

Panoramic trails to the golden cone square

Nature and culture between Altdorf, Burgthann and Postbauer-Heng

S2 Altdorf ▶ Dörlbach ▶ Schwarzenbach ▶ Buch ▶ Postbauer-Heng **S3**



Dear visitors,

The joint decision of the environmental and building committees of both municipalities Postbauer-Heng (district of Neumarkt i. d. OPf.) and Burgthann (district of Nuremberg Land) on March 29, 2011 gave the go-ahead for this outstanding and “cross-border” project. The citizens of this region at the foot of the mountains Brentenberg and Dillberg have already been deeply rooted for many generations. Numerous family and cultural connections were the basis for the increasingly growing cooperation in economic and local affairs which has proved to be a success especially concerning the school cooperation. The border between the municipalities is interesting in several ways: Not only is this the border between the districts of Neumarkt i. d. OPf. and Nuremberg Land and the border between the administrative districts of Middle Franconia and Upper Palatinate today but it also was the former border of the Old Empire between Franconia and Old Bavaria in 1806.

We wish you an interesting stay and we would be pleased to welcome you at our variety of cultural events and our numerous family-friendly restaurants.



A wonderful place to live ...



6 km	from the S-Bahn station (suburban railway station) Postbauer-Heng to the S-Bahn station Oberferrieden
1.5 hours	

Coming from the direction of Nuremberg you first walk through the pedestrian underpass to the other side of the railway line. From there via the ramp downwards and further on the foot and cycle path towards the main road **B 8**. Walk on through the tunnel tube and pass the skateboard tracks until you reach a crossroad in front of the sports club. Now turn right and go upwards. Until you reach Buch you will find the signs **1 2** along the way. As you turn left at the edge of the forest and walk on the meadow path above of the sports club please enjoy the wide view over the surrounding area. On a clear day, you can even see Nuremberg's television tower. Turn right into the forest. The forest path further ascends until it leads into a wider forest road. Turn left and take a pleasant walk downwards past a small parking lot to **Buch**.

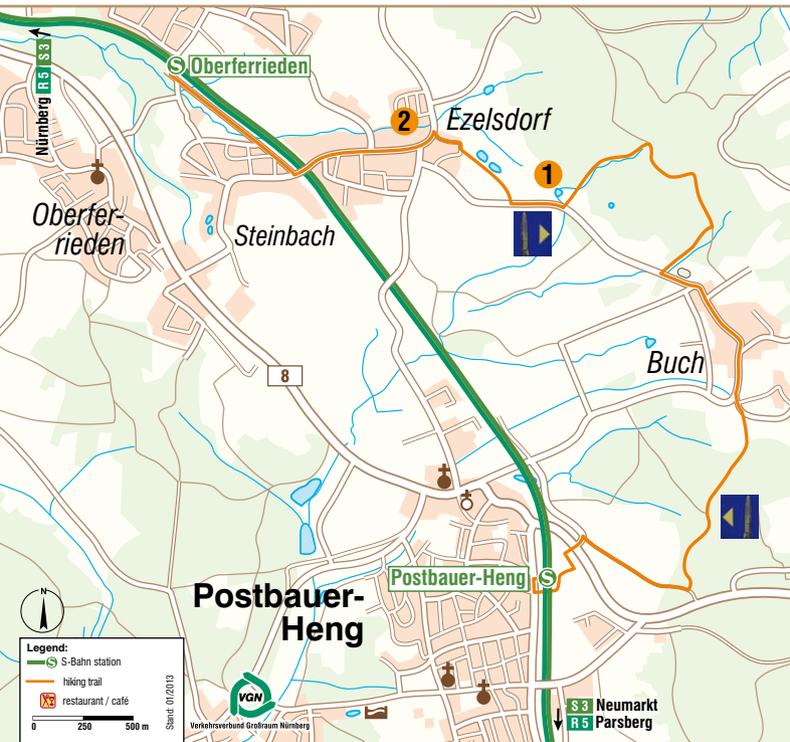
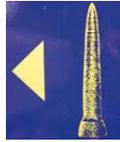


Remain on the main street and leave Buch following the left-hand curve. On the right side, you can already see the golden cone square (**2.5 km**). The shortest way back to the town leads along the small road using the church tower as your guide. In direction to **Ezelsdorf** turn right at the golden cone square. Please follow the dark blue signs to the golden cone square that you see to your right.

