



**Day 12: Baden-Baden**

**Highlights: 2000 year old thermal baths**

*Baden-Baden used to be called the "European Summer-Capital" due to the number of nobles and wealthy that came to spend the summer here. But this international cultural center charms its visitors all year round. Be sure to visit its sophisticated thermal baths. The modern Caracalla Spa and the Friedrich's Spa offer wellness and relaxation while the "Festspielhaus" and the Frieder Brurda Museum are the cultural stimulants. And of course you should not miss an evening in the oldest and most beautiful Casino of Germany. Daily Distance: 32-43km (20-27 miles).*

**This evening's hotel:**

**Atlantic Parkhotel  
Oberdo Goetheplatz 3  
76530 Baden-Baden**

**Tel: +49 (0)722 136 10**

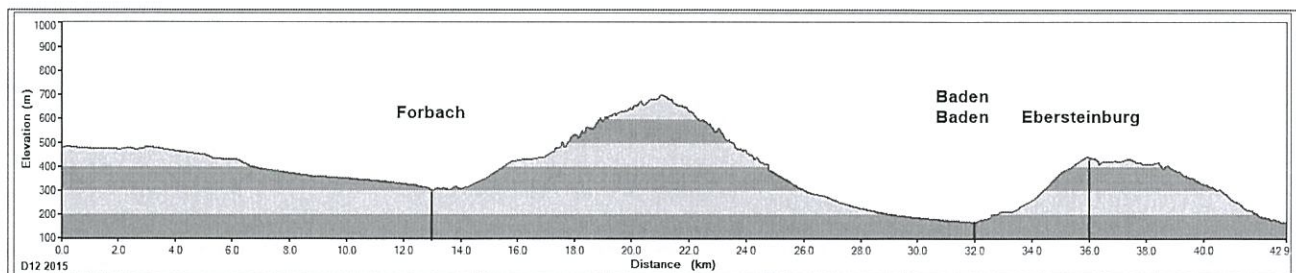
**Tour leader phone numbers:**

**Philipp: +33 7 86 57 37 82  
Jessica: +33 7 86 07 20 29**

**Loïc: +33 7 81 63 38 36**

**In an emergency call 112**

**Today's Ride:** We will follow the Tour de Murg bike path out of Baiersbronn until Forbach. From there we will climb to the Rote Lache, a beautiful climb of 390m (we'll also offer a shuttle). From there it will be all a downhill ride. The last kilometers along the famous Lichtenthaler Avenue in Baden-Baden that now, luckily is closed to traffic are really beautiful and will take us right to our hotel. You can choose to continue for an extra loop up to the village of Ebersteiburg and back down to Baden-Baden.



**Lunch and Dinner:** It is a short day and it might be worth to go all the way to Baden and have lunch there or stop along the way for a picnic, there will also be some restaurants marked. We'll enjoy our final dinner together this evening at restaurant close by our hotel.

Baden Baden is often referred to as the "Summer Capital of Europe." In fact by the late medieval period and renaissance this little town in Baden had earned a reputation as a spa town, but only a few hundred visitors actually made their way to the town's thermal springs. They came and stayed for recuperation and company, or maybe the odd romantic interest. But what made Baden Baden famous was much more attractive, raunchy, glamorous or dark depending on whether you stand



on the winning or losing side. The combination of splendid resorts, spas, and high bet gambling has been the draw of wealth to Baden Baden. In 1748 it opened the first casino in Germany and little by little it became the first address for Europe's high society in the summer. This high society often was the Russian aristocracy with its immense fortunes. Of which a lot was spent in Baden Baden. Around 1862 the Russian novelist Fjodor Dostoyevsky came into contact with this world of gambling and became a "slave to it with his body and soul". He perpetuated this painful experience in his novel *The Gambler*

