

ISERLOHN.

wald | stadt | heimat



ISERLOHN SHORT TOUR

WELCOME!

The history of the city dates back to the 10th century. As far back as 1278 Iserlohn's city rights were confirmed by Count Eberhard. Significant in the 18th century as a center of the bronze and brass industry, Iserlohn remains today a strong economic location and is also known regionally as a „forest city“ with an excellent quality of life and numerous recreational opportunities.

And now let's get started: This brochure takes you on a historical discovery tour around the city center in about an hour and a half. Along the inviting pedestrian zone, historical and listed buildings, as well as old churches, tell the story of this city.

1. Senior Center Waldstadt

The predecessor of today's Senior Center Waldstadt was the Hospital of the Holy Spirit founded in the early 14th century in the city center. Only the name „Heilig-Geist-Straße“ recalls the building, which was demolished in 1812. In 1855, the new building of the „Municipal Poorhouse and Hospital“ was inaugurated in the style of Prussian Classicism. With the establishment of the Catholic St. Elisabeth Hospital and the Protestant Bethanien Hospital, the „Municipal Poorhouse and Hospital“ was continued from 1898 as the „Municipal Hospital.“ Since 1960, it has been exclusively used as a municipal senior home. Despite extensive renovations and expansions, the facade has remained in its original form until today.

2. Fritz-Kühn Square and the City Wall

Here in the Baarbach valley once lay the first settlement, called „Lon.“ In the 13th century, the city was fortified by a stone wall. Remnants of the city wall are still visible. The path from the city to the peasant church and cemetery passed through the church gate, also known as the church portal, and the church stairs. Until 1798, the „Powder Tower“ stood here. The former castle manor house, now housing the castle archives of the Protestant church communities, is one of the oldest buildings that was not destroyed by one of the many major fires. The name of the square honors Iserlohn's honorary citizen, educator, and local writer Fritz Kühn (1883 – 1968), who directed the „House of Homeland“ (now City Museum) in Iserlohn from 1954 to 1968. The present-day Fritz-Kühn Square was extensively renovated and redesigned from 2016 to 2018. It impresses with its approximately 160-meter-long watercourse, large playground, and abundant greenery.

3. St. Pankratius Church

The „St. Pankratius Church,“ also known as the „Bauernkirche“ (Peasant Church), is the oldest of the churches in Iserlohn. The first church building dates back to around 1000 AD and served as a place of worship for the peasant settlement in the valley of the Baarbach. Although the church was located outside the city walls, it was the main parish church of the city until the Reformation around 1565. The present-day Bauernkirche is originally a cruciform Romanesque pillar basilica made of rubble stone with a west tower, presumably from the 13th century. The choir,

side choir, and sacristy date back to the mid-14th century. Notable features include the carved Gothic altarpiece, dating from around 1450, and the Baroque pulpit from 1749. Additionally, the new Grenzing organ (2019) is particularly noteworthy. In the bell tower in front of the main entrance, hang the steel bells, which called the faithful to church from 1925 to 2008 and had to be replaced. Their 83 years of service are commemorated by their separate installation. On the exterior wall of the church are gravestones of old families from Iserlohn. Today, the building is used for various community and religious purposes.

4. Iserlohn City Museum

The City Museum is housed in one of Iserlohn's most beautiful Baroque buildings. The building, designed like a palace, was constructed around 1720 by merchants and renovated in 1763. In the early 19th century, it was used as an arsenal, and in 1849, was taken over by the insurgents of the revolution. The City Museum presents the history of Iserlohn from its geological origins to the post-war period of the 20th century. Highlights of the city's history and industrial development include wire and needle production, as well as the manufacturing of brass and bronze products. Additionally, the museum features a collection of Iserlohn tobacco tins. Take the time to step inside and explore!

5. Rampelmann House

This house is one of the oldest bourgeois houses in Iserlohn. It is a late Baroque building, constructed in 1748 for the Iserlohn merchant Gerhardus Quincke. Wall anchors on the house confirm the year of construction. Later, it came into the possession of the merchant and city councilor Heinrich Rampelmann, who still serves as its namesake to this day.

6. Iserlohn Museum of Crafts and Postal History

The museum is housed in a listed building, popularly known as the „Mastesche Fabrikhaus.“ It focuses on showcasing the history of craftsmanship in the Märkische region against the backdrop of societal structural changes, as well as the postal history of the city of Iserlohn and the County of Mark. Particularly noteworthy is the collection of antique coffee grinders. A visit is highly recommended!

