„Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg„ trail
nestled in the Naturpark Schwarzwald Mitte/Nord

Brief description

The 34.4 km „Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg„ trail was established in 2014 by the town of Lahr and the municipality of Seelbach in cooperation with the Black Forest Associations of Seelbach, Reichenbach and Lahr.

The hiking trail was brought to life as a sponsored project of the nature park „Naturpark Schwarzwald Mitte/Nord„ and has been certified according to the „Wanderbares Deutschland„ guidelines of the German Hiking Association (Deutscher Wanderverband). The trail can be conveniently hiked in two sections of roughly 20 km, each leading from the valley towns of Lahr- Reichenbach, Seelbach or Wittelbach up to the heights of the central Black Forest. Along the way are two castle ruins boasting stunning views, two historic forges and the „Natural Heritage„ protected area on the „Langenhard„.

The nature park „Naturpark Schwarzwald Mitte/Nord„ the largest nature park in Germany, a true paradise for all those who want to enjoy the Black Forest and its abundance of nature in a sustainable way, and at any time of the year! Discover the natural treasures the region has to offer, be it on a sporty mountain tour or a family-friendly trip – of course always with uniformly signposted hiking trails. Naturally, you can also enjoy all the flavours the Black Forest has to offer! Visit our „Nature Park Markets„ or stop off at our Nature Park inns. You can find all adventure offers and event dates available at the nature park under www.naturparkschwarzwald.de

Contact:

KulTourBüro Lahr
Tickets & Touristik Lahr
Kaiserstrasse 1
77933 Lahr
Phone: +49 (0)7821/950-210
Internet: www.lahr.de

Kultur- und Tourist-Info
Hauptstr. 7
77960 Seelbach
Phone: +49 (0)7823/9494-52
E-Mail: tourismus@seelbach-online.de
Internet: www.seelbach-online.de

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Maps and drawings: Walter Vetterer
Photos: Town of Lahr, municipality of Seelbach, D. Lingner, St. Pranjic, W.Vetterer, M. Weiler

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European Agricultural Fund for the Development of Rural Areas: Here, Europe is investing in its rural areas: www.mlr.baden-wuerttemberg.de

We are partners and supporters of the nature park

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Lahr/Schwarzwald

Just a few kilometres from the River Rhine, Lahr offers numerous leisure and recreational opportunities. The small town centre – complete with its magnificent town houses and idylic squares – invites you to shop and while away the hours.
Excursion and leisure tips: Stadtpark Lahr (all year round), City Museum (all year round), closed Monday on Tuesday
Roman complex (March to October), „Sulzbachtal„ water trail (May to September), „Chrysanthema„
Lahr (autumn), public baths „Naturbad Sulz„, „Terrassenbad Lahr„, puppet festival (spring), Parktheater (theatre/dance/opera/classic music).
Historical city tours:
Fridays from May to September, 5pm, Meeting place: „Rathausplatz„, corner of the town's „Bürgerbüro„, (unless otherwise stated)
City park tours:
Every last Sunday from May to Sept, 3pm, meeting point:
Entrance to the city park
Themed tours:
Saturdays from May to September 3pm, meeting point: „Rathausplatz„,Corner of the „Bürgerbüro„ (if not otherwise indicated)

www.lahr.de

Seelbach

Seelbach ... is just right
Nestled in a picturesque landscape between meadows, forests and valleys lies Seelbach – in the heart of the Schuttertal valley. The lively climatic health resort with its districts of Schönberg and Wittelbach can look back on a history spanning over 800 years. Here, old traditions are combined with a modern attitude to life. Enjoy your stay in the historic town centre with a Franciscan monastery, today's town hall and an adjoining monastery square complete with monastery garden.
Visit the „Freilichtspiele„ in September or the „Katharinenmarkt„ in November.

