

EXPERIENCE HISTORY

Discover the secrets  
of the Royal City

# ON THE TRAIL

NATURE & ACTIVITIES

BEER & GASTRONOMY

HISTORY & TRADITION



## FORCHHEIM

Every »LITTLE CORNER«  
charmingly Franconian.



## ON THE TRAIL OF KINGS.

Forchheim, one of the oldest cities in Franconia, has preserved its medieval appearance with its many half-timbered houses and fortress.

Archaeological excavations show that the Regnitz Valley, which surrounds Forchheim, was inhabited as long ago as prehistoric times. In the 7th century, the Franks established a small settlement here. Thanks to its transport-favourable location, it soon developed into an important centre of long-distance trade that even served as a royal court, particularly for the late Carolingian kings.

**>>** Embark on a voyage of discovery and enjoy a vivid experience of the history of Forchheim, a city steeped in tradition.



## SET OFF ON THE TRAIL:

With our **city map**, you can discover the historical centre of Forchheim on your own.

Take a stroll, or simply follow the attractions along the cobblestone lanes of splendid half-timbered houses. All the attractions can easily be reached on foot.

## EXPERIENCE MORE IN FORCHHEIM.

Would you like to see another side of our city? Our **tour guides** will be happy to take you along! In addition to a guided, 90-minute tour, you can enjoy exciting theme tours such as a visit to the Forchheim fortifications, a Segway excursion or a look inside the local breweries. Of course, there is an exciting discovery tour for our little guests as well.



You will find all the information about our guided tours at the Tourist Information Centre in the Kaiserpfalz




**Kapellenstraße 16 | 91301 Forchheim**

or online at

**[www.forchheim-erleben.de](http://www.forchheim-erleben.de)**

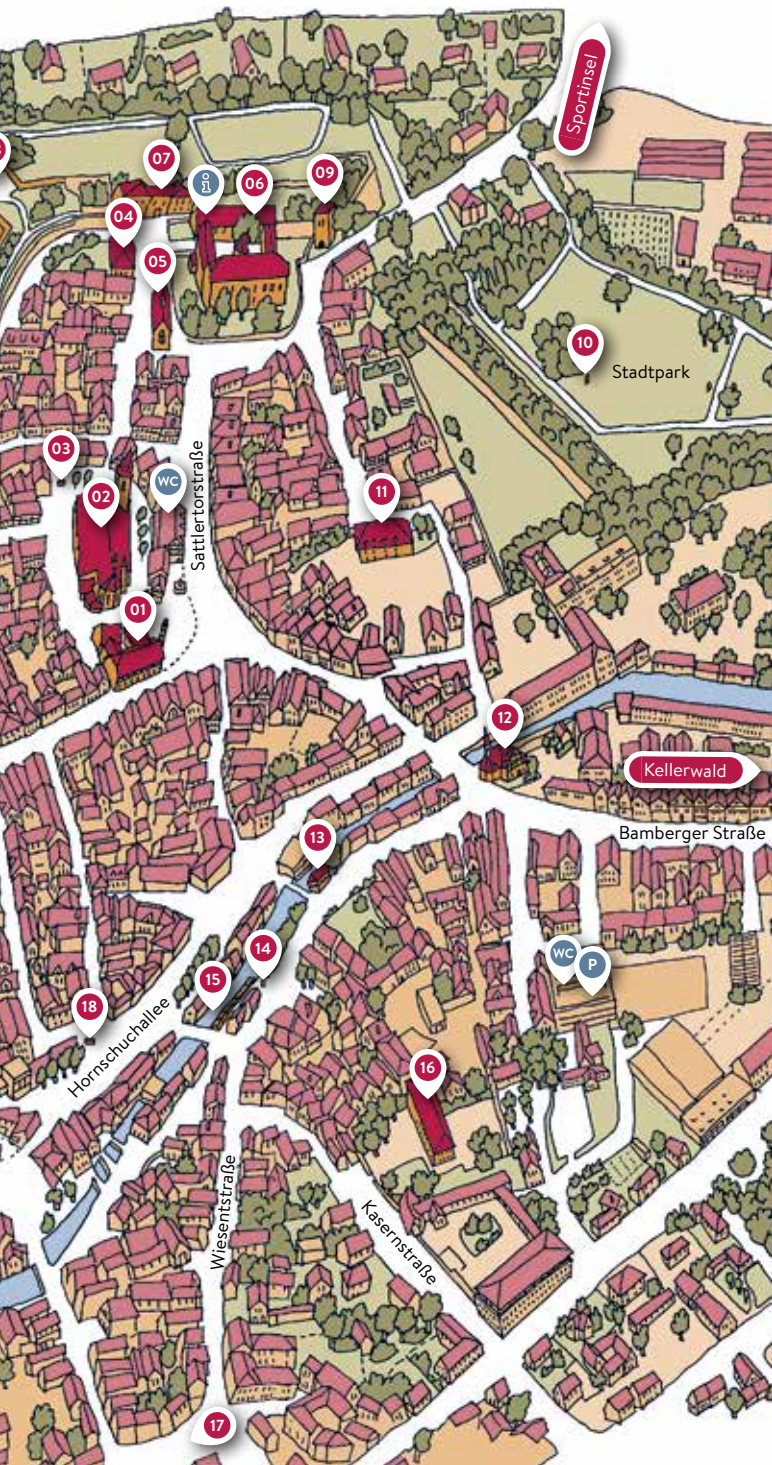
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-  Parking lot / underground parking
-  WC
-  Tourist Information Centre