7. Oberste Stadtkirche (Upper Town Church)

The Oberste Stadtkirche stands in an impressive location on the Bilstein. It originated from a chapel dedicated to the Roman saints Cosmas and Damian. The two-aisled Gothic hall church with transept was built around 1330 on top of a Romanesque predecessor. The double spire of the Romanesque west tower was renewed in 1510. The most significant artwork in the church is a carved winged altarpiece from around 1400, featuring apostle and saint figures as well as a crucifixion group. The painted altar wings, known as the „Iserlohn Marian Panels,“ depicting scenes from the life of Mary, were incorporated into the choir stalls. The church is open for worship services, events, and guided tours by appointment.

8. Old Town Hall at Old Town Hall Square

Iserlohn City Library

The Old Town Hall, built in the Neo-Renaissance style in 1876, is one of the most impressive buildings in Iserlohn. The Old Town Hall Square, where all the older town halls once stood, used to be the marketplace. From the marketplace, at the heart of the city, five streets led to the gates: north to the Unnaer Gate, east to the Wermingser Gate, southeast to the Mühlen- tor, south to the Kirchtor, and west to the Westertor. The gates were demolished at the end of the 18th century. Signs indicate the former locations of the city gates. To this day, the street names Südengraben, Ostengraben, Nordengraben, and Westergaben reminds us where the the city wall once stood.

Since 1976 the main branch of the city library has been located in the Old Town Hall. The library serves as a hub for information, education, leisure, and social interaction for visitors of all ages. The collection includes nearly 90,000 books, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, as well as games, DVDs, and CDs. E-books can be borrowed around the clock.

9. Wermingser Straße

Wermingser Straße is now one of the main shopping streets in Iserlohn and has borne its current name since at least 1635. As one of the oldest streets in Iserlohn, it has always held a central significance. Initially, it was considered an outbound road heading east from the town hall to the former Wermings- en manor. Being the highest street in the city center, it was also the preferred residential area for merchants until the mid-19th century. The gradual conversion into a pedestrian zone, including Unnaer Straße, began in 1975. Today, it is lined with numerous independently owned specialty shops as well as chain stores. Taking a look at the upper floors is worthwhile due to the outstanding architecture.

10. Reformed Church

The church, a hall construction made of rubble stone with a hipped roof, was consecrated in 1718. Above the southern entrance of the church, there is a bronze plaque from 1701 displaying the 40 coat of arms of the former Prussian ruling house. Many esteemed merchant families were members of the Reformed community.

The church is affiliated with the initiative „Open Churches“ of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia. Consequently, exhibi- tions, concerts, and other events take place here.

11. The Marketplace

The current layout of the „Market“ has only existed since the mid-1970s. Before that, stretching from the Wasserstraße to the street known as „Am Dicken Turm“, stood a trading house and residential building founded in 1819 by the entrepreneurs Kissing and Möllmann. In 1824 they started to build a produc- tion facility for bronze and brass goods, which because of a

fire around 1865, they moved the entire operation to the Obere Mühle. Kissing and Möllmann were globally renowned for their coffee mills. All the old buildings, which had been used for various purposes after 1865, were gradually demolished. The resulting space, „Market,“ is now used for outdoor dining, special events, and the weekly market.

12. Aloysius Church

The Catholic church is a three-aisled Neo-Romanesque brick basilica with an impressive double-tower facade. The Aloysius Church was consecrated in 1894. Particularly noteworthy are the wheel windows designed by the Iserlohn artist Irmgart Wessel-Zumloh, the valuable sculptures, and the neo-Gothic altar. The church is usually open during the day and in addition to art enthusiasts attracts many people to quiet contemplation.

13. Schillerplatz

The square was named after the famous German poet Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. The weekly market has been held here on Wednesdays and Saturdays since 1902. The historical fountain „Lebensfreude“ (Joy of Life) depicts among other things, two dancing couples and Iserlohn Tobacco Tins. Until the end of the 19th century, zinc was mined in this area, which was needed for the production of brass, contributing to the economic boom of Iserlohn. This, along with the unique geological layers, leads to ongoing changes in the entire area.

14. Town Hall

The new town hall was completed in 1974. The facade features the Iserlohn city coat of arms together with Saint Pankratius. The town hall is already in disrepair and is planned to be demolished in the near future.