Photos frontpage – top: the golden cone square, bottom left: view over the valley of the Schwarzach onto Dillberg, bottom right: along the Ludwig-Danube-Main-canal

Hiking tour

The way continues a bit along the small street through the forest. Turn right at the sports ground. The way continues along two ponds into the street “Zur Schwärz” until you reach the main street. Turn left here and then turn right after the railway line and walk further to the S-Bahn station **S3**.



1 Sports restaurant FC Ezelsdorf

Bucher Straße, 90559 Burgthann-Ezelsdorf
Phone 09188 1717; Tue.–Fr. from 6 a.m.–12 p.m.,
Sat. from 2 p.m.–12 p.m., Sun. from 9 a.m.–12 p.m.,
closing day: Monday

2 Restaurant “Zur Linde”

Hauptstraße 29, 90559 Burgthann-Ezelsdorf
Phone 09188 305261; Tue.–Sun. from 3 p.m., kitchen
from 5.30 p.m., closing day: Monday

15 km	Altdorf – Prethalmühle – Dörlbach/
4.5 hours	Schwarzenbach – Buch – Postbauer-Heng

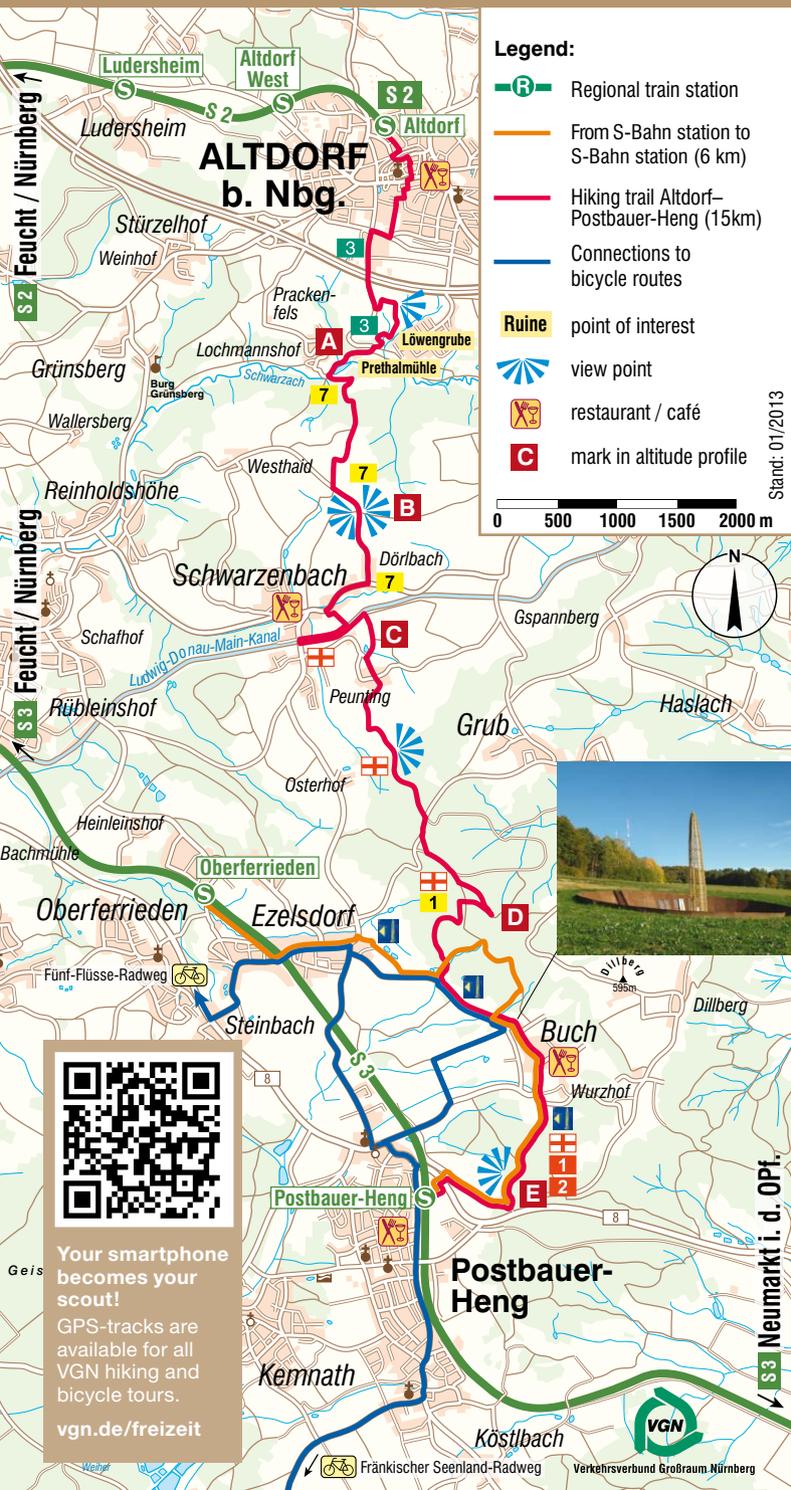
After the announcement “Next stop Altdorf – please exit” you set off for a scenic and in the end almost historically important hiking tour that connects Middle Franconia and Upper Palatinate.

