

Twinning

Some of your questions answered.

1. Why Twinning ?
2. Where is Eppingen ?
3. How can I visit the Town ?
4. What is the best way to get there ?
5. I don't speak German
6. Where can I stay ?
7. What does the association do ?
8. How much is membership ?

1. The concept of twinning first arose more than a century ago but it was not until after WW2 that the government decided to encourage twinning as a means of promoting understanding between countries and peoples. Our twinning started just over 30 years ago when a musician from the then Epping Town Band was visiting southern Germany. He came across Eppingen and from that chance visit the seed was sown for this twinning. The respective Mayors exchanged letters of greeting and a formal twinning was eventually formed. Epping did so by setting up a twinning association enabling it to be completely independent of any political or religious pressures, getting its funding from fundraising and membership subscription.



2. Eppingen is situated in Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany, and lies in the Kraichgau, a hilly region in south-western Germany, close to the confluence of the Elsenz and Hilsbach Rivers.



The Town is within easy reach of many interesting areas and one never tires of visiting the many interesting places. Eppingen itself is over 1000 years old with its famous Fachwerkhäuser (half timbered houses)



3. Of course you don't have to be a member to visit Eppingen, and once there one has a choice of Hotels to stay. However as a member you can join in many of the visits we arrange and accommodation with a host family to best suit your needs will be found, or if you prefer a Hotel this can be booked but you will of course have to fund this yourself.



4. There are two main ways you can get to Eppingen, the first is to take the ferry or tunnel across to France and drive there normally via Aachen and then on the motorway towards Cologne and down to Eppingen, this is often taken as part of a touring holiday. The easier way is to fly from Stansted to Karlsruhe and from there by bus and train, if however it is an organised trip you would be picked up at the airport.



5. Most host families speak English, however if you wish to improve your German they will always help you. Your hosts will soon put you at ease and make you feel part of their family.

6. Most people stay with host families in, or very near to Eppingen, this is arranged through the association and your wishes are catered for, all you have to do is discuss them with us. It may be that you do not like to stay with a family, if this is the case there are many hotels and guest houses near the centre of Eppingen where you could stay, the cost of the accommodation is in that case extra.

7. The association has, in alternate years, a visit lasting 3 or 4 days in each others towns, as well as a week long language course for those who like to improve their German/English. Every other year we have a stall at the Eppingen Altstadtfest and serve traditional British Food and Beer. There are also other occasions when our friends hold special celebratory days such as the Heimattage held every ten years when we have a themed procession through the town. Then there are social and fundraising events which are essential when we host our guests for the outings and get together. The committee meets every month or so and you can put yourself forward as a committee member. The association encourages groups of like minded people in Epping to contact their counterparts in Eppingen and form a bond where they can visit each other and participate in their chosen pastimes. One such group is the tennis club which holds matches alternately in both towns.



8. Membership costs £5.00 per household and is due on the 1st January each year, you will then receive invitations to all events and a twice yearly full colour newsletter we use E-mail to keep you up to date. To make payment easy you could consider a standing order.