15. Werner-Jacobi-Platz

The square is named after Werner Jacobi, a jurist and politician who was dismissed from office in 1933. After the war, he worked as a journalist and in 1946 was elected as the town's mayor. A subsidiary of the main Town hall is also situated here.

16. Villa Wessel

The building was constructed in 1891 according to plans made by Otto Leppin as a residential home for the industrialist Otto Auer and is one of the most impressive structures in the garden and Stennerstraße area. In 1955, it was acquired by the Iserlohn artist Wilhelm Wessel (1904-1971). Since 1991, the Art Association Wilhelm Wessel/Irmgart Wessel-Zumloh e.V. has been using the building as a gallery with artist studios.

17. Music School

The former Villa Möllmann was built in 1870 on the Gartenstraße. It acquired its name from its later owner, the industrialist and co-owner of the prominent Iserlohn company „Kissing und Möllmann,“ Paul Möllmann (1865 - 1913). The original, approxima-

tely 1.6-hectare park has been significantly reduced in size over time. Nevertheless altogether it still showcases the villa and garden architecture of the late 19th century in Iserlohn. From 1944 to 1976, it served as the city's children's home, and today it houses the municipal music school.

18. Municipal Gallery in the Von-Scheiblersches Haus

Housed in the Von-Scheiblersches Haus since 1993, the Municipal Gallery has earned a special reputation nationwide as a venue for exhibitions featuring works by internationally renowned photo artists and the contemporary arts. The building was originally constructed in 1783 as a representative residence by the Iserlohn merchant Johann Rupe. In 1791, he transferred it to his son-in-law Friedrich von Scheibler, who served as mayor from 1808 to 1812. Take a look inside; you will be amazed!

19. Unnaer Gate

The Unnaer Gate, located at the end of Unnaer Straße, was the main entrance to the city from the direction of Hagen and Unna. The carillon was erected with the help of donations from the citizens of Iserlohn and local businesses. Emblems of various crafts are visible on the crest of the carillon. In close proximity was the former Gasthof zur Post, where Emil Rittershaus composed the Westfalenlied (Westphalia Song), which is played daily alongside other songs.

20. Wichelhovenhaus

The publishing house of the IKZ (Iserlohner Kreisanzeiger) was built in 1927 in the expressionist style on behalf of Walther Wichelhoven. The magnificent staircase with its leaded windows and a marble fountain with a fountain figure is really very impressive. A printer's coat of arms is depicted in the mosaic on the floor. The newspaper was founded in 1842 by the printer Johann Peter Wichelhoven (1805-1885).

21. Alte Post - Stadtarchiv Iserlohn

The building was constructed in 1882 as the main post office in the Renaissance style. After the post office moved out in 1986, it initially served as a training center for the Kreishandwerkerschaft (District Craftsmen's Association). Since 2004, it has housed the city archive and consumer advice center. The city archive documents the history of the city of Iserlohn and its districts with documents spanning eight centuries. Extensive collections and archives are available for use by interested parties.

22. Westertor

The Westertor provided access to the city from the direction of Altena and Hagen. Remnants of the city wall can be seen here. The Gosengasse has remained almost unchanged for centuries. However, the historical setting at the Westertor was largely destroyed by urban redevelopment in the second half of the 20th century and the construction of the Kurt-Schumacher-Ring.

The house at Westergraben 1 is considered a production site of the Iserlohn silk industry, whose beginning dates back to 1737.

23. Altes Stadtbad

The former public bathhouse, inaugurated in 1908, has been transformed into the current senior living facility. Thanks to civic engagement, elements of the original Art Nouveau building including a facade with a mosaic, the staircase behind it and the tower, have been preserved.

24. Poth Memorial

The Poth Memorial, located near the city train station, was inaugurated in 1989 in memory of the victims of National Socialism. The placement of the memorial is significant, as it relates to the „Brown House“ at Rahmenstraße 4, the former headquarters of the local NSDAP group, and House Kluse 18, from where Jewish families were deported to extermination camps. Designed by Prof. Siegfried Neuenhausen from Hannover, the central feature of the memorial is a life-size figure surrounded and threatened by four fragments of the swastika symbol.

