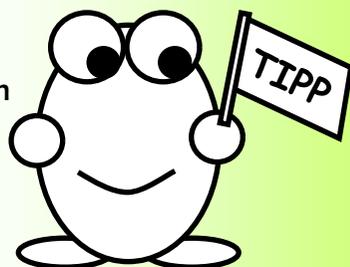


Bei der Erstellung dieses Stadtführers hatten wir viele fleißige Helfer. Wir bedanken uns insbesondere bei Herrn Fiedler, Frau Spomer, Frau Horn und Herrn Fanta für ihre tatkräftige Unterstützung!

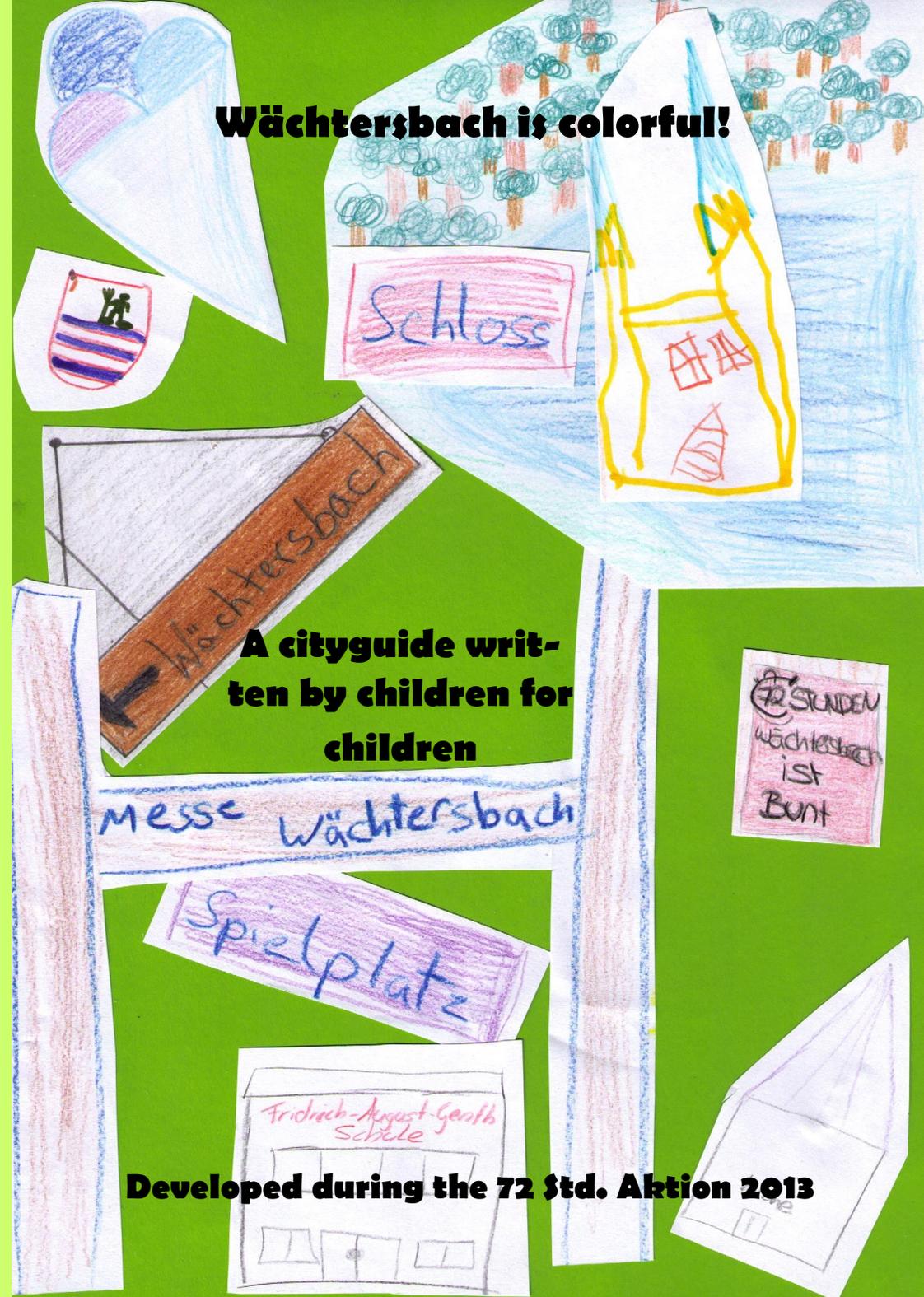
Dieser Stadtführer ist auch in den Sprachen Englisch, Französisch, Türkisch, Russisch, Polnisch und Italienisch erhältlich. Wir bedanken uns bei all unseren Übersetzern!