From the platform, go straight to the end of the park and ride parking lot and continue through a small park. After a few stairs, the green signs “Richtung Stadtmitte” (direction city center) indicate the direction to the right. Then turn left at the “Bahnhofstraße”.

Carefully crossing the “Türkeistraße” which leads to the left side you turn diagonally right and walk across cobblestone on “Königsbühlstraße” up to the marketplace. On the left side, you see the old town hall which now is the office for culture and tourism (“Kultur-Rathaus”) and on the left side the late Baroque city church St. Laurentius. Turn to the left and you are between the upper market (“Oberer Markt”) and lower market (“Unterer Markt”).



Marketplace in Altdorf



Continue along the right row of houses, turn right into the “Collegiengasse” and walk directly towards the former university (1575) which now is the “Wichernhaus Altdorf”. Turn right into the “Neubaugasse” and continue until the street makes a turn to the right, turn left there into the alley and left again into the parking lot. The footpath shortly leads you diagonally right to the bus parking and straight on past the houses number 6/7 of the Wichernhaus into the “Prof.-Franz-Becker-Straße”. Turn right at the next crossroad (“Jakob-Baier-Straße”), cross the street and turn left into the “Mühlweg”. The sign **3** of the local road network serves as your first sign that guides your way through the motorway passage and then after a left turn upwards on a gravel path. First views over to the transmission mast at the Dillberg open up – on the right side: The Bretenberg, your “target area”!



View over the valley of the Schwarzach onto the Dillberg

Altitude profile



When you walk across the slope the signs of the circular route **3** guide you downwards in the direction of the “Löwengrube”. Between fruit trees a meadow path leads you right to a plot of land. Then go down the stairs to **the natural monument “Löwengrube”** which is a former quarry with a rock gallery and a rock cellar (on the left side) that was used as beer cellar in the past. The sandstones extracted here were among other things used for building the university and the city wall in Altdorf. The “Löwengrube”, also called “Löwengruft” in the past, was named after Friedrich Gottlieb von Löwenstein who significantly contributed to its development.



Stone gallery at the Löwengrube

Cross a wooden bridge and walk downwards, turn right at the parking area and straight on down to **Prentalmühle** – on the right you see the former “Auer’scher” beer cellar. While you make your way easily downwards through the houses take a look on the right side at the residential buildings of the old mill from the year 1643 and on the left side at the flow of the river “Schwarzach” that you will cross on a bridge as you exit the town. Now follow the sign **7** until you will reach the town **Dörlbach** (2.2 km). On your way to Dörlbach move on upwards on a slope until you reach a junction, turn right there on a sunken path and keep on walking on a con-

stantly ascending path which leads you to an open field. The hiking info board of the “Wanderzirkus Frankenalb” guides you with the sign **7** straight on to a S-curve. After the S-curve you go on to a small street and turn left there. The panorama has changed now – you have a far-distance view to almost all sides. After a right-hand bend go downwards and walk through the town Dörlbach, then follow the street “Austraße” down to a crossroad (Altdorfer Straße) in the town **Schwarzenbach**.