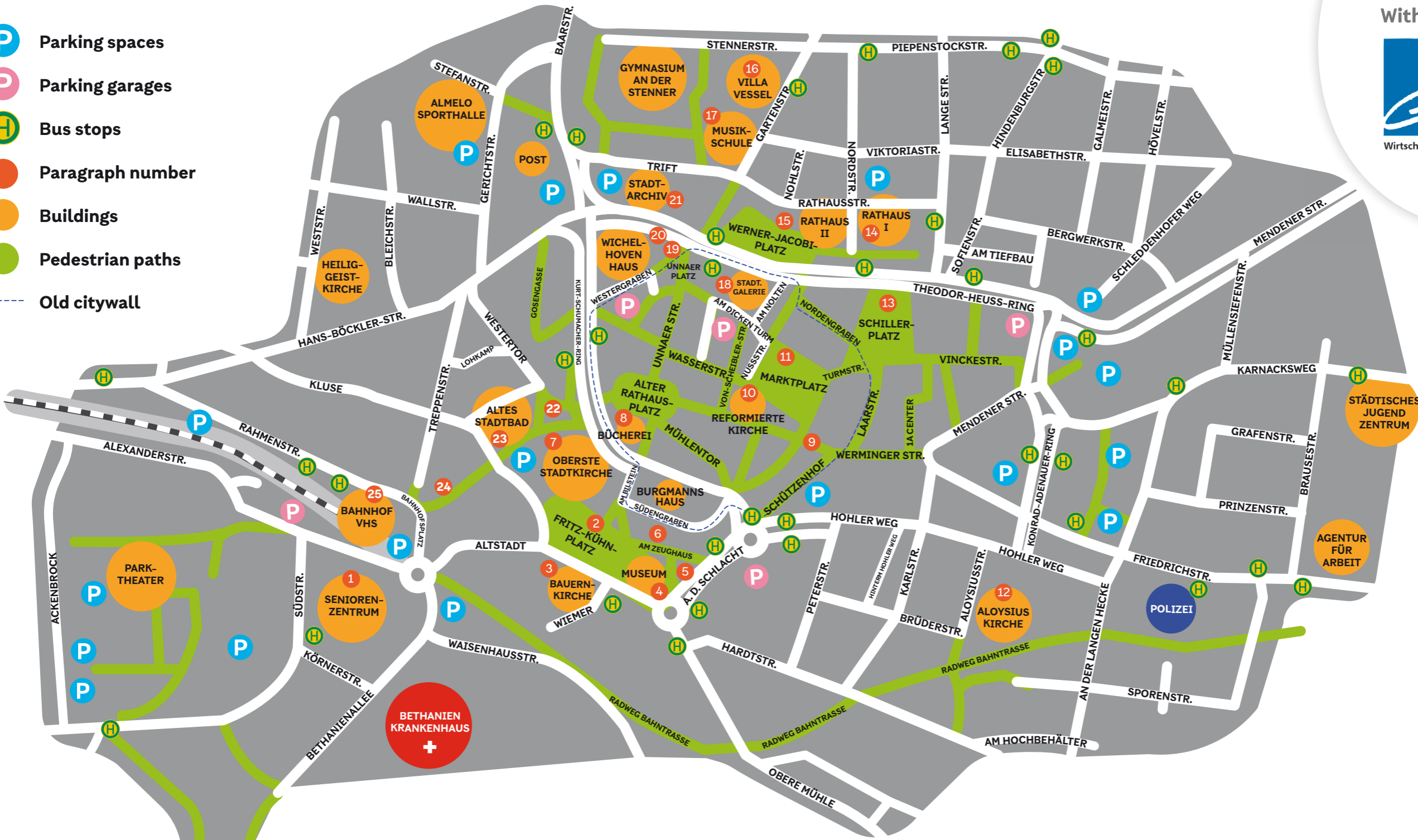
25. Iserlohn City trainstation

In 2010 the Iserlohn city train station was designated as the first „Wanderbahnhof“ (hiking train station) in North Rhine-Westphalia. This terminal station serves as the starting point for the Sauerland Forest Route and the Wire Trade Trail, and the city center is easily accessible from here. Additionally, the tourist information center is located within the station building.



Do you want to learn more and uncover the stories behind the history of Iserlohn? Then book one of the exciting, theme-based city tours - it's worth it!

-  Parking spaces
-  Parking garages
-  Bus stops
-  Paragraph number
-  Buildings
-  Pedestrian paths
-  Old citywall



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We also provide:

- Pre-sale tickets for the Parktheater and other events in Iserlohn
- general tourist information (City tours, touristic maps, cyclist and hikers maps, etc.)
- Sale of various merchandise items from Iserlohn

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