

## 8 Family and Leisure Activities

### 8.1 Museums

The Tourist Information Center (i-Punkt), opposite the Hauptbahnhof (Main Station) has several excellent guides to museums / galleries / exhibitions. In addition, the Tourist Office provides information on Stuttgart, including maps for the S-Bahn, U-Bahn, and buses. This office also provides the Stuttcard ([www.stuttgart-tourist.de/ENG/ipoint/stuttcard.htm](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de/ENG/ipoint/stuttcard.htm)) which costs between € 12 and € 18 and it is good for three days consecutively, for one adult and two children. It gives you free or reduced admission to many state museums, discounts with city tours, boat trips, theaters, swimming pools and the likes, discounts with food and drinks, free transport with all public transportation means within the city. The book "MUSEEN IN BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG" published by Theiss (ISBN 3-8062-1888-9) lists every castle, museum & gallery in the State. It is in German, but has many photos. Watch out for the "Heimatmuseum" in your town: almost every village & town boasts a museum of the local culture.

#### 8.1.1 Museums in Stuttgart

##### Museum am Löwentor

Take the U5 to the Nordbahnhof & walk a short distance. Telephone 0711 89360

Open: Tues.- Fri. 9 - 17, Sat. & Sun., 10 - 18.

Great collection featuring fossils & dinosaurs, complete with reconstructions. Amber collection. Books, models, miniature dinosaurs for sale. Snack bar. There is some parking. Behind the museum is a wonderful climbing frame. From the Löwentor, it is a short walk (3-5 min.) to the top entrance of Wilhelma Zoo & to the Schloß Rosenstein Museum.

##### Schloß Rosenstein

Rosenstein 1 Stuttgart In the Unter SchlossGarten Tel: (0711) 89360

Open: Tues. - Fri. 9:00 – 17:00 Sat & Sun. 10:00 – 18:00

Natural history museum with animal models / stuffed animals. Also has a beautiful rose garden on the grounds.

##### Planetarium

Mittlerer Schlossgarten Stuttgart (City Center) Tel: (0711) 1629215

Daily shows for children over 6 years old. Worth booking during holidays.

##### Linden Museum

Hegelplatz 1 State Museum of Ethnology. South Sea, American, African, Asian collections.

Take Bus 40,42 or 43 to Hegelplatz.

Open: Tues., Thurs., Sat. & Sun 10:00 – 17:00 Wed. 10:00 – 20:00 Fri. 10:00 – 13:00

##### Toy Museum

Weberstraße 6 –8 70182 Stuttgart Tel: (0711) 484091 (0711) 232886

##### Württembergisches Landesmuseum Stuttgart (Altes Schloß Museum)

Altes Schloß Schillerplatz 6 Stuttgart – (City Center) Tel: (0711) 2793400

Open: Tues. 10:00 – 13:00 Mon. - Sun. 10:00 - 17:00

Large museum with varied exhibitions. English tours available 13.00 on the last Sunday of each month (check first).

##### Staatsgalerie (State Art Gallery)

Konrad Adenauerstraße 30 – 32 Stuttgart – (City Center) Tel: (0711) 212-4050 (0711) 2124028

Open: Daily 10:00 – 17:00 Tues. & Thurs. 10:00 – 20:00 Mon. - Closed

Large gallery housing old masters - modern. Large Picasso collection. Check for guided tours for children or adults.

##### Deutsches Landwirtschafts Museum (Agriculture Museum)

Garben Straße 9 & 9a Stuttgart – Hohenheim Tel: (0711) 4592146

Schwäbisches Brauerei Museum (Beer Museum)  
Robert-Koch Straße 12 Vaihingen Tel: (0711) 7370201  
Open: Daily 10.30 - 17.30 Except Mon. & Tues.