Turn right and continue along the unmarked street, pass by the bus stop and then turn left into “Heideweg”. Walk diagonally to the right upwards (“Schwarzenbacher Bierweg”). First you walk on composite stone, then over a meadow straight up and after the timber stockyard towards the dam of the Ludwig-Danube-Main Canal which is ahead of you. You find the passage through the hedges half right of you. Turn right when you reach the foot and cycle path and then follow the old canal (“Alter Kanal”) to the mooring of the **towing boat “Elfriede”**. Passing the boat you reach the restaurant “Gasthof Zum Ludwigskanal”.



Restaurant “Zum Ludwigskanal”

Phone 09183 250, www.ludwigskanal.de
 Mon. from 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Wed. from 3 p.m., Thur.–Sun.
 from 10 a.m., Closing day: Tuesday



Towing boat "Elfriede"

Cross the small wooden bridge, turn left and follow the sign  on the numerous marked apple trees along the canal until you reach the next crossing. Turn right there and walk upwards. Now the sign  takes over the lead again. Turn right up the slope over the meadow. At the top, at the "Peuntinger Eck", it is worth taking a look back before you go straight down past the pond to the street, turn left upwards here. At the roundabout in the town center walk straight on into the dead end and take a right-hand turn into the open field,  remains the sign that marks your way. You hike upwards on a winding path to the edge of the forest where you are once again offered a wonderful far-distance view. The focus is on the mountains **Moritzberg** (on the left) and the **Nonnenberg**.



First, go on half right, follow the sign  and then enter the forest on the wide path upwards. Please watch out for mountain bikers who find ideal conditions here – mutual consideration is appropriate! On a narrow root path, you walk steadily upwards, cross a small road diagonally to the right and then turn to the left-hand side into a path that is becoming more and more sandy. When you reach a crossroad turn right and continue walking straight on. Now, at the point where the sign  directs to the left follow the sign  to the right!

Follow sign  and walk on an easy forest path downwards to a crossroad, turn left and continue downwards. Stoll through a well-marked piece of forest towards a mighty tree.

As you pass underneath a broken branch the path becomes uneven due to forest operations. The sign  gradually disappears but you cannot go wrong. Stay on the main path and slightly turn to the right until you reach a green zone. Turn right here and walk past a field to the street. The first blue information board (**point 8**) to the direction of the golden cone square shows up. As you turn to the left into a less-used street the tension grows. As you exit the forest the **golden cone monument** arises in front of you exactly on the municipal boundary between Ezelsdorf (municipality Burgthann) and Buch (municipality Postbauer-Heng) which also serves as the district border (Nuremberg Land and Neumarkt) and administrative district border (Middle Franconia and Upper Palatinate).

Please take your time to read the large variety of information that is provided about the history, the discovery, the new location and the monument itself. Walk back to the street, turn left there, now it is only a short way to go to **Buch**.



Country restaurant Krone

Family Holzammer

Phone 09188 871, Fax 09188 2788

As you leave the town and go back to the station (1.9 km from the small parking lot after the town exit) you will find the signs **1** and **2** together with the signs of the golden cone path along the rest of the way. In the forest pay attention to the left side of the forest path which is marked with signs that soon lead you to the right side down the slope. As you exit the mixed forest you can enjoy a great view one more time: On the left side, you see the buttes surrounding Neumarkt and next to it on the horizon the mountain ranges between Weißenburg and Schwabach. On the right side “of the picture frame” you can even see Nuremberg’s television tower on a clear day. The meadow path on the left side takes you along the edge of the forest to a tarred cross-road, turn right here and continue downwards. Turn left at the sports club, walk past the skateboard tracks and through the tunnel underneath the federal road **B8**

and after only a few meters you reach the S-Bahn train station **S3**.

