

# Altenkirchen experience and enjoy



Verbandsgemeinde Altenkirchen (Westerwald):

Rathausstr. 13

57610 Altenkirchen

☎ 02681-850

✉ [tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de](mailto:tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de)

[www.vg-altenkirchen.de](http://www.vg-altenkirchen.de)

## Art, culture and places of interest in the region of Altenkirchen

### "Sculpture in the valley"

It was sculptor Erwin Wortelkamp, who initiated the site "in the valley" in 1986. It covers an area of 10ha, which was designed by over 40 international artists, architects and landscape architects. This private facility which has been made publicly available, opens up to art-loving visitors exclusively by a 3-4 hour walk through this landscape.

57635 Hasselbach, Schulstraße 18, ☎ 02686/604, ✉ post@im-tal.de, www.im-tal.de

Registration is required

### Elvis-museum

You can see originals from the 50s and 60s, Elvis rarities and originals from his possession, from the barbershop of the barracks, in which Elvis' hair was regularly styled during his stay in Germany from 1958 to 1960. Further a chronological exhibition of his records, original movie posters from the USA and Germany, never before shown photos and much more about Elvis Presley. The exhibits are embedded in rooms, which style corresponds to the years of the exhibits. Feel the magic of the 50s and 60s!

57635 Kircheib, Roettgenstrasse 6, ☎ 02683/6562, ✉ irmastanton@web.de, www.jonnywinters.de

Opening hours: see website or by appointment

### Open air stage Mehren

Just below the church in Mehren, close to a pond-site, you'll find the open air stage. Built in 1986 at this idyllic location in Greece-Roman style, it is nowadays the scene of various open-air events and concerts, as for example the „Lichterfest = festival of lights“, which is known far beyond the boundaries of the town. The dimensions of the open-air stage in Mehren are based upon the ancient theater in Ephesus – but in smaller proportions.

Particularly noteworthy is the acoustic which can be experienced by the visitors from the center of the round stage.

57635 Mehren, Mehrbachtalstraße, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ fachwerkdorf-mehren@t-online.de, www.fachwerkdorf-mehren.de

### Historical quarter

The aim of the Historical Quarter is to collect memorabilia from the past of Altenkirchen. As a result of this, future views into the native past of the city shall be ensured. Historic material of more than three centuries is waiting to be discovered: pictures of old street views, from the hotel and restaurant industry, clubs, sports events, from companies and entrepreneurs, of people and originals of the city Altenkirchen, from events, markets parades and anniversaries. In addition documents of the local history and written historical stories can be read. Finds from the Battle of Altenkirchen from 1796 to the Second World War, various text documentations and memories from the development of the partnership with the French city of Tarbes, complete the collection.

57610 Altenkirchen, Marktstraße 31/33, ☎ 02681/9502134, ✉

info@bismarckturm-ak.de, www.bismarckturm-ak.de

Tuesday: from 3 pm to 5 pm

Thursday: from 11 am to 1 pm

Every third Sunday of the month from 2 pm to 5 pm



### Cinema

#### Neitersen (Wied Scala)

The WIED SCALA is an extraordinary, small program cinema in the style of the 50s, with a sophisticated and valuable film program, cultural activities and other events. For over 20 years, the Wied Scala has represented an indispensable cultural meeting place in the countryside, as a permanent institution, which is run with much

idealism and cinema enthusiasm. The cinema café / beer garden offers time and space to enjoy a delicious cappuccino or excellent wine before or after the movie.

57638 Neitersen, Südstraße 1, ☎ 02681/7293, ✉ info@wied-scala.de, www.wiedscala.de

### Museum barn Helmenzen

To get an insight into the local history, you can visit the "museum barn" in the municipality of Helmenzen.

Besides equipment for field crops and for the processing of the harvest, items such as a field forge as well as equipment for milk utilization, for baking and for food processing also are shown. There is also an old fire engine to see and a 150-year-old traditional living room and bedroom have been recreated with original parts. Visits by appointment, free admission.