www.seelbach-online.de

Figures on the Geroldsecker castle trail

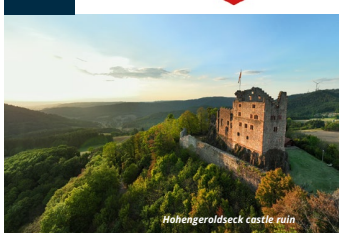
The „Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg„ trail begins at „Parkplatz Friedhof„ in Lahr-Reichenbach and leads over the Eichberg up to the mighty castle ruins of „Hohengeroldseck„. From there, you can enjoy an impressive panoramic view of the Kinzigtal in the Black Forest, as well as the „Rheinebene„ plain, all the way to the Vosges mountain range. Via the „Geroldsecker Burgpfad„, which tells the story of „castle life„ in a child-friendly form, you hike down to the „Passhöhe Schönberg„. After crossing the B 415, you reach the castle ruins of „Lützelhardt„. Seelbach's former castle, via quiet and idylic stretches. There, you can enjoy the snacks you have brought with you while in the hiking pavilion.

After the descent, the trail leads towards Seelbach and along the edge of the forest via the „Aktiv-Park„ with a wonderful view of Wittelbach. all the way to the „Wassertretstelle„. Relaxing loungers invite you to spend a little time there. In Wittelbach, you then change to the other side of the valley. Through the quiet side valley of Wolfersbach, the trail leads uphill over the „Wolfersbacher Wand„ to the „Grassert„. You then descend via a natural path into the idyllic Litschental valley. The old Geroldsecker armoury is not far away.

Pair of the „Geißklee-Bläuling„ on the „Langenhard„

On a quietly situated path, the trail makes its way up once more to the „Hasenberg„ and from here on, the high trail to the „Langenhard„ with a fantastic view. The former military training area on the „Langenhard„ was handed over to the NABU Federal Foundation as a „National Natural Heritage„ in January 2012. The open countryside and the adjacent forests are home to rare, partly protected animal and plant species.
Information boards are available at the car park at „Freizeithof Langenhard„.

Descend via the „Jägerpfad„ to Seelbach. You then follow the „Lahr-Rottweil„ path that traverses the area. At the „Konradskapelle„ chapel above Seelbach, you will enjoy another magnificent view of the castle ruins of „Hohengeroldseck„. Now, it is not that far back to the resort of Lahr-Reichenbach. At the entrance to the village, the „Reichenbach Hammerschmiede„ mill stands a few metres from the hiking trail. Through the village, you can make your way back to the starting point.
Along the way, there are numerous places to stop for refreshments spanning the entirety of delicious Baden cuisine. Likewise, many seating and resting areas invite you to while away sometime and relax.


Hohengeroldseck castle ruin

„Hohengeroldseck„ castle ruin
In the 13th century, the mighty castle was built as a multi-family castle and was eventually completed in 1250. „Hohengeroldseck„ was the ancestral seat of the Counts of Hohengeroldseck, until its destruction in 1689. The castle stands on a porphyry rock at the top of the pass between the Schuttertal and Kinzigtal valleys. The „alte Hus„ is still preserved, a palace stretching almost 26 metres high; the long sides are 15 metres long.

„Lützelhardt„ castle ruin
The castle ruins of „Lützelhardt„ on Seelbach's local mountain bearing the same name are the oldest architectural monument in Seelbach. The ruins, excavated by Karl Hammel between 1926 and 1929, indicate three construction periods and show transitional forms from Romanesque to early Gothic. The (in former times) strongly fortified „Lützelhardt„ castle – which, due to its exposed location allowed easy monitoring of the pass road over the Schönberg into the Kinzigtal valley and the valley road into the upper Schuttertal valley – was destroyed around 1235.

