

# explore culture and enjoy Simmern



# The Schinderhannes Tower

The Schinderhannes Tower has its current name from the notorious chief highwayman Johann Bückler called “Schinderhannes”.

After his capture he was brought to and taken into custody in this former powder tower of the fortification of Simmern in February 1799. From there he succeeded in fleeing during the night in August 1799 from the tower which was considered to be impossible to escape from until then. As one of only a few buildings of the town this dungeon survived the great fire of 1689.

The steep baroque conical roof and the western outdoor stairs were added to the tower in 1750. Today the tower with its medieval atmosphere serves as an exposition and conference room and shows the exposition “Schinderhannes – reality or myth?”.



# The Schinderhannes – villain or hero?

Johannes Bückler is one of Germany's most famous robbers. He was born in the Taunus (east of Simmern) in 1778/9 and settled down with his parents in the Hunsrück. In 1795 he began his criminal career with minor thefts. The small loot served his private use only. Repeatedly taken into custody, he always managed to escape. His most spectacular escape was in Simmern in 1799. At this point his criminal career had reached its climax.

With his gang he stormed the houses of wealthy businessmen or extorted large amounts of money by blackmail letters signed “Johannes through the wood” from them. He issued safety cards which guaranteed safe-conduct to their holders. In 6 years altogether the gang committed 211 crimes, all attempts of taking them into custody failed. But finally, in 1803 the police managed to send him to Frankfurt and to hand him over to the French in Mainz.

On November 20th 1803 Schinderhannes and 19 of his accomplices were sentenced to death by the guillotine and were beheaded in Mainz.



# The new castle

The medieval castle in Simmern was built by duke Friedrich I. (1459-1480) as residence of the Simmerner dukes, but already 200 years later in the “Pfälzischen” succession war (1689) completely destroyed.

The current castle was built 1708-1713 as seat of the Pfaelzischen administrator. The classical style building consists of a main building with two forward built wings. Originally the grounds were surrounded by the castle’s pond on both sides. After Napoleon gave the castle to the town in the year 1802, it was used as a court, later as a school, garrison, detention house and official residence.

Today there are a festival room in the building, the Hunsrueck-museum, the Rhine-Hunsrueck archives, the historical library, the public library as well as the exhibition of the famous painter and sculptor Friedrich Karl Strocher.



# The Hunsrück-Museum – in the New Castle of Simmern

The Hunsrück-Museum was founded in Simmern in 1921. For the setting up the museum, the collections of the Hunsrück History Club, the folkloristic objects of a native exhibition in Büchenbeuren as well as the garb collection by vicar Oertel from Neuerkirch were used. The county museum exhibits rich artefacts of the landscape, the natural environment, the history and culture of the eastern Hunsrück region.

## **Further Information:**

Hunsrück-Museum

Schlossplatz

D-55469 Simmern

Phone: +49 6761-7009

Fax: +49 6761-908044

[info@hunsrueck-museum.de](mailto:info@hunsrueck-museum.de)

<http://www.hunsrueck-museum.de>



# The Hunsrueck-museum shows in individual areas:

- Information about “land and people”
- Open countryside and cultural landscape of the Hunsrueck
- Social and economic history
- History of the town and of the territory with the Pfalzgraf of Simmern
- The Trade of printing in Simmern
- The art of coining in Simmern
- Weapons and jewellery of the prince’s crypt in the Protestant church “Stephanskirche”
- Hunsrueck in film with projection room
- Schinderhannes – reality and myth
- special exhibition HEIMAT 3, continuation of the screen record HEIMAT



# Friedrich-Karl Ströher's collection of arts (in the New Castle of Simmern)

Friedrich-Karl Ströher (1876-1925), painter, graphic artist and sculptor from Irmenach is said to be one of the most influential artists of the Hunsrück. Even before the First World War in the centres of art, in Paris and Berlin, he had been given acknowledgement and applause, not only by the public but also by critics.

Between 1921 and 1925 after his return to Irmenach Friedrich-Karl Ströher created about 200 works (water paintings, woodcuts, oil paintings and plastics) dealing with “native landscape”, “farming”, “village life” and “people in the course of the year”. Since 1998 his works have been accessible to the public in the attic of the New Castle.



# The Protestant St. Stephen's Church

It used to be the centre of a Middle Age parish. The foundation stone of the current construction of the late Gothic church was laid by Duke Johann I in 1486. In the north of the long choir, the tower and the sacristy were added. In the South the choir is followed by the chapel of the Earls of Simmern.

