

A group from Surrey County Walkers went to the Black Forest for a week's walking holiday staying in the village of Hinterzarten. We stayed in the hotel Schwarzwaldhof.



The hotel was family - run and furnished in typical rustic German style. Much of southern Germany is predominantly Roman Catholic and a crucifix was displayed on a wall in the restaurant.



Outside there was a sign showing the hotel name and that of the proprietor.



The Black Forest is in the federal state of Baden - Württemberg, formerly in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The Baden coat of arms were displayed outside the hotel.



The village of Hinterzarten is 885 m above sea level, almost as high as the highest mountains in England.



On the first day of the holiday (Monday)

we did a gentle walk through the village of Hinterzarten, passing the church



which shows the onion dome style typical of southern Germany.

We walked past the ski jump



which shows that Hinterzarten has both summer and winter seasons.

We walked on to the lake of Titisee



where we stopped for morning coffee at a restaurant beside the lake.



We had lunch at a small restaurant at the end of the lake and then walked round the lake



to the village of Titisee. Then we went for a boat ride on the lake.

On the next day (Tuesday), we took the local bus to Breitnau. The local church is in typical local style.



Inside, the decoration is in the rococo style.



We came to a wind turbine



It is remarkably ornate for such a small village.

We walked steeply uphill from the church



where there is a display board describing the operation of the turbine.

We walked on until we reached the picturesque Ravenna Gorge.



and into the woods.



until we came out under the viaduct.



We saw a giant cuckoo clock at a village with a shop selling cuckoo clocks.



We walked back to Hinterzarten through the Löffeltal ('spoon valley', where spoons were once made).

On the next day (Wednesday), we went by bus and tram to Schauinsland, where we went up the cable car to one of the highest viewpoints in the Black Forest (1264 m).



The more energetic members climbed up the tower at the top.



We returned to Freiburg for afternoon coffee, visiting the cathedral



and the cathedral close.



On the next day (Thursday), we took the bus to St Peter where there is a former monastery with an enormous church. As at Breitnau, it is decorated in rococo style.



We walked away from St Peter, with views of the monastery and church in the distance.



We came to a pilgrimage church



where we stopped at an adjacent cafe for morning coffee.

We walked steeply downhill along a zigzag road



until we reached our lunch stop. This view shows the typical Black Forest landscape with deep valleys with farms and settlements in the valley and pinewoods up the sides of the valley.

After lunch, we walked along the road through this village until we reached a bus stop. As it was extremely hot, we were glad not to have to walk further.

The next day (Friday), we walked past Titisee, onto Feldberg Bärenthal which has the highest station on German railways.



As the walk had taken longer than expected, we stopped here for lunch and returned to Titisee by bus, where we spent the rest of the afternoon.

It rained on Friday night and our last day (Saturday) was much cooler. We therefore decided to have a quiet day and went by bus to Feldberg Bärenthal. We went on the heritage steam train



to Schluchsee which has an interesting

church.



We had our lunch in a cafe with views over the lake. Then we went for a boat ride on the lake.



We returned to Hinterzarten by bus and this completed our holiday.