Mercedes Benz Museum ([www.museum-mercedes-benz.com/?lang=en](http://www.museum-mercedes-benz.com/?lang=en))  
Mercedes Str. 100 Stuttgart – Untertürkheim Tel: (0711) 1730000  
Open: Daily 9:00 – 17:00 except on Mondays  
Children are welcomed here and admission for them is free. Adults € 8. The architecture of the building is outstanding; the exhibits are stunning even if you are not car-crazy. Many models of Mercedes from the early days on can be seen. There are audio guides (ask for English or other foreign language versions ).

Tour of Mercedes Benz Factory  
Tel: (07031) 902447 (07031) 902620  
This tour takes about 1 ½ hours and is available Mon. – Fri. at 12.45, 1.15, and 2.15. No children are allowed on tours (unless you are picking up your new Mercedes!). The factory is located in Sindelfingen. Please call (they speak excellent English) for further information and to see if reservations are necessary.

Porsche Museum  
Porscheplatz 1, 70435 Stuttgart Tel:(0711) 25685 Open: daily 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Admission is free. This factory museum in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen is set up entirely in accordance with the Porsche company motto: "small but good". Here, 20 or so legendary exhibits provide an insight into the development of the car at Porsche. From series cars rich in tradition, via prototypes to top-flight sports cars that write history – the various models are switched several times a year.

### **8.1.2 Museums in the Stuttgart area:**

Museum for Volkskultur in Württemberg  
Schloß Waldenbuch, Waldenbuch. Tel: (07157) 8204. Open: Tues. – Sat. 10:00 – 17:00. Sundays 10:00 – 18:00. Admission is free. Go back in time to experience life in 17th century. Tools, furniture - complete rooms set up the way it was then. One room is set up to show a typical store.

Open Air Museum in Beuren ([www.freilichtmuseum-beuren.de/sonstige/english.htm](http://www.freilichtmuseum-beuren.de/sonstige/english.htm))  
This museum is a collection of historical buildings and other remnants of rural culture made accessible to the public. Especially children will be delighted because of the many chickens, rabbits, sheep and goats which live in the museum village. In the authentic "Aunty Helene Shop" you can still buy goods from Grandma's time. By the way, bonbons are still sold unpacked from big old sweet jars.  
In den Herbstwiesen  
72660 Beuren (near Kirchheim/Teck)  
Telephone 07025.91190-90

Urweltmuseum Hauff ([www.urweltmuseum.de/Englisch/Gframe\\_eng.htm](http://www.urweltmuseum.de/Englisch/Gframe_eng.htm))  
Aichelbergerstr. 90, Holzmaden. Tel: (07023) 2873, Open: Tues. – Sun. 9:00 –12:00 & 13:00 – 17:00  
Beautifully presented fossil museum. Even better is the fossil quarry, located before you enter the town on the right. There is a small sign "Urweltsteinbruch". You can hire a chisel and hammer or bring your own, pay a small entrance fee & collect fossils. Ammonite fossils are abundant. In an hour you could have many. It is fabulous. Take bags.

### **8.1.3 Museums a bit further away:**

Hohenloher Freilichtmuseum Wackershofen  
Herdgasse 2  
74523 Schwäbisch Hall-Wackershofen  
Tel: 0791/97 101-0  
Open: mid-March till November, 10:00 am –5:30 pm

Wonderful open air museum 1.5 hrs N-E of Stuttgart. Reconstructed houses , shops & farms : a village from centuries past , with working exhibits.

“Vogtsbauernhöfe” ([www.vogtsen.land-in-sicht.com/index.php](http://www.vogtsen.land-in-sicht.com/index.php))

Schwarzwaldler Freilichtmuseum Gutach Tel: 07831 – 93 56 0

An excellent open-air museum near Gutach on Route B33, 1.5 hours south of Stuttgart in the Black Forest, reconstructed original dwellings, mills, barns, saw mills, etc. from various Black Forest regions. An English guidebook may be purchased at the ticket booth.