Ideen: Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder des Stammes St. Bonifatius

Fotos: Andrea Scherp

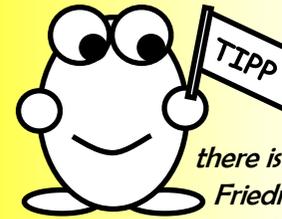
Layout: Cathrin Pauli, Bettina Betz, Andrea Scherp, Patrick Fanta



My  name is Horsti.

Today I will guide you through Wächtersbach. The city lies near to the Vogelsberg, a former volcano. For a long time basalt (cold lava flows) was been quarried here, which was used to build a large variety of things. Having been a settlement, Wächtersbach has now a total of over 12.500 inhabitants, including its districts, with 67 nationalities. Now we will take a tour through the historical part of town, starting at the "Verkehrs- und Gewerbeverein" (tourist office), which used to be castle's gatekeeper's house. During the tour I will be giving you a lot of interesting information. The map you were given will help you orient yourselves. Just follow the guide to discover many nice things.

So, let's begin with our exciting journey through time. It all started with Kaiser Friedrich I. Barbarossa at the end of the 12th century. He had a hunting ground here. Over the next 200 years a water fort evolved from this. The castle and the surrounding settlements used to be called Weychirsbach, which means as much as "the stream that feeds the ponds". Weychirsbach was important for protecting the surrounding forest and fields from intruders. Located at the trading route running from Frankfurt to Leipzig emperor Friedrich Barbarossa chose this place among others to easily get the necessary goods for daily life. Later this water fort was enlarged into a castle. This is where we are going next



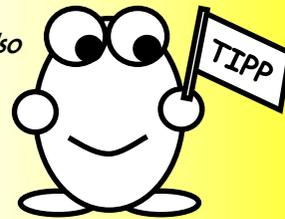
Tip: If you want to do some sportive activities in Germany after your tour around Wächtersbach, there is the possibility to spend some time in the gym of the Friedrich- August- Genth middle school, to join the skater park or to do some bowling in the Coctailbar "El Paso". If you like it faster you can go to the district Wittgenborn and do some cart riding.

I hope I have showed you our beautiful town well, you had fun and you liked our journey through time.

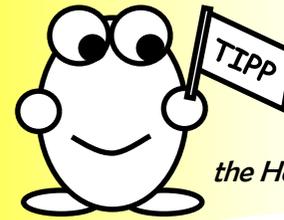
Looking at this fountain we turn back to our current time. It is a symbol for the importance of protecting the nature. The bird up on the fountain is a kingfisher. He is a symbol for the countryside called "Vogelsberg". The water of the fountain runs up from the mountains down the hills. The stones around the stream stand for the villages which belong to Wächtersbach. There is a thrown away can end at the end of the stream of the fountain which symbolizes the pollution of the environment.



