

Strolling and Exploring Places of Interest in Kaiserslautern

1 City Hall

City Hall, which is 84 meters high, is one of the most prominent of the city's landmarks. An extensive panoramic view of the city – as far as the Palatinate Forest – can be had from the roof terrace.

2 The Imperial Palace

Adjacent to City Hall is the former Imperial Palace, the history of which can be seen from the display boards. Construction began in 1152 at the instigation of Frederick I, known as Barbarossa. Little of the original stonework of the hall foundations and the castle chapel survive as reminders of this historically significant building.

Subterranean escape passages from the Hohenstaufen period can be seen on scheduled tours.

3 The Casimir Building

The former Casimir Palace is integrated into the City Hall complex. Commencing in 1571, the Count Palatine Johann Casimir, the legendary “Jäger aus Kurpfalz”, arranged to have a Renaissance palace built here. In 1935, the ruins of this once splendid building were rebuilt and roofed. The main room, the Casimir Hall, serves as the city's “front parlour”.



4 The New Palatinate Theatre

In the immediate neighbourhood of the steel and concrete architecture of City Hall is the imposing sandstone structure of the

new Palatinate Theatre, flanked by two masks in Carrara marble. The first represents an African King, the second a fallen angel. Excavations made here in the course of construction revealed parts of the old city fortifications and remains of a late Stone Age settlement – indications that the city was settled 6000 years ago.



5 The Fruchthalle

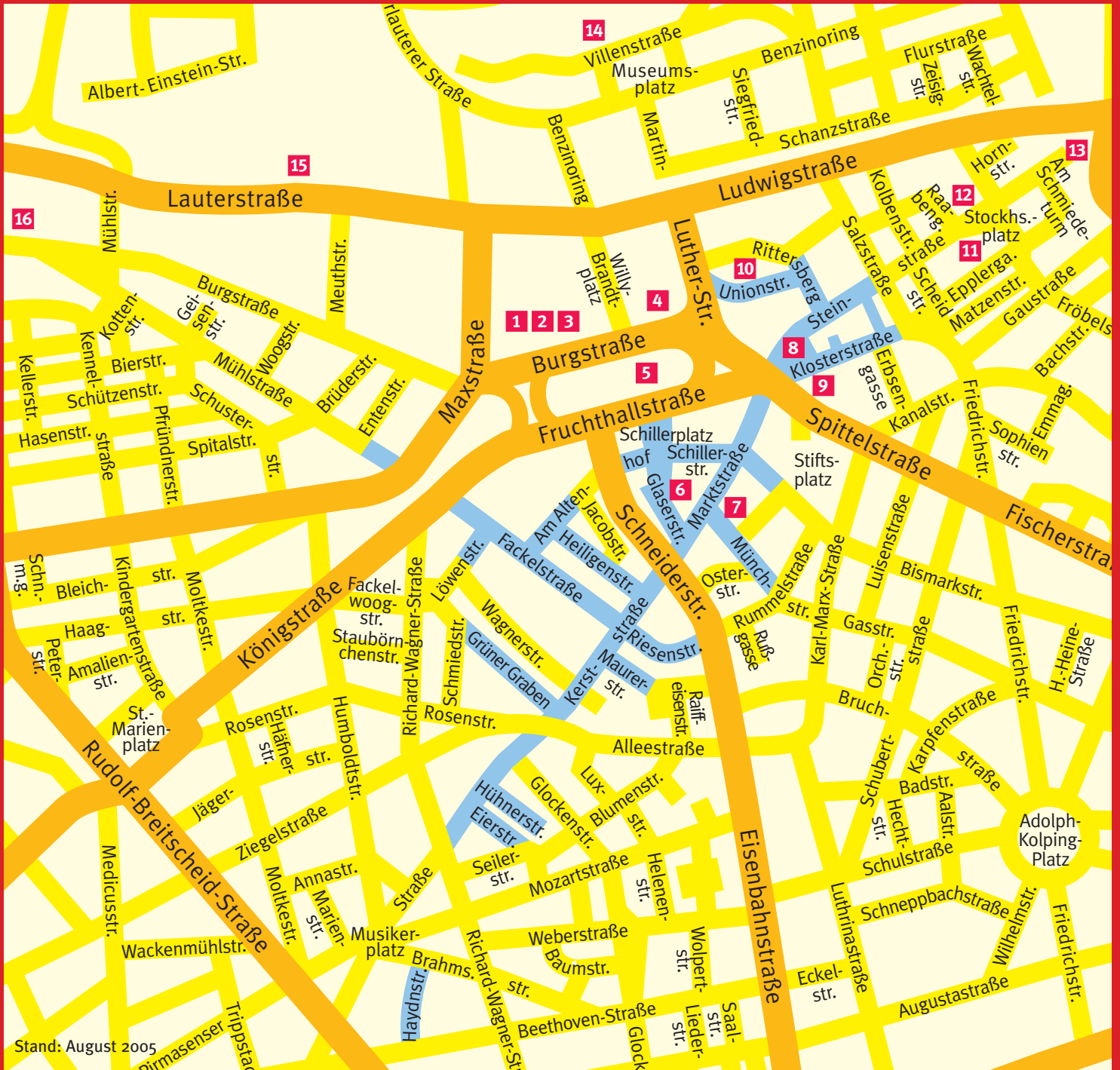
This hall, the work of architect August von Voit, was built between 1843 and 1846 in Renaissance style, after the Palazzo Medici in Florence, and was originally used as a market hall. In 1849, it was the seat of the revolutionary government of the Palatinate. Today concerts and large social events are held here.