Pfahlbaumuseum ([www.pfahlbauten.com](http://www.pfahlbauten.com))

The Lake Dwellings of the Stone and Bronze Age (4.000 to 850 BC) are reawakening at Lake Constance (Bodensee) in Unteruhldingen. This museum is about 2 hrs from Stuttgart. But it is well worth the trip.

Pfahlbaumuseum Unteruhldingen, Lake Constance, Open air museum and research institute

Strandpromenade 6

D-88690 Uhdlingen-Mühlhofen/Unteruhldingen

Tel. +49-(0)7556-8543 & 6537

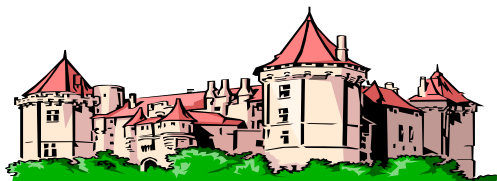
Carnival Museum Narrenschopf

Directions ; Located near Villingen-Schwenningen. Drive south on the A81 in the direction of Singen. Exit on the Donaueschingen Autobahn A864 , then follow the signs to Bad Durrheim , then look out for signs directing you to Narrenschopf. Open: Daily 14:00 – 18:00 Sun 10:00 – 12:00 & 14:00 – 17:00

The so-called Narrenschopf is a museum where you can see more than 400 different carnival costumes from 71 towns in the southern part of Baden-Württemberg and the alemanic part of Switzerland. It provides a unique overview of the traditional carnival which is still very alive today.

The Solemar swimming pool is also a special experience, a treat for your health and wellness. For it is really relaxing to move around in the 11 salt water pools where the water has just the right temperature.

## 8.2 Castles (Burgen und Schlösser)



Ludwigsburg Palace ([www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en/ludwigsburg-palace/Home/267924.html](http://www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en/ludwigsburg-palace/Home/267924.html))

Schloß Ludwigsburg Ludwigsburg Tel 07141 1412440

Located about 20 km north of Stuttgart along the B 27, the Ludwigsburg palace consists of the residential palace, palace gardens and the pleasure palaces Favorite and Monrepos. It is one of the most outstanding artistic achievements of the 18th century. With its absolutely splendid appointments, the residential palace is one of Europe's most impressive and extensive Baroque complexes and served as a residence for the Dukes and Kings of Württemberg. an enormous palace & garden with a special fairy-tale garden for children. Tours available in English. Check website for details or call (ph. 07141-18-2004).

In the fall they have the Ludwigsburg Palace Pumpkin Festival usually from mid-September until beginning of November. It is not just for kids, but it is a great family outing, each year a different theme. This year it is travel to the stars. 500,000 pumpkin, over 450 varieties, are aligned into planets, stars and UFOs. It runs from September 5th through November 2nd. Enjoy pumpkin soup and curry!

Schloss Solitude ([www.stuttgart-tourist.de/ENG/leisure/schlosssolitude.htm](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de/ENG/leisure/schlosssolitude.htm))

Tel: (0711) 696699 West of Stuttgart, near Botnang and Weilimdorf.

Solitude Castle in the forests to the west of Stuttgart also is the work of the constructional minded Duke Carl Eugen. The Rococo Castle Solitude, which cannot hide its relationship with Sanssouci in Potsdam, was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It served for the purpose of representation, for the accommodation of living, social, dining and servants' rooms. The facility is connected with the residence castle in Ludwigsburg through a twelve kilometer long, straight street, the course of which can easily be recognized. Beautiful small "pleasure retreat" surrounded by forest.

German tours @ 30 min. duration. It is possible to wander through alone. There are several hiking paths e.g. to the Bärenschlössle, a little castle nearby with a beautiful view over a small lake (Bärensee). There you can look out over meadows, forests and lakes while enjoying fresh game or coffee.

Schloss Lichtenstein

Tel: (07129) 4102

Located south of Stuttgart, a little further south from Tübingen. Small neo-gothic Schloß with spectacular views.

