BACKNANG
Town with a Fine Baden Tradition in the Heart of Württemberg
One needs to experience a town – its architecture and hospitality. Take time to experience Backnang, the metropolis on the Murr, and what it has to offer. Stroll through the winding lanes of the old town and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of the shopping areas. Get to know the fine hospitality of our restaurants and hotels. Take a break in one of the pavement cafés and watch the world go by, watching the busy weekly market or get talking to the locals. It’s worth listening – the Backnangers have plenty of stories to tell, of the Amazon women of the Goose War or the transformation of what was formerly the most important leather-tanning town in Southern Germany to an innovative telecommunications centre. We look forward to seeing you.
The town of Backnang lies in beautiful surroundings, with orchards, gentle hills and the pretty River Murr winding along its valley. There can be no doubt that Backnang, its suburbs and the surrounding communities of the “Backnang Bay” are justified in considering themselves one of the most attractive cultural landscapes in Swabia. The Plattenwald in Backnang, the Murr valley and the nearby “Swabian-Franconian Forest” national park all invite you to take long walks, hikes or rides. No surprise therefore that the Backnang region is a popular area for people from the Stuttgart metropolitan area to come and spend their free time. The direct suburban railway connection to Stuttgart airport means that it’s easy to get to Backnang from anywhere in the world! With their rural charm, the five Backnang suburbs – Heiningen, Maubach and Waldrems in the south, Strümpfelbach in the north, and Steinbach in the north-east – form the perfect transition between the town and the picturesque landscape of “Backnang Bay”.

Together with the hamlets of Sachsenweiler, Ungeheuerhof, Horbachhof, Stiftsgrundhof, Germannsweiler, Ober, Mittel and Unterschöntal (locally known as the “Schöntals”) and Seehof, the suburbs form a necklace around the town. The excellent public transport connections mean that the suburbs are linked to the town and to the inter-regional road and rail networks.
Despite it having so many historic monuments, Backnang is not a museum. The lively town centre is a popular meeting point, be it at the Weekly, Christmas, Flea or Goose Markets. Backnangers know how to celebrate. After all, the Backnang Street Festival, which, since 1971, has taken place on the last weekend in June, is the oldest and largest event of its kind in the whole of Southern Germany. In addition, the “Classic-Ope(r)n-Air” concert takes place against the historic backdrop on the Market Square in the summer. All throughout the year, concerts, opera, dance and drama in the Backnanger Bürgerhaus shape the cultural life of our town. Art and architecture have undergone an unusual symbiosis in Backnang’s historic streets and buildings. Wherever you go in the old part of the town, you will find sculptures created back in 1987, during the Backnang Sculptors’ Symposium. Going uphill, you will find the Sculpture Path of the Backnang Art Group – this path follows the former route of the stations of the cross on the Ölberg. In the Tower Schoolhouse, Backnang Town Gallery holds its renowned exhibitions, with which it has obtained its reputation as a bold supporter of young, contemporary art. Old Masters can be found in the Helferhaus. Here, the “Grafik-Kabinett” presents its impressive collection of high-quality European prints – from Lucas Cranach to Albrecht Dürer. These artistic jewels have made Backnang one of the treasure houses of European printing. The Helferhaus also hosts the exhibitions and events of the Backnang Local History Association (Heimat- und Kunstverein). The range of cultural events in the Bandhaus is expanded further by the Bandhaus Theatre and Professor Pröpsel’s Puppet Theatre. When the Galli Theatre opened, the historic old town was blessed with yet another cultural centre. The Smithy Museum on Burgplatz, the Technology Collection, with the Information Systems subcollection, the Scheuerle Museum, the Manfred von Ardenne Radio Museum and the Hungarian-German Folklore Museum – all of these show that Backnang well deserves its reputation as a town of museums. You can see – it’s well worth taking a look behind the scenes. Welcome to Backnang!
Backnang is a town worth living in. With around 38,000 inhabitants, it is the centre of a catchment area of nearly 120,000 people. The town possesses outstanding kindergarten facilities, secondary modern, comprehensive and grammar schools as well as numerous further education facilities. Life in the town is improved yet further by countless clubs and societies, wide-ranging social support and excellent opportunities for its senior citizens. In addition, modern sports facilities and the popular Murrbäder Backnang Wonnemar form a fine base for spending leisure time in the town.

Backnang also has a long tradition as an “industrial” town. The “Upper Spinning Mill” was founded back in 1832, marking the start of industrialisation in the town. Numerous companies from the leather tanning industry turned Backnang into the leather tanning town in Southern Germany, a reputation which lasted well into the 20th Century. After the Second World War there was a shift in the industrial focus of the town towards electrical and information systems. Today, Backnang is an attractive location for business, allowing you to work, live and play in a charming environment.
The castle hill, which falls steeply away to the River Murr, possesses a unique collection of historical architecture and is the oldest part of our town, first mentioned in documents in the year 1067. Here, the Margraves of Baden founded an Augustinian monastery in 1116. Between 1220 and 1230, they turned Backnang into a town, which they used as their religious centre and for burial purposes, for which, in 1130, they built the St. Pancras church, with its Romanesque towers.

Remains of the tombs of the Margraves can still be found in the crypt of the church, thus making Backnang the perfect “Baden-Württemberg” town. Of the nearby St. Michael’s church, only the 13th Century Gothic chancel remains, which, with its original capitals, makes it one of the earliest examples of Gothic architecture in the whole of Germany. In 1816/17, the nave was replaced by the so-called “Tower Schoolhouse”, which today houses the Backnang Town Gallery. Above the chancel is the town tower, rebuilt six years after the town fire of 1693, and today the town’s symbol. The original plans for the tower go back to the Württemberg court architect and Renaissance architect Heinrich Schickhardt. The town hall, built around 1600, and rebuilt after a fire of 1716, is an expression of civic pride, and is, even today, one of the most beautiful town halls in the whole of Southern Germany.