6 The SpinnrädI

The historical hostelry “Zum SpinnrädI” (The Spinning Wheel), built in 1740, is the only remaining half-timbered building in the city.

7 The Collegiate Church (Front Page)

This church, considered the most significant late Gothic hall church in southwestern Germany, is now a Protestant parish church. The choir was begun in the second half of the 13th century, with the nave following in the 14th. The Union Monument in the entrance hall of the main portal, created by Professor Knoll in 1883, is a reminder of the importance of the Collegiate Church in ecclesiasti-



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cal politics as the birthplace of the “Palatinate Union” of Reformed and Lutheran churches in 1818. The “**Beautiful Fountain**” in front of the church was first mentioned in 1571. At the beginning of the 18th century a superstructure was added, showing the city arms, the Imperial Eagle signifying imperial freedom, and the lion as a symbol of the state’s rulers. The **Eagle Pharmacy**, once a chapel and converted by the apothecary Müllinghof in 1811, and other older buildings, together with the fountain, form a romantic whole in the centre of the city.



8 St. Martin's Square

The pretty “Martinsplatz” is the gateway to the old city. The so-called “**Spoliensäule**” (literally “column of spoils”) displays fragments of architecture from six centuries of civic history. The pedestal consists of a wreath of 10 reproductions of old boundary stones. At one side of this beautiful square with its two shady chestnut trees there once stood the “Kaufhaus”, which was used, among other things, for storing the city’s grain reserves. Also to be seen here are the **Old City Hall** of 1745, now the home of the municipal music school, the **House of the Family Rettig**, from the middle of the 18th century, and the former **Hotel Zum Donnersberg**, where Napoleon himself once breakfasted.

9 The Church of St. Martin

St. Martin’s, now a Catholic parish church, is considered a vivid example of a medieval church of a mendicant order. Built at the beginning of the 14th century as a Franciscan monastery church, it was expanded as early as the 15th century. The baroque ceiling is from the 18th century. The statue outside the west door represents St. Nepomuk. It was made at the beginning of the 18th century and previously stood on the so-called “Scherbrücke”, a nearby bridge over the Lauter. Behind, in the rectory garden, gravestones preserved from former cemeteries can be seen. The area is still bounded by remains of the medieval city walls.

10 The “Little Church”

This church was built by the Lutheran community between 1711 and 1717, and stands in what is now the generously-proportioned Union Square in the Rittersberg quarter. Today it is a favourite church for weddings.

11 The Theodor Zink Museum

At the other end of the Steinstraße with its many bars and bistros sits this museum, containing collections of folklore and civic history. Once the carriers’ inn “Rheinkreis”, built in 1817, the museum, with its picturesque courtyard, together with the Wadgasser Hof opposite, a former outlying farm of the Premonstratensian monastery at Wadgassen, forms a delightful close to the old city.



