

STERNENWEG

CHEMIN DES ÉTOILES



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Time to depart | Pause | Discover | Go new ways | Make peace

A European model project along the Way of St. James sets [way]signs!

In the Middle Ages, St. James pilgrims were guided by the fine star trail of the Milky Way to Santiago de Compostela. Its natural composition points towards Spain on a clear night sky. The European model project "Sternenweg/Chemin des étoiles" refers symbolically to this cosmic "signpost" of our ancestors and sees itself nowadays as a great regional contribution to the careful valorization of the Way of St. James in parts of the Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate, Lorraine, and Alsace. A European vision of the future permeates the project:

Pilgrimage along the paths guided by the stars of Europe for tolerance, humanity, freedom, democracy, friendly encounter of cultures, and peace!

In medieval times, countless people trod a network of paths to Santiago de Compostela, in their collective search of encounter and salvation, and thus shaped the cultural-historical roots of Europe. Follow the lines of movement of these pilgrims and feel the special spirituality, which was their strength, and inspiration and which resonates in the medieval building culture along the wayside to the present day. Discover next to the stone "contemporary witnesses", what connects times, people, and cultures, and what holds Europe together at its core.



The project area



A great regional route network in the heart of Europe

In the Middle Ages the old bishop's seats of Mainz, Worms, Speyer, Metz, and Strasbourg were already among the great nodes and gathering points of the St. James pilgrims.

The project area comprises 16 different routes with approx. 1600 kilometers. Along these rediscovered routes, there is evidence of more than 350 large and small gems of medieval building culture.

These form a "string of pearls" of architectural "contemporary witnesses" of the pilgrims who sought their way in the middle ages using the stars as guidance towards Santiago de Compostela. Many of these medieval monumental gems are already marked with stone scallops as a "path sign".

These mystical cultural monuments invite one to discover, trace, and pause in the extremely rich, ancient cultural landscapes... pilgrims are welcome to stray from the officially marked routes.

Along the routes in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Bliesgau, additional signposts can be found: stars and path ornaments made of fieldstones, each of which have a medieval reference in the surrounding area.

At some stations, there are "pictures of remembrance", which reflect the messages of the "Starpath – Sternenweg" in a location-related and artistic way.





DISCOVER, WHAT
IS CONNECTED.
TO SET AN
EXAMPLE!

Be open-minded
on the way

Live in moderation

Learn to see
and
be amazed

Make
friends

Stand up
for justice

Love

Be grateful
and
enjoy

Be aware
on the way

Protect
democracy

Be conscious

Donate
moments



Practice tolerance

Maintain
the creation

Be open to
different cultures

Meet
attentive and
respectfully

Feel
the spiritual world

Provide
orientation

Seek silence
and pray

Humility
for life

Self-care
welfare, precaution

Be connected
with everything

Take
Responsibility

BE AWARE
OF ONESELF AND
MAKE PEACE



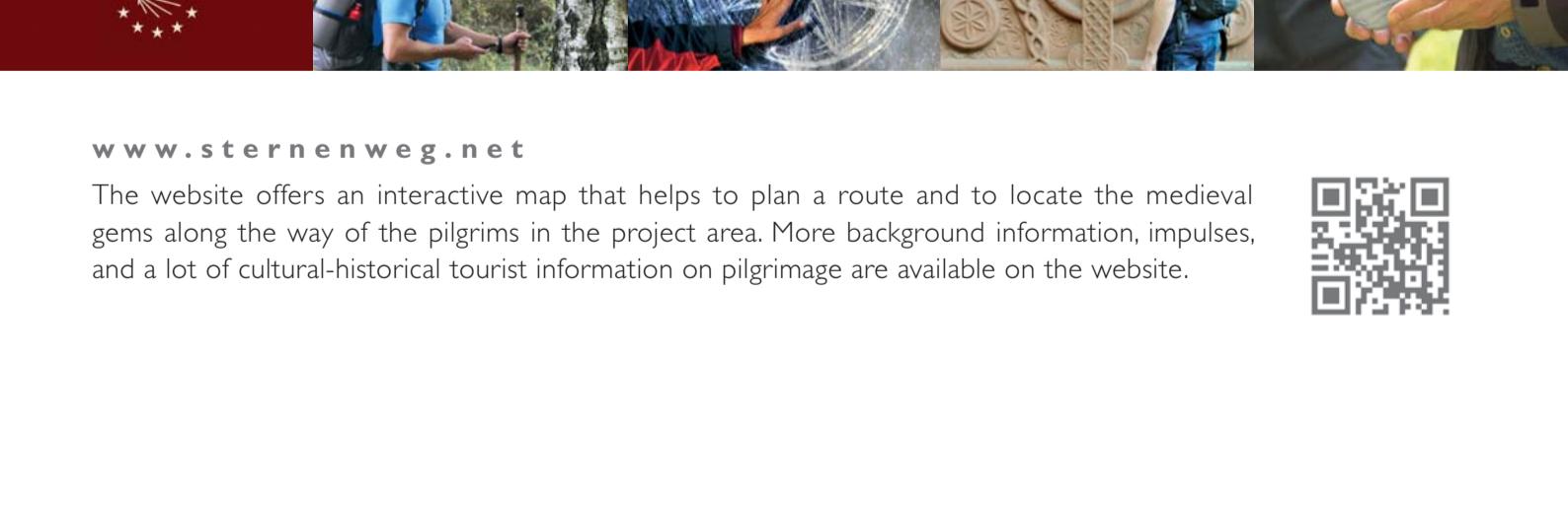
Team spirit

Regionalverband Saarbrücken initiated the idea as a European model project in 2006 and has managed cross-border development in a process-oriented manner since then. The way signs are created as part of qualification measures for job seekers. Cooperation partners are the German Societies of St James (Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Lorraine, Alsace), many administrative districts, towns, communities, church and cultural tourism institutions along the routes of the project area as well as the Institute for European Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

The illustrated book

The poetic documentation contains contributions to the myth of the "Sternenweg", everyday stories of medieval pilgrims, and poems to pause and reflect. Additionally, all recorded medieval cultural monuments are documented along the routes of the project area. Format 245 x 290 mm, hardcover, 568 pages with a French abstract, 25 Euro (plus postage), publisher: Regionalverband Saarbrücken, 2017

Supplier : Tourist Information at the Saarbrücken Castle, Schlossplatz 1–15, 66119 Saarbrücken,
+ 49 681-506-60 06, touristinfo@rvsbr.de, ISBN-Nr. 978-3-947148-00-4



www.sternenweg.net

The website offers an interactive map that helps to plan a route and to locate the medieval gems along the way of the pilgrims in the project area. More background information, impulses, and a lot of cultural-historical tourist information on pilgrimage are available on the website.



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