



**42th Congress of the J.E.C.
18th - 24th October 2026, Hornberg, Germany**



Welcome to Hornberg

Hornberg is a town with a population of around 5,000, situated in the Central Black Forest in the Ortenau district of Baden-Württemberg. The Central Black Forest region is bounded to the west by the Rhine Valley and to the east by the Baar region, which slopes down towards the Upper Neckar Valley. To the north and south, the area is defined by natural boundaries: to the north, the Northern Black Forest in the vicinity of the small river Rench, and to the south by the source streams of the Danube, the Brigach and the Breg. At the heart of this area, in the deeply incised Gutach Valley, lies the small town of Hornberg, situated on massive, coarse-grained, and very hard Triberg granite. The diversity of geology and climatology, and the resulting types of flora, provide a rich variety of fungi throughout the year within a relatively small area.

Conference venue

Hornberg itself lies at an altitude of around 390 metres above sea level, whilst the planned excursion areas are significantly higher, at 500–950 metres above sea level. These areas have been recognised for decades as hotspots for biodiversity, particularly with regard to the genus *Cortinarius*. Walter Pätzold, former head of the Black Forest Mushroom Exhibition and former president of the J.E.C., has already held the conference in this region on two occasions. The region features a variety of soil conditions (acidic, alkaline) as well as a forest community dominated by conifers (*Picea abies*, *Abies alba*, *Pinus sylvestris*). Although the excursions to the hotspots are certainly a must, it may still be necessary to reschedule to other, similar areas due to adverse weather conditions (dryness). The director of the Black Forest Mushroom Exhibition and organiser of this year's *Cortinarius* Congress, Björn Wergen, along with a number of helpers, will ensure everything is perfectly organised so that this conference is an unforgettable experience for you.

Workshop

The workshop is being held at the Hotel Schloss Hornberg, not at the Hornberg Town Hall as originally planned and announced. Microscopes and accessories, as well as stereoloupes, are available for hire, though limited to six of each. The hire fee for a microscope, including equipment, is €40 for the entire duration of the conference. The fee for a stereoloupe is also €40.



History

Around 1100, the first Hornberg Castle of the Lords of Hornberg was built on the lower castle rock near Althornberg (now part of the municipality of Gremmelsbach). Their domain encompassed the Gutach Valley from its source near Schönwald to its mouth north of Gutach, along with its side valleys.

A hundred years later, following the division of their dominion, the Lords of Hornberg moved their seat to the local Schlossberg and founded a small town at the foot of the new castle, which remained walled until the mid-19th century. Soon, small suburbs and commercial districts began to develop to the north and east of the town walls, along the Gutach.

The population lived mainly off through-traffic, which – before the steep ascent through the Schwanen Valley and later the Reichenbach Valley – required horse-drawn transport, accommodation and escorts. In 1383, following a dispute with the lords of Hornberg, the people of Strassbourg burned down the town. Between 1423 and 1448, control of the town gradually passed into the hands of the Counts of Württemberg, and Hornberg became the seat of the Württemberg bailiff.

In 1535, Duke Ulrich of Württemberg introduced the Reformation here, as he did throughout his duchy. During the Thirty Years' War, the town suffered greatly from troop movements and looting. From 1700, Hornberg served as a station on the Thurn and Taxis imperial postal route between Strassbourg, Villingen, Ulm and Munich. As part of the territorial reforms at the beginning of the last century, Hornberg became part of Baden in 1810.

The 19th century brought a boom to the town thanks to the flourishing development of trades (such as wood-carving) and industry (a stoneware factory from 1817), as well as the construction of the Hornberg–Triberg road and the connection to the Offenburg–Konstanz Black Forest Railway. Industry and tourism developed positively until the wars of the 20th century significantly disrupted this favourable upward trend.

During the Second World War, Hornberg suffered severe war damage, from which it soon recovered and strove for renewed positive development. Alongside industry and trade, tourism has become an important economic factor for the town.

