

Giengen – be moved by its diversity



Große Kreisstadt

**Giengen**  
an der Brenz





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## ***“So semmer hald” : That’s the way we are***

“Grüß Gott” is how we greet people around here. This is also our way of saying welcome. We would like to extend you an invitation to get to know our pretty town in the eastern foothills of the Swabian Alb between the Danube and Brenz.

Surrounded by fertile farmland, lush meadows, extensive forests and juniper scrubland typical of the Swabian Alb landscape, Giengen is a tranquil place where people like to live, work and relax.

Many centuries have passed since the fortified settlement became a free city, however the commercial activity, the diverse trades, the agricultural tradition and the still tangible free city flair have remained to this day. It is said that the Emperor Barbarossa honoured Giengen on several occasions with a visit.



**About Giengen**

Today Giengen represents a town of lively diversity in which, alongside the traditional trading structures, modern, globally operating production and service industries have their base. Giengen thus combines history and tradition with the demands of an economically competitive, forward-looking town with quality of life. Come and see our town for yourself.

**We look forward to your visit.**



*The Brenz still characterises the townscape. Footpaths and cycle tracks run along its banks.*



*The Emperor Barbarossa allegedly accused the inhabitants of Giengen of watering down his wine. A monument to the “Panscher” (adulterators) can be found in front of the town hall.*



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## Discover and experience

In and around Giengen it has always been like a bear-garden. Many thousands of years ago it was the cave-bears in the karstic landscape; for more than the last 100 years it has been the cuddly teddy bears.

In the "HöhlenErlebnisWelt" in the sub-district Hürben you can find out about the history of the earth and Stone Age finds from the caves. Located at the foot of the "Charlottenhöhle", with a length of 587 metres one of the longest accessible drip-stone caves in southern Germany, there is not only a lot for children and young people to see. The "HöhlenHaus" as a gateway to the Swabian Alb "geo-park" promises exciting insights into the past and the formation of the karstic landscape.

What Margarete Steiff and her ingenious nephew Richard Steiff started 125 years ago, has today become a leisure attraction for families and collectors alike. Giengen is the home to the famous teddy bear, every child's friend made of soft plush. In the "Welt von Steiff" the long-established Steiff company shows visitors its varied product range together with a demonstration of the production process making this an unforgettable experience.

The historical old town is dominated by the over 350-year-old church with its two distinct towers. We recommend paying a visit to this place of worship with its 100-year-old Link organ and the interesting nave, or taking a stroll through the narrow streets of the old town.

In the sub-district Burgberg those interested in historical mills will be rewarded with a visit to the lovingly restored "Mahlmühle" from the year 1344. One further foray is worthwhile: to the municipal museum in the sub-district Hürben which documents the history of Giengen.

*The town church with its two distinct towers.*



*The "Welt von Steiff" provides its small and big guests with an unforgettable experience.*



*The "Charlottenhöhle": one of the longest accessible caves in southern Germany. A "Journey through Time Trail" leads directly into the cave, the starting point for the "HöhlenErlebnisWelt".*



*The "HöhlenHaus" offering interesting information about the history of the earth and the archaeological finds in the Lonetal caves.*



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## *Lively and personal*

Together with its sub-districts Burgberg, Hohenmemmingen, Hürben and Sachsenhausen Giengen has around 20 000 inhabitants. Everything necessary to satisfy one's daily requirements can be found here. In the charming town centre a good selection of retailers and specialist stores entice shoppers. In the retail and trading park Ried, not far from the town centre, there are many different markets, car show-rooms and successful tradesmen's firms. All these can be easily reached by the town bus.

Giengen recognises the importance of meeting the needs of families. Nurseries with flexible opening hours and particular forms of day care exist in addition to primary and secondary schools, one special needs school and one grammar school.

The town and its surrounding area provide many opportunities for further study. The municipal adult education centre, the municipal music school or the neighbouring University of Cooperative Education in Heidenheim, the University of Applied Sciences in Aalen or the University of Ulm: many roads to success start from Giengen.

Numerous playgrounds and leisure facilities, the magnificently situated "Bergbad" (an outside swimming pool) and a youth centre provide children and young people with many worthwhile means of organising their free-time. Comfortable and high-quality nursing homes, some centrally located, and sheltered housing complete the provision for the elderly and those in need of support.

Own-home builders (locally known as "Häuslebauer") are warmly welcome in Giengen. We have attractive and affordable residential building land available in the town and its sub-districts. We try our best to comply with any specific architectural wishes and planning permission is granted quickly. Giengen is a town for the whole family. Young and old live together in harmony and feel at home here.