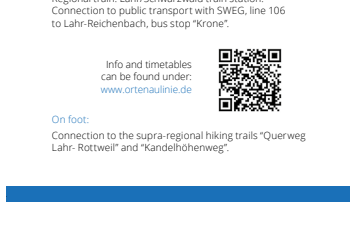
Geroldsecker Waffenschmiede„ forge in the Litschental valley

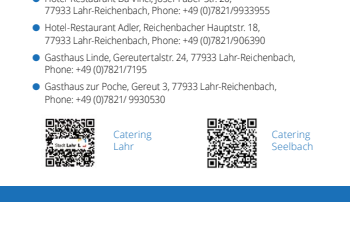
The „Geroldsecker Waffenschmiede" forge in the Litschental valley
The water-powered forge with its mighty hammers and mechanical drives was first mentioned in 1280 and used to supply weapons for the knights of Hohengeroldseck Castle. The forge has been owned by the Fehrenbach family since 1596. When the French destroyed Hohengeroldseck in 1689, they left the forge intact, but took an oath from the ancestors of the present owner to only make tools.

Guided tours on request: Familie Fehrenbach, Phone. 07823/2270, E-mail: schwert1821@aol.com

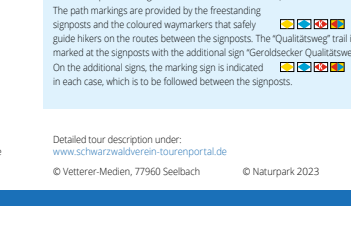
Hammerschmiede Lahr-Reichenbach
The „Hammerschmiede" forge, with adjacent bee garden in Lahr-Reichenbach promises some exciting insight into traditional crafts. As early as 1730, the history of the forge on the „Schutter" began as a workshop for the production of agricultural and handicraft equipment. The cultural-historical monument site is looked after by the Schwarzwaldverein Lahr-Reichenbach e.V. (Black Forest Association Lahr-Reichenbach). During personal guided tours, visitors experience 280 years of everyday culture in the region.

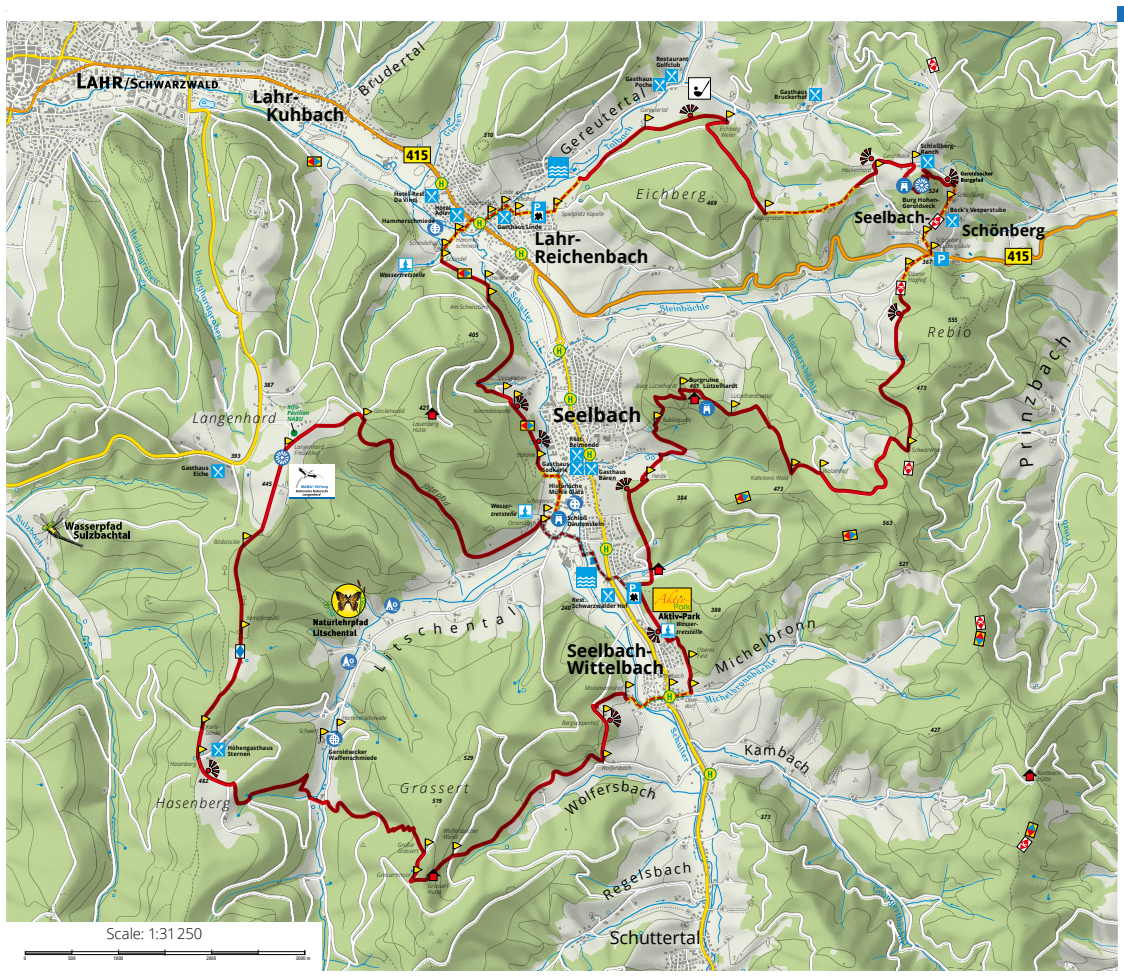
Guided tours on request: Schwarzwaldverein Reichenbach e.V., Phone. 07821/777281, E-mail: kultur_heimatpflege@schwarzwaldverein-reichenbach.de


