Stuttgart's favourite quarters

Let's go *SOUTH*

from Gerberviertel
to Heslach,
Südheim & up
Karlshöhe hill

---

from Heusteigviertel
to Lehen







Stuttgart
Marketing GmbH

G

reat to see you! Come and join us as we discover a different side to Stuttgart, turning city districts into our favourite quarters. Are you in? Then let’s go south!

We begin our stroll in the Gerberviertel. Although part of the central Mitte district, it reaches out to the south of the city. The two are linked by hip and trendy Tübinger Strasse. We head past the city’s oldest cinema, vintage shops, and laid-back cafés and restaurants to reach popular Marienplatz square. People at the outdoor tables are enjoying the sun as they watch the ‘Zacke’ cog railway trundle past.

But let’s explore the district properly, starting with Südheim and Heslach. Or have you got your mind on higher things? Karlshöhe hill – once a quarry, now a romantic park – offers picture-postcard vistas. There are a lot of those in the south of the city. Let your gaze sweep across the breweries and brickwork of Stuttgart as you stroll along panoramic trails past orchards, woods and vineyards.

Straddling the boundary between the city centre and the south, the Heusteigviertel and Lehen quarters offer the best of both worlds. The close proximity of the city centre, the lovely 1870s architecture, and the cafés and studios make the area popular with families and creative people. Wherever you end up, make yourself at home and enjoy your new favourite quarter.

South-wards



Heavenly Heslach! Captivating Karlshöhe!

What's on offer: hunting for second-hand bargains on Tübinger Strasse. Sipping spritzers on Marienplatz. Sunbathing on Karlshöhe hill. Playing boules on Erwin-Schoettle-Platz. Sounds like fun, doesn't it! So let's head south.



Hip hangout: Marienplatz

This is where the royal city of Stuttgart merged with the wine-growing village of Heslach in the 19th century. Nowadays, everyone from around here meets on Marienplatz square, where the pavement cafés in front of the Kaiserbau have a very relaxed vibe. People get together for a coffee or a drink after work and watch the cog railway carry its passengers to lofty heights.



Boules arena: Erwin-Schoettle-Platz

Older folks are playing boules as the tram rattles past in the background. Quite unlike its companion, bustling Marienplatz, Erwin-Schoettle-Platz is the leisurely heart of Heslach. The square is dominated by St Matthew's Church and the old fire station with its half-timbered tower.



Living the high life: Karlshöhe

Vineyard, quarry, park. Karlshöhe hill has been many things in its time and stretches far into the southern part of Stuttgart. The panoramic views from up here are amazing, and the Tschechen & Söhne beer garden is a fine place to enjoy them from dawn till dusk.



Something for everyone: Tübinger Strasse

This is the perfect place to dine, party, shop, skate, live and go to (St Mary's) church. Tübinger Strasse doesn't just link the city centre to the south, the trendy thoroughfare also boasts vintage shops, bars, galleries, family-run breweries, a venerable cinema and a shopping centre.

New heights

Much-loved conveyances and genuine rarities: Stuttgart is home to the world's first fully-automated cable car and the 'Zacke', one of only four remaining cog railways in Germany. All aboard, we're heading for the top.



The last of its kind: the 'Zacke'

Effortlessly climbing 205 metres on every journey, the cog railway has been rattling up Alte Weinsteige to Degerloch, past gardens and fabulous vistas, since 1884. Once upon a time it carried workers from the Filder plains and was used to transport goods to the city's markets.

→ Departs from Marienplatz, 70178 Stuttgart



Riding high: the cable car

With its polished brass, teak and mahogany, the cable car gleams just like it did at its launch in 1929. En route to Waldfriedhof cemetery, the funicular railway has to cope with inclines of up to 28 per cent. It owes its nickname, the Widows' Express, to its final destination.

→ Departs from Südheimer Platz, 70199 Stuttgart

TIPS

Two journeys, one tour

Take the cable car up to Degerloch. Follow the Blaustrümpflerweg trail for a walk through Dornhaldenwald forest. Then travel down to Marienplatz square on the 'Zacke'.