Sportinsel

Stadtspark

Kellerwald

Bamberger Straße

Hornschnalle

Wiesentstraße

Kasernstraße

Sattlerstraße

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## WELCOME TO THE HISTORICAL OLD TOWN

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- 04 Schüttspeicher
- 05 Marienkapelle
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## THE ATTRACTIONS

**01** The **Rathaus** or Town Hall was built before 1402 as a late-Gothic, half-timbered building. Its picturesque timber-framed façade and slender bell tower have been preserved. It is worth seeing the large hall on the upper level of the east wing, which was redesigned in the neo-Gothic style from 1865-67. This double-aisled hall features a flat roof supported by pillars.

The Magistrates' Hall, a half-timbered building in the Renaissance style, was added to the Town Hall in 1535. It was built by Hans Ruhalm, who also created the many carvings on the façade. A closer look reveals these carvings to depict cryptic allegories – ironic, full of humour and innuendo. For instance, in one scene a bent-over figure uses both hands to stick his bottom out from behind the foliage.

**02** The oldest church in the city is the Catholic parish church of St. Martin, known as the **Stadtpfarrkirche St. Martin**. Its components date to the period from the 11th to the 16th centuries. The bell tower stands a proud 57 metres tall. Remnants of the Baroque renovation work from 1719-20 have been preserved in the valuable interior fittings and the decorative plasterwork in the side aisles.



**03** The **Konradbrunnen** or Conrad Fountain was erected in memory of the declaration of the Frankish Duke Conrad I as the King of East Francia in Forchheim on 10 November 911. With his right hand, Conrad I points to a future imperial orb, which he holds in his left. The fountain was created by local artist Hans Dressel in 1998.

**04** The former **Schüttspeicher**, a hip-roofed building that is unobstructed on three sides, stands south of the Marienkapelle. It was erected in



1782 by master builder Lorenz Fink of Bamberg. After its original use as a granary, the building served as a prison from 1857 until 1952, when the space was made available to the local courthouse.

**05** The heart of the **Marienkapelle**, originally the chapel for the Bishop's Castle, dates to the 12th century. In its current form, the chapel developed from the 14th to the 18th century. The exquisite interior decoration was added in a Baroque renovation which took place from 1720 to 1730.

**06** In the last quarter of the 14th century, Lambert von Brunn commissioned the construction of what is now the east wing of the Bishop's Castle and had it ornamented with impressive wall paintings. Subsequent additions are the west wing from the late 16th century, which includes the old and new Schultheißenbau or tax collector's building, and the 17th-century stair tower in the inner courtyard. The Bishop's Castle, colloquially known as the **Kaiserpfalz** or imperial palace, is now home to the Pfalzmuseum. Recent research





carried out by Bamberg archaeologists has proved that it is virtually impossible for the Bishop's Castle to have been built on the remains of the imperial palace, for the findings that have been discovered date exclusively from the period after 1200. The true location of the historical palace remains unknown.