View from the „Aktivpark„ into the Litschental valley


View of Reichenbach

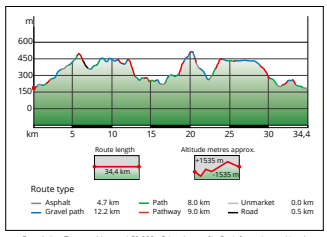
Lützelhardt castle ruin


Blacksmith in Reichenbach



"Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg" trail

Elevation profile



Foundation: Topographic map 1:50 000 - © Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landentwicklung Baden-Württemberg (www.lgl-bw.de) of 13.06.2013, Official sign: 2851.2-D/3923.

Marking

Hiking trail
Hiking trail asphalted
Connecting trail
Stage "North" / Stage "South"

Seal: "Qualitätsweg" Wanderbares Deutschland
Difficulty: challenging hiking trail
Experience ★★★★★
Landscape ★★★★★★
Fitness ★★★★
Technique ★★★★

Total length 34,4 km,
Duration 13:00 h
Altitude ▲1535 m ▼1535 m
Northern part: Length 20,2 km
Altitude ▲820 m ▼820 m
Southern part: Length 17,8 km
Altitude ▲715 m ▼715 m

Explanation of symbols

The "Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg" trail
Signpost
Querweg Lahr-Rottweil
Kandelhöhenweg
Local hiking trails
Regional hiking trails
Inns, restaurants
Swimming pool
Bus stops
Golf course
Water treading area
Viewpoint

Experience profile

Hohengeroldseck castle ruin
Lützelhardt castle ruin
Dautenstein moated castle

Hammerschmiede Lahr-Reichenbach
"Geroldsecker Waffenschmiede" forge in the Litschental valley
Historic mill Glatz

Outstanding panoramic view at Hohengeroldseck Castle and on Langenhard Mountain

Nature trail in the Litschental valley

Recommended seasons: March till November

Arrival

By car:

A5, exit Lahr in the direction of Lahr/Schwarzwald, continue in the direction of Schuttertal/Seelbach/Lahr-Reichenbach.
Parking:
In Lahr-Reichenbach at the car park "Wanderparkplatz am Friedhof".

By public transport:

Regional train: Lahr/Schwarzwald train station.
Connection to public transport with SWEG, line 106 to Lahr-Reichenbach, bus stop "Krone".

Info and timetables can be found under: www.ortenaulinie.de

On foot:

Connection to the supra-regional hiking trails "Querweg Lahr- Rottweil" and "Kandelhöhenweg".