German tours @ 30 min duration. Picnic & playground adjoin park. Playground has a "flying fox" which appeals to children. There are two restaurants with beer gardens.

Adjacent is the „Abenteuerpark Lichtenstein“, a great high-rope garden for adults and kids (8and up). Phone: 07129 694395. They have a German website ([www.abenteuerpark-schlosslichtenstein.de](http://www.abenteuerpark-schlosslichtenstein.de))

Burg Hohen Neuffen ([www.hohenneuffen.de/htdocs/geschichte.php?mainid=48](http://www.hohenneuffen.de/htdocs/geschichte.php?mainid=48))

One of the biggest castle ruins in Southern Germany – great for a Sunday afternoon retreat. Located in 72637 Neuffen (near Kirchheim/Teck ph: (0 70 25) 22 06

Burg Teck

Teckstrasse 100

73277 Owen / Teck

Tel.: 07021 / 55208

This is actually the sister castle of Burg Hohen Neuffen (see above). In the town of Owen follow road signs to Burg Teck. Park your car either in "Bölle Parking" or "Hörnle Parking". You can reach it after a leisurely walk through the forest. The walk from hörnle parking is shorter.

Burg Hohenzollern ([www.hohenzollern.com/schloss-sigmaringen/en/](http://www.hohenzollern.com/schloss-sigmaringen/en/))

ph: (07571 / 729 – 230) South of Stuttgart, near Hechingen. Take the B27. Neo-gothic fortress-like castle dating back to the Stauffer times around 1200. It is one of the most well-known castles in Germany. Spectacular views. German tours @ 45 min. duration.

Heidelberg Castle (<http://www.heidelberg-schloss.de/index.html>)

The fascination of the Heidelberg castle is undiminished. The ivy-covered ruins have inspired poets and artists as early as the Romantic period. There are audio tours in 7 languages which will give you an appreciation of the castle's magic, mystery, and history. Heidelberg is about 150 km from Stuttgart.

Maulbronn Monastery ([www.maulbronn.de/relaunch/e\\_800/html/kloster.php](http://www.maulbronn.de/relaunch/e_800/html/kloster.php))

This famous monastery is one of the best preserved medieval monastery monuments north of the Alps. All schools of architecture and periods of development, from the Romanesque to Late Gothic periods, are found under one roof. Maulbronn monastery has been registered as one of UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage sites since December 1993. It is located about 45 minutes west of Stuttgart near Pforzheim. Open year-round. Tours in English at the information centre: ph: +49 (0) 7043 / 926610

Bebenhausen ([www.kloster-bebenhausen.de/en/bebenhausen/Home/268053.html](http://www.kloster-bebenhausen.de/en/bebenhausen/Home/268053.html))

This well-preserved monastery dates back to the Cistercian times in the 12th-century. After it was a monastery, it served as a school and later as a royal residence. English tours are available upon request. Contact: Kloster Bebenhausen, Im Schloss, 72074 Tübingen-Bebenhausen, Phone (0 70 71) 60 28 02.

## **8.3 Parks and Playgrounds**

### **8.3.1 Outdoor**

#### Höhenpark Killesberg

Behind the Messe in Stuttgart. U-Bahn 7 , Bus 43.

This is where the ISS annual summer picnic takes place. Beautiful , extensive park with streams; great playground; miniature train rides in summer ; children can pet ponies, donkeys, and goats; peacocks, flamingoes & ducks; German - language puppet theatre with regular performances (program posted outside the building ); several cafes in summer including a Biergarten ; 2 cafes all year round ; good for roller skating/inline skating. Lantern festival & firework display once a year in summer.

#### Dagersheim

Directions ; From Böblingen on Calwerstraße. Past Multimarkt on left. Enter Dagersheim (street name changes to Böblingerstraße) turn left on Waldstraße. Park located at end of street. Parking on left, playing fields on right, park and woods straight ahead. Great for walking in the woods, cook out , great play equipment including a cable swing.