On your bike

The 'Zacke' has a special trailer for transporting bicycles free of charge. Great news for mountain bikers: they can ride the train to the top and whizz down the Woodpecker trail (p. 18).



The Moai the merrier!

Take the 'Zacke' to Haigst station, where Santiago-de-Chile-Platz offers lovely views into the valley. The small square is watched over by a moai, a sculpture from Easter Island.

Wonderful walks

Sequoia trees and vineyards are just some of the many attractions you'll encounter as you explore the circular walks and panoramic trails in Stuttgart's south. But what's the deal with the red and blue socks?



A breath of fresh air on Schimmelhüttenweg

Only a stone's throw from Erwin-Schoettle-Platz, the Schimmelhüttenweg trail leads straight into Scharrenberg vineyard. Here, heritage-listed dry-stone walls and ancient cliffs give way to amazing views of Heslach Valley.

Into the wild blue yonder on Blaustrümpflerweg

The 7.5km Blaustrümpflerweg (blue stocking trail) features a host of highlights, from Karlshöhe hill and Blauer Weg path to trips in the cable car and on the cog railway. High above the surrounding area, you stroll past orchards and wildflower meadows as you look down on the breweries and brickwork of Stuttgart.





Make your descent on Rote-Socken-Weg

The 7km 'red socks trail' complements Heslach's Blaustrümpflerweg. It runs from Marienplatz through Lehen to Wernhalde country park with its 40 sequoia trees. Along the way you can enjoy fantastic views from Santiago-de-Chile-Platz and Weissenburgpark.



LOCAL FACT



On the subject of socks

According to legend, the people of Heslach betrayed Duke Ulrich as he was fleeing from his enemies in 1519. When he returned to Stuttgart, he condemned them to henceforth wear blue stockings. So to this day, they are known as 'Blaustrümpfler', i.e. those who wear blue stockings.

Intoxicating

Stuttgart may be famed for its wine, but it's no stranger to hops and malt either. The southern part of the city is home to vineyards, but the air is also heavy with sweet aromas emanating from several breweries.



Quarter past beer

Quite early on, the southern edge of the city became the centre of Stuttgart's brewing industry. In 1888, Carl Dinkelacker set up his brewery on Tübinger Strasse and had deep cellars excavated in the cliffs at the foot of Karlshöhe hill for storing ice. There was plenty of water available for brewing, both underground and in springs on Hasenberg hill. The Stuttgarter Hofbräu brewery still boasts its own deep groundwater well on Böblinger Strasse.

TIP



After a guided tour of the Dinkelacker family brewery, stop off in the cosy bar of the brewery restaurant.





It's wine o'clock

Until the early 20th century, the southern slope of Hasenberg hill was covered by three large vineyards.

With the construction of many factories at the end of the 19th century, the wine-growers' village of Heslach became a working-class district with cheap, poorly-built residential quarters. A few impressive buildings, such as Marienhospital and St Matthew's Church ('Heslach Cathedral'), were intended to add a bit of grandeur.



TIP

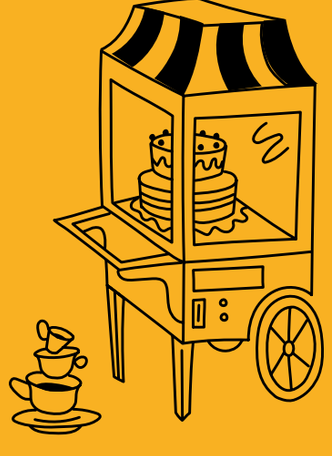


You can still stroll through vineyards on the Schimmelhüttenweg trail (p. 8) or on Karlshöhe hill (p. 14), where the municipal winery is located.

Rendezvous on Marienplatz

Marienplatz square is where southern Stuttgart comes into its own. From early morning until late at night, a hip crowd indulges in ice cream and all kinds of delicious food in the Kaiserbau building, the pavement cafés or simply on the steps. Sit yourself down, we'll make room.

LOCAL FACTS



Hip and trendy since 1911

The Kaiserbau building has towered over Marienplatz square since 1911. It gets its name from the Kaiser factory, which built vending machines and imported a trend from the US by opening a café with them. It was quite the sensation – you put in a coin and opened a door to help yourself to cake or rolls.