57612 Helmenzen, Gartenstraße 3, ☎ 02686/1790, ✉ kohl\_helmut@t-online.de,

Open from 2 pm to 5 pm on Sundays and public holidays from May to the beginning of October. Other appointments on request.

### Raiffeisen meeting center

The international "Raiffeisen Meeting Center" was built in 1989. The "Raiffeisen Meeting Center" is managed by the Westerwald Bank eG, which also offers interesting day trips with competent guidance under the motto "In the footsteps of Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen".

57635 Weyerbusch, Raiffeisenstraße 2-4, ☎ 02662/961-220, ✉ info@raiffeisenzentrum.de,

www.raiffeisenzentrum.de

Visits with movie only for groups and only possible by appointment

### City hall Altenkirchen

The city hall, which belongs to the cultural center of the district town of Altenkirchen (Westerwald), was opened in 1984. It is a forum for cultural, informative and family events. The representative framework for all cultural and commercial events as well as family- and club celebrations. The city hall of Altenkirchen is spacious and functionally laid out.

57610 Altenkirchen, Quengelstraße 7, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ stadthalle@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.altenkirchen.de

### Antique smithy and exhibition of tin figures

Friedenthal and his smithy was founded in 1878 by Karl Kirchner and his wife Helene. As usual, his descendants learned the blacksmithing trade and operated the smithy for four generations. Today, the well-preserved building can be visited. Wilfried Kirchner, the last blacksmith, likes to demonstrate his craft.

Thousands of tin figures in historical scenes, casted by Kirchner, can also be admired here.

57586 Ölsen-Friedenthal, Zur Alten Schmide 2, ☎ 02686/480, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.vg-altenkirchen.de

By appointment

### Bismarck-tower

The Bismarck tower stands on the "Dorn", a hill with a good view of the district town Altenkirchen. It was built on the initiative of citizens with the local solid rock. The laying of the foundation stone took place on April 1, 1914. The First World War prevented the planned inauguration on April 1, 1915 (Bismarck's 100th birthday). Not until 1922 the construction was completed and officially inaugurated on May 21, 1922. The city took over the tower after World War II. From 2009 to 2010 the monument was restored and can now be visited again.

57610 Altenkirchen, Bergstraße, ☎ 02681/9502134, ✉ info@bismarckturm-ak.de, www.bismarckturm-ak.de

The tower is open on every 1st Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 pm.

Visits outside these opening hours are possible by appointment.



### **Bullesje Mehren**

Was it a real prison, a dungeon or just a storeroom? There are different explanations for the "Bullesje". An interesting building hiding behind the wooden door of a corner house in the shadow of the romantic basilica in the village with the half-timbered houses Mehren: the Bullesje. "Local prison of 1547" it says at the door. Walking through the tangled rooms and past iron fortifications, one can imagine how thieves and good-for-nothings must have felt staying here living on water and bread ...

Here you can also find the leaflet "village tour".

57635 Mehren, Mehrbachtalstraße, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ fachwerkdorf-mehren@t-online.de, www.fachwerkdorf-mehren.de

Open during the summer months

### **Village and school museum Weyerbusch**

The village and school museum of the local community Weyerbusch is located in the former town hall of Weyerbusch. It provides an insight into work forms and materials of a time determined by agriculture. A pictorial documentation shows how Weyerbusch, not only by the effects of World War II, has changed in the meantime. There are also some rarities to be seen, which refer to the most important phases for the development of Weyerbusch by the post office and the work of Raiffeisen.

57635 Weyerbusch, August-Schneider-Straße 2, ☎ 02686/577 of 02686/518, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.vg-altenkirchen.de

Opening hours by appointment

### **Mehren, the village with half-timbered houses**

Mehren probably originated already at the time of the Great Migration. The monument class-listed village consists of half-timbered houses mostly from the 18th century, an old school - a magnificent late Gothic half-timbered house from the 16th century - and a three-nave church (from around 1200). In the competition "Our village shall become more beautiful! Our village has a future! ", Mehren was awarded as the most beautiful village in Rheinland-Pfalz and two-time National Champion. Mehren is definitely worth a visit! 57635 Mehren, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.fachwerkdorf-mehren.de



### **Steel rope-bridge Helmeroth**

The 2010 newly built rope-bridge in Helmeroth leads over the Nister near the old mill of Helmeroth. The bridge construction is made entirely of steel. It has a permissible load of 18 tonnes and, with a span of 36 meters, is the largest steel rope suspension bridge in the whole of Rhineland-Palatinate.