#### Rosensteinpark

Nice playground with climbing frame near the Löwentor Museum

#### Waldheim

Many towns have a local Waldheim. A Waldheim is a beer garden, with a big play area and sports fields. Many Waldheime serve simple German food. Check a map of your town to find your Waldheim or consult your local town hall (Bezirksrathaus)

#### Waldspielplätze in Degerloch

There is a nice playground in the Degerloch Forest just off Königsstraße near "Haus des Waldes" with a fire place for BarBQs. You cannot book the fire place. First come first serve.

Another playground is in the forest north of Jahnstraße. Park your car near the TV-tower, cross Jahnstraße and walk down through the woods (there are good footpaths) towards the city. You will not miss the playground after ½ a mile.

#### Municipal Playgrounds

Each city/suburb has their own municipal playgrounds. Check with your local town hall (Bezirksrathaus) for the locations.

### 8.3.2 Indoor

Jolos Kinderwelt ([www.jolos-kinderwelt.de](http://www.jolos-kinderwelt.de))

For kids under 12 to burn off some energy. This playground feature a giant Softmountain, a huge Crocodile, interactive computers with educational software, a ball pit with slide, a separate soft play area for babies and toddlers, multi-bed trampolines and much more. There is a snack and coffee bar ; they offer birthday parties

Sensapolis ([www.sensapolis.de](http://www.sensapolis.de))

This is a new great indoor adventure park for lots of hands-on activities featuring science activities, climbing frames, fairy scenes and much more. Birthday parties are possible – nice restaurants are in there as well. This fun park is just off the A 81 exit 24 Böblingen-Hulb

### 8.4 Walking Around Stuttgart

Siebenmühlental

South of Stuttgart, follow the walking and cycling path through beautiful forest past seven mills.

Birkenkopf

The “rubble hill” which was formed from the damage from WW2 bombing & the later clearing & rebuilding offers beautiful views of the Stuttgart area.

Bebenhausen The area around Bebenhausen Kloster (south of Stuttgart towards Tübingen) offers beautiful walking paths. You can rest at “Weiler Hütte”, a wonderful beer garden in the Schönbuch Forest just off the B 464 (address: Waldgasthof Weiler Hütte, Tübinger Str. 100, 71093 Weil im Schönbuch)



### 8.5 Animals

Wilhelma Zoo (<http://www.wilhelma.de/nc/en/home.html>)

Neckartalstraße Stuttgart - Bad Canstatt Tel:(0711) 54020

Open: all year, daily 8:15 – 4pm (winter) or 6 pm (summer)

Follow the signs with the 3 elephants around Stuttgart and you will arrive at the zoo. There is parking, or take the U14 in the direction of Remseck and get off at Wilhelma.

Reit- & Ponyhof "Berghof" in 75391 Gechingen

Ponies and horses are led through the woods by teenagers or yourself. It is open from 10.00 Mon. to Fri. To get there take Autobahn A 81 exit Gärtringen, pass Gärtringen and follow road sign towards Calw; before the village of Gechingen turn right towards Ostelsheim; turn right again and follow signs saying: “Reitanlagen /Berghof” Go up the hill until you see a barn with a corral in the middle of the yard ph: 070 56 - 1201

Der Sonnenhof ([www.dersonnenhof.com](http://www.dersonnenhof.com))

Working farm with Ponies, pigs and lots of other animals; you can have birthday parties there; riding lessons, they also do horseback riding camps during the German school holidays. The Sonnenhof is located in Remseck just north of Stuttgart.

### Wildpark Pforzheim

Walking paths around fenced in animals. Free admission. You may buy food to feed the animals. In Pforzheim, follow the signs to WILDPARK.

