

11. 'Klostersee' complex with Mill Monument

Since 1985, a residential complex on the site of the former 'Burkhardt Brothers' textile factory. Cotton spinning and weaving mill. With approximately 1,400 workers, it was the largest employer in Pfullingen for many decades. The 2/8 canal of the Echaz feeds the artificially created Lake Klostersee.

The Mill Monument commemorates Pfullingen's mills and hydropowered machines, which were active for many centuries. It was created in 1985 by Pfullingen master stonemason Albert Etter. The oldest known watermill dates back to 1098. A total of



33 locations are known. Only the mills that still existed during the 20th century are depicted here.

Types:

Grain mill, gypsum mill, paper mill, hammer mill, bark mill, oil mill, powder mill, saltpeter works, grinding mill, fulling mill, tannery. The most efficient systems utilise



17. Samariterstift

Retirement home

18. Former Knapp Thread Factory

Founded in 1852 in what was then the Kingdom of Württemberg. Produced cotton and linen yarns. Nearly 700 employees, many of whom were women. Highly successful on the world market. Closed in 1962. It now houses offices and practices: dentist, physiotherapy, Pustal Landscape Architecture Office.

19. Friedrich Schiller Grammar School

20. Monastery Church

Church built in 1275 for the medieval monastery of the Order of St. Clare. It was a large convent (in 1413 it consisted of 64 nuns) for the village at that time. The walled convent complex comprised the church, the convent (living quarters), outbuildings (kitchen, washhouse), fruit loft, tithe barn and mill. The nuns always lived in seclusion. This remains the case



to this day in active Poor Clare monasteries.

After 1539, following the Reformation, it became a ducal monastery estate. The Duchy of Württemberg became Protestant. Partial demolition of the church and conversion into a granary.

21. Monastery Garden with Parlour Grille

The only contact with the outside world for the nuns living in strict seclusion.

Multimedia exhibition in the wash-house (museum).



a gradient, with water being channelled in via a canal or flume (overshot type). The least efficient systems are those driven by the flow of a river and dependent on its speed (undershot type).

12. The Echaz canals

To the south, just outside the town limits in what is now a nature reserve, the Echaz splits at the 'Urfall' into a 5/8 canal and a 3/8 canal. Further along within the town limits, these canals branch



off again. In recent decades, some of the power plants have been put

back into operation to generate carbon-neutral electricity. Here at Klostersee, the 2/8 canal splits, forms a lake, and then flows back together.

13. Renz Mill / former Volk's Mill

Representative of various historic water mills that still – or once again – generate electricity from hydropower, this beautiful mill building, restored in accordance with preservation standards, stands on the 3/8 canal with a new waterwheel. Its diameter is approximately 4 m! Commissioned in 2022, it produces up to 15 kWh of power when water levels are favourable.

There was already a mill here as early as 1574. For centuries, the



23. Modern power plant for carbon-neutral electricity (18 kW output)

24. Echazbad

Indoor swimming pool

25. Past the former hammer mill and hammer forge.

26. Schlössle ('Little Castle')

Built around 1450 by the medieval local nobleman Caspar Remp, just like the large castle. Alemannic half-timbered structure. The 'Schlössle' and the castle were sold to Count Eberhard im Bart ('the Bearded') in 1487. Today it accommodates the Local History Museum.



mill was owned by the Volk family. In 2011, Gerd and Claudia Renz of Pfullingen, owners of 'Renz Holzbau', purchased the property, carefully renovated it into apartments and reactivated the waterworks.

14. Upper Mill

A powerful waterfall is used to generate electricity.

15. Former Laiblin Paper Mill

The large waterwheel, with a diameter of 8.88 m, was dismantled in 1927.

A Francis turbine has been in operation since 1907.

16. Villa Louis Laiblin with Park and Pavilion

Built in 1873 by paper manufacturers Ernst Louis Laiblin and his brother Adolf Laiblin. Ernst Louis' son, Louis Laiblin, inherited his fortune and lived as a man of means and a patron of the arts, architecture and culture. He supported his hometown and many cultural institutions, large and small, throughout the region.



He endowed the Pfullinger Hallen, the Schönberg Tower, and much more. Having no children, he bequeathed everything to the town of Pfullingen.