Sports restaurant SV Postbauer “Am Aicha”

Am Grünberg 1

Phone 09188 903987, www.svpostbauer.de

Closing day: Monday



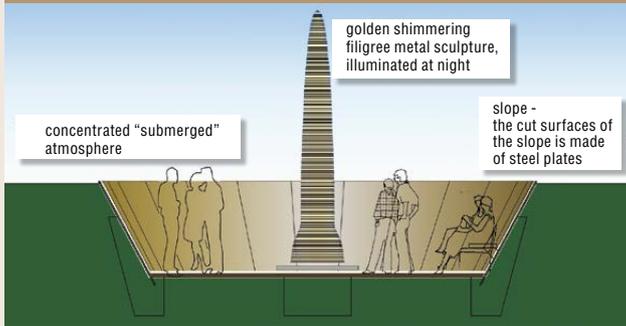
Bicycle tour



Of course, you can also reach the golden cone square by bicycle. The paths to/from the local and regional bicycle paths are marked **dark blue** in the map, p. 6.

The golden cone monument near Buch

Design of the monument



The idea

The golden cone was discovered in the ground. As staging of the discovery situation, the visitor is led inside the meadow slope over a ground-level entrance. The entrance opens up to a circular place about 1.6 meters beyond the surface of the slope with a seating area and informational media. Submerged from the surrounding everyday life and in a concentrated atmosphere the visitor is able to examine the illustrated history of the golden cone at this special place.

The monument

Just like the original discovery the monument is made of metal. Gold-coated round bars are diagonally arranged



over a substructure. The form of the golden cone is constructed on a scale of exactly 5:1. In this way, the extremely thin golden surface of the original with all its ornaments is interpreted as filigree steel structure in a modern way and with the means of our time. From a distance, the round bars look massive but standing directly in front of it the surface transparently dissolves. During the day, the monument shimmers golden in the sunlight. In the twilight, it mysteriously glimmers from inside with the help of solar-powered LED lights.

Design of the square and monument:

sturm + schmidarchitekten, Seligenporten

Consulting and construction supervision:

landscape architect Martin Kölbl, Pilsach

Monument: *Kebinger, Kompetenz in Metall, Neumarkt i. d. OPf.*

Lighting: *Company Rego, Berg*

Europe investing in rural regions, supported by the Bavarian State Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).



Explanation by Dr. Tobias Springer,
Germanisches Nationalmuseum



The history of the golden cone

The discovery and first scientific classification



Place of discovery with people in spring 1954

On the mountain Brentenberg not far from the monument Michael Dörmer from Ezelsdorf rooted out tree roots in order to obtain firewood in 1953. Only a few centimetres beyond

the surface of the ground he came across a hindering piece of metal which he completely chopped into pieces and carelessly threw away to the side. Around noon when the sun began melting the April snow and light fell on the thin metal pieces his wife who came to bring him lunch became aware of the sparkling pieces. She collected these very thin ornamented “little metal pieces” and brought them to a local dentist. Due to a melting test the dentist found out that it really was gold.

With the help from Nuremberg’s businessman Gabriel the fragments were brought to the Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg. The former director of the prehistoric and early historical collection of the museum Dr. Georg Raschke recognized them as counterparts to the golden hat of Schifferstadt and could purchase them soon after that. Shortly thereafter, during further excavations some more fragments were found to depths up to 80cm.

Dating

A dating of the golden hat can only be made in comparison with the three comparative pieces: The “golden hat” of Schifferstadt was found in 1835 and has the simplest ornaments of all four cones. The three axes that were found with it enable a dating of this golden hat to the late Bronze Age (1400–1200 before Christ). In Avanton near Poitiers the “Cône d’Avanton” was found in 1844. Detailed circumstances of the discovery are not known. The

ornamentation on this piece is more detailed than on the golden hat of Schifferstadt. It was probably manufactured at the beginning of Urnfield culture around 1200 before Christ.

In 1996 the Museum of Prehistory and Early History in Berlin purchased a golden hat without any information about its discovery. Due to its more complex ornaments it is dated to the Urnfield culture between the 11th and 9th century before Christ. The golden cone of Ezelsdorf-Buch found in 1953 is probably the earliest of the four known golden hats. Not least because its ornaments show the most variations it is believed that it was manufactured in the age of the Urnfield culture between the 11th and 9th century before Christ as well.



