The Kurpfalz is synonymous with many of life’s loveliest, most delightful and enchanting aspects – for a spirit of joie de vivre, for naturalness without artifice, and for nature itself. Intrinsically to these charms are first of all the wine and the vineyards, which, in equal measure with a profusion of castles, parks, and lush gardens, typify and characterize the landscape. The beauty of the Kurpfalz is not a modern phenomenon; it was discovered hundreds of years ago and has been treasured and maintained by generations of families of noble lineage, as is testified still today by their numerous residential estates and grounds. The palette spans a wide range between the impressive, regal, magnificent, and modest. For the most part, works of art or artistry stand before a backdrop of overwhelming nature. Where once upon a time Princes, Princesses, and Prince Electors dwelled, where glittering festivities were held, human fates were sealed, and strategies of war were devised, the hand of time has meanwhile paled these scenes of brilliance and triumph. And yet, stony remnants of those days of yore still remain: imposing edifices and vast gardens bear witness to bygone times in the Kurpfalz, which for more than 600 years played a significant role in the history of the Holy Roman Empire. At times, individual castles throughout the centuries were objects of prestige of the most widely varying natures. For example, the palace of Schwetzingen was in the fourteenth century a moated fortress, in the sixteenth century a hunting castle, and in the eighteenth century a regal summer residence. The most famous and impressive castle in the world lies high above the rooftops of the picturesque Old Town of Heidelberg, visited by 3.5 million guests a year. The proud home of Germany’s most famous romanesque edifice, the Imperial Cathedral, which since 1991 has been an official UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, is Speyer.

Many ways lead through the Palatinate – the Mountain Road, the Castle Road, and the German Wine Road. It is the Mountain Road which early in the year spontaneously awakens to the warming rays of the sun. While other parts of Germany are still slumbering in the cradle of winter, here spring arrives with such exuberance that already in March the astonished visitor and observer of the colourful panorama can scarcely credit the magnificent bloom that greets him. The Castle Road is the only distinctive tourist route that runs from west to east and is lined with some 80 castles and fortresses. The route begins in the regal residence city of Mannheim, leads on to Schwetzingen, the summer residence of the Prince Elector Carl Theodor, continues into Heidelberg and beyond through the adjoining picturesque Neckar Valley and Tauber Valley, travels further to so-called Franconian Switzerland in upper Bavaria, and ends in Prague. Since 1995, the German Wine Road has led through 85 kilometers of vineyards that constitute Germany’s second largest area for wine cultivation: the Pfalz. The Wine Road, connecting the majority of the wine cultivation communities along thehardt mountain range, is the oldest wine route in Germany.
The city looks back on a long and chequered history, which has left its mark on all its quarters. Ladenburg, which stands in front of the magnificent Ludwigsburg, consists of two main parts: the old town, with its half-timbered houses and churches, and the new town, with its spacious parks and gardens. Ladenburg is a charming place with its half-timbered houses and gardens, which make it a popular destination for nature lovers.

Ladenburg — oldest German city on the right bank of the Rhine

With over 900 years of uninterrupted city culture, Ladenburg is the oldest German city on the right bank of the Rhine River. As part of a wide-ranging greenery project of 2005, Leben und Landleben (Ludwigsburg) prominent new parks and spacious landscapes were created beside the river and streams. The thus enhanced possibilities for leisure and recreation make this already attractive city even more appealing and beautiful for its citizens and visitors. Ladenburg has received numerous awards, most recently a gold medal in the nationwide competition, “Ostwestfalen. Our City Blooms.”

Worms — Imperial Cathedral and the Helibergness

The city on the Rhine invites nature lovers to stroll in its numerous parks and gardens, including Heylshof Park, Hees Park, Hofgarten Park, or along the Rhine Promenade.

Worms | Heilbronn

The city on the Rhine invites nature lovers to stroll in its numerous parks and gardens, including Heylshof Park, Hees Park, Hofgarten Park, or along the Rhine Promenade.

In Deidesheim the grapes ripen into mellow wine, lemons trees burst into bloom, and the figs virtually fall into the hands of the passers-by. Nature and climate are kind to the towns along the German Wine Road, and this munificence is especially clear in the vineyards. Nature and climate are kind to the towns along the German Wine Road, and this munificence is especially clear in the vineyards. With over 1900 years of uninterrupted city culture, Ladenburg has received its name from the fact that the small river of Steinefluss, i.e., “the little Neckar river” here. Only ten kilometers away from the world-famous university town, Neckargemünd with its districts of Dilsberg, Mosbach and Bartenbach lies in the midst of the vacation region and nature park Neckar-Odenwald. From here one can easily explore not only the Kurpfalz but Kraichgau and the Castle Road; Above all, the visitor should not miss Dilsberg, a fairytale spot where time seems to have stood still. The fortress and barony gardens, within the walls that surround the hamlet high on a hilltop, are a popular outing not only in the summer months.

Neckargemünd — Heidelberg’s beautiful neighbor

Already Mark Twain, on his raft trip through the Neckar Valley, claimed to have become acquainted here with “the river in all its beauty” Neckargemünd, “Heidelberg’s beautiful neighbor,” received its name from the fact that the small river of Steinefluss, i.e., “the little Neckar river” here. Only ten kilometers away from the world-famous university town, Neckargemünd with its districts of Dilsberg, Mosbach and Bartenbach lies in the midst of the vacation region and nature park Neckar-Odenwald. From here one can easily explore not only the Kurpfalz but Kraichgau and the Castle Road; Above all, the visitor should not miss Dilsberg, a fairytale spot where time seems to have stood still. The fortress and barony gardens, within the walls that surround the hamlet high on a hilltop, are a popular outing not only in the summer months.

Mosbach — Half-timbered idyll in a picturesque landscape

The former residence of the Kurpfalz lies in a picturesque setting on the southern reaches of the Odenwald, in the fantastic Neckar valley between Heidelberg and Heilbronn. Mosbach is given its distinctive stamp by its historic Old Town, whose layout stems from the sixteenth century, as well as by the many charming alleys and half-timbered houses. One of the most beautiful market squares in southern Germany is framed by the historic town hall with tower, the Collegiate Church, and an ensemble of half-timbered houses. Here stands the Palm House, a pearl among the half-timbered buildings of Baden-Württemberg. The Mosbacher “Natural-Summer” with over thirty open-air productions has meanwhile achieved cult status. Vivid impressions of landscape and nature in a dazzling array, with toursist destinations to match, are the basis of Mosbach’s summer activities.

Heidelberg — the Pearl of the Kurpfalz

Heidelberg has a scintillating past. Scarcely another city has been more fortunately located by points – above all the romantic poets than she. Heidelberg’s beauty is given its character by its setting, where the Neckar leaves the Odenwald, amid the gentle hilly chain of the mountains. The Neckar is framed by the historic Old Town, whose layout stems from the sixteenth century, as well as by the many charming alleys and half-timbered houses. One of the most beautiful market squares in southern Germany is framed by the historic town hall with tower, the Collegiate Church, and an ensemble of half-timbered houses. Here stands the Palm House, a pearl among the half-timbered buildings of Baden-Württemberg. The Mosbacher “Natural-Summer” with over thirty open-air productions has meanwhile achieved cult status. Vivid impressions of landscape and nature in a dazzling array, with toursist destinations to match, are the basis of Mosbach’s summer activities.

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Ladenburg | Heilbronn

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Deidesheim — the other Paradise

Neckargemünd — Heidelberg’s beautiful neighbor

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