**The tombs of the church are the most important pieces of sculpture in this area.**

They originate from the workshops of Jakob Kerre, Johann von Trarbach and Hans Ruprecht Hoffmann from Simmern. The tombs of Duke Johann I, Johanna von Nassau-Saarbrücken, Emilia von Württemberg and the double-tombs of Duke Johann II and Duke Reichard must also be mentioned.

The epitaphs of these tombs reflect the peak of the Renaissance-sculpture at the Mittelrhein around the 15th century.



# The Catholic Parish St. Joseph's Church



The church which is situated in the „Klostergasse“ was built from 1749 to 1752 after plans of the Palatine master builder Johann Jakob Rischer.

The rectangular hall of nave is followed by a semi circular choir, topped by a bonnet crowned bell-tower. A two-floored entrance hall with steps and a portal connects the church with a Carmelite-cloister which was built in 1703/04.

Art-historically interesting are **the ceiling frescos by Francesco Bernhardini, a famous artist at Mannheim Court**; it's called “the worship of the child” (“die Anbetung des Kindes”). The original high altar is attributed to the sculptor Paul Egell from Mannheim.

# Going on Shank`s mare



Discover the woods and hills around Simmern: The rough but beautiful Hunsrück is both romantic and legendary, wild and mysterious. Experience a new way of freedom, a place, where you will meet more trees than walkers, where you will master long distances, long across small streams and have a beautiful picnic in the open countryside. You may start a hiking tour through the fantastic Simmerbachtal from Simmern city centre.

This 16km hiking trail leads you along important sites such as the Hunsrück Cathedral (Hunsrückdom) in Ravengiersburg, the Nunkirche, built in the year 1000, as well as the Bismarck Tower, which is named after the “Iron-Chancellor”, back to Simmern. From the gentle slopes at the Nunkirche one can enjoy the wonderful panoramic view across the Hunsrück plateaus and the Soonwald to the Idarkopf.

# On trusty bicycle

Experience a special attraction on the Schinderhannesradweg, a 38km former rail road track between Simmern and Emmelshausen, where once the steam locomotive puffed. Far away from heavy traffic you can cycle along smoothly on asphalt paths, enjoying miraculous landscapes with wonderful views over the Hunsrück plateaus. You will find a bike service on the route.

Or you can cycle on the Soonwaldradweg which is a continuation of the Schinderhannesradweg – to the border of the Soonwald and along this mountain range to Gemünden (16km). Of course the hills and woods of the Hunsrück offer an ideal scenario for extensive mountainbiking (meeting point in Simmern).

Bike-hire possible (7-gears, all sizes).



# Nature and adventure resort

## “Schmiedel“ - Back to nature!

The nature resort at the gates of Simmern!

On 60.000 square meters, Schmiedel offers an attractive recreational and leisure area for children and adults alike: It is a home for animals, playgrounds, biotopes, a forest nature trail and a sense trail, riding arrangement, bicycle-route, barbecue sites, maintenance pavilion and much more.....and everything for free.

Children can expect a large number of toys and other attractions. Crawling tubes, a mushroom arrangement or the sandpit pavilion have been specially installed for our little guests. The cable railway, climbing frames or swings teach the elder children's motor activity and coordination ability. At the stroke zoo goats, sheep or peacocks can be observed. For teenagers the marked bicycle route and the half-pipe are a special challenge.

The "Schmiedel"-resort with its long woodlands, the forest nature trail, sense trail and the biotopes also offers a place of calmness to enjoy pure nature!

In the future an amphitheatre promises cultural pleasures such as music and drama performances.



# Simmern public bath - an adventure for children and adults alike



Wellness and relaxation, pleasure and recuperation, fun and sport in extensive facilities and a spacious sauna area in the public bath of Simmern!

The large pool of 300 square metres offers a lot of different possibilities for sports and relaxation. A special event, not only in winter, is the heated outdoor pool. The large lawn offers much space to enjoy the sunshine, to play games and to have fun during the summer months.

The springboards (up to 3m high) promise not only action but also an opportunity for professional diving. In the fun and action pool (depth: 0,9 - 1,2m), fountains, jets of water, stone hills and a funny slide, can be found. The 46m indoor and outdoor slide, also with an outside part, is the main attraction.

Our little guests can let off steam in the 34 square metres aqua-wonderland with bubbles from the ground, mini slide, waterfall, splashwann and waterhollows.