Circus, bunker, train station

Over the course of 140 years, Marienplatz has changed its face a few times. From the 1890s, there was a circus here whose tent could fit up to 3,500 spectators. In 1936, it became the terminus of the cog railway, complete with concrete ramp. The bunker beneath the square, built during World War Two, is now used as a rehearsal room.

DOLCE VITA TIMES THREE!

L.A. Signorina

The perfect pizza for every season. Enjoy it surrounded by shabby chic decor and stained-glass windows, on benches or in your favourite spot in the sun.

→ Marienplatz 12, 70178 Stuttgart



Café Kaiserbau

Breakfast in the afternoon? No problem! Alsace pastries and regional and mediterranean food are also available all day. Anyone with a sweet tooth will love the inhouse gelateria.

→ Marienplatz 12, 70178 Stuttgart



Condesa

A place for sipping and studying. Unpretentious furniture and a lack of frills shift the focus to what's going on outside in the square. Enjoy freshly made cakes and Marienplatz spritzers.

→ Marienplatz 11, 70178 Stuttgart



Hit the heights on Karlshöhe



Between the south and the west lies enchanted Karlshöhe hill with its vines and gardens. Thanks to its panorama terrace, beer garden and playground, the former quarry is one of the area's most popular spots.



Great prospects
The beer garden

Having reached the summit, it's time to refuel at Tschechen & Söhne. The beer garden replaced a milk bar that was opened for the 1961 German National Garden Show. From its terrace, you can see the vines of the municipal vineyard and a picture-postcard view of Stuttgart.

Energetic
The Willy-Reichert-Staffel

Stuttgart has 600 'stäffele' – the Swabian word for flights of steps – that help people tackle the steep slopes of the hills that surround its centre. Karlshöhe takes this to energetic new heights, as the 408 steps of its Willy-Reichert-Staffel make this the city's longest flight.





Romantic
The lapidarium

The lapidarium is home to 200 stone sculptures, scattered between the roses and oleander. Established in 1905 as a private Renaissance garden, from 1950 onwards the city began to deposit fragments from the war-damaged city here. The open-air museum contains 500 years' worth of historical monuments.

LOCAL FACTS

Don't quarry, be happy!

The top of Karlshöhe hill was first quarried in the 14th century. Sandstone from here was used to build Stuttgart's Collegiate Church and Old Castle, for example. Today, the quarry's crater has been turned into a playground.



A colourful spectacle

... awaits in July at the Africa Festival on Erwin-Schoettle-Platz. As the bells of St Matthew's Church mingle with the sound of exotic rhythms, African culture is celebrated with dance, readings, fashion shows and a big market.

In the right place at the right time



Get together

... any time on Marienplatz, for example at the WOUAHOU Winter Village, the Marienplatz festival or at the weekly organic market. This square is the vibrant heart of Stuttgart's south.

Spot(light) on: Tübinger Strasse

Beautiful cafés, trendy bars: easygoing Tübinger Strasse is the ideal place to stroll and mingle or sit and drink. There are plenty of great places to stop off along the way. Below are three popular venues.



SATTLEREI

Bare, unplastered walls in rambling ground-floor premises. Trendy Sattlerei (saddlery) gets its name – as well as all its beers and a strong aroma of hops – from its neighbour, the Dinkelacker brewery. This is where the harnesses for the brewery horses used to be stored.

→ Tübinger Strasse 68, 70178 Stuttgart

GALAO

Always full on! A late breakfast, a fresh lunch, cake in the afternoon. Done? If you're in luck, an indie, folk or electro band will be adding some extra vibes to this cosy place.

→ Tübinger Strasse 90, 70178 Stuttgart

MISCH MISCH

This basement café is the perfect place to relax. It doesn't get more chilled than misch misch. The quirkily furnished café with its turquoise and grey bar does a great Turkish coffee and tasty cakes.

→ Tübinger Strasse 95, 70178 Stuttgart

Have you ever tried ...

... riding your bike on the Woodpecker trail

The adrenaline surges as mountain bikers race downhill. This track in Dornhaldenwald forest features 27 obstacles and an altitude variation of 120 metres. But one ride is never enough! Luckily, the cog railway offers a quick and easy way to get back to the top.