57612 Helmeroth-Helmerother Mühle, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.vg-altenkirchen.de

### **Church of Hilgenroth**

Center of the community nowadays is still the old church. This protestant Parish church in Hilgenroth, whose single-nave Longhouse (1433) originally was built as a Grace Chapel for a Mother of God image (pilgrimage), has an older, Romanesque west tower with acoustic arcades. The building substance of the tower goes back to the Romanesque period. The Gothic choir consists of large pointed arched windows and separate buttresses. Inside, the church measures 24.20 m in length and 8.40 m in width. The 15 m long, flat-roofed nave is clearly separated of the vaulted 5/8 choir. Behind the spacious wide, slightly pointed choir arch, between community and choir, petite, grooved ribs rise above eight wall consoles up to half height of the windows, where they split and intertwine in the vaults into an artistic ribbed net.

5712 Hilgenroth, Hauptstraße, ☎ 02681/1720, ✉ info@kgm-hilgenroth.de, www.kgm-hilgenroth.de

By appointment

### **Church of Schöneberg**

The former Romanesque church, built in the second half of the 12th century, fell victim to the flames in 1854. 10 years later the foundation stone was laid for the present church. The construction of the tower, whose foundations had to be founded at an unusually large depth, presented particular difficulties. This problem was most likely caused by the fact that during the digging they came upon the underground remains of the castle.

On October 20, 1865, the neo-Gothic style church was inaugurated

57638 Schöneberg, Hauptstraße, ☎ 02681/2912, ✉ schoeneberg@ekir.de, www.kirchenkreis-altenkirchen.de

By appointment

### **Raiffeisen: historic mayor's house and replica of the former bakery**

From 1845 to 1848 Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen was the mayor of Weyerbusch. In 1847 he founded the "Brodverein" and laid the foundation for an idea that went around the world - the cooperative idea. He taught people that successful help in the long term can be effective only through collective self-help: "One for all, all for one."

57635 Weyerbusch, Raiffeisenstraße 2-4, ☎ 02662/961-220, ✉ info@raiffeisenzentrum.de, www.raiffeisenzentrum.de

Viewing of mayor's house only possible after registration. Viewing bakery only from outside possible

### **Raiffeisen lookout tower**

On the Beulskopf (388 meters NN) in the municipality of Heupelzen in 1990, a wooden lookout tower - the Raiffeisen tower - was built with a height of 35 m. It was named in honor of the social reformer Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen. The upper plateau offers a magnificent view. To the south, east and west one looks over the front Westerwald up to the Förderturm at the highway A3 at Willroth, to the Köppelturm on the Montabaur height, to the Salzburger Kopf in the high Westerwald and Siebengebirge on the Rhine. But also the "Hohe Acht" (747 m) in the Eifel at a distance of 57 km can be seen. In northern or north-eastern direction, the view opens up to the Bergische Land, the Wildenburger Land, the foothills of the Rothaargebirge, the Giebelwald and far into the Siegerland.

57612 Heupelzen-Beul, Höhenweg, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.vg-altenkirchen.de

Open all year

### **Raiffeisen monument Weyerbusch**

From 1845 to 1848 Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen was the mayor of Weyerbusch. In 1847 he founded the "Brodverein" and laid the foundation for an idea that went around the world - the cooperative idea. He taught people that successful help in the long term can be effective through collective self-help: "One for all, all for one." To commemorate 150 years of "Brodverein", the Raiffeisen monument in Weyerbusch was officially inaugurated in 1997.