Today, the villa houses a documentation centre run by the local historical society.



27. Baumann Mill

Built in 1798. The first mill on this site dates back to around 1500. Closed in 1963. It now houses the Traditional Costume Museum and Mill Museum. Information Centre for the Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve.



28. Castle

Former moated castle Originally the 'Lower Castle' of the medieval local nobility, the Rempen family. Sold to Count Eberhard im Bart ('the Bearded') in 1487. Converted into a Renaissance castle in 1563 by his great-nephew, Duke Christoph. Today part of the Schlossschule ('Castle School').

29. Castle Bridge

Stone bridge. Built around 1563 by Duke Christoph, in conjunction with the castle's renovation.



30. Town Hall IV

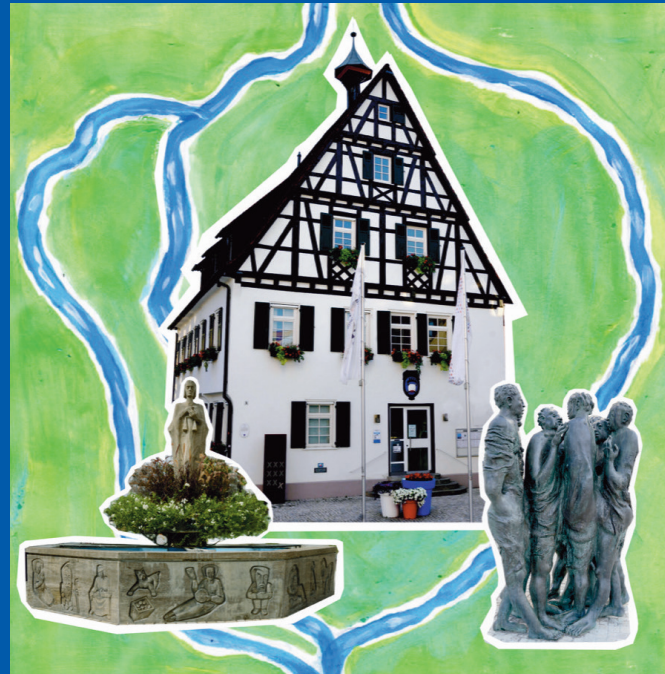
In the 16th century, the residence of the Protestant assistant pastor ('Helferei'). Rebuilt in 1710. Since 2009, Town Hall IV with an information point.



Geschichtsverein Pfullingen e. V.

www.geschichtsverein-pfullingen.de

City Tour Welcome to the Center of Pfullingen



Pfullingen – Past and Present

With a population of over 20,000 (status: June 2026), Pfullingen is the third-largest town in the district of Reutlingen and an active member of the Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve. A place steeped in history: inhabited as early as 450 AD as the capital of the Alemanni in what is now Pfullingen, and first mentioned in historical records in 937. The valley of the small river Echaz, at the foot of the Swabian Alb low mountain range, was extremely fertile and offered excellent living conditions. The Echaz was, and still is, the lifeblood of our town and region. Rich grave finds from excavations around St. Martin's Church bear witness to its historical significance.

Support our activities

Donations to Geschichtsverein Pfullingen e. V.: KSK Reutlingen
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With grateful thanks to Renate Sawallich, SDS Sprachendienst Sawallich, Pfullingen, for the professional English translation.

1. Memorial: The Pfullingen Women’s Uprising

The **Second World War** marked a major turning point for Pfullingen too. The developments of the decades that followed have led to our town twinning and friendship with Passy (France, Haute-Savoie department, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region).

The Second World War ended more than 80 years ago. It was 22 April 1945 when French tanks rolled in. Pfullingen gratefully remembers the several hundred courageous women who, on 20 April 1945, defying the orders of the Nazi commanders, cleared away the anti-tank barriers that had already been erected on all the main roads. Most of the men of Pfullingen were away at war as soldiers; 600 had already been killed. Consequently, it was mainly young lads aged 16, 17 and 18 who were recruited into the so-called ‘Volkssturm’ (national militia) to “defend the fortress of Pfullingen to the last man”. Important to note: anyone who prevented the erection of anti-tank