... getting tipsy by design at Sitt

Welcome to wine tasting 2.0. The Sitt wine bar offers a choice of 100 wines. Once you've made your selection, you 'serve' yourself. It may take you a while to work your way through Germany's first self-guided wine experience, so they also offer cheese boards and antipasti.

→ Tübinger Strasse 91, 70178 Stuttgart



You'll be back for more!

Undercover

The small Gerberviertel quarter connects the city centre with the south. Its quiet seclusion hides some surprising stories. Once upon a time, there was …







… a foul stench.

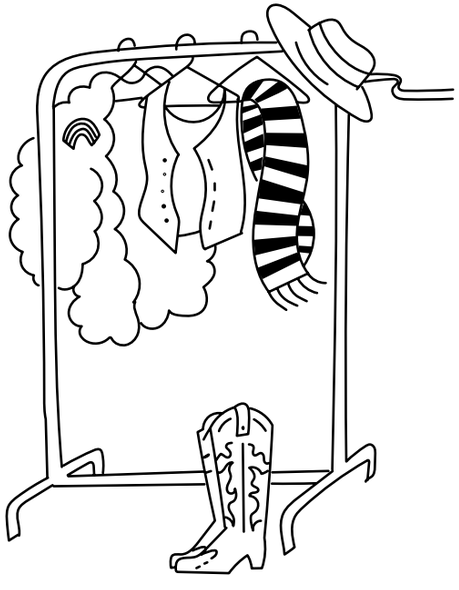
Things used to be quite idyllic beyond the city walls until the authorities banished all trades associated with uncleanliness and foul smells in 1806. From then on, tanners and those working with fire were only allowed to settle here. Now, just the name and one last tannery remain as reminders of the quarter's origin.

… a stream that went underground.

The tanners set up shop along the Nesenbach stream. So what happened to it? It flows from Vaihingen to Heslach, where it disappears. Along the way, it becomes a sewer. Its name is remembered in Nesenbachstrasse, where it makes a brief reappearance.

Bye-bye mainstream

From cowboy boots to queer literature, a kaleidoscope of independent shops thrive in the Gerberviertel quarter. Tübinger Strasse is the go-to place for vintage fashion. Let the treasure hunt begin!



First choice for second hand – Tübinger Strasse

Tübinger Strasse is lined with shops that will delight lovers of vintage goods. A true paradise for treasure seekers and bargain hunters.

Unique shops in the Gerberviertel quarter

Erlkoenig is one of the few remaining queer bookshops in the German-speaking world. It has been offering literature on a diverse range of topics and characters for over 40 years.

→ Erlkoenig: Nesenbachstrasse 52, 70178 Stuttgart

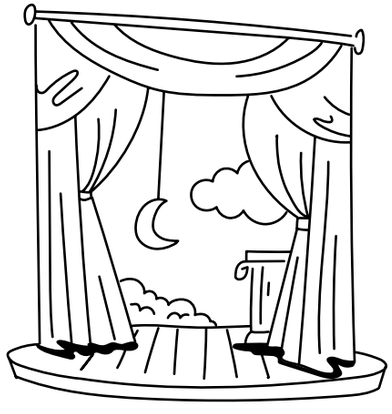
Since 1999, the Flaming Star has added pizazz and above all rock'n'roll to the city – with petticoats, flat caps, and 1950s and 60s fashion.

→ Flaming Star: Nesenbachstrasse 48, 70178 Stuttgart

Boots by Boots, on the other hand, offers a taste of the Wild West. The shoe shop has been providing footwear for urban cowboys and cowgirls since 1984.

→ Boots by Boots: Gerberstrasse 5F, 70178 Stuttgart

Small stage, great drama!



Pulling strings

Helga Brehme brings marionettes and shadow puppets to life at Theater am Faden, where she performs classic plays and fairytales from around the world on a miniature stage. She was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit in 2022.



Festival feeling

The Delphi dates back to 1912. The city's oldest cinema hosts festivals such as CineLatino and the German-Turkish film festival SiNEMA. The Jour Fixe du Cinéma Français features films in their original French version.



