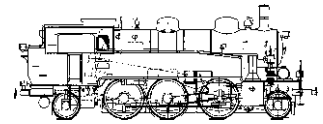


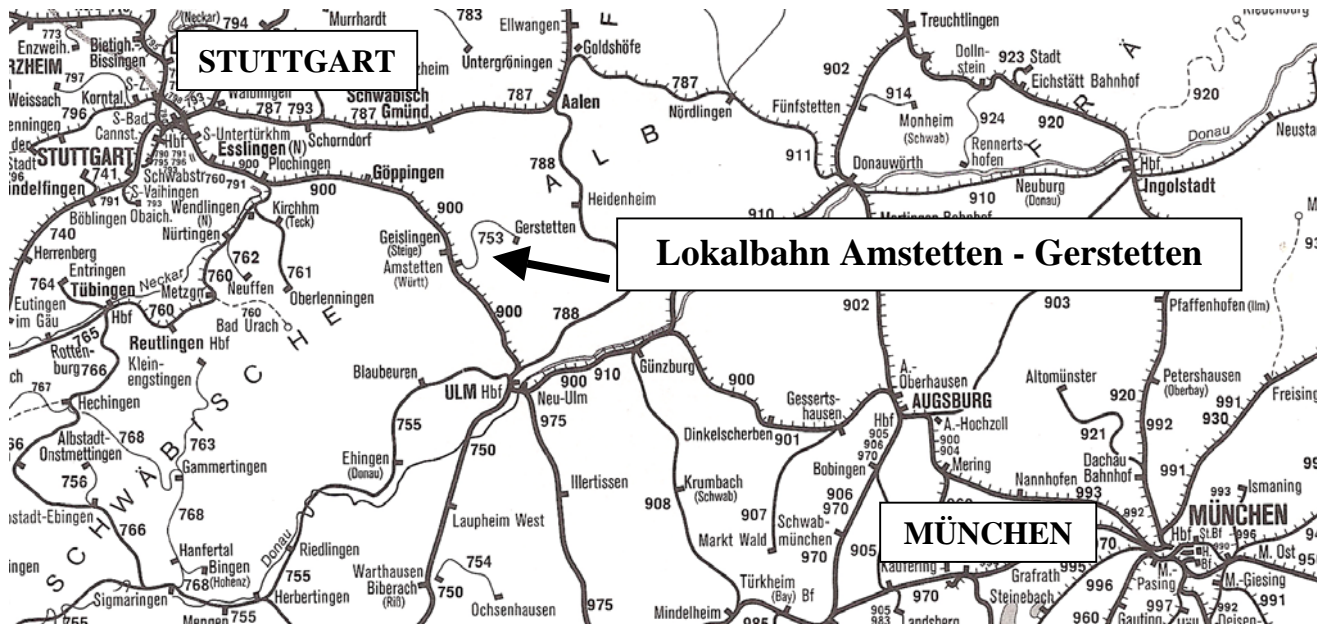
The Lokalbahn Amstetten - Gerstetten



Where to find the „Lokalbahn“ ?

The Lokalbahn (“local railway line”) Amstetten – Gerstetten is a secondary railway-line to the main line Stuttgart – Ulm – Munich, which was a part of the European main line of the legendary Orient-Express running from Paris to Constantinople. From Stuttgart to Ulm the main line crosses the Jura-mountains “Schwäbische Alb”, the European watershed between the Rhine and the Danube. Over the steep ascent “Geislinger

Steige” the main line curves up to the pass at Amstetten and descends down to Ulm in the Danube plain. At the pass height at the railway station of Amstetten, our standard-gauged Lokalbahn has its initial point. Soon after the start from Amstetten the Lokalbahn climbs another steep ascent of 25‰ and of 5km length, in sharp curves of 200m, up to the plateau of the “Alb”. On the slightly hilly plateau the Lokalbahn arrives at the Gerstetten terminal station after a wide curve of 20 km and after a journey of one hour.



The Lokalbahn Amstetten – Gerstetten in a railway map

The historic steam train operation.

On all Sundays and public holidays from May to October, historic trains run according to a time schedule between Amstetten and Gerstetten. On roughly ten of these days it is the nostalgic steam train. The historic railcar T06 is in operation on the other days. One weekend in December there are “Santa Claus” steam trains. In addition, chartered trains run throughout the whole year, mostly powered by an old diesel engine, on demand by the steam engine, too.

The complete railway system is run by us – the association “UEF Lokalbahn Amstetten – Gerstetten e.V.” which is part of “Ulmer Eisenbahnfreunde e.V.” (UEF). Since 1997 the UEF LAG has been the owner and the operator of the Lokalbahn.

Our historic steam train consists of the tank locomotive 75 1118 and six wagons with open air entry. The class 75 tank locomotives, formerly named “Badische Vic”, were produced by the “Badische Maschinenfabrik” in Karlsruhe from 1914 to 1921. These engines have been employed all over Germany, even in front of express trains and in the suburban railways of Berlin. The wagons, in the popular speech known as blunderbusses, were introduced all over Germany and Austria in the twenties and they represented the era of passenger commuter trains even long after World War II. Four seat wagons, one combined seat and luggage carriage and one restaurant wagon form the train set.