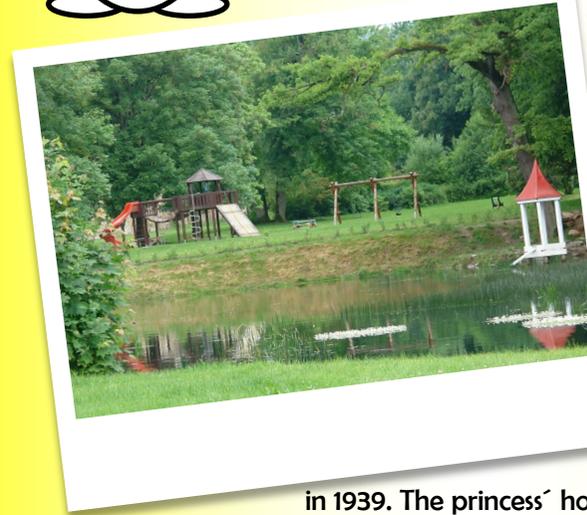
Tip: In Wächtersbach we do not only have streams but also a nice open air pool outside of Wächtersbach. Enjoy it!



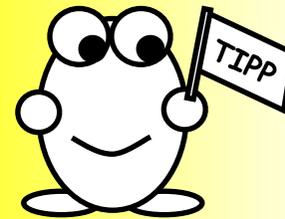
And here ends our tour around Wächtersbach. Maybe it is a good idea to take a break and eat an ice cream or a delicious Pizza.



More playgrounds can be found Im Ziegelgarten, on the Catilloner Straße, on the Schöne Aussicht, on Straße, Lauterbacher Straße and much more in the districts.



The prince of Ysenburg was the last one to live in this castle. This family was forced to move back to the castle of it catching fire in 1939. The princess' house next to it used to be the home of the unmarried princesses and widows. The signs fastened on the surrounding buildings are reminders of the administrative building and the shed there used to be. This is the place where the emperor's horses and coaches were kept.



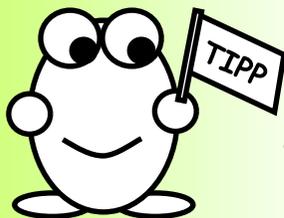
You can see and ride horses at the riding farm in Kinzighausen.





The gravestones of the aristocratic family can be seen at the wall behind the administrative building, although the skeletons are still buried in the protestant church. You may have already noticed all the old trees. The emperor's was wealthy enough to afford (back then still) exotic plants, such as the ginkgo tree and the rhododendron.

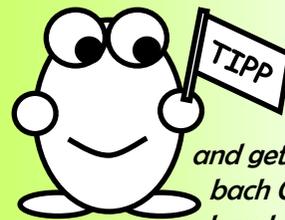
The signs on the trees will give you more detailed information on the origin and age of them, go ahead and take a look.



Tip: If you are interested in the topic; there is a tree trail by the ponds and flyer "Schloss und Park" you can pick up at the "Verkehrs- und Gewerbeverein" (tourist office).

Let's move on to the market square where the famous "guardian at the pound" is already waiting for us. Wächtersbach had two guardians and two gatekeepers who protected the valley and city with all its graves, gates and fences. Such "guardians" can be found at the fountain and train station (here the guardian is portrayed as a playing child) and also on Wächtersbach's emblem.

The emblem shows a guardian (in German: "Wächter") standing above a stream (in German: "Bach") with two black stripes in it which are a reminder of the emblem of Ysenburg. The guardian is carrying a halberd which is a two meter long pole with a tip to stab, a hatchet to chop and a



part in.

Tip: The protestant and catholic community have scout troops. They experience many adventures in the nature and get to know many friends. Further clubs like the Wächtersbach Carnival club, the "Spielmannszug", a local marching band and the sports clubs have many offers to join and take



Up from the tower there was a great view to spot out enemies. If we turn around we can see the old cemetery. If you face to the left from the iron gate you can see a part of the old city wall.

Have a look at the old cemetery. You can see a fenced area among the graves. In this area the countesses and the lords were buried. This place is called "Ysenburgische Grablege". The former relatives of the aristocratic family were buried in the protestant church. Everyone who had enough money could afford a special monument..