The hiding of the golden hats

It is still a mystery why, how and when the golden cone of Ezelsdorf/Buch and its counterparts were buried in the ground.

The golden cone was a single find without further accompanying artifacts. In further investigations by Dr. Raschke fragments of the golden cone were discovered to a depth of about 80cm. Therefore, it can be assumed that it was buried in an upright position. Similarly, the golden hat of Berlin shows creases caused by the soil pressure which give the impression that it also was standing upright in the ground. According to a detailed description

of the discovery of the golden hat of Schifferstadt found in 1835 it is known that it was standing on a sandstone plate and three so called palstaves were leaning against it. The circumstances of the "Cône d'Avanton's" discovery is not described in detail.

Time and again throughout Europe single objects or groups of objects so called hoards are discovered. These could be either hiding places or sacrifices. The person who was making the sacrifice always sacrificed his personal belongings.

Thus, these golden cones, golden discs and bowls spread across Europe which are also ornamented with concentric circle motifs are sacral objects and therefore probably not sacrificial offerings. Moreover, it can be assumed that such objects were probably buried after their cultic use at the end of the Bronze Age.

The people of the Bronze Age and their most important raw material

At the beginning of the second century before Christ, stone which was the main raw material for producing weapons and tools was replaced by a new material called Bronze. Bronze is an alloy and consist of copper with addition of 11 % tin. The technique of hardening iron with carbon to yield steel was not known until the beginning of the Iron Age around 800 before Christ.

From about 1100 before Christ huge fortified hilltop sites were constructed such as on the nearby Buchberg near Neumarkt, the Hesselberg north of the Noerdlinger Ries or the Bullenheimer Mountain, district of Neustadt a. d. Aisch–Bad Windsheim whose ramparts can still be seen today. The already existing trading network was further expanded, not least in order to transport the tin to its customers. The tin mainly came from Cornwall in southern England or Afghanistan and was urgently needed for producing bronze.

The relations to remote regions also led to a lively cultural and technological exchange.

Production and restoration

The golden hat was probably produced from a single seamless matchbox-sized piece of gold which was stretched until it reached its total length. It is 88.3cm with a maximum diameter of 21 cm. The medium material thickness is 0.078 mm. Therefore, the golden hat weighs 310g in its current condition. If the weight of the missing parts would be considered its estimated total weight would be 331.4g.

The excavation carried out in 1953 at the place of the discovery did not reveal the brim but further loose fragments. A very slim bronze strip with a gold wrapping possibly belongs to the former edge of the brim.

During the restoration at the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz all fragments were put on a synthetic resin cone reinforced with glass fibre. The missing parts were visually adjusted. In addition, the original hat was possibly stabilized by a leather and felt lining. However, it was strengthened particularly from the corrugated surface with its horizontal ripped bulges.

The golden hat of Ezelsdorf was minted with different ornaments and symbols. Overall, twenty different



design hallmarks, six ornament cogs and a decorative comb were used.

The function of the golden hat

Until 1995, the interpretation of the golden hat for crowning cultic posts was widely accepted. Sabine Gerloff was the first who advocated for its use for crowning heads in her contribution published in 1995. Since the golden hat of Berlin was discovered there is no doubt that the four golden hats were head coverings with a brim. This theory is made clear by the diameter of the golden hats of Schifferstadt and Berlin which are corresponding to the size of a human head and their oval form.



It is characteristic for the complete find group which does not only relate to the golden cones but also to golden skullcaps, golden vessels and golden discs with similar circle ornaments that they mostly were hidden as single items and very seldom with accompanying objects and much more seldom as burial objects. The fact that these objects known as “golden sacral objects” of the Bronze Age were only rarely found as grave objects leads to the conclusion that such objects used for religious purposes were not owed by individual persons. It is assumed that

these hats were worn by priests at sacred occasions but not owned by them. Gold as a profane possession of individuals increasingly occurs only in graves of the Hallstatt Period as of 800 before Christ.