Discover the Lokalbahn and the local area around.

Riding the Lokalbahn is a great event for everyone – young and old. Freaks of technique prefer the platform of the first car right behind the locomotive and are fascinated, sniffing the smoke and coal dust, listening to the gasping locomotive which works with full power.

People who like a more comfortable “trip to history” may enjoy some coffee and a piece of cake in the restaurant car. They are enchanted by the train’s snail’s pace and the idyllic stops. It is this relaxed atmosphere in which they discover the beauty of the countryside, the meadows, the forests, the flocks of sheep and goats, the pleasant villages and the views to the far horizon.

In Gerstetten, the railway ensemble is waiting for the visitors, i.e. the station building with the railway museum and the geological museum, the locomotive shed and the railway installations. In Gussenstadt and Schalkstetten, the museums for local history and for

agricultural machinery are open to our guests. The beautiful landscape of the Alb invites you to outdoor activities. Besides the “Lokalbahnweg” from station to station, there are many more hiking trails around. Bicycles are transported for free in all trains.

In Amstetten you can experience the leap in time – from the old steam powered Lokalbahn to one of the most frequented German main lines. Through the railway junction Amstetten and the “Geislinger Steige” more than 200 trains – from fast Intercity Expresses to heavy freight trains with pusher operation – rumble along each day. A hiking trail from Amstetten to Geislingen leads to vista points with views to the steep ascend of this mainline. In a regional train back to Amstetten you are able to experience the Steige “live”.

In Amstetten the narrow gauge scenic railway to Oppingen starts, too, ascending with a 6 km long and 29‰ steep gradient in a south-west direction up to the Alb plateau. This line is run by another section of UEF.

Short historical review.

The Lokalbahn was commissioned in 1906 and from the beginning it has been a private railway, until 1996 owned and operated by the Württembergische Eisenbahngesellschaft (WEG). It was built to enhance the economical opening of the countryside, the settlement of industry and as a chance for the population to commute to the industrial areas.

Up to the Fifties the transport of passengers and goods had been operated by steam trains. The last four decades, right up to the shut down by the WEG, one railcar was the only motive power, which carried the passengers and transported the good wagons. In 1996 the domination of the automobile finally resulted in the shut-down due to economical reasons.

Rescue and reactivation of the Lokalbahn.

The UEF LAG, regular guest on the Lokalbahn with their steam train since 1975, and the communities along the line didn't accept the shut-down and dismantling of the Lokalbahn. To save the Lokalbahn, the UEF LAG bought the railway tracks for 0.35 Mio. Euro, and the communities the buildings and properties, for 0.55 Mio. Euro.

This rescue operation was just the first step. The members of the UEF LAG are the ones who guarantee the continuity with their voluntary work. They maintain, repair and restore the old locomotives, wagons and the tracks as well as they operate the line. Every kind of work is performed in accordance with the regulations of the Federal Office of Railways. Their engineers inspect the Lokalbahn every second year.

To maintain the Lokalbahn, the UEF LAG purchased special vehicles for repairing the tracks as well as equipment and tools for the workshop in the engine shed. Two small

Diesel locomotives and a track motor car have been made available by friendly companies and railway associations.

The success of the Lokalbahn.

The successful reactivation of the Lokalbahn by the UEF LAG has motivated the community of Gerstetten to restore and renovate the station building and the station's hotel. The engine shed has been restored and renovated by both the UEF LAG and the community of Gerstetten. In addition the UEF LAG has extended the engine shed by adding a workshop.

In the station building of Gerstetten two museums have been set up, the geological museum (“Riffmuseum”) by the community and the railway museum – related to the Lokalbahn – by the UEF LAG. The other station buildings along the line have been restored as well. In particular the station building of Gussenstadt (private property) looks like a piece of jewellery now.

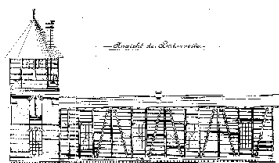
A next step of the success was the introduction of regular trains on the Sundays without steam train operation from May to October. Modern railcars of Deutsche Bahn were used from 2002 to 2005. Since the 100 year jubilee of the Lokalbahn in 2006, the restored historic diesel railcar T06 has taken over this duty.

Another success of the UEF LAG has been the reconstruction of the infrastructure in Gerstetten for the operation of steam locomotives and steam trains with coal bunker, ash plate, water crane and extension of the platform. These measures have been supported by the European Union.

Tracks offered for symbolic sale.

To be able to purchase the Lokalbahn, as a non-budgetary expenditure extraordinary charge, we started the symbolic sale of tracks per meter in 1997 as a fundraising campaign. As planned this campaign brought an appreciable start-up capital. But the main portion we have been earning with our train operations and the payback of the credit was completed early in 2004.

Nevertheless we are continuing the symbolic selling of tracks (25,- Euro/meter), information from Fam. Berka, Waldstr. 11, D 89284 Pfaffenhofen. We will use this additional income to realise our projects more easily and in a shorter time.



The time schedule of the steam trains and the railcar of the UEF LAG, a map and further information are subject of the flyer “Lokalbahn & Alb-Bähnle” and are displayed in the internet at <http://www.uef-lokalbahn.de>