**07** The **Amtsgericht** or local courthouse, which was built in the Renaissance style in 1896, was erected directly on the city wall rather than as an annex to the palace. It was built in part of materials taken from the dismantled fortification system.

**08** The St. Veits Bastion is located south of the courthouse. It was built in 1553 in the old Italian style. Because of the colour of the sandstone at the time, it has been known as the **“Rote Mauer“** or red wall. The stones are said to have come from the ruins of the margravian Scharfeneck Castle near Baiersdorf. The glass gate forms the entryway to the casemate: a barrel-vaulted passageway measuring approx. 19 m in

length leads into the bastion. The casemate can be seen within the framework of city tours. Visitors reach the bastion via a stairway, where a sweeping view opens over the southern part of the city.

**09** The **Saltorturm** tower, which stands north of the Bishop's Castle, is the last remnant of the medieval city fortifications from the 14th century. From here, visitors can reach the remains of the fortifications of the Prince-Bishop's castle, which are now part of an attractive urban park. The casemate and the northern moated castle can be viewed as part of a tour.

**10** **“Die Fünf Tore“** or The Five Gates, a large sculpture by artist Jan Koblasa, plays with the interrelationships of space, time and movement. The monoliths of Anröchte dolomite are markers of change, symbols of the transition from the past into the future,



from this life into the hereafter. They represent the five stages of human life, the five wounds of Christ, the pentagram and Leonardo da Vinci's emblematic portrayal of the human body. The five gates were erected in 2007 on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of the Diocese of Bamberg. The archdiocese was established by



Emperor Henry II at the Imperial Synod that took place in Frankfurt on 1 November 1007. From here, visitors can see the Zwingerbastion, also known as the Valentin Bastion, which was created in 1657. Forchheim was the most important fortress of the Prince-Bishopric of Bamberg. Even today, the remains of the fortifications and their massive walls give us a sense of why the Bamberg bishops fled to this place in periods of turbulence. The escarp path inside is accessible on guided city tours.

**11** The most striking building on the Krottenental, which is otherwise characterised by farm houses and barns, is the **Salzmagazin** from 1710. This imposing, three-storey building of sandstone blocks is graced with a magnificent gateway featuring a coat of arms. The Salzmagazin served the bustling commercial city of Forchheim as a salt storehouse until the middle of the 19th century, when it was repurposed as an apartment building.

**12** A hospital church built in 1490, displays elements of the Baroque-Rococo in its interior thanks to renovation work carried out in the 17th centu-

ry. The fixed leaves on the 15th-century winged altar are particularly impressive. Adjacent to the church, there is a hospital building with rich ornamental half-timbering. It was built in 1611 according to designs prepared by master builder Paulus Keith.

**13** The most important building on Wiesentstraße is **Kammerers Mühle**, a mill also known as the “leaning house”. It was built in 1698 by Martinus Burkart and features extensive ornamental half-timbering. Over the course of time, this Baroque-era building has leaned towards the river, yet has remained stable until now.







**14** The first evidence of a Jewish community in Forchheim originates from 1298, when a pogrom took place. In 1400, the city's Jews came under the protection of the bishop, but in 1499 they were expelled from the city by Bishop Heinrich Groß von Trockau. In the middle of the 17th century, Forchheim was again home to a Jewish community; by 1763 it had become the third largest in the Prince-Bishopric of Bamberg. The synagogue, which was built in 1771 and expanded in 1808, stood at Wiesentstraße 15. On Kristallnacht (9 November 1938), the synagogue was desecrated and ravaged before being blown up the following day. Today, the **Synagogendenkmal** stands opposite the site of the old synagogue and functions as a memorial.

**15** This picturesque section of the Wiesent river is known as **“Kleinvenedig“** or “Little Venice”. Several **Fischkästen** or corves located along the riverbank give testimony to Forchheim's age-old connection to fishing. The corves have been here for centuries, serving the city's fishmongers as watering stations for carp.