Bold new drama

Since 2004, JES (Junges Ensemble Stuttgart) has staged productions dealing with issues that affect young people. Participation is positively encouraged at the Kulturareal Unterm Turm theatre. Say yes to JES!



Off the rails

From writer-led theatre to offbeat performances, expect the unexpected. At 9pm, Thtr Rmpe welcomes a regular visitor as the cog railway tootles into the foyer of the old station building for its overnight rest.



Drama, baby, drama!
Small-scale theatre is popular in the south of Stuttgart.

With strings attached, for young people or on a small stage: the best of regional theatre.

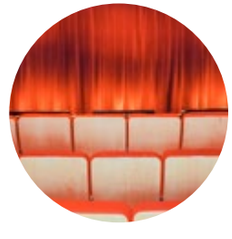
An art nouveau gem

The Altes Schauspielhaus theatre is an art nouveau building nestled into Kleine Königstrasse. From 1909 onwards, locals were able to enjoy plays here that were banned by the censor in Berlin, all thanks to Württemberg's liberal king, Wilhelm II.



Parliament & theatre

ABV-Zimmertheater was founded in 1921 by the drama department of the Workers' Educational Association. Its home is Eduard Pfeiffer Haus, although it had to temporarily make way for the state parliament after World War Two.



Something different at the puppet theatre

Things are a bit more modern at FITZ, especially in the programme for adults. Creative ensembles perform with puppets that are not averse to acting up.



Big fun on a small stage

An illuminated sign in the dark above a narrow door points the way to 3-Groschen-theater, Stuttgart's smallest theatre. It has been attracting amateur actors and drama students since 1975.



Picture perfect!

While stone statues pose at the lapidarium, proper hipsters pose on Marienplatz square. St Matthew's Church favours portrait mode, while Karlshöhe hill requires a wide angle.



Looking southwards
from Schwabtunnel



A lovely view
of Heslach Cathedral



Stone statues at
the lapidarium



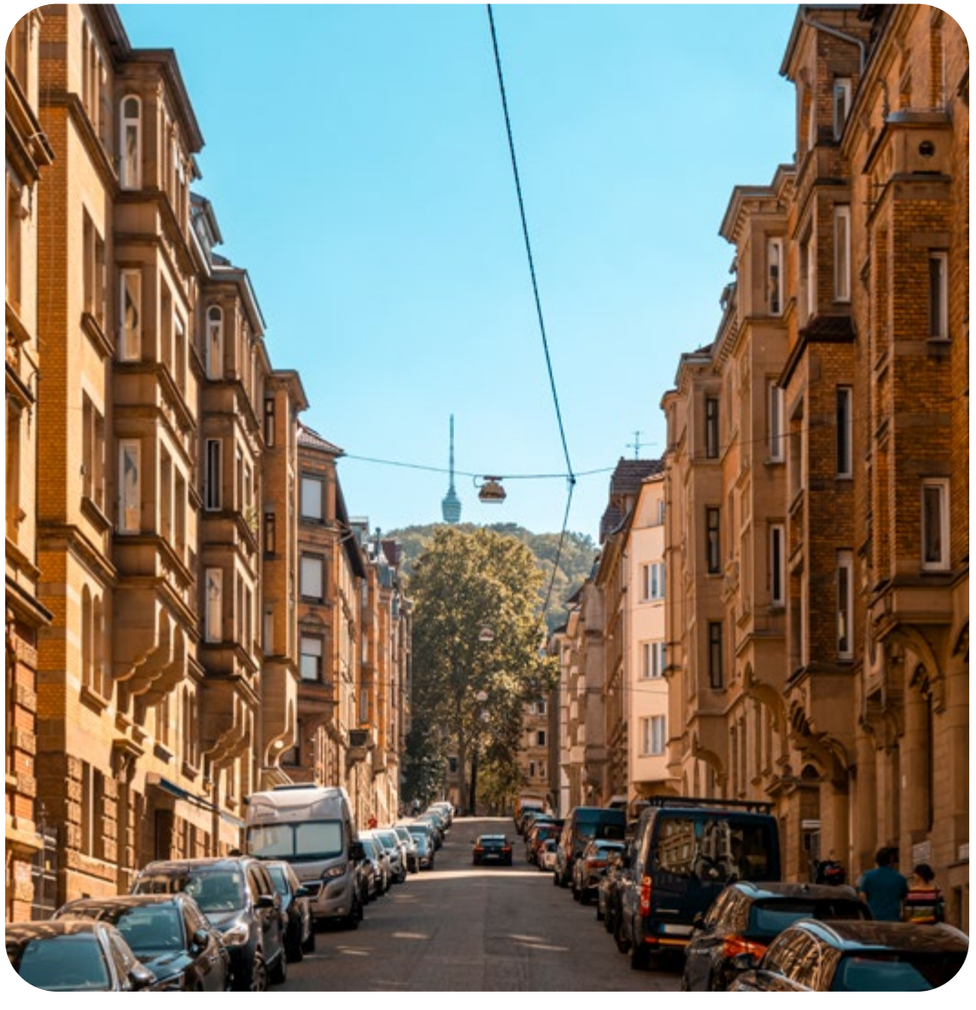
Head to Marienplatz
for even more photos

