

# World Heritage Volunteers

## Restoration and maintenance of a medieval monastery's historical water management system

### *Maulbronn Monastery Complex*

- ◆ Maulbronn Monastery  
Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- ◆ Cultural property inscribed  
on the WH list since 1993

14/08/2016 - 27/08/2016

Founded in 1147, the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery is considered the most complete and best-preserved medieval monastic complex north of the Alps. Surrounded by fortified walls, the main buildings were constructed between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The monastery's church, mainly in Transitional Gothic style, had a major influence in the spread of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe.



**Project objectives:** In the years following the recognition of Maulbronn as a World Heritage site, the emphasis was placed on maintaining the monastery's buildings. Only recently it has been recognized that the infrastructure which was essential for the life in a medieval monastery is equally worthy of protection. Therefore the project focuses on a so far less visible aspect of the cultural landscape – the monks' water-management system, with its elaborate network of drains, irrigation canals and reservoirs, which had been during the last centuries out of use and abandoned.

**Project activities:** The project will comprise various tasks connected with the survey, the restoration and the maintenance of the monastery's historical water system. The participants will under professional guidance explore historical ditches, dredge the ditches filled with deposits to restore the free flow of water, construct and install leaf rakes and repair damaged dams with natural materials. The project will be completed by studies about medieval monasteries' life, local history and environmental topics.

**Partners:** European Heritage Volunteers; Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Baden-Württemberg; Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V.; Forstamt Enzkreis; Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport des Landes Baden-Württemberg

***Bürgerverein Schmie e.V. c/o European Heritage Volunteers***

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