This development has been aided by the incorporation of the neighbouring towns of Reichenbach and Niederwasser in the 1970s, which have since become integral parts of Hornberg.

Climate and vegetation

Climatically, the western part, characterised by the Rhine Valley and the larger side valleys (such as the Kinzig), has a distinctly sub-Atlantic influence, as evidenced, among other things, by the abundant presence of *Ilex aquifolium*. Winters are consequently relatively mild and wet.

In the mountain foothills, at altitudes of 700 to 1,150 metres above sea level, we see over 2,000 mm of rainfall per year, whilst in the large valley floors, barely 1,200 mm of rainfall per year falls. East of the main ridge, too, precipitation drops rapidly to between 1,500 and 1,000 mm per year, allowing the silver fir to persist. Here, a significantly stronger continental influence is evident, with hotter summer days and colder winter days. Whilst an early spring and a sunny autumn until the onset of the 'November mists' are typical of the western slopes, the prevailing weather conditions in the eastern part of the region are exactly the opposite.

Depending on altitude and Atlantic influence (in the south-west also sub-Mediterranean via the Burgundian Gate), climates ranging from the mild winters of the lowland Atlantic zone to the cold winters of the Nordic-montane zone can be found, for example in the headwaters of the Danube's tributaries. Accordingly, along the Rhine we still find *Muscari botryoides* and *Tulipa sylvestris*, whilst in the east *Ciberbita alpina*, *Rumex alpinus* and *Adenostyles alliariae* are already defining the landscape.

Flora

This section will focus primarily on trees and a few shrubs. In the west, alongside a variety of softwoods, *Castanea sativa*, *Quercus* spp. and *Fagus* were once particularly prevalent. As altitude and rainfall increase, *Abies alba* joins them, and in high-mountain regions, *Picea abies* also becomes common.

At higher elevations, *Pinus sylvestris* replaces the oak species. In damp areas such as depressions, marshes, and stream and river valleys, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Populus nigra*, *Salix spec.* and *Alnus glutinosa* are found, depending on the degree of moisture. Thanks to human influence, the glacial relict *Alnus viridis* has established itself well from the summits down to the submontane zone. *Corylus avellana* dominates the shrub layer throughout, whilst the remaining shrubs are mainly determined by soil acidity. On the western edge, some stands of *Prunus padus* are found, followed by *Sorbus aucuparia* and *Sorbus aria*. It is only in the eastern Muschelkalk area that species diversity increases, with the calcicolous *Lonicera*, *Viburnum* and *Crataegus* species and *Prunus spinosa*.

Intensive management has given *Picea abies* a dominant position in all sub-regions, and it is only in the numerous extensive farm forests that a near-natural aspect can still be found.

Geology

From west to east, the same pattern emerges almost everywhere in the region:

The Rhine alluvial plain and the lower alluvial channels of the side valleys are initially succeeded by a belt of sedimentary gneisses, Rotliegend strata and, occasionally, loess cones. Primordial gneisses and, finally, the massive, mostly hard and therefore gently rounded granite formations ultimately form the main mountain range, with few deep valley incisions.

As overlying strata (in places still tens of metres thick, in others almost entirely eroded away), Rotliegend and Buntsandstein form the Black Forest main ridge. Where the overlying strata are absent, the massive bedrock is often overlain by primary gneisses. Alongside the spring-rich sedimentary gneiss, this formation forms the main spring horizon with numerous spring marshes and moors.

The more or less acid-bearing mountain slope and the plateau are abruptly replaced beyond the zenith by Muschelkalk of varying ages, and the terrain slopes down towards the upper Neckar valley through various Keuper formations.