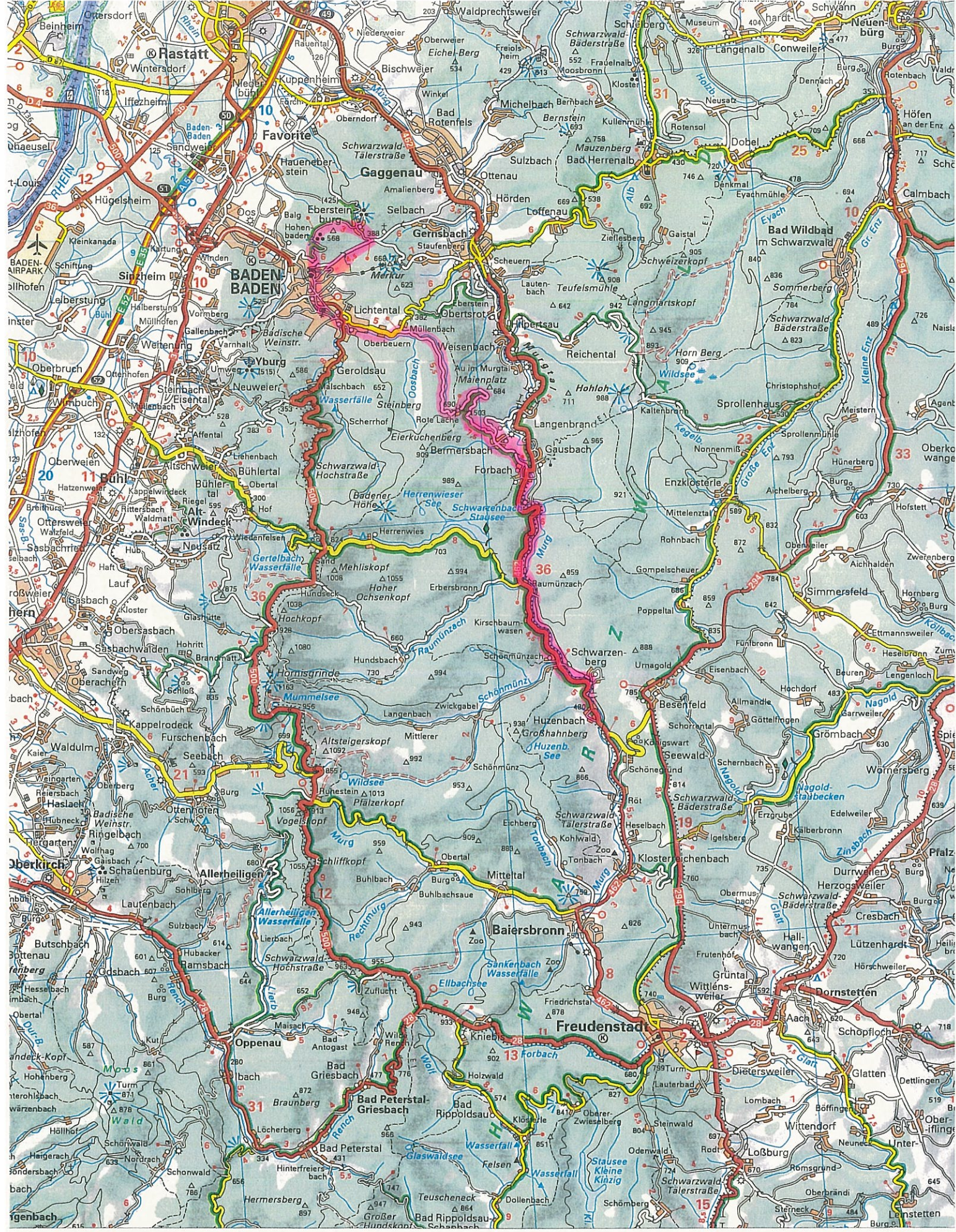
But for as many fortunes as it has shattered, the town has preserved the beauty and splendor of that age. In particular the Kurhaus, which significantly is not the entry to the spas but to the Casino. The hotels, spas, parks and museums maintain much of the legacy from those days and you can still see quite a bit of Russian wealth throughout Baden Baden. No surprise then that the most common languages on signs are German and Russian!

**Bike Safety Tip:**

Don't coach or suggest to other cyclists when it is ok to go. Let them decide for themselves! This is especially useful at intersections where EVERYONE should stop. Encouraging others to roll through an intersection leads to bad habits.

**Language Lesson of the Day:**

Good bye: "*Auf Wiedersehen*"



Cycling the Vineyards of Alsace Plus! the Black Forest  
Scale 1:200,000

**Day 12: Pedal to Baden-Baden**

Towns for Navigation: Forbach (13 km), Hotel in Baden-Baden (32 km), Ebersteinburg (36 km), back to Hotel in Baden-Baden (43 km).