Heusteigviertel & Lehen



The must-sees

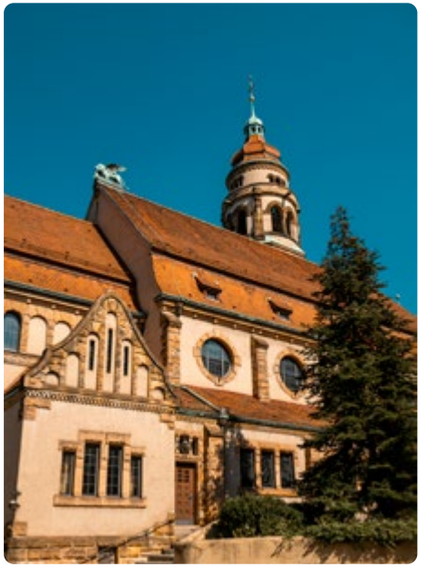
The elegant quarters of Heusteigviertel and Lehen drape themselves along the south-facing slopes, their 1870s architecture a feast for the eyes. At their heart is the art nouveau Church of St Mark.



Grand Gründerzeit, alluring art nouveau

The streets of Heusteigviertel are ideal for exploring at a leisurely pace. Here you'll find architecture from the Gründerzeit period of the 1870s, and fine examples of art nouveau and neoclassicism. Lehen also boasts some beautiful old buildings, particularly on Cottastrasse and Liststrasse. Options for a break abound along the way, for example at Herbert'z Espressobar and Café List.





A real wow factor The Church of St Mark

Completed in 1908, the Church of St Mark is one of only a few art nouveau churches in Germany and one of the first made of reinforced concrete. Inside, its colourful glass doors, ornate bannisters and gold and turquoise lights add a touch of magic. The church is a popular venue for concerts due to the organ's orientation towards the congregation.

- → Filderstrasse 22, 70180 Stuttgart
- → Tip: the cinema events featuring silent movies accompanied by organ music can draw crowds of up to 800.

LOCAL FACTS



Of hay and wood

'Heu', or hay, is not the origin of Heusteigviertel's name. Rather, it's due to the wood that was cut in the forests along the foot of Bopser hill. 'In die Heue steigen', or 'going up to the place where wood is cut', gives us Heusteig. And 'viertel' is quarter, of course.

Happening Heusteig! Lively Lehen!