People and Culture

Originally, only the major river valleys around the bend in the Rhine near Basel and the Upper Rhine Plain from Karlsruhe onwards were densely populated. Over the course of history, an Alemannic cultural sphere emerged, encompassing large parts of German-speaking Switzerland, extending westwards to Alsace as far as the main ridge of the Vosges, westwards to the main ridge of the Black Forest, and southwards to the western shore of Lake Constance. The mindset of the people, shaped by the landscape and the pursuit of sustenance, can still be felt today in farming families steeped in tradition. Political borders seem rather arbitrary in this region. From Schirmeck (Alsace, F) to Schenkenzell (South Baden, D), from Olten (Unterland, CH) to Offenburg (Ortenau, D), the people, their customs and traditions, as well as their daily routines, are very similar. As a result of the modern-day mass migrations caused by the devastating wars of this century, origins have receded into the background in favour of an even more pronounced sense of internationalism.

The cultural centres of Strasbourg, Basel and Freiburg have already grown much closer together with the people of these cities across three nations than politics may have realised. The Cortinarien Congress can help to promote the international character of the states along the Upper and High Rhine, ensuring that unnecessary borders and toll zones become a thing of the past.

Excursion areas

The following are planned: Hardt-Nord, Kräherwald, Büchereck, Tannengrund, Fohrenbühl (upper and lower sections), Langenschiltach, Doniswald-Königsfeld, Geutsche, Weiler, St. Georgen, Harzloch = all soils acidic to neutral (Triberg granite, but: limestone gravel paths).

Flözlingen, Schabenhäusen and Fischbach are shell limestone areas.

Electricity

In Germany, the most common electrical plugs are the Type F (Schuko) plug with an earth pin and the flat Type C (Euro plug) without an earth pin. Type C plugs can be used in Type F sockets without any problems.

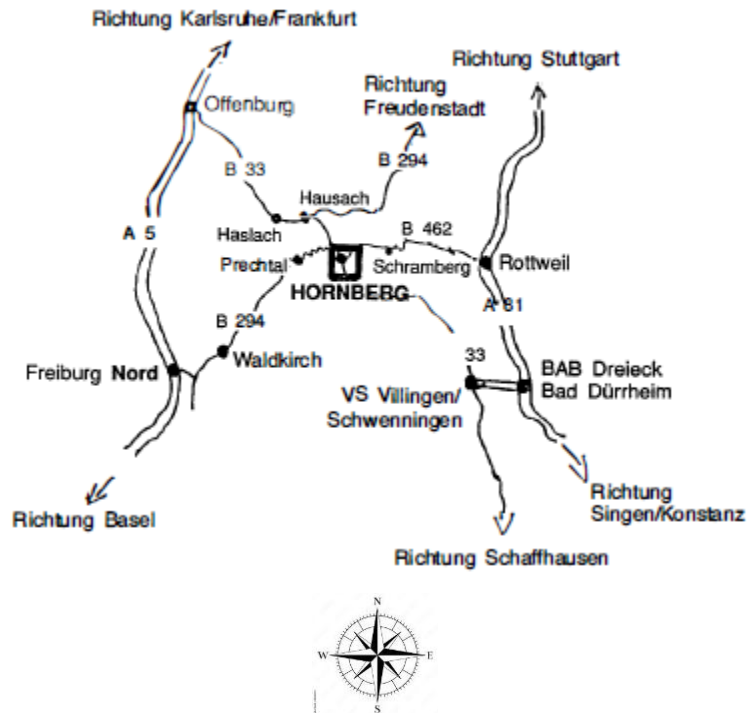


Type F



Type C

Map of Hornberg between the north-south motorways



By car

Coordinates of Hotel Schloss Hornberg

48.2096° N and 8.2325° E

48° 12' 34.6' N, 8° 13' 57.0'

By plane

The nearest international airport is Karlsruhe/Baden in Baden, approx. 92 km away. The journey from Karlsruhe/Baden Airport to Hornberg takes around 1.25 hours by car and around 1.5 hours by train.

Basel Mulhouse Airport is 117 km away. The journey by car from Basel Mulhouse Airport to Hornberg takes around 1.5 hours, and by train and bus around 3.0 hours.

Other airports include: Stuttgart, Strasbourg, Zurich-Kloten.