### Allensbach Wildpark ([www.wildundfreizeitpark.de/de/park-infos.html](http://www.wildundfreizeitpark.de/de/park-infos.html))

75 hectares of wild park and playground with large grilling area. Bears, wolves and other wild animals. This park is about 2 hrs by car from Stuttgart.

## **8.6 Fun and Adventure Parks**

### Trippsdreil Erlebnispark (<http://www.trippsdreil.de/1024/englisch/neuheiten.htm>)

74389 Cleebrohn-Trippsdreil. Tel: (07135) 9999. Take the A81 north of Stuttgart. Exit at the B27 to Trippsdreil, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Freudental. Open beginning April until end October 9.00-18.00. A large adventure park with many rides, picnic and grill facilities. Suitable for the whole family but mostly geared to younger children.

### Europa Park ([www.europapark.de/lang-en/c51/default.html](http://www.europapark.de/lang-en/c51/default.html))

Rust (south of Strasbourg, but in Germany). Info-Line: 01805/ 77 66 88; Ticket-Line: 01805/7 88 99 7. Take the A5 from Karlsruhe to Basel. Exit 57b (Rust) Open from March until November from 9.00am. Over 50 rides, attractions and live shows. Suitable for younger and older children.

### Ravensburger Spieleland ([www.ravensburger.de/spielelandL/de/Home\\_\\_4482668-4482672.html](http://www.ravensburger.de/spielelandL/de/Home__4482668-4482672.html))

Appx. 1.5 hours drive from Stuttgart near Weingarten towards Bodensee; a good place for 3-5 year olds.

### Legoland ([www.legoland.de/?lc=en](http://www.legoland.de/?lc=en))

On the A8 towards Munchen (about 1.5 hours from Stgt) great places for kids from 5 till 12.

### Connyland ([www.connyland.ch/connyland/english/index\(1\).htm](http://www.connyland.ch/connyland/english/index(1).htm))

8557 Lipperswil, Switzerland. Tel: (0041) 52 7627271. Open: Middle March until end October. South of the Bodensee, between Kreuzlingen and Mùllheim. Dolphinarium, children's zoo, rides, variety shows, activities for kids under 10, restaurants and picnic area.

## **8.7 Boats and River Cruises**

### Neckar River Cruises ([www.neckar-kaeptn.de/index.php?id=66&L=1](http://www.neckar-kaeptn.de/index.php?id=66&L=1))

Neckar-Personen Schifffahrt

Berta Epple GmbH & Co. KG

70376 Stuttgart - Bad Canstatt

Ph: (0711) 549-97060

End of March until end of October, from the Wilhelma dock in Bad Canstatt, as far as the towns of Marbach and Lauffen. Trips around the river harbor daily at 9.00 and 13.00. Short trips to Aldingen and back on Saturdays 19.30-23.30 (with dancing), and Wednesdays 18.30-21.30 (wine cruise)

### Rhine-Neckar-Cruises ([www.rnf-schifffahrt.de/Default.aspx](http://www.rnf-schifffahrt.de/Default.aspx))

These are cruises in the Heidelberg and Mannheim area. Unfortunately, the website is in German only. You can get information directly from them: Rhein-Neckar-Fahrgastsschifffahrt GmbH, Untere NeckarstraÙe 17, 69117 Heidelberg, ph.: 06221 / 20181

### Rhine River Cruises ([www.k-d.com/englisch/index.html](http://www.k-d.com/englisch/index.html))

KD Köln-Dusseldorfer Frankenwerft 15 Köln Tel:(0221) 2583011 (02687) 8239 Fax: (0221) 2088345

Vrey popular cruises along the Rhine river between Cologne and Mainz with a train return. Depending on the tour you take you can be cruising up to 6 hours. Prices vary. Check website for more info. This is a great thing to do, but Cologne is over 3 hours from here; the other destinations Koblenz and Bingen are a little closer, but not too much.

