

Honored Guest!

We would like to thank you for your interest you have shown in our beloved area. We have put together some interesting tips and explanations in the following pages to try to be helpful in the preparation of your Rest- or Rebreation vacation. We want our guests to know what can be expected and what is awaiting them. Reserve your desire accommodations in due time. Your landlord will gladly answer questions about facilities and recreation possibilities. We do our best to insure that you feel comfortable here in the Fränkische Schweiz nature area so that only good memories of a satisfying vacation remain. Your Travel Information Team Pottenstein

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Pottenstein and the local area

The city of Pottenstein, altitude 360 – 450 m above sea level, with its 1.500 inhabitants, is a nationally acclaimed climatic health-resort. It nestles at the joining point of the Püttlach, Weiherbach and Haselbrunnbach valleys surrounded by high cliffs and at the foot of the 1.000 year old castle that has played an important role throughout the city's history. Holy Elisabeth, wife of Ludwig from Thüringen was known to live within its walls from 1228 – 1229. Many buildings carry, with honor, her name even today. Its legend that, while being threatened, the eggs and lard in her carrying basket were transformed into beautiful roses. The market square, with its statue of Holy Elisabeth, the Catholic church, many stores, restaurants and hotels from the central area of the city. The guestrooms are mostly in the residential areas, found in the valleys leading out of the center of town, and in and above the cliffs overlooking the city.

The health center with its message department/Medical Swim Therapy Department (approved by all health insurance companies), the Therapy Station for Respiratory Illnesses located in Devils Cave (please refer to separate pamphlet), the Kneipp facility, the Tourist Information Center, the park, Putt Putt golf, Tennis courts, Schöngrund Lake with its row and pedalboat facility, and many more, are among the recreational facilities that are easily reached from all the residential areas.

Picturesque wood framed houses, mills, and trout filled streams bestow the village with that touch of romance which characterizes the Fränkische Schweiz areas.

The scenic landscape and nature offer a wide spectrum along with one of a kind features such as the Devils cave with its fascinating stalactite and stalactite caverns. Approximately 300 kilometers of well marked paths offer excellent hiking possibilities. (Please take note of the path description table).

The village of **Kirchenbirkgig**, 480m above sea level, 450 residents, **Weidenloh** 460m above sea level, 70 residents, both nationally acclaimed climatic health resorts and **Trägweis**, 500m above sea level, 80 residents are located south of Pottenstein on a richly forested, hilly, high plateau.

Kirchenbirkgig's over 1000 year history is connected very rural peace and good lodging in self-accommodating apartments, private rooms and Guesthouses. Most of the apartments and Guesthouses are especially suitable for vacationing families.

Hiking to the Fränkische-Schweiz-Museum is made easy by using the well marked paths. Its main subjects of display are early history, rural culture, handcrafts, customs, Geology and Judaism.

Two charming camping grounds are situated beautifully amongst forest and streams in the immediate Pottenstein area.

The climatic health resort **Haselbrunn**, 370m above sea level, 40 residents, which is located 2 kilometers north of Pottenstein offers guests a pleasant stay in a good guesthouses and private rooms/apartments. Its attractiveness is enhanced by its valley location.

The village **Haßlach**, 400m above sea level, 60 residents, **Rackersberg**, 400m above sea level, 80

residents, **Weidmannsgesees**, 400m above sea level, 70 residents, **Mandlau**, 300m above sea level, 20 residents, **Prüllsbirkig**, 300m above sea level, 90 residents, **Siegmansbrunn**, 450m above sea level, 25 residents, **Hohenmirsberg**, 600m above sea level, 250 residents, **Steifling**, 468m above sea level, 30 residents, **Elbersberg**, 480m above sea level, 450 residents, **Geusmanns**, 480m above sea level, 100 residents, **Wannberg**, 460m above sea level, 120 residents, **Schüttersmühle**, 380m above sea level, 20 residents, **Kühlenfels**, 460m above sea level, 350 residents, **Waidach**, 490m above sea level, 300 residents, **Regental**, 490m above sea level, 400 residents, **Püttlach**, 300m above sea level, 180 residents, are all typical Jurassic villages with rural character, surrounded on all sides from forest and meadows, charming in all aspects, excellent for restful walking and hiking. They are especially suitable for an experience, vacation at the farm while on the other hand offering very comfortable apartments and private rooms for those who desire quiet and restful accommodations.

In general

Transportation: The `Fränkische Schweiz` is located within the city triangle, Bamberg- Nürnberg- Bayreuth and is bordered on its west side from the river Regnitz and the Rhein-Main-Donau Canal. The federal highway 505 bounds the area in the north, the Autobahn A9 on the east, and the federal highway 2 on the south. The main access roads are Autobahn Berlin-Munich (A9) exits Pegnitz or Trockau, (Autobahn Nürnberg-Bamberg) exits Forchheim or Eggolsheim/Ebermannsstadt and B470 which also serves as the main throughway and connection between all of the roads mentioned above. It also goes through the middle of Pottenstein. A net of high quality secondary roads connect the villages with each other.