**16** On Waisenhausstraße, a row of half-timbered barns from the 17th/18th century have been preserved. The street takes its name from the former **orphanage** that was installed in 1888 in the old barracks of the Prince-Bishop's **dragoons**. The building was erected from 1730 to 1733 according to plans drafted by Balthasar Neumann.

**17** In 2000, Forchheim's volunteer firefighters opened their own museum of firefighting, the **Feuerwehrmuseum**. Visitors can see watering carts from the Wilhelminian era, dress and operational uniforms, a collection of models and an old fire engine. Please register before visiting.

**18**



**18** The **Forellenbrunnen** or Trout Fountain reintroduces a subject that has always been inseparably linked with Forchheim: fishing. The teeming numbers of fish that have always abounded in the waters of the Wiesent may be connected to the two trout that grace our coat of arms. However, the name Forch-

heim may actually derive from the Old High German foraha = Föhre, the word for a pine tree or conifers in general. On the site of the Forellenbrunnen, there was once a public well that served the city's inhabitants until it was replaced by the Forellenbrunnen, created by artist Harro Frey in 1977.




19

**19** The **Marktplatz** was once used for the trade of livestock, particularly cows. In the local dialect, the marketplace is also called the “Säumarkt” or sow market, for it was possible to buy piglets there as well. Moreover, a pigeon market took place here until around 1990. The market square has been redesigned since 2008. It is the only place in the Old Town with direct access to the water, which is why a “water staircase” with seating steps has been installed.

**20** Let us now proceed to the **Paradeplatz** or parade grounds. This square joins the medieval heart of the city to the south. It was first created as a parade square for the garrison troops, but also served as a marketplace. The **Hauptwache** guardhouse, which was built around 1800, stands on the narrow, east side of the square. This modest building has a vestibule with four Doric columns.



**21** After the end of the war and the expulsion, many families from Braunau found a new home in Forchheim, which led to Forchheim becoming a sponsor city for Braunau. 2001/02 saw the official twinning of the Czech town of Broumov and Forchheim. The **Braunauer Heimatmuseum** displays traditional costumes, regional religious objects and works by Braunau artists. The museum can be visited upon request.



**22** The former **Kommandantur** or garrison headquarters stands at the western end of the parade grounds. It was built between 1743 and 1747 according to plans prepared by Johann Michael Küchel.

**23** The **Gereonskapelle** chapel was first mentioned as an endowment made by Georg Walrab, a citizen of Forchheim, in a document from 28 April 1515. The building was secularised in 1896. The neighbouring building at Nürnberger Straße 3 was erected in 1685 for Katharina Sophie von Eyb, the sister of Prince-Bishop Marquard Sebastian Schenk von Stauffenberg. From 1694, it was repurposed as a building for the Prince-Bishop's administration and served the city's Schultheiß, or tax collector, as an office and residence.

**24** Further south along Torstraße, we come to the splendid **Nürnberger Tor** or Nuremberg Gate, which was built in 1698. It was based on the model of the main gate to the fortress of Rosenberg ob Kronach and is the only one of the four gates belonging to the Baroque fortification system that has been preserved.





**25** The “**Porta Vorchheimensis**” is a gift from the Forchheim Rotary Club to its home town. Since 2002, this gate has stood open to viewers in the pedestrian zone, affording a view of the city’s past. Designed by Harro Frey, the gate portrays 12 scenes of important events in Forchheim’s history.





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## EXPERIENCE MORE THAN 1,200 YEARS OF HISTORY.

Discover the historical Old Town of Forchheim on a relaxing stroll.

Forchheim's past is within reach: the historical town centre still tells the story of the Frankish Royal City that was vital to Germany's development. As a former royal court, Forchheim is unique not only historically, but also architecturally and culturally.

Look closely, for every corner has its own story to tell and will take you back to times long past.



**Tourist Information Centre Forchheim**

Kapellenstraße 16 • 91301 Forchheim  
+49 9191 714338 • [tourist@forchheim.de](mailto:tourist@forchheim.de)

[www.forchheim-erleben.de](http://www.forchheim-erleben.de)

