

Technical Visit

**The City of Heidelberg:
“Capital for Environment and Nature” –
an award-winning “Sustainable European Model City”**



Heidelberg's "Old Bridge"

Image: Heidelberg Marketing

The City of Heidelberg: “Capital for Environment and Nature” – an award-winning “Sustainable European Model City”



Image: Tobias Schwerdt, Heidelberg Marketing

Heidelberg, the Castle, the Philosopher’s Way and the River “Neckar” by night

Heidelberg – an European Model City in environmental, climate and nature protection policy

Environmental protection is of utmost importance to the city of Heidelberg. By means of sustainable environmental policy, in close cooperation with citizens, corporations, associations, public authorities and many other institutions, Heidelberg aims to remain a livable city for future generations.

Therefore the city of Heidelberg works intensively at integrating ecological aspects into all area of municipal policy. New partnerships, joint developments and the implementation of sustainable environmental protection measures received priority. In previous years the city of Heidelberg won several national and international rewards for its practical action towards sustainability, as

- “Federal Capital for Nature Protection”
- “Federal Capital for Nature Conservation and Environmental protection”
- “European Sustainable City Award” (twice)
- Federal Award for Tourism and Environment”
- “Climate Protection Award”
- “German Solar Award”
- “International Passive House Award”
for the new innovative, energy efficient district “Bahnstadt”

Heidelberg proves that many achievements can be made with the right aim in mind and the right partners, like the national “Friends of the Earth”, Germany (BUND), an association for environment and nature protection and its branch in Heidelberg. For years they work close together and bundle lots of experiences in promoting environmental awareness.

Environmental protection has many aspects in the agriculture of the region around Heidelberg: the protection of climate, soil, water and the maintenance of biological diversity. Modern production methods and high-tech machines help to achieve high yields on the long term on limited land areas. High efficiency and economic success are preconditions for ensuring the farmers existence and the economic power of the whole region. So the agriculture around Heidelberg gives an important contribute for environmental and climate protection and biological diversity. Due to a development where fossil fuels, synthetic materials and chemical products are replaced by plants, there arises the question whether agriculture can manage the increasing demand. This concerns the range of bio-economy.

With the exemplary activities Heidelberg became an European model for environmental and nature protection. Heidelberg has set high standards, but must consistently stay dedicated to the responsible and efficient management of resources and the protection of environment. The City decided to continue the actual consistent and successful policy.



The City of Heidelberg, situated in the center of the European Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Area



Germany and the Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Area in the southwest

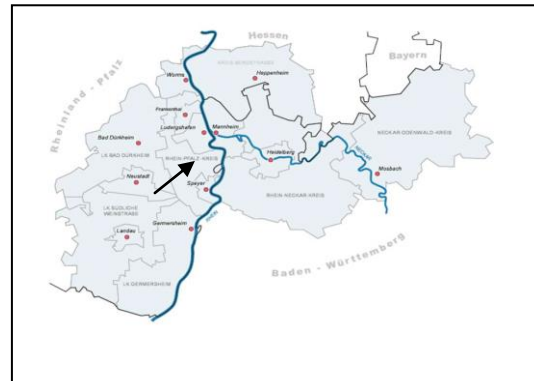


Illustration: City of Mannheim
The European Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Area

The geography, nature and sights of Heidelberg

Already Goethe praised Heidelberg's "ideal scenic location". The university town lies at the point where the river Neckar leaves the "Forest of odes" (Odenwald) and flows into the Rhine plain. The varied cultural landscape of Heidelberg has been significantly shaped by thousands of years of human impacts. The diversity of landscapes and their typical components are of vital importance for the biodiversity of Heidelberg.

The "Philosopher's Way" and the River "Neckar" are - after the "Castle" and the "Old Bridge" - the most famous sights and tourist attractions of Heidelberg. But Heidelberg has not only culture and history to offer, but also various nature-orientated excursions. Interesting natural habitats can be explored and animals and plants observed in the immediate vicinity of the city. Thereby recreation and environmental conservation are combined at their best.

Please enjoy our natural environment and take the time to discover it with the help of our excursion guides.

Topic overview for the programs:

- Heidelberg's concept for nature protection
- Education of adults and children for the awareness of nature protection
- Models of urban gardening
- Species protection plan
- Biotope networking
- Dry stone walls
- Maintenance of valuable green spaces
- Water body restoration
- Ecologically management of the forest
- Bio-Economy

Presentations and lectures given by experienced experts.



Image: BUND Heidelberg

Visits, guidances:

Visit of the Neckar's border and the "Old Bridge"
 Visit of the "Philosophers Way"
 Visit of the "Nature Walk" at the Königstuhl
 Visit of the "Botanical Garden" (University of Heidelberg)
 Visit of a wood-fired heated plant (co-generation)
 Visit of an organization engaged in nature protection
 Winery, organic cultivation, wine degustation
 Visit of Heidelberg's shopping center
 Heidelberg city-tour, with guidance
 Visit of the famous "Heidelberg Castle", with guidance



Image: Biotec Academy



Image: Heidelberg Marketing T. Schwerdt

Suggested exemplary Program A:

Morning (10.00 - 12.00 a.m.)

Transfer by bus

1. Lecture: Heidelberg's concept for nature protection

Noon: Lunch

Afternoon (14.00 - 16.00 p.m.)

Transfer by bus

2. Walk from the Neckar to the "Philosopher's Way"
 Enjoy the river Neckar, the urban gardening and an amazing view on Heidelberg's Old City and the castle

Afternoon (16.00 - 18.00 p.m.)

Transfer by bus

3. Visit of the famous "Heidelberg Castle"

Evening: Dinner

Transfer by bus

4. Visit of a winery with organic cultivation and wine degustation



Image: Biotec Academy



Image: Biotec Academy



Image: City of Heidelberg

Suggested exemplary Program B:

Morning (10.00 - 12.00 a.m.)

Transfer by bus

1. Lecture: "Chances for the utilization of biomass to realize the energy turnaround - limits of bio-economy, discussion"

Noon: Lunch

Afternoon (14.00 - 16.00 p.m.)

Transfer by bus

2. Visit and presentation of a wood-fired heating plant (co-generation) powering a whole urban district

Afternoon (16.00 - 18.00 p.m.)

Transfer by bus

3. Shopping in Heidelberg, one of the most important shopping towns of the region

Evening: Dinner



Image: Biotec Heidelberg



Image: Biotec Heidelberg



Image: ECB GmbH

Free combination of programs, visits and guidance is possible.

With Econa Tours GmbH, we organize our technical visits with accommodation (e. g. in a new hotel of passive house standard), interpreter and transportation as well as meals and other services.

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Wording:

City of Heidelberg / Office of Environmental Protection, Trade Supervision and Energy;
Maria Romero; Biotec Academy



Image: Tobias Schwerdt, Heidelberg Marketing

Heidelberg, the Castle, the Philosopher's Way and the River "Neckar" by day