## 8.8 General family leisure activities

### Sommer Bobbahn (Steel toboggan in the summer)

Sonnenbuhl-Erpfingen (07128) 2056 or 2393 Open March – November 10:00-18:00  
South of Stuttgart, close to Schloss Lichtenstein.

### Golfplatz Schönbuch

Schaichhof Holzgerlingen (07157) 67966 Public Golf Course

### Dream Bowl Bowling (www.dreambowl.de)

Located in Böblingen, Metzingen and Fellbach . They provide bumper guards on the lanes for the young children and speak English. Great place for birthday parties. Also provide Miniature Golf and Darts.

### Fildorado (www.fildorado.de)

This indoor and outdoor water park in Filderstadt-Bonlanden, Mahlestraße 50 is very popular with both younger and older kids. There are water slides of different scare levels, a pool with waves, but also a kiddie pool. Birthday parties can be booked.

### Aquatoll (www.aquatoll.de)

Another water park in the Heilbronn area about 45 minutes from Stuttgart (address: Wilfenseeweg 70 74172 Neckarsulm) just off the A6 Autobahn. Has a “Pirat World” for younger ones and the infamous wild water slide for the courageous kids 10 and older.

## 8.9 Ski Areas



### Berwang in the “Tannheimer Tal” Valley, Austria

Recommended Hotels: (1) Alpenrose Ph: +43 (0) 56732424 or close by on the German side of the border: (2) Bed& Breakfast in Füssen within minutes Neuschwanstein Castle ph: (08362) 38485, ([www.suzannes.org](http://www.suzannes.org))  
2-3 hour drive from Stuttgart area. Highly recommended for families.

### Bad Gastein Hohe Tauern, Austria.

In Bad Gastein, you will find an optimal array of opportunities for a holiday together with family or friends, even if your interests happen to vary greatly. With a sensational selection of recreational and activity programmes, this particular holiday spot is lengths ahead of the field.

Recommended Hotel : Grüner Baum (<http://www.hoteldorf.com>) ph: +43(0) 6434 2516-0  
4-5 hour drive from Stuttgart area. Highly recommended.

### Mayrhofen in the “Zillertal” valley, Austria

Great location, with good hotels (Recommended hotel: Landhaus Kumbichl Tel:+43 (0) 5285-62371) and excellent ski school: Uli Speiss Ski School (0043) 52852795. Highly recommended.

Every year there is a school ski trip to Salzburgerland. This trip is great for beginners, and meeting and socializing with other ISS families. Group lessons are available.

These are just a few recommended places, but there are several very nice areas, not too far away from Stuttgart (within 2-3 hours) to go Skiing. Ask around, because many families at ISS will be able to give you some great ideas. Also, all the Travel Agencies can give you all the information you need, suiting your family.

Or, if you are in the Jungfrau region in Switzerland, try the famous Bussalp Toboggan ([www.myswitzerland.com/en/offer-Activities\\_Excursions-Tobogganing-46160.html](http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/offer-Activities_Excursions-Tobogganing-46160.html)). It's an 8.2 km toboggan run from Bussalp to Grindelwald. Catch the bus in Grindelwald to Bussalp. Toboggan enthusiasts absolutely love the stretch with the unusual name: "Big Pintenfritz". At 15 km it's the longest in Europe. Surrounded by the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, tobogganing in Grindelwald is an exciting, unique experience.. It is possible to go as fast or as slow as you like, so it is good for young children.