Catering

Taste the regional diversity

Catering establishments near the route that are open during the day:
(Please enquire about any days on which businesses may be closed)

- Restaurant Landhaus im Golfclub Ortenau, Gereut 9.1, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/ 9924282
- Gasthaus. Bruckerhof, Weiler 4, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Ph.: +49 (0)7821/7215
- Beck´s Vesperstube, Schloßberg 2, 77960 Seelbach-Schönberg, Phone: 07823/2605
- Gasthaus Zum Sodkarle, Marktstr. 1, 77960 Seelbach, Ph.: +49 (0)7823/5658
- Gasthaus Bären, Tretenhofstr. 1, 77960 Seelbach, Ph.: +49 (0)7823/9618881
- Restaurant Belmondo, Marktstr. 6, 77960 Seelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/9618585
- Landhotel Ferienparadies Schwarzwälder Hof, Tretenhofstr. 76, 77960 Seelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/960950
- Höhengasthaus „Zum Sternen", Hasenberg 1, 77960 Seelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/96532
- Gasthaus Eiche, Langenhard 4, 77933 Lahr-Sulz, Phone: +49 (0)7821/7493
- Hotel-Restaurant Da Vinci, Josef-Faber-Str. 20, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/9933955
- Hotel-Restaurant Adler, Reichenbacher Hauptstr. 18, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/906390
- Gasthaus Linde, Gereutertalstr. 24, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/ 9930530

Catering Lahr

Catering Seelbach

Staying overnight

Restful nights after eventful hikes

The "Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg" trail can be easily hiked in two stages of approx. 20 km each.

Stage North: Parking at the cemetery in Lahr-Reichenbach.
Hiking route: "Hohengeroldseck" castle ruin – "Lützelhardt" castle ruin Seelbach – Reichenbach

Stage South: Parking at "Tretenhach". P Qualitätsweg Geroldseck
Hiking route: Seelbach – Wittelbach – Wolfersbach – Grassert – Litschental –Hasenberg – Langenhard – Seelbach

Overnight accommodation along the way:
(Please enquire about any days on which businesses may be closed)

- Gasthaus Bruckerhof, Weiler 4, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/7215, E-Mail: Bruckerhof@gmx.net, www.bruckerhof.de
- Landhotel Ferienparadies Schwarzwälder Hof, Tretenhofstr. 76, 77960 Seelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/960950, E-Mail: info@spacamping.de, www.spacamping.de
- Landgasthof Ochsen, Schuttertalstr. 5, 77960 Seelbach-Wittelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/2257, E-Mail: info@ochsen-wittelbach.de, www.ochsen-wittelbach.de
- Hotel garni Schmieders Ochsen, Hauptstr. 100, 77960 Seelbach, Phone: +49 (0)7823/94950, E-Mail: info@ochsen-seelbach.de, www.ochsen-seelbach.de
- Hotel-Restaurant Da Vinci, Josef-Faber-Str. 20, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/9933955, E-Mail: info@hotel-ristorante-da-vinci.de, www.hotel-ristorante-da-vinci.de
- Hotel-Restaurant Adler, Reichenbacher Hauptstr. 18, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/906390, E-Mail: adler@adler-lahr.de, www.adler-lahr.de
- Gasthaus Linde, Gereutertalstr. 24, 77933 Lahr-Reichenbach, Phone: +49 (0)7821/7195, E-Mail: info@gasthaus-linde.de, www.gasthaus-linde.de

Path signposting

The "Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg" trail follows the path marking of the Black Forest Association (Schwarzwaldverein). The path markings are provided by the freestanding signposts and the coloured waymarkers that safely guide hikers on the routes between the signposts. The "Qualitätsweg" trail is marked at the signposts with the additional sign "Geroldsecker Qualitätsweg". On the additional signs, the marking sign is indicated in each case, which is to be followed between the signposts.

Detailed tour description under:
www.schwarzwaldverein-tourenportal.de

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