

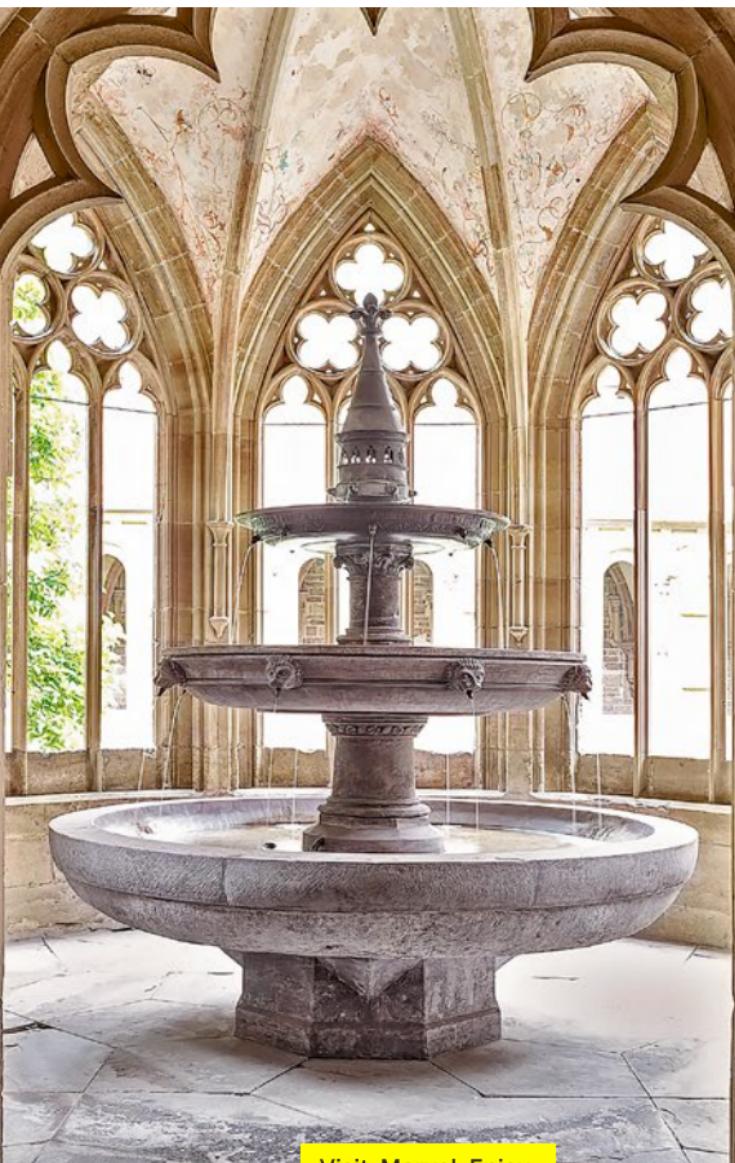


Maulbronn Monastery

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
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Maulbronn
Monastery Complex
World Heritage since 1993



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.



Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and
Gardens



With its impressive assembly of buildings, the Maulbronn Monastery offers a glimpse into the every day life of Cistercian monks in the Middle Ages

Prayer and work-life at the Maulbronn Monastery

The origins of the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery, which has been excellently preserved to this day, reach back to the 12th century. The monastery complex, which was built over centuries and features a variety of architectural styles, the *lush magnolia* tree that blossoms every spring, and the cultural landscape that has been largely maintained to this day allow visitors to immerse themselves in the order's way of life. Meditation and prayer were as much a part of the monks' daily lives as hard work—self-sufficiency was one of the order's ideals. A variety of vegetable and herb gardens within the monastery complex supplied the monks with fresh food. Outside of the monastery walls, the lakes for farming fish and the monastery's own vineyard are a testament to Cistercian life.

The monastery keeps the tradition of self-sufficiency alive on the monastery grounds by holding a variety of markets throughout the year.

In addition to acting as an authentic backdrop, the Maulbronn Monastery is also said to be the *place of origin of the Maultasche* – a traditional German dish similar to the Italian ravioli. As the story goes, during Lent, Lay Monk Jakob mixed up a piece of meat with herbs and wrapped it in pasta dough in order to hide it from God. This resulted in the specialty that is also known as “Herrgottsb'scheiße”, a nickname that can be roughly translated as “small God cheaters”, and whose name also partially refers to Maulbronn—a delicious dish that is popular well beyond the region.

Maulbronn Monastery (Kloster Maulbronn) is one of Europe's most well-preserved Medieval monasteries. It combines a multitude of architectural styles, ranging from Romanesque to late Gothic all in one place—it creates quite a unique atmosphere.