Responsible for organizing the *Cortinarius* Congress 2026

and

for the scientific committee of the conference



Björn Wergen

Head of the Schwarzwälder Pilzlehorschau in Hornberg

The Scientific Committee of the Congress also includes



Claudio Rossi



Tor E. Brandrud



Thomas Kuyper



Günter Saar



Gianni Turrini

Lectures and presentations

During the conference, there will be an opportunity to give presentations (time limit: maximum 60 minutes).

Please indicate on the registration form whether you wish to give a presentation. Please prepare a one-page summary of your paper in Word format in one of the conference languages (as per the statutes: German, French, Italian or English) and email it by 1 September 2026 at the latest to Oswald Rohner, J.E.C. President, at

o.rohner@bluewin.ch

Preliminary Program

Sunday, 18th October 2026

12:00 – 17:00	Arrival / Registration at the Hotel Schloss Hornberg
17:30	Opening ceremony and welcome drinks in the Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
18:30	Dinner at the Hotel Adler
20:00	General information about the conference and presentation of the excursion areas in the Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
24:00	Closure of the conference rooms at Hotel Schloss Hornberg

Monday, 19th October 2026

06:00	Opening of the workrooms at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
08:00	Collection of packed lunches
08:30	Departure for the field trip sites
13:30	Individual study of the finds
18:00	Presentation of the day's interesting finds, discussion of the next day's field trip
19:00	Dinner at the Hotel Adler
20:30	Lectures and academic presentations in the Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
24:00	Closure of the workrooms at Hotel Schloss Hornberg

The same program applies to Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21^h and Friday 23th October

Thursday, 22th October 2026

06:00	Workrooms open at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
08:00	Collection of packed lunches
08:30	Departure for the excursion sites

Afternoon:

13:00 – 17:00	Individual study of the finds
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation of the day's interesting finds, briefing on Friday's excursion
15:00 – 16:00	Meeting of the J.E.C. Executive Committee, Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
16:15 – 18:30	<u>Ordinary J.E.C. Members General Meeting</u> , Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
19:30	Aperitif at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
20:00	Gala dinner at Hotel Schloss Hornberg

Friday, 23 October 2026

06:00	Workrooms open at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
08:00	Collection of packed lunches
08:30	Departure for the excursion sites
13:30	Individual study of the finds
18:00	Presentation of the day's interesting finds
19:00	Dinner at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
20:30	Lectures and academic presentations in the Mayor's Hall (Rathaussaal)
24:00	Closure of the workrooms at Hotel Schloss Hornberg

Saturday, 24th October 2026

06:00	Workshops open at Hotel Schloss Hornberg
12:00	Workshops close, end of the 2026 conference

Accommodations

Accommodation is not included in the registration fee. Each participant is responsible for booking their own accommodation. Advance bookings have been made for JEC Congress participants at five hotels (Hotel Schloss Hornberg, Hotel Adler, Hotel Rose, Hotel DAS SCHÖNE LEBEN and Hotel myhome). **Please book your accommodation by email or telephone**, mentioning your participation in the JEC Congress, and do not book via the hotel websites, as room availability on the hotel websites is blocked for the duration of the congress (= not available).

A. Hotel Schloss Hornberg

Auf dem Schlossberg 1, 78132 Hornberg

Telefon +49 78 33 / 96 55 0 / Fax +49 78 33 / 96 55 60 5

E-Mail info@schloss-hornberg.de

Approx. 9 minutes' walk from the Hotel Adler (650 m)

5 minutes' drive from the Hotel Adler (1.5 km)

Elevation difference between the town centre and the Hotel Adler / Hotel Schloss Hornberg: approx. 70 m.