*Giengen's family-friendly policy ensures that families have a future here.*



*The sub-district Hohenmemmingen*



*The sub-district Sachsenhausen*

*Giengen offers its inhabitants everything required to lead a pleasant life.*



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## *A unique encounter*

Community life in Giengen is shaped by the voluntary involvement of its citizens. In the charitable and church establishments as well as in groups and projects those interested in making a contribution to their town meet.

The diverse and active clubs and associations in Giengen offer everyone a chance to join in and to develop personally. While amateur pilots literally have their heads in the clouds, other sports people train hard, allotment holders prune their fruit trees, and singers, musicians or theatre groups rehearse for their performances.

The children's festival with its over 300-year-old tradition is well-known beyond the town's boundaries and attracts thousands of visitors to the popular "Schießberg".

In the magnificently situated outside swimming pool children splash about in the water whilst their parents swim lengths or work on their tans. On the concrete waves of the skater park young people perform artistic "grinds"; others relax by playing mini-golf or go Nordic walking in the forests to keep fit.

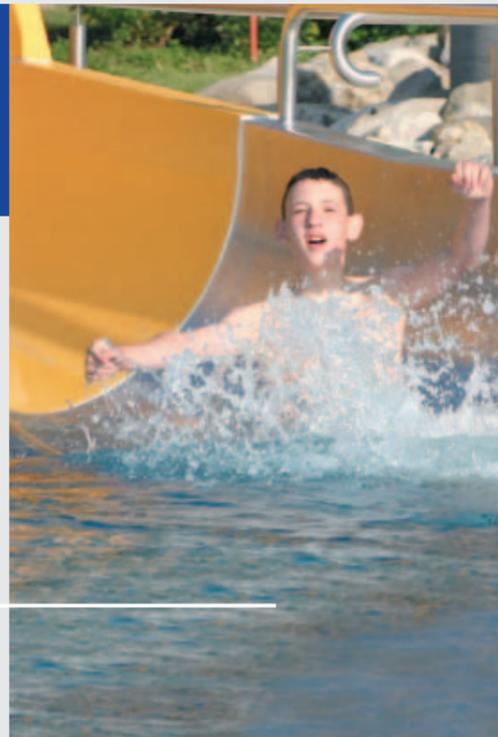
The traditional free city market organised by the trade association, the annual town festival, the "Church Square Open-Air Concert" as a musical highlight or the village events in the sub-districts offer welcome opportunities for people to meet.

This is where Giengen comes together – this is where Giengen lives.

Leisure



*Guests splash about and swim in the magnificently situated "Bergbad".*



*In the skater park young people demonstrate their artistic "grinds".*



*The Giengen free city market is famous across the region. Old and new stand side by side.*





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## See, hear and enjoy

Culture is part of daily life in Giengen.

Concerts and theatre, cabaret or the numerous art exhibitions offer something to suit every taste. Cultural events in the spacious “Walter Schmid Hall” are greeted by enthusiastic audiences, likewise in the historic community centre “Bürgerhaus Schranne” with its unique atmosphere. The socially active clubs and associations offer an ambitious programme of events in the village halls in the sub-districts.

Going around the town visitors are accompanied with every step by the town’s cultural heritage and art. Charmingly renovated old buildings, pretty alleyways and the restored town wall with its sculpture park cannot fail to fill with enthusiasm.

In Giengen we are particularly proud of the municipal music school – one of the oldest of its kind in Germany. Since 1851 the fundamentals for early music education right up to university level have been imparted here. The Giengen Music School enjoys an excellent reputation countrywide and has already discovered and fostered many new talents.

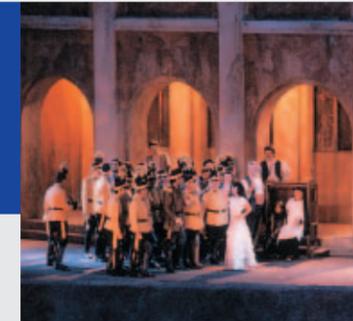
The municipal library, in addition to holding a large collection of contemporary literature, also organises events for young and old.



*“Bürgerhaus Schranne”*

*The town wall and sculpture park:  
culture is alive here.*

*More than 100 years old: the  
Giengen organ from the organ  
makers “Gebr. Link GmbH”.*



*The municipal music school – one of the  
oldest of its kind in Germany.*





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## **Working and producing**

Giengen is the home of some important and successful companies whose names and products also enjoy an international standing.

The "Bosch-Siemens-Hausgeräte GmbH" manufactures refrigerators and freezers; fire-engines and fire-fighting equipment are supplied by the firm "Albert Ziegler GmbH & Co. KG", and fire-fighting fittings by the firm "Max Widenmann KG". The firm "Vereinigte Filzfabriken AG" produces versatile felt products, valves are distributed worldwide by the firm "Alligator Ventilfabrik GmbH", and toys and plush animals are made by "Margarete-Steiff GmbH".