The steam sauna, the classical Finnish sauna and the underwater massage in the hot tub are a stimulation for the senses. The tepidarium and a solarium are just one part of the spacious Wellness-area.

You receive more information at: [www.freizeitbad-simmern.de](http://www.freizeitbad-simmern.de)

# Natural outdoor swimming-pool Simmern

Enjoy nature and the fun of swimming at the same time, the natural outdoor swimming-pool Simmern offers many events at the pool area for you. Barbecues, kid's partys, beachpartys, Summi summer, beachvolleyball tournaments and much more!

You receive more information at:

[www.naturfreibad-simmern.de](http://www.naturfreibad-simmern.de)



# Cinema program

The “Pro-Winzkino” Simmern offers a special kind of cinema program

- by the ministry of domestic affairs awarded for “excellent annual cinema program”
- by the state of Rhineland-Palatinate awarded for the “special cinema program”
- by the ministry of domestic affairs awarded for the “excellent documentary program”

The latest cinema program, sale of tickets on  
<http://www.pro-winzkino.de>



# How to reach Simmern

Centuries ago the way to the centre of the Hunsrück went right through the highwayman-forests...  
And this is how you reach Simmern today:

- **By plane Frankfurt-Hahn Airport (distance: 20 km)**

(Duration bus-shuttle: ca. 15 min)

Frankfurt/Main Airport (distance: ca. 80 km)

Luxembourg Airport (distance: ca.150 km)

Saarbrücken Airport (distance: ca.125 km)

Düsseldorf Airport (distance: ca.195 km)

Cologne/Bonn Airport (distance: ca.145 km)

- **by car** motorway BAB A61: exit Rheinböllen  
B50 to Simmern

- **by bus** Regional-lines

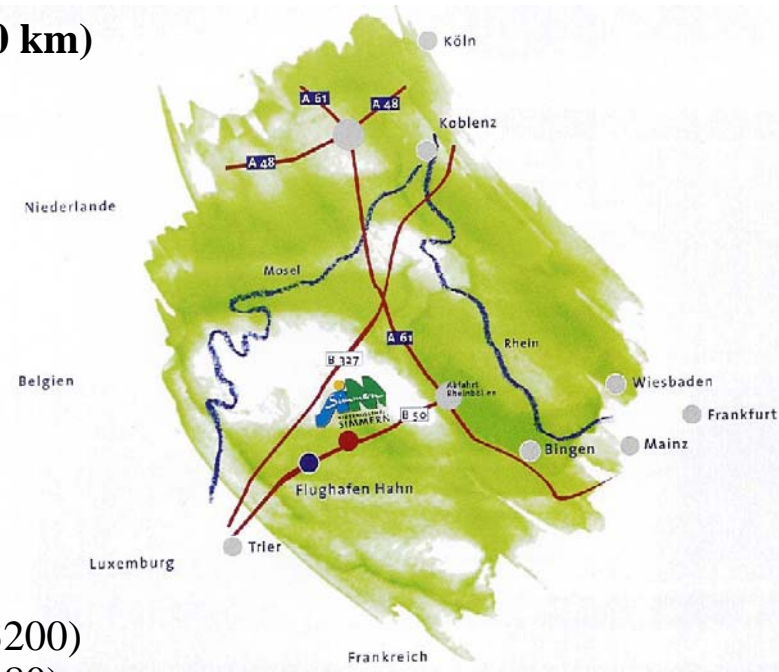
Koblenz Central Station - Simmern (bus number 3200)

Bingen Central Station - Simmern (bus number 3480)

- **By railway** Trains from Cologne or Frankfurt to Koblenz or Bingen

Bus from Koblenz Central Station (regional-line 3200)

Bus from Bingen Central Station (regional-line 3480)



# Do you have any questions? Are you looking for a place to stay?

Our team is always to your service:

Petra Georg-Prochnow

Phone: +49 6761-837 107

[p.georg-prochnow@vgvsim.de](mailto:p.georg-prochnow@vgvsim.de)

Melitta Kunz

Phone: +49 6761-837 106

[m.kunz@vgvsim.de](mailto:m.kunz@vgvsim.de)

Anni Karl

Phone: +49 6761-837 106

[a.karl@vgvsim.de](mailto:a.karl@vgvsim.de)

Tourist-Information

Simmern/Hunsrück

Brühlstrasse 2 (im Rathaus)

D-55469 Simmern

Fax: + 49 6761-837 120

[tourist-info@vgvsim.de](mailto:tourist-info@vgvsim.de)