Conference rate: Single room: from €72 per person
Double room: from €82 for 2 people

Cancellation deadline: up to 4 weeks before the start of the conference

Dog: €14 per day (excluding food)

B. Hotel Adler

Hauptstrasse 66, D-78132 Hornberg

Telefon: [+49 7833 935990](tel:+497833935990)

E-Mail info@hotel-adler-hornberg.de

It takes about 9 minutes on foot from the Hotel Adler to the Hotel Schloss Hornberg



Single room: 65 € / pro Person

Double room: 116 € / 2 People

Cancellation deadline: up to 1 week before the start of the conference

Dog: 10 euros per day

C. Gasthaus Rose

Hauptstr. 38, 78132 Hornberg
Tel.: +497833 / 349
E-Mail: info@hornberg-rose.de

It's about a 10-minute walk from the Hotel Rose to the Hotel Schloss Hornberg



Single room: €62 per person Double room: €77–86 for 2 people
Cancellation deadline: 2 weeks before the start of the conference
Dog: €6 per day

D. Hotel myhome

Schloßstraße 2, 78132 Hornberg
Tel.: +49 78 33/96 52 800
E-Mail: info@hotelmyhome.de

It is approximately a 9-minute walk from Hotel myhome to Hotel Schloss Hornberg

There are 2 covered, paid parking spaces available for electric cars with an 11 kW/h charging point. Hybrid cars cost €15 per night and fully electric cars cost €25 per night.



Single room: €89 per person Double room: €141 for 2 people
Cancellation deadline: 1 week before the start of the conference
Dog: €14 per day (excluding food)

E. Hotel DAS SCHÖNE LEBEN

Schondelgrund 3, 78132 Hornberg, Germany

Telefon: [+49 7833 395](tel:+497833395)

E-Mail info@dasschoeneleben.net

Approx. 2.4 km from Hotel Schloss Hornberg.

A 5-minute drive from Hotel DAS SCHÖNE LEBEN to Hotel Schloss Hornberg



Single room: from €75 per person Double room: from €115 for 2 people

Cancellation deadline: 42 days before the start of the conference

Dogs: please enquire if required

F. General questions

If you have any general questions about Hornberg, you are welcome to contact the Hornberg Tourist Information Centre at any time.

Tourist-Information Hornberg, Bahnhofstraße 1-3, D-78132 Hornberg

Tel.: +49 78 33 / 793-44

Fax: +49 78 33 / 793-29

The contact person at the Hornberg Tourist Information Office is Ms Tanja Tagliareni

tanja.tagliareni@hornberg.de

www.hornberg.de

G. Questions regarding the organisation and hotel bookings

Please contact the organiser, Björn Wergen (info@pilzzentrum.de / Tel. +49 1573 47 23456) or the JEC President, Oswald Rohner (o.rohner@bluewin.ch / Tel. +41 (0)79 438 10 34).

Registration (until 31 July 2026)

The number of participants is limited to a **maximum of 80 people**.

Priority will be given to JEC members, followed by others in order of registration date.

The registration form will be available on the JEC website <http://www.jec-cortinarius.org> and on the Schwarzwälder Pilzleherschau website <http://pilzzentrum.de> and can be downloaded from there. Please complete this form in full and then send it to Oswald Rohner by email to o.rohner@bluewin.ch or by post to the following address:

Oswald Rohner, PO Box 450, CH-8840 Einsiedeln, Switzerland.

Registration is only complete and valid once the conference fee and catering costs have been paid. Please transfer the payment to the following account:

Björn Wergen

Volksbank Mittlerer Schwarzwald
IBAN DE77 6649 2700 0030 4047 00
BIC GENODE61KZT
Reference: **JEC Hornberg 2026**

Costs 2026	
Accommodation Advance bookings have been made for accommodation at 5 hotels in Hornberg (see pages 8–10 at the front of this brochure). Please contact the hotels listed in this brochure to book your accommodation.	
Conference fee Included: workspace, excursions, lectures For JEC members For non-JEC members	80 Euro 120 Euro
Meals <u>From dinner on Sunday, 18 October 2026, until Friday evening, 23 October 2026</u> Meals inkl. Lunch Dinner excl. drinks Gala dinner on Thursday, incl. aperitif and drinks Meals exkl. Lunch Dinner excl. drinks Gala dinner on Thursday, incl. aperitif and drinks	282 Euro 232 Euro