### **8.10 Additional Day Trips in the Baden-Württemberg Area**

Roman Open Air Museum Hechingen-Stein  
Bad Urach Waterfalls Bad Urach, Hiking available  
Monastery Ruins at Hirsau near Calw  
Meersburg on the Bodensee (highly recommended!)  
Walled City of Rottweil  
City of Tübingen  
City of Ulm  
Town of Baden-Baden  
City of Strasbourg, France  
City of Colmar, France  
Walled Town of Bad Wimpfen north of Heilbronn (nice Christmas market in Nov/Dec)  
Cathedral town of Freiberg  
Walled city of Weil der Stadt  
Corn Maze in Ditzingen ([www.ditzingermaislabyrinth.de/index.html](http://www.ditzingermaislabyrinth.de/index.html))  
Falconry Show at Burg Guttenberg [www.greifenwarte.de](http://www.greifenwarte.de)  
Fernsehturm – TV Tower Stuttgart  
Town of Esslingen  
Rothenburg ob der Tauber (walled city)

A good publication to purchase: "Kind in Stuttgart" ISBN: 3-89740-010-3. Costs about € 10. It has "1000 tips and addresses for every day and for leisure time.

### **8.11 Links for Seasonal Activities**

[www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de/](http://www.stuttgarter-fruehlingsfest.de/) Spring Fair in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt

[www.cannstatter-volksfest.de/index.php?id=40&L=1](http://www.cannstatter-volksfest.de/index.php?id=40&L=1) Autumn Fair in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt with an outstanding parade always on the first Sunday of the festival that is well worth your time.

<http://www.vfb.de/en/> Stuttgart Football Team – to get tickets for a premier league match (Bundesliga) or to buy logo merchandise, go on their website or to the fan shop downtown Stuttgart (Königstraße)

[www.christmasmarkets.com/Germany.html](http://www.christmasmarkets.com/Germany.html) list of markets by place, date, time – the Christmas market in Stuttgart is one of the best ones in Germany, other good markets are in Esslingen, Bad Wimpfen, Tübingen, Maulbronn

Cut your own Christmas tree: Wustenrot/Schmellenhoff; Call Herr Ernst Reichert 07130-6883, OR talk to Rosie the parking lot attendant at ISS in the morning-this is run by her family

Gengenbach's Advent Calendar- Rathaus of Gengenbach's 24 windows are transformed into an advent calendar.  
Christmas market there also:

[www.stadt-gengenbach.de/en/tourism/adventcalendar/?PHPSESSID=c9cbf17745275c2b7f54fa336df351d5](http://www.stadt-gengenbach.de/en/tourism/adventcalendar/?PHPSESSID=c9cbf17745275c2b7f54fa336df351d5)

Santa Claus on board the Neckar River Cruise-leaves from Cannstatt

[www.stgt.com/extern/neckar.htm](http://www.stgt.com/extern/neckar.htm)

The Dorotheenhütte in Wolfach (Christmas village and glass blowing ornaments) free-blowing workshops, glass-blowing demonstrations.

[www.dorotheenhuetten.de/pages/englisch/topfr\\_e.html](http://www.dorotheenhuetten.de/pages/englisch/topfr_e.html)

[www.holidayonice.com/](http://www.holidayonice.com/) Holiday on Ice-Porsche Arena Stuttgart

[www.collegium-iuvenum.de](http://www.collegium-iuvenum.de) Stuttgart Boys Choir – Christmas Concerts, annual performance of Bach's Christmas Oratory – check website for this years dates, time and places of performances:

<http://europapark.de> Europa Park-Magical Winter Breaks

[www.weltweihnachtszirkus.com](http://www.weltweihnachtszirkus.com) Christmas (Weihnachtszirkus) Circus in Stuttgart

## **8.12 Family Vacations**

[www.diekinderhotels.com](http://www.diekinderhotels.com)

Family vacation hotels in Austria and Germany

[www.luxury-alliance.com](http://www.luxury-alliance.com)

Properties with fabulous food and locations. Many have a special Kinder-Woche for children as young as 3.

[www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com)

family @Switzerland .com

Family vacations in Switzerland

[www.italydaily.it](http://www.italydaily.it)

Travel information for Italy

[www.visiteurope.com](http://www.visiteurope.com)

Information about all the European countries

Center Parcs

DerTour resorts in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France and England

Family orientation with water parks, bike riding and many activities for children.