barriers, cleared them away or displayed a white flag faced the immediate death penalty. The women of Pfullingen, however, had realised that the war was over. Tank guns could already be heard over 50 kilometres away. The women had already lost husbands, fathers and sons. They did not want to lose their daughters, their homes, their town or their livelihoods as well. They cleared the barriers away and marched together, shouting loudly, to the town hall. Their vigorous protest caused the commander to flee through a rear window of the



town hall, and the town surrendered peacefully on 22 April 1945. Today, this stele in front of the town hall commemorates these courageous women. A QR code allows visitors to access stories about the women, their actions and the end of the war – in German. The resistance of these women against the Nazis at the end of the war is honored at the German Resistance Memorial Center (Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand GDW) in Berlin, both in the exhibition and in a book.



2. Market Square with Market Fountain

It was here, in April 1945, that the fate of Pfullingen was sealed. For centuries, human destinies were decided in this square. The fountain (Heinrich Pfingsten 1955), featuring a statue of Lady Justice, serves as a reminder that this was once the site of an open-air law-court: a ‘Schrannengericht’.

The fountain also displays figures from Pfullingen folklore. Foremost among them is the good fairy Ursula, who still lives inside Ursulaberg (Mount Ursula) today



and guards a treasure there. The square was first redesigned in 1983. Before that, it was a major thoroughfare. Cars, trucks and trams roared through here. Hardly anyone wanted to live in the town centre.

3. Urban Renewal / ‘Green Corridor Along the Echaz’

To make the town a better place to live, everything was revised. They took advantage of the fact that industry was being scaled back. It was decided to create a ‘**green corridor along the Echaz**’, i.e. along the canals of the river Echaz. This green corridor encompasses all major facilities: town halls, schools, cultural buildings and

swimming pools. One river, several canals: an ancient water system. The residents of Pfullingen love their green corridor along the Echaz.



The Town Halls

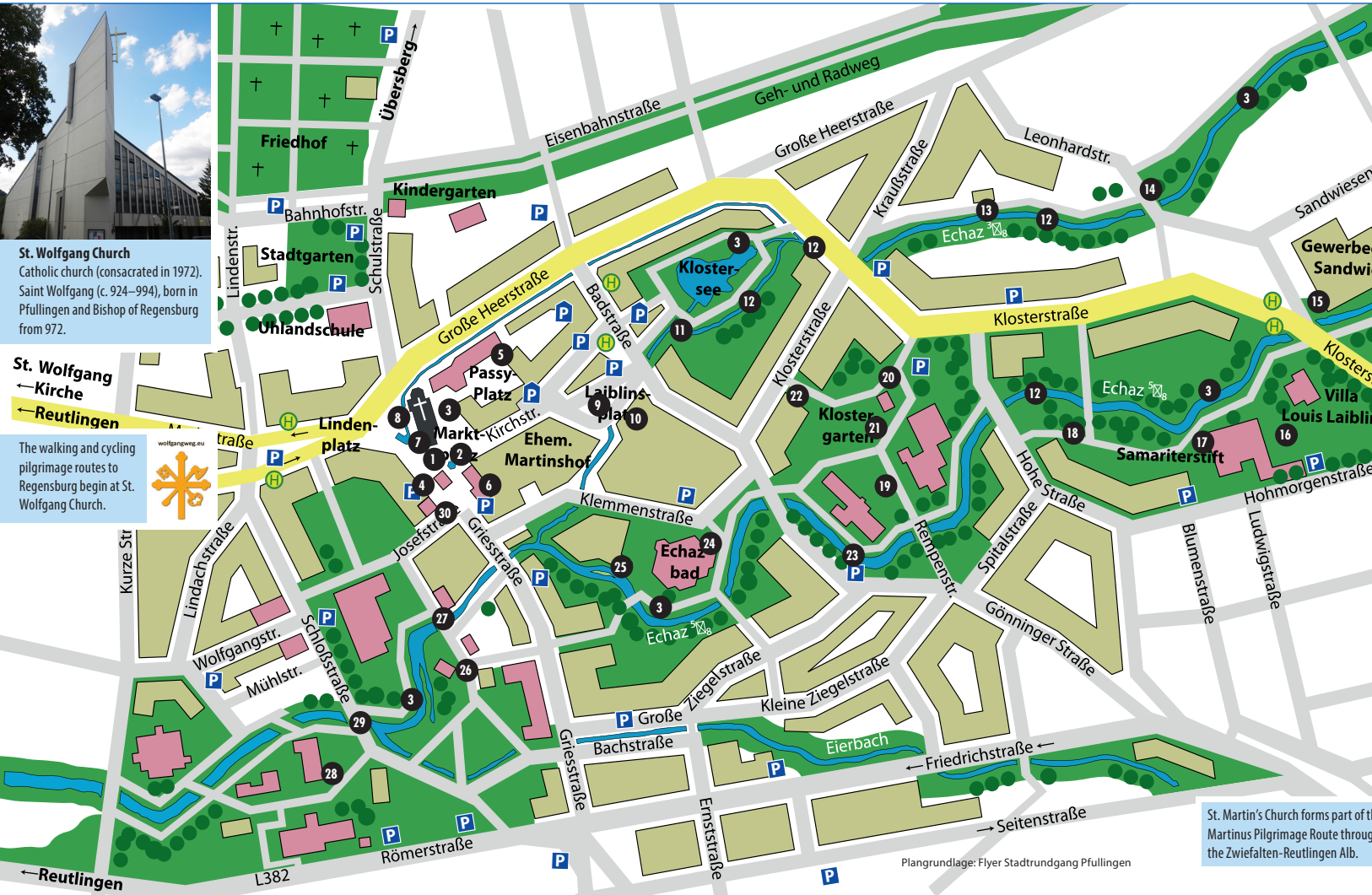
The town administration is currently spread across five town halls. Here you can see the two oldest ones:

4. Town Hall I was built around 1437. It is the oldest half-timbered house in Pfullingen. Here we return to our opening theme: the end of World War II and the beginning of our shared history with France. We learned that with the advance of French tank units on 22 April 1945, Pfullingen was liberated from Nazi rule. We also learned that thanks to the rebellion of the women of Pfullingen, there was little gunfire and virtually no destruction. A French command post was established in the town hall. The population was now required to hand over all weapons including rifles, pistols, ammunition, knives, as well as radios, cameras and similar items. These were collected here at the town hall. French soldiers were allowed to help themselves and made ample use of this opportunity. Around 5:00 p.m., a fire likely broke out due to test shots or dis-

carded cigarette butts, leading to a massive explosion approximately six minutes later. The eastern part of the town hall collapsed. About 50 French soldiers were present in the building. Most were rescued, as were the German staff. However, four wounded French soldiers died from their injuries. The town hall was repaired, but it has been only half its original size ever since. The town hall bell has been back in its place on the roof since 1982.

5. Passy Square

Partnership Square Passy (F) since 1985, Lichtenstein (Saxony, D) since 1990/2012, St. Wolfgang (Salzkammergut, A) friendship since 2023.



6. Town Hall II was built in 1686. It originally served as a warehouse and market hall, then as a school building for many years. Until the construction of the first fire station in 1957, the ground floor served as a depot for firefighting equipment. It has been used as town hall since 1902. The other town halls in the vicinity have only been in use for the past 20 years or so. For this reason, the local council decided in 2020 to build a larger new town hall. The new construction site is right next door.



site, one of the oldest Christian places of worship in Württemberg. The state of Württemberg has been Protestant since the Reformation in the 16th century. St. Martin's Church is named after St. Martin of Tours, who is venerated as a saint across all Christian denominations.

8. ‘Dispute’ sculpture group

In lively debate – bronze sculpture created in 1985 by artist Prof. Hubertus von Pilgrim, Munich.



9. Laiblingsplatz

Donated to the public in 1885 by paper manufacturer Ernst Louis Laiblin (1817 – 1892). The Laiblin family had played a significant role in Pfullingen for centuries. In the mid-1880s, Laiblin purchased dilapidated houses here, had them demolished, and had a square built, which was named ‘Laiblingsplatz’ in his honour.



10. Laiblingsplatz Rectory

Rebuilt in 1740 as a Protestant rectory. From 1820 to 1848, the famous Swabian poets Ludwig Uhland, Karl Mayer and Gustav Schwab (*Gods and Heroes: Myths and Epics of Ancient Greece*) met here.