongside lakes and waterfalls (the Wasserläufer route), or get up among the clouds at some of the highest points on the trail (the Himmelstürmer route).

The scallop shell is the symbol of the Bavarian Jakobsweg (a section of the Way of Saint James), which marks the pilgrims' path. The tip of the scallop shell points the way. The Bavarian-Swabian branch of the route leads from Ries, via Memmingen, down to Lake Constance.



All around Memmingen there is a wide variety of destinations for you to go in search of beauty and adventure. There is a whole spectrum of activities ranging from the relaxing to the exciting! Due to its central location, Memmingen is the ideal starting point for exploring the Allgäu region - be it on foot on one of the many hiking trails or by bike along beautiful lakes and rivers. You can get genuine insider tips from the locals - who are

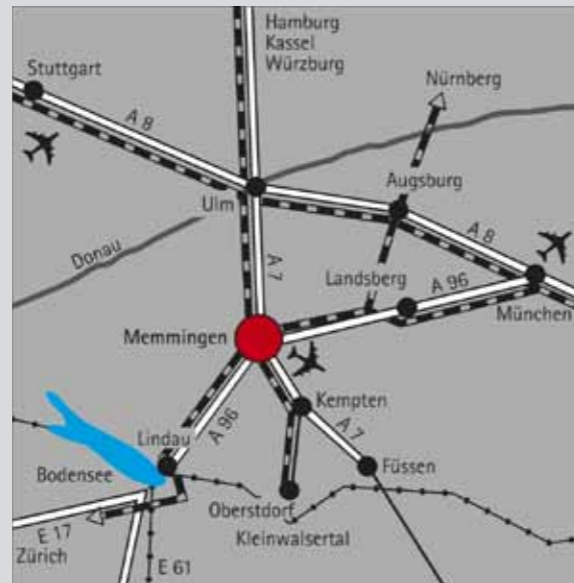
generally shy but warm people. So don't hesitate, discover Memmingen and the Allgäu region from the rustic, local perspective.

"It gschimpft isch globat gnu."

No criticism is praise enough.

- a well-known phrase in the region where people are famous for being reticent with praise -

How to get here



Allgäu Airport Memmingen is an international airport.

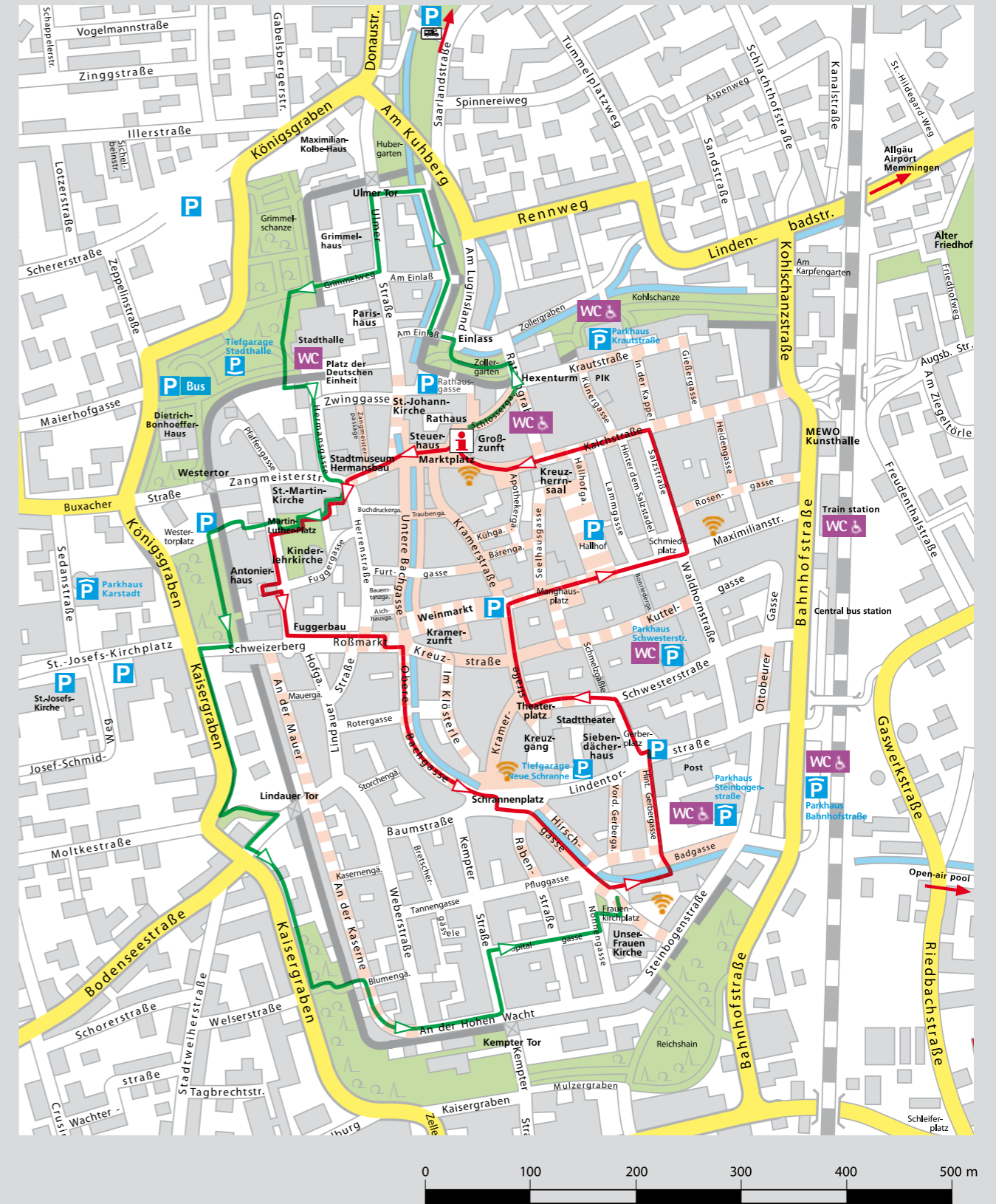
Memmingen is located in the beautiful Lower Allgäu region, but thanks to its excellent transport links it is often better connected than some of the bigger cities. The town is right by the motorway intersection of the A7 and the A96 making it a major hub in Southern Germany. With Allgäu Airport Memmingen, we also have an airport link offering connections to various German cities alongside international destinations. It is also easy and comfortable to travel by train. Memmingen is on the Eurocity line between Munich and Zurich and on the Intercity line between Dortmund and Obersdorf.

Imprint

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Allgäu Airport: p. 22 Airport
Property of Sparkasse MM / on loan: p. 12 Bildnis einer Dame, Bernhard Strigel, oil on canvas (ca. 1525)



There are many car parks in the city centre to make it easy for you to visit Memmingen. We even have a central parking area in the Neue Welt town park for visitors travelling with caravans.

- Red route = Sights, historical buildings
- Green route = Parks, city wall, defensive ditch
- Town wall
- WiFi hotspots
- WC public
- WC public and disabled

Memmingen Town Information
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