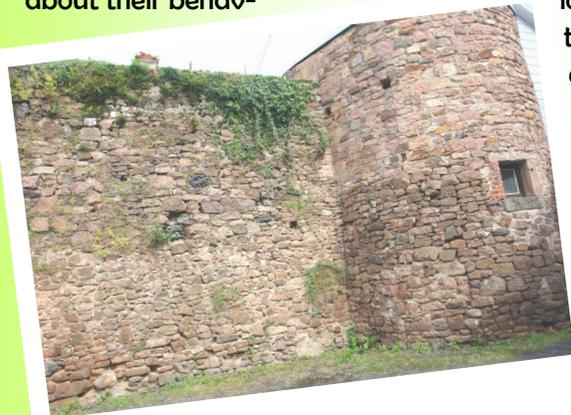


Now we leave the old cemetery through the little gate and turn to the left. We walk to the road called "Im Gängelchen" and go to "Bahnhofsstraße". There we turn left again and have a look at the fountain at the "Am Lindenplatz" (next to the ice cream parlor).

But the market square was not fun all the time. It was also where punishments took place: If somebody had stolen something for example he would be pilloried and everybody was allowed to spit and throw rotten eggs at him. But let's move on. Next I will show you a piece of the old town wall which is still well-preserved.



A town wall was built to protect the city it was surrounding. One could only enter through the city gates. You can tell by the walls location how big Wächtersbach has gotten over the years since this used to be the border of the town. At the wall you can see a small tower, the "Betzenloch", in which now and then a dancing bear was caged. But the bear only danced because he had to walk over a scorching hot stone. But the bear was not the only one to be trapped in the tower; it was also used as a one-day-prison for parents who had let their child work on the field instead of sending them to school. After having spent a while in the dark the parents for sure thought differently about their behav-



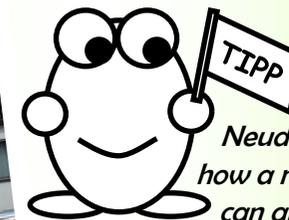
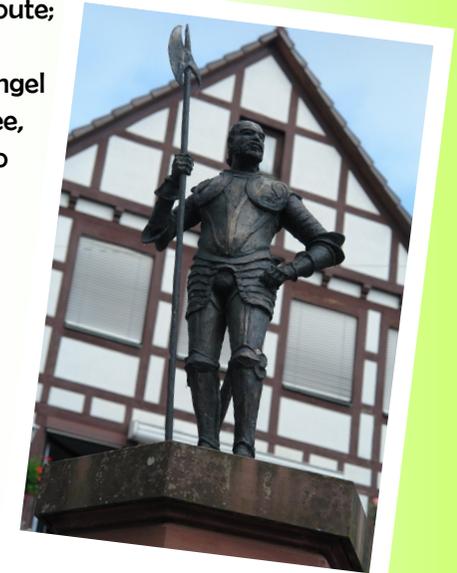
ior. Another piece belonging to the old town wall is the old defense tower. Today the protestant church has made it its bell tower. This is where we are going next.



hook to capture. Furthermore, he is holding a sword. Next to the guardian you can see a wolfhook (wolfsangel). Such a hook was used to catch wolves, using a technique similar to the one of a fishing route; a with meat equipped wolfsangel was hung in a tree, if the wolf bit into

it, he was caught.

Behind the fountain you can see the old city hall which is the oldest house here. If you would like to learn more about the life back then you can visit the museum ("Heimatmuseum") in it. The market square used to be the center point in town since this was the place where everybody used to buy all their food and animals, such as chickens, pigs, sheep, horses and cows.



Tip: At the "Weidenhof" in Neudorf you can learn how a real farm works. You can also buy a lot of yummy things there. Feel free to visit them.