*More than 80 different uses:  
felt from the "Vereinigte  
Filzfabriken AG".*



*A Ziegler fire-engine*



Giengen is a prime address for every form of commercial activity. It has excellent connections to the motorway network (A7/A8) between Würzburg and Ulm as well as to the main roads B19 and 492, and the railway network. In addition the town provides ample industrial and commercial space in the industrial park A7 Giengen-Herbrechtingen or in the Ried trading park in close proximity to the town.

The district council, mayor and municipal authorities pursue a policy of economic promotion with fast and unbureaucratic decision-making processes. We strive to ensure the success of every request as far as it lies within our powers.

A hard-working and well-qualified workforce from Giengen and the region also constitutes a good prerequisite for lasting commercial effectivity.

*Bosch refrigerator*



*Widenmann fittings*

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## Giengen – at a glance

The district town of Giengen on the Brenz

Population: 20 260 (as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005)

Area: Giengen town 1854 ha, Burgberg 366 ha, Hohenmemmingen 913 ha, Hürben 951 ha, Sachsenhausen 319 ha

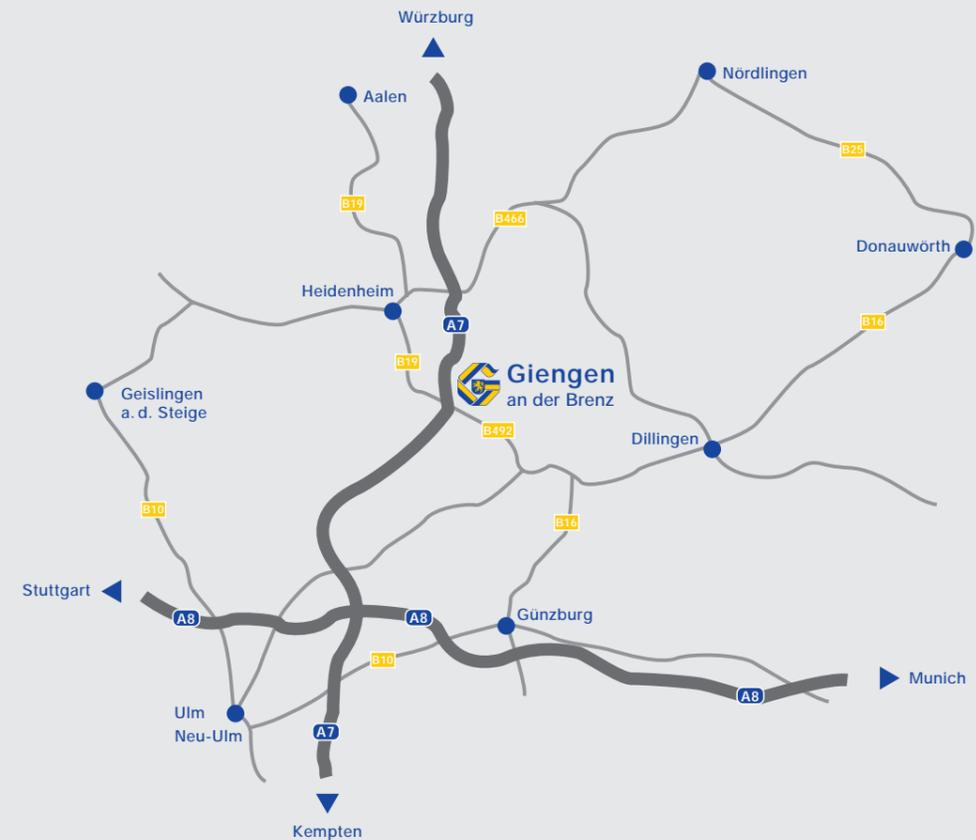
Giengen maintains active and intensive partnerships with Köflach in Styria (Austria), Pré St. Gervais near Paris (France) and Zeulenroda in Thuringia.

Geographical location: 48° 37' 19" N, 10° 14' 44" E,

Altitude: Giengen 467 m, Burgberg 468 m, Hohenmemmingen 497 m, Hürben 460 m, Sachsenhausen 485 m (townhall)

Distances to other cities: Heidenheim 10 km, Ulm 35 km, Aalen 40 km, Stuttgart approx. 120 km, Munich approx. 150 km, Zurich approx. 230 km, Milan approx. 450 km

Medical provision: 10 GPs, 16 specialists, 2 clinics (for out-patient treatment and geriatric rehabilitation), 11 dentists, 2 alternative practitioners, 4 chemists



Facts



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