Topographic:

The landscape of our Jurassic Highlands, is dominated by dolomite which is very porous. This characteristic causes the dolomite stone to erode faster than the other layers of sandstone. The result is bizarre naked rock formations some forming massive rock towers. The results can also be in the form of Stalactite caverns which are common in the `Fränkische Schweiz`. The biggest and most beautiful of these stalactite caverns is the Devils Cave, found just outside of Pottenstein and easily accessed by car or by foot on every scenic path.

Climate:

`Crystal Clean Air` is the predicate of the whole area. Its charming climate has earned the title Nationally Acclaimed Climatic Health Resort for Pottenstein and many of the surrounding villages.

Flora and Fauna:

The vegetation is just as highly diversified as the landscape. Carnations, anemones are just a few of the many different types of flowers that grow out of the stony ground. Gentian and Juniper are common on the rock clustered hills. The middle European wildlife is solidly situated in the mixed forests of Pine, Birch and Beech trees.

Economy:

Farming is done mostly as a secondary income although many farms do offer the experience `vacation at the farm`. Most residents hold jobs in the nearby cities or cater to tourist needs. A landscape or rest disturbing industry is nowhere to be found.

Gastronomy:

A very wide range of kitchen specialities are typical for this area. Fresh trout, potato-dumplings, deer, wild boar, asparagus, fränkische sausage, smoked meats, just to name a few. The famous fränkische Beer can be compared with the best in Germany.

Sport:

Climbing and rappelling from beginner up to high Alps level, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, biking, rowing, in rowboats, canoes and kajaks.

Excursions:

A well planned web of superbly marked paths connect castles, mills, caves and the individual valleys with one another. Marked circular paths with hiking huts for the walkers and many rest and parking areas for driving site-seekers provide access to the most beautiful parts of the Nature-parks `Fränkische Schweiz – Veldensteiner Forst`.

Hiking routes:

Leo-Jobst Weg, Pottenstein- Pegnitz

Take syou through the Northern Püttlach Valley, with its beautiful mixed forests and dust free trails, wading facilities, rest area and playground, by Adamscliff and Gaiskirche (climbing cliff), over the Holy Passage to the town of Hollenberg with it`s castle ruins and then on to Pegnitz. (3 hours)

Pottenstein-Behringersmühle

Takes you through the Southern Püttlach Valley, past the Hammermill, then left up the high path to Breit (prehistoric excavation site) to Tüchersfeld. From there with a cliffside path to Behringersmühle. (3 hours)

Pottenstein-Hohenmirsberg

Beautiful forest path through the Marien Valley past Haselbrunn to Hohenmirsberg. Recieve a breath taking view of the Mountain Range `Fraenkische Schweiz` from the observation tower on the Hohenmirsberg plateau.

Pottenstein-Obertrubach

The old Nürnberg trail, an early Roman passage way guides through partly cave and forest paths, past Trägweis to Obertrubach in the Trubach Valley. (4 hours)

Pottenstein-Burg Rabenstein

A beautiful high path over the Bayreuther Mountain past the towns of Weidmannsgesees, Rackersberg, Kleinlesau, Pfaffenberg and Zauppenberg to Neumühle in the Ailsbach Valley at the foot of the cliff in which the castle Rabenstein is situated. (3 hours)

Pottenstein-Betzenstein

On a dust free path through Weiher Valley past the high cliff outdoor swimming pool and Lake Schönggrund. On through the entrance dome of the Devils Cave to Schüttersmühle, then right to Klumper Valley. After the Middle Mill right up the moutainside to Kühlenfels, Weidach and then Betzenstein. (4 hours)

Pottenstein-Gößweinstein

Takes you through the Stations of the Cross Monument (beautiful observation point) through forests and over fields to Hühnerloh, Bösenbirkig and Gößweinstein. (2 hours)

Pottenstein-Bronn

A dust free path leading through Weiher Valley past the High Cliff outdoor swimming pool. Lake Schönggrund, Devils Cave to Schüttersmühle. Right into the Klumper Valley past the Middle Mühle to Bronn. (3 hours)

Pottenstein-Prüllsbirkig-Pegnitz

At the entrance to the Northern Püttlach Valley behind the Ziehers Mill is the Redwitz Path. Follow this path up through thick forests to Prüllsbirkig. From there on to Hauenstein, Körbeldorf and Pegnitz. (4 hours)

Through the Southern Püttlach Valley to Breit through Bear Canyon to Weidmannsgesees and Pottenstein. (2 hours)

Over the Stations of the Cross passage to the Stations of the Cross Monument (fantastic observation point).

Emil Riedel-Path

Through the Northern Püttlach Valley to Wald Temple, Rabbits Hole (small cave), Hofmanns

Chapel, High Cliff swimming pool. (2 hours)

At the entrance to the Northern Püttlach Valley behind Ziehrs Mill is the Redwitz Path. Halfway up take a right on the cliff path (Alpine way) to Schneider Cross. At this point this path meets the marked path leading to Prüllsbirkig or Pottenstein. (2 to 4 hours depending on route taken)

For more hiking routes please refer to the Hikers Pamphlet. The Hikers Map of Pottenstein is available at the Travel Information Center as well as in book stores and shops. (Price various)