Wilfried Menghin has made a major step towards the deciphering of the ornament. He could prove that the golden hats are “the manifestation of the Bronze Age calendar movement” by explaining the complex set of figures and the figure rhythm which are found in the ornament of the circle decoration. In comparison with the other three preserved cones the investigations of Wilfried Menghin show that the identified figure rhythm remarkably relates to the constantly recurring figures that occur during astronomical-calendrical observations. The transfer of the results of this intensive observation of the stars on the ornament of the cone was supposed to magically promote the connection of the priest to the worshipped deity, the sun. It may be assumed that the beginning of such observations already took place many generations before, the latest being in the Middle Neolithic. At this time, the first circular enclosures (similar to Stonehenge) were built which served as sacred places and for the observation of the stars.



picture credits, photos: Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg



The collection of the pre-and early history (200,000 before Christ – 800 after Christ) is located in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg.

Long before written sources existed, people learned to control the fire and how to use tools. They lived on hunting and the fruits offered by nature. This was the beginning of the cultural evolution.

Aspects of the presentation:

The presentation shows the development of European tools, jewelry, vessels and weapons from the Stone Age to the Carolingian Empire. The exhibition starts with an approximately 120,000 years old hand axe which is an universal tool made of flintstone. Counting among the most important objects is the golden cone of Ezelsdorf-Buch – a sun-priest head covering from the Bronze Age.

Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nuremberg

Kartäusergasse 1
90402 Nuremberg
Phone 0911 13310
www.gnm.de



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Towing with "Elfriede"

An original towing boat of the royal-bavarian canal navigation invites you for towing in a nostalgic way in Schwarzenbach. This is an old way of transporting loads and describes the activity of towing ships on rivers by humans or draught animals.



The travel time for this 2-km long distance is about 45 minutes. During the ride, the personnel of the ship will provide information about the history of the canal.

More information:

Municipality of Burgthann
Rathausplatz 1, 90559 Burgthann
Phone 09183 4010, Fax 09183 40118
E-Mail: info@burgthann.de
www.burgthann.de



Places to eat in the inner city of Postbauer-Heng:

- 1 Café "Der Beck" with bakery**
Hauptstraße 14
Phone 09188 919070, www.der-beck.de
- 2 Café Feihl with bakery**
Centrum 12
Phone 09188 1840, www.feihl.com
closed on Saturday- and Sunday-afternoons
- 3 Ice-cream parlour Vivaldi café, pizzeria**
Marktplatz 11, Phone 09188 305576
closed in the winter
- 4 Gabriel's restaurant, ice-cream parlour**
Centrum 12, Phone 09188 541

- 5 Hotel Postbauer-Heng**
Marktplatz 17
Phone 09188 3009818, Fax 09188 3009819
www.hotel-postbauer-heng.de
• family events and meetings for 15 or more persons
- 6 Sports restaurant Henger SV**
Tenant: Panagiotis (Panos) Zygouvelis
Centrum 22
Phone 09188 903567, www.henger-sv.de
Tue.–Fr. from 5 p.m.–11 p.m., Sat. from 11.30 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. from 9 a.m.–11 p.m.
Closing day: Monday
- 7 Sports restaurant SV Postbauer "Am Aicha"**
Am Grünberg 1
Phone 09188 903987, www.svpostbauer.de
closing day: Monday

Additional places to eat:

- **Stiegler Restaurant & Hotel**
Neumarkter Straße 29
Phone 09188 95030, Fax 09188 905964
www.hotel-stiegler.de
- **Der Krausenbäck**
Neumarkter Straße 25
Phone 09188 1721
Closing day: Monday

Municipality of Postbauer-Heng

Centrum 3
Phone 09188 9406-0, Fax. 09188 9406-10
www.postbauer-heng.de
E-Mail: markt@postbauer-heng.de



Idea: Municipalities of Postbauer-Heng and Burgthann, VGN

Elaborations:

- Hiking tours: VGN
- History: Germanisches Nationalmuseum (GNM)

Pictures:

Municipalities of Postbauer-Heng and Burgthann
Hajo Dietz, GNM

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Fränkischer Albverein e. V.
Heynestr. 41, 90443 Nürnberg
Phone 0911 429582, E-Mail: info@fraenkischer-albverein.de
www.fraenkischer-albverein.de

Status as of March 3rd, 2013
vgn.de/wandern/goldkegelplatz

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