Herbert'z
The local hub

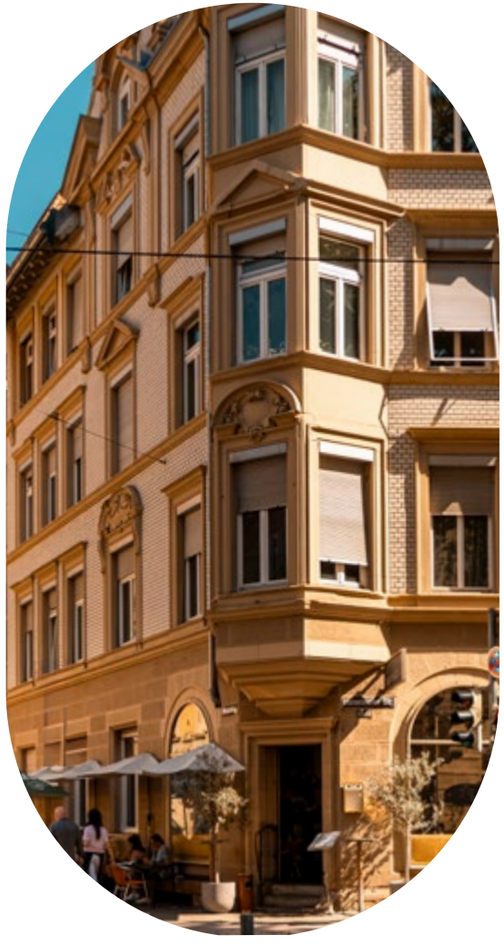
The supersize coffee machine in this espresso bar gives weary brains a boost throughout the day. Local night owls are also well-served by this bar, sometimes even with live music.

→ Immenhofer Strasse 13

A draw for all ages – Kochenbas

Everyone from students to pensioners flock here for the *rostbraten* beef. The former Zum Immenhofer tavern was bought by the winegrowing Koch family and run by their 'bas', or cousin, Pauline Koch. That gave rise to the name we see today: Kochenbas.

→ Immenhofer Strasse 33





A local institution in Lehen

People have been enjoying a large glass of wine at the Gasthaus am Eck since 1904. In the 21st century, the locals still treat this as their home-from-home. Everyone is welcome, whatever their background or interests, as Lehen is big on sharing time together.

→ Lehenstrasse 13, 70180 Stuttgart

Unofficially important Mozartplätzle

Officially, Mozartplätzle on the corner of Mozartstrasse and Immenhofer Strasse doesn't exist. Mozartplatz square at the other end of Mozartstrasse does. Yet it's Mozartplätzle that's the heart of the neighbourhood, not the square.





Travel back in time at Such & Find

From Märklin train sets to Mickey Mouse comics and other collectibles, a visit to Such & Find will whisk you back to your childhood. This excellent second-hand store is brimful with memories of yesteryear.

→ Mozartstrasse 38, 70180 Stuttgart

In the right place at the right time



The stars of the south

... light up the Lehen quarter in September. One day a year, the independent shops, artisan workshops, galleries and other ‘stars’ on and around Liststrasse invite everyone to a special open-door event.

Mmmoreish!

The Heusteigviertel and Lehen quarters tickle your taste buds with excellent wines and tasty food.



VETTER

Vetter serves seasonal food, Swabian classics and a fine selection of wines. A symphony of food and drink on Mozartplatz square.

→ Bopserstrasse 18, 70180 Stuttgart



CAFÉ LIST

In the mornings, Café List delights with croissants and hot chocolate. There’s also plenty to choose from during the rest of the day, including petits fours, cakes and light meals.

→ Liststrasse 25, 70180 Stuttgart

HANKY PANKY

Happy hour: Stuttgart's Gatsby has called, and we follow him straight to Hanky Panky. For a flirtatious encounter, enjoy drinks with a kick and snacks with a punch.

→ Sophienstrasse 3, 70180 Stuttgart

KANTINCHEN

This charming corner spot is part café, part organic grocery store, part lunch spot – and a total favorite spot!

→ Alexanderstrasse 180, 70180 Stuttgart

Picture perfect!

The buildings in Heusteigviertel and Lehen always present themselves from their best side. With the television tower in the background and the Church of St Mark within sight, there's a photo op at every turn.