Camping

Enquiry to Tourist-Information: +49 78 33 / 793-44

In the event of cancellation, the following amounts will be retained:

Cancellation by 15 September 2026: €200

Cancellation from 16 September 2026: the full amount

Cultural programme for accompanying persons

Monday, 19 October 2026

Nationalparkzentrum Ruhestein
Ruhestein 1, 72270 Baiersbronn

Hornberg – Ruhestein: approx. 57 km drive

<https://www.nationalpark-schwarzwald.de/erleben/nationalparkzentrum/tickets-1>

The Black Forest National Park has been in existence since 1 January 2014 – it is the first and, to date, only national park in Baden-Württemberg. The protected area covers a total of around 10,000 hectares across two sections between Baden-Baden and Freudenstadt. 0.7 per cent of Baden-Württemberg's forest area is under special protection here.

Admission: €8 per person



Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Schwarzwälder Freilichtmuseum Vogtsbauernhof Gutach

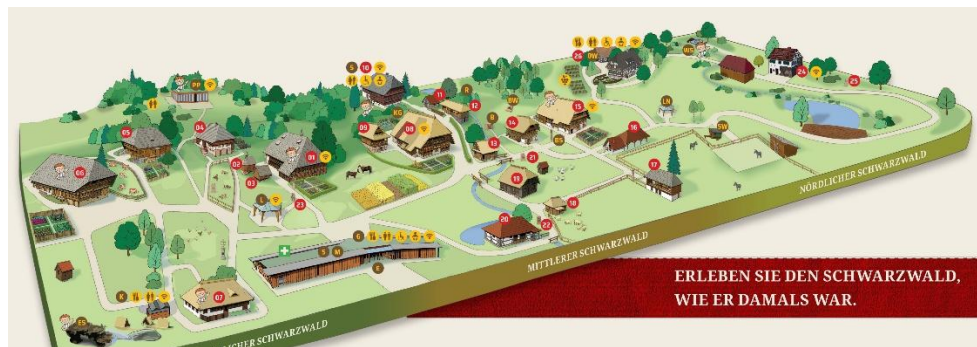
<https://www.vogtsbauernhof.de/angebote/gruppen/spezialangebote>

The open-air museum covers an area of around 7 hectares; the walking route is approximately 2 km long, and the average visit lasts around 3 hours.

Hornberg – Gutach approx. 7 km

Admission price per adult: €13 / Dogs €0.50

The Vogtsbauernhof in Gutach is the oldest open-air museum in Baden-Württemberg. Here, visitors can learn more about the history and culture of the Black Forest: how people lived, worked and resided in past centuries, and how the Black Forest as we know it today was shaped in its early days. The Vogtsbauernhof has stood on this site since 1612, whereas the open-air museum was not opened until 1964. Since then, the museum has been continuously expanded. Further farmhouses have been added, which were dismantled at their original locations and rebuilt within the open-air museum.



Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Löffingen, guided tour

Approx. 54.7 km from Hornberg.

Finds from the Neolithic period, as well as some 2,500 well-preserved stone mounds in the Löffingen area, bear witness to the earliest settlement of the region. They were constructed between 1700 and 1300 BC. The Celts used these burial mounds for secondary burials from 600 to 300 BC. A long-distance trade route led from the Neckar region via Löffingen and Stallegg to the Upper Rhine. A coin of Emperor Domitian attests to the presence of the Romans.



Friday, 23 October 2026

Wenzel Mine – Oberwolfach Visitor Mine

<https://www.grube-wenzel.de/startseite>

Approx. 16.1 km from Hornberg. 24-minute drive.

€11 per person, €10 with a guest card, free for children under 6; groups of 10 or more: €9.50 per person; 5 people: €65, plus €11 for each additional person

The Wenzel Mine was once one of the richest silver mines in the Black Forest. The earliest record dates from 1700, which mentions a lead and silver vein. Whilst just 32 mineral species were known from the Wenzel Mine by 1835 and around 45 by 1990, some 60 species are now known, which are of great significance to mineralogists.



Sponsors