Construction of the former Cistercian monastery, cradled in the rolling hills of the Stromberg region, commenced in 1147. It was here that Gothic design was first implemented in the German-speaking world. In 1993, the monastery was declared a *UNESCO World Heritage site*.

Impressive complex with a captivating inner courtyard
Maulbronn Monastery's many buildings are enclosed by Medieval walls and towers. Architectural highlights include the Romanesque monastery church, the Gothic cloister, and the fountain house.

The monastery church's entrance hall, the *Paradies*, takes its name from the custom of painting church vestibules' walls with scenes from the Fall of Man. In Maulbronn, the last painting was completed in 1522. However, little of this work of art remains visible. The *Paradies*, the cloister's south wing, and the monks' refectory were



View from the Fountain House to the cloister: In the spring, visitors can admire the lovely blooming magnolia tree in the cloister garden

constructed in *the late Romanesque/transitional early Gothic style*. These structures played a vital role in spreading the Gothic architectural style throughout German-speaking Europe.

A striking testament to Cistercian life

The Cistercians traditionally worked the land. This is why their cultural and architectural influences extended well beyond the walls of the monastery. The surrounding countryside was formerly dotted with their farms, called granges. *The Maulbronn monastery complex* has been preserved remarkably well, and is an impressive representation of the region's history and the Cistercian way of life.

The Maulbronn Monastery World Heritage site invites you to marvel, discover and linger





Early Gothic, perfect in form: The Paradise is one of the most important architectural testaments in Maulbronn

After the Reformation, Duke Christoph of Württemberg, converted the complex into a Protestant boarding school. Its pupils included prominent scientists and writers, including *Johannes Kepler*, *Friedrich Hölderlin* and *Hermann Hesse*. The school still exists, but is now the Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Being named a UNESCO World Heritage site, the monastery complex has become a world-famous landmark, attracting tourists from around the globe. It also serves as a concert venue, giving visitors the opportunity to appreciate the buildings' exceptional acoustics.

Romanesque arcades, Gothic roof: The monastery church illustrates the transition between different architectural styles



Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Monastery Open all year round;
Visits possible with or without a guided tour

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

Current information



At a glance

For details of our current opening times, tours, events and admission prices, see:
www.kloster-maulbronn.de/en/visitor-information

Contact and information

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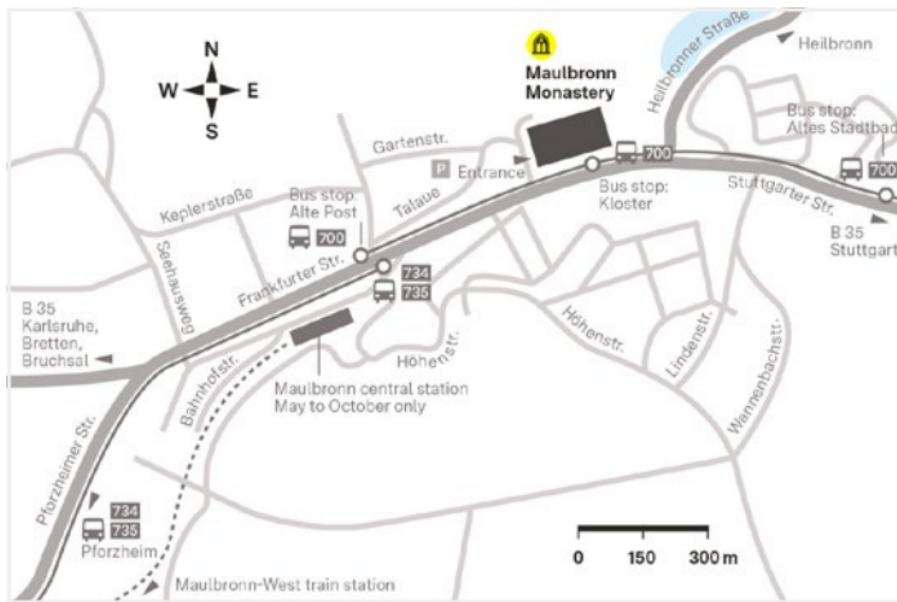
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How to find us



Take bus 700 from Bretten-Mühlacker or bus 734/735 from Pforzheim. The "Freizeit-Express" train stops in Maulbronn on Sundays and holidays (May to October).

Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

Image credit SSG / LMZ: cover photo, 1, 6 Günther Bayerl; 2 Jessen Oestergaard; 3, 4, 5 Niels Schubert // *The persons shown have been enhanced or modified by AIn in some cases // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

Information about all our monuments

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