Pomp and splendour
in the Church of St Mark



The cog railway passes
through here too



No. 1 on Insta, no. 47
on Heusteigstrasse

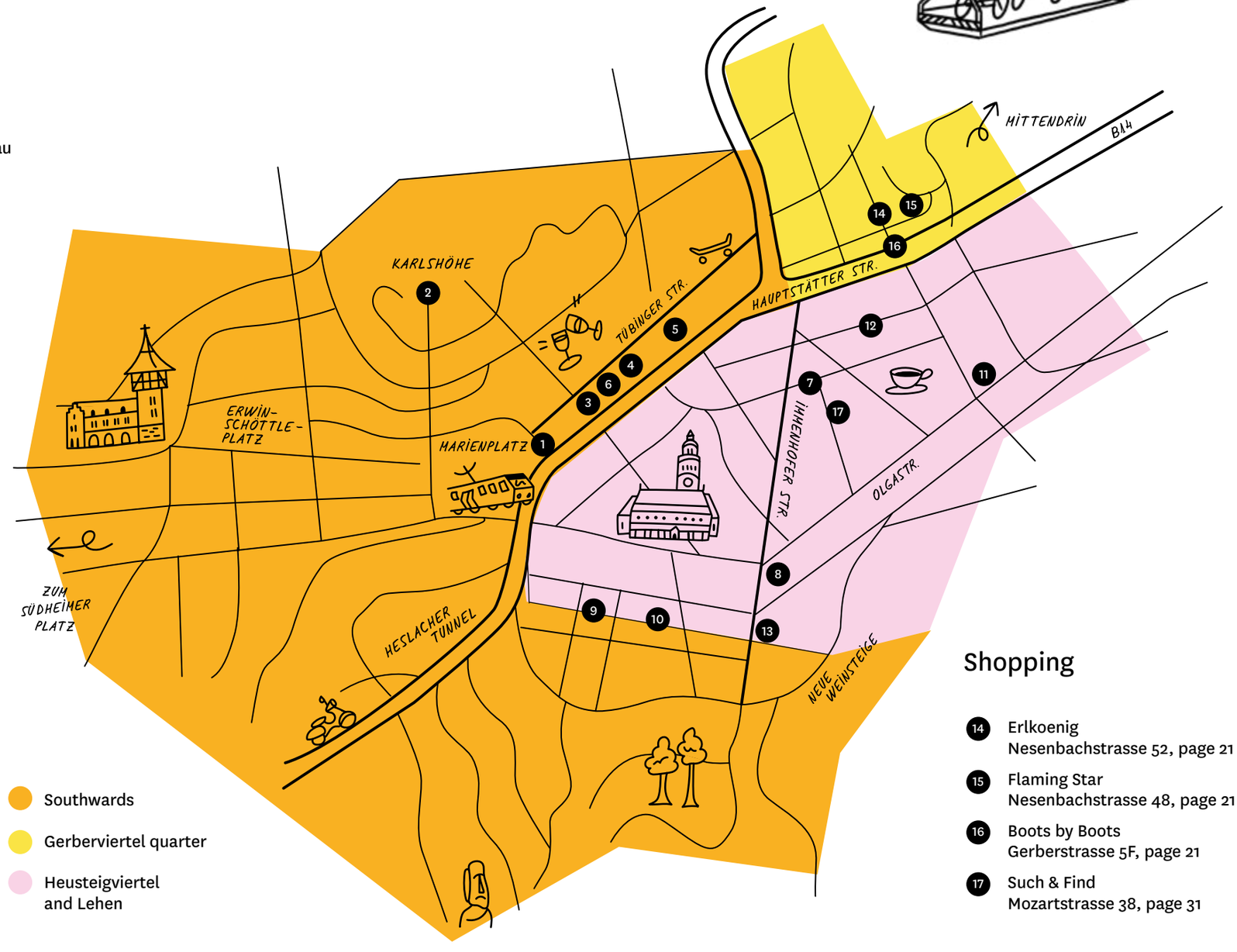


Admiring the architecture
around Mozartstrasse and Liststrasse

Where to go

Food & drink

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   Humboldtstrasse 44, page 15
3. Galao
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   Tübinger Strasse 95, page 17
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    Mozartstrasse 38, page 31

The show's not over.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We simply love Stuttgart, and we hope you do too. Share your favourite quarter with us using the hashtag #lieblingsviertelstuttgart and stay in touch!

- StuttgartTourismus
- stuttgarttourismus
- stuttgarttourismus
- stuttgarttourismus
- enjoystuttgart

MORE INFO

You can find information on Stuttgart's favourite quarters and more tips and stories at lieblingsviertel-stuttgart.de

This is just the begin-ning!



Street art on Südheimer Platz by Stuttgart's graffiti star, Jeroo

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