12 The Wadgasser Hof

The property came into the possession of the ruler of Palatinate-Lautern, the Count Palatine Ludwig-Philipp, in 1619. Later it was the widow's estate of Maria Eleonore, the sovereign of Lautern and wife of the Count Palatine. The splendid stucco room, furnished with objects from the 18th century, serves as a reminder of the building's history as the residence of nobility. The ceiling, with its ribbon ornamentation and cherub allegories of the four seasons, is considered among the finest pieces of baroque stucco in southwestern Germany.

The Theodor Zink Museum and the Wadgasser Hof are open Tuesdays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



13 The Emperor Fountain

The fountain at the Mainz Gate was designed in 1987 by Gernot Rumpf. The impressive composition in bronze and sandstone represents historical and present-day Kaiserslautern in a cheerful and often comical language of shapes. The fountain is around 10 meters in diameter. The central figures represent Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and Rudolf von Habsburg, seated back to back. In the water and around the edge of the fountain are figures such as the carp from the Emperor's pond, an owl as a symbol of the university, and Napoleon's hat. Local indus-

try is symbolized by a sewing machine (the Pfaff Company) and a motor block (the Opel Company).



14 The Palatinate Gallery of Art

The gallery on Museum Square was built between 1875 and 1880 from plans by Karl Spatz in neo-renaissance style. The reconstructed permanent exhibition halls now house an excellent collection of paintings and sculptures as well as exquisite pieces of artwork. The Gallery is open to visitors daily (except Mondays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

15 The Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden, which was opened in Kaiserslautern in April 2000, is one of the largest gardens of its kind in Europe. Carefully selected plants, ponds, waterfalls, fishes, lantern lights and stone arrangements create an atmosphere of the Far East – and body and soul come to rest. The Japanese Garden is open daily from spring to fall between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.



16 The Garden Exhibition

Since the great success of the first State Garden Exhibition of Rhineland-Palatinate in Kaiserslautern in 2000, there is a great deal of activity on the 54-acre area of the garden exhibition of Kaiserslautern each year from April to October.

Alternating hall flower exhibits, various theme gardens, exhibitions and a manifold cultural program make a trip to the parks very worthwhile. From the Kaiserberg (Emperors Mountain) you can enjoy a marvellous view of the city; the Neumühlepark attracts mainly young visitors on account of its leisure time activities such as the skating park, beach volleyball field and water playground.

Panoramic Views

A fantastic view over the city is worth climbing up the **Humbergturm**. The tower was built in 1899/1900.

The nearby village Hohenecken and the ruins of the castle are also worth a visit. Historical records first mention the castle in 1195. After being destroyed by the French in 1689, the ruin was restored in 1940. Today the castle ruin of Hohenecken is among the most impressive remains of the period of the Staufer.

Nature at Its Best

Betzenberg Deerpark

This 62-acre area enables citizens and guests of the city of Kaiserslautern to observe game species that can be found in our hunting grounds or that were once found there in former times.



Kaiserslautern Zoo

The Zoo is a popular destination in the western outskirts of the city of Kaiserslautern. On its area of approx. 17 acres the Zoo houses about 55 animal species and 220 wild and domestic animals. The playground, featuring a nature adventure trail for young visitors as well as a nice restaurant, rounds off an adventurous day at the zoo of Kaiserslautern. Open daily: April through August from 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., September through March from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

City History

6th/5th millennium B.C.

Settlement of band ceramics on the Rittersberg.

622 Founding of the Lutra royal court.

985 Conferment of the right of market, tribute and proscription by Otto III.

1152 Construction of the Emperor's Palace (Kaiserpfalz) by Frederick I (Red Beard).

1276 Rudolf of Hapsburg proclaimed the city independent.

1375 Kaiserslautern incorporated into the Palatinate.

1569 Construction of the Count Palatine Palace by Joh. Casimir.

1635 Devastation of the city by Croatian assault (30 Years War).

1801 Seat of Napoleonic Subprefecture.

1849 Seat of the Provisional Government and beginning of industrialization.

1944 60% of City destroyed in the Second World War.

1968 Completion of the new City Hall.

1969 Kaiserslautern exceeds 100,000 population.

1970 Establishment of the university.

1995 The new Palatinate Theatre is opened.

2000 Kaiserslautern presents the first State Garden Fair in Rhineland-Palatinate.

2006 Kaiserslautern is host city of the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™.

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