



Rheinbrohl | watchtower WP 1/1, reconstruction

Photo © Michael Schmidt

The section of the Limes in Hesse that is approved as a world heritage ranges from Heidenrod at the watchtower 2/35 «Am Laufenselder Weg» to Mainhausen on the Main. The Limes runs across the wooded heights of the Taunus and encloses the fertile area of the Wetterau in a large arc. The state of preservation of the 153 km long route with 18 big and 31 small forts as well as 200 watchtowers differs due to the post-Roman usage of the terrain. There is not much visible in agricultural areas while especially rampart and moat are still visible aboveground in the forests. There, most forts and watchtowers are clearly recognisable as elevations in the ground. The visible traces as well as especially the conserved and rebuild remains of the Limes that appear here and there like the fort Feldberg and Kapersburg revive the Roman history in the mind of the observer.

The only nearly completely erected fort at the Limes, the Saalburg in Taunus near Bad Homburg vor der Höhe conveys a comprehensive overview of the life of the Roman soldiers and the civilian population at the border of the Roman Empire. At the beginning of the 20th century the Roman fort got rebuilt because of Emperor Wilhelm II. In recent years it got enriched by reconstructions and shaped as an archaeological park.



Großerfisch-Grab | watchtower WP 9/83, reconstruction

## DLSBW Baden-Wuerttemberg



The 164 km long Limes route in Baden-Wuerttemberg which has the status of a world heritage was built under the reign of Emperor Antonius Pius (138-161 A.D.) and Marcus Aurelius (161-180 A.D.). Traces of of the ancient border installations can be found in different kinds of appealing landscapes like the Odenwald, the Hohenloher Ebene, the Swabian-Franconian Forest and the foothills of the Albvorland. 30 cities and communities from six administrative districts (Neckar-Odenwald-Kreis, Landkreis Heilbronn, Hohenlohekreis, Landkreis Schwäbisch Hall, Rems-Murr-Kreis and Ostalbkreis) are neighbouring that monument of world status. Apart form barriers around 340 watchtowers as well as 16 forts and 17 small forts are known to exist. Baden-Wuerttemberg has shareholdings of parts of the Upper German (101 kilometres) as well as the Raetian Limes (63 kilometres).

At the Rotenbachtal between Lorch and Schwäbisch Gmünd (Ostalbkreis) the border between the provinces of Upper Germania and Raetia meets the Limes. Numerous museums and reconstructions depict a lively picture of the ancient border installation. Though not part of the world heritage, an older Roman borderline more on the West and South runs from the Main through the Odenwald at the Neckar (Odenwaldlimes) and across the Neckar to Köngen (Neckarlimes) and finally across the Swabian Alb to the Nördlinger Ries (Alblimes). Because there are so many visible remains this Limes line is known and a destination of many friends of antiquity as well.

The Upper German-Raetian Limes is Bavaria's most well known ground monument and symbolizes the Roman ancient times from the 1st to the 3rd century A.D. Starting from the Wuerttembergian border the Limes runs across Middle Franconia, Upper Bavaria and ends at the Danube in Lower Bavaria. Starting from 1892 the Limes got systematically researched due to the the Imperial Limes Commission, which was conducted in other states as well. Johann Turmair, named Aventinus (1477-1534) led the way to interpreting the Latin written sources about the Limes. Priest Christoph Wägemann (1666-1713) from Oberasbach recognized the meaning of the Raetian Limes as a wall or pile row and the connection with the Devil's wall. Rector Johann Alexander Döderlein (1675-1745) from Weißenburg made the first map of the so called «Teufels-Mauer» (devil's wall).

The Raetian Limes has a length of 117 km in Bavaria. Hinterland and Limes zone secured around 180 tower sites. Later, ten small forts were placed between those tower sites at neuralgic spots like streets, rivers and steep valleys. There are 17 big military bases behind the Limes. The linear elements of the tower sites as well as forts of the ancient system of the border control preserved over a long distance and are still visible today. Reconstructions and memorial stones the King Maximilian II. got set starting from 1861 mark the ancient border at other aboveground not visible spots.

## DLSBY Bavaria



Weißenburg i. Bay. | fort Weißenburg gate, reconstruction

Photo © Michael Schmidt

# German Limes Road

Remarkable relics of earthworks and other monuments, reconstructions and museums.  
**820 kilometres of nature, culture and UNESCO World Heritage**



## DLSRLP Rhineland-Palatinate



The first 75 kilometres of the Upper German-Raetian Limes run across Rhineland-Palatinate. It starts at the Rhine near Bad Hönningen and Rheinbrohl and runs across the edge heights of the Westerwald to the Hintertaunus. There were 132 watchtowers, nine small forts and nine cohort forts on the route. Because the Limes in Rhineland-Palatinate is predominantly located in the woods, rampart and moat, debris hills of the watchtowers and the defence wall of some forts are still visible in some segments of the limes. They are accessible through the Limes Trail.

One can encounter the best preserved forts of the Limes in the woods near fort Holhausen. There are seven reconstructed watchtowers along the German Limes Route in Rhineland-Palatinate. They were built between 1874 and 2004. Because of the different states of research at the time they look different from each other. At several forts and fort baths the foundation walls got conserved, the wooden palisade got rebuilt and rampart and moat got arranged. Information signs illustrate the monument of the Limes on important stations while finds from the Limes site can be looked at in museums.



Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe | «Saalburg» fort

Photo © Birnbaum/Saalburg



## DLSHE Hesse



Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur



Grenzen des Römischen Reiches: Obergermanisch-Raetischer Limes  
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