57635 Weyerbusch, Raiffeisenstraße, ☎ 02681/85-0, ✉ tourist-info@vg-altenkirchen.de, www.vg-altenkirchen.de



### **Roman basilica Almersbach**

Late Romanesque, flat-roofed pillar basilica from the second quarter of the 13th century with preserved frescoes; Location: surrounded by old trees - on a ridge above the Wiedtal in Almersbach

57610 Almersbach, Kirchenweg, ☎ 02681/2864, ✉ gemeindeamt@kirche-almersbach.de, www.kirche-almersbach.de

Sundays and by appointment

### **Roman church Birnbach**

The church in Birnbach was assigned to the collegiate foundation of St. Cassius in Bonn in 1132. The current building (built around 1200, ev. parish church) belongs to a group of simple Romanesque rural churches. The extended parish belongs to the imperial county of Sayn-Hachenburg since 1662.

57612 Birnbach, Kirchstraße, ☎ 02681/6141, ✉ [gemeindebuero@Kirchengemeinde-Birnbach.de](mailto:gemeindebuero@Kirchengemeinde-Birnbach.de),

[www.kirchengemeinde-birnbach.de](http://www.kirchengemeinde-birnbach.de)

By appointment

### Roman church Kircheib

The Protestant parish church in Kircheib is a Romanesque three-nave basilica from the 12th century. The central nave, illuminated by small round arched windows, is opened in 3 pillar arcades each to the aisles. The sanctuary in the east is covered by a cross-vault. Looking from the sanctuary through the west tower entrance, the Große Ölberg (460 m above sealevel) of the Siebengebirge can be seen.

57635 Kircheib, Kirchstraße, ☎ 02683/949340, ✉ [buero@evangelische-gemeinde.de](mailto:buero@evangelische-gemeinde.de), [www.evangelische-gemeinde.de](http://www.evangelische-gemeinde.de)

By appointment

### Roman church of Mehren

The Romanesque basilica in Mehren was one of the first churches in the lower district of Altenkirchen. It is documented that the parish already passed in 1298 from the possession of the Counts of Neuenahr to Count John I of Sayn. Already in 1316 it is mentioned as an independent parish church. The basilica is a three-aisled Protestant parish church (built around 1200) with a cross-ridge vaulted, narrowed choir and apse with pilaster strips as well as a well preserved half-timbered structure.

57635 Mehren, Mehrbachtalstraße, ☎ 02686/237, ✉ [mehren@ekir.de](mailto:mehren@ekir.de), [www.kirchenkreis-altenkirchen.de](http://www.kirchenkreis-altenkirchen.de)

By appointment

### Unikum – the regional store

The regional shop was founded in 2014 by the Association for Sustainable Regional Management and offers 120 regional artists, artisans and food producers the opportunity to introduce themselves and their products. In the smallest of spaces, you can experience the creative potential of the Altenkirchen region. Tourist information is also available here.

57610 Altenkirchen, Bahnhofstraße 26, ☎ 02681/9842767, ✉ [info@unikum-regionalladen.de](mailto:info@unikum-regionalladen.de), [www.unikum-regionalladen.de](http://www.unikum-regionalladen.de)

Mon - Fri: 2 pm – 6 pm

Wed + Fri: 9 am - 12.30 pm,  
2 pm – 6 pm

Thu: 9 am - 6 pm

Sat: 9 am - 1 pm

### Swimming pool Altenkirchen

Multipurpose pool 8 x 25 meters, water depth 0.90 to 3.50 m. 1 meter springboard. Children's pool with water play garden, water depth 0.30 m. Offers: aqua gymnastics, aqua fitness, aqua jogging, swimming lessons, swimming badge, infrared cabin.

57610 Altenkirchen, Im Sportzentrum, ☎ 02681/4222, ✉ [hallenbad@vg-altenkirchen.de](mailto:hallenbad@vg-altenkirchen.de), [www.hallenbad-altenkirchen.de](http://www.hallenbad-altenkirchen.de)

Tue: from 12.30 pm to 6 pm

Wed: from 12.30 pm to 10 pm

Thu: from 12.30 pm to 20.30 pm

Fri: from 12.30 pm to 10 pm

Sat: from 8.30 am to 7 pm

Sun: from 8.30 am to 7 pm

