



enchanting
you!

Trier
Mainz
Koblenz
Kaiserslautern
Speyer
Worms



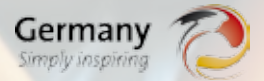
Touchdown in the heart of Romance!

Only one hour to castles, kings, Kaisers and the beautiful Loreley

We welcome you to the Central Rhine Valley, designated as a Unesco World Cultural Heritage site. Enjoy the sights of the region. From the cities of Worms, Speyer, Kaiserslautern, Trier, Koblenz and Mainz, as well as the Rhine and Moselle Valleys, walk in the footsteps of Germany's history. Some of the country's most valuable historical treasures are only a short drive away from Frankfurt-Hahn Airport. And once you have had your fill, simply take a connection to the next destination: Madrid, Budapest, London or Stockholm perhaps?

However, first and foremost: we are glad to have you as our guest!

www.hahn-airport.de



inviting
you!



Trier
Mainz
Koblenz
Kaiserslautern
Speyer
Worms



A feeling that goes under your skin...

Treat yourself to a holiday of pure romance and full of passion. Six towns in south-west Germany invite you to partake in exciting experiences, creative pleasures and unforgettable memories.

The romantic cities of Trier, Koblenz, Mainz, Worms, Speyer and Kaiserslautern – all boasting a wealth of history, all situated along the Rhine and Moselle rivers and all of them marked by legendary castles and palaces, mighty cathedrals and churches, crooked old streets and modern shopping arcades, alluring culinary specialities and world-famous wines. Sparkling moments are guaranteed...!

The weather and climate have always been particularly kind to this region. Fresh fragrant air rests over the elevations of the Palatine Forest while lower down, the abundant Rhine Valley fans out like the Garden of Eden: It is here that almond trees present their pink blossoms so early in the year, figs and lemons ripen in the summer warmth and, in autumn, a sea of grapes transforms the hills of the vineyards into a golden vista. This is the vast, beautiful, earthy, wine-loving and sun-drenched land of Rhineland-Palatinate. Its charming towns and picturesque landscapes provide the enchanting surroundings for your sparkling romantic holiday treat.

Treat yourself to art, culture and history, events, wellness and pleasure!

exciting you!



Mainz Cathedral

Palatinate Forest

Places to indulge your passion...

Let's go to the **Romantik Cities!** Sparkling moments guaranteed, passions aroused! Enter **Trier** as the Romans once did, through the Porta Nigra gate. Amid the lively atmosphere of the medieval city, sights such as the amphitheatre, the Roman baths and the majestic throne room of Emperor Constantine the Great are bound to impress anyone with even the most fleeting interest in history! Did you know that Trier Cathedral is Germany's oldest church, and in the 4th century AD was the largest church in the whole Roman Empire? **Koblenz** is where the Moselle meets the Rhine, beneath the Kaiser-Wilhelm monument at the famous Deutsches Eck (German Corner), just a stone's throw from the old quarter. Are you fascinated by the Romantic Rhine? Stolzenfels Castle is the first of more than 40 castles, palaces and fortresses in the Rhine Valley. Delve into the legend of the mysterious Loreley...

When the grapes hang fat and heavy on the vine, the true charm of **Mainz** comes to the fore with countless wine festivals, quaint bars and a vibrant young restaurant scene. Surrounded by the renowned wine-making regions of Rheinhessen and Rheingau, this is a place where you can indulge and develop your passion for fine wine, and enjoy a varied programme of cultural events.

Once an important centre of politics and power, **Speyer** has been shaped by rulers with a passion for architecture. No fewer than eight German kings and emperors lie buried inside Speyer's awe-inspiring cathedral, the largest Romanesque church on the European continent. Together with the cathedrals in Mainz and Worms, it forms a chain of Romanesque imperial cathedrals along the Rhine and symbolises the region's rich history.

Kaiserslautern is known for the traditional passion of its inhabitants for the beautiful game. The football stadium is the scene of celebration, anxiety and even triumph – a real maelstrom of emotions. Kaiserslautern is a city of contrasts: the football arena, the natural beauty of the ancient Palatinate Forest, Europe's largest Japanese garden, cosy wine bars, and restaurants with French-inspired cooking. Passion can have many faces! Pride, war, jealousy and love are the ingredients of the epic medieval tale of the Nibelungs, in which trickery and deception lead to the murder of Siegfried the Dragon Slayer, Germany's most popular hero figure. Most of the scenes from the Song of the Nibelungs are set in and around **Worms**, a town where the boundaries between imagination and reality begin to blur, and where the Nibelung Festival brings the ancient saga to life in its original setting...



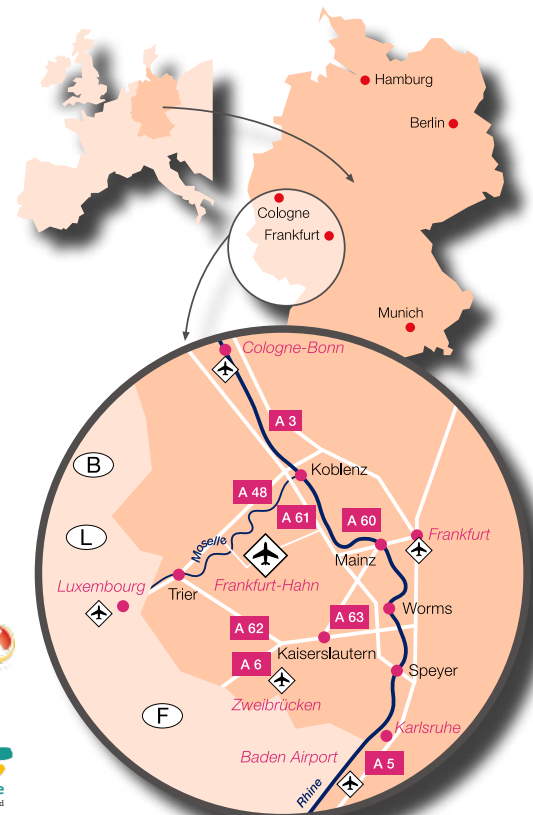
Trier
Mainz
Koblenz
Kaiserslautern
Speyer
Worms

Getting to your prickling experience...

Travel to the Romantic Cities is easy and convenient by air (e.g. to Frankfurt-Hahn), rail or car.

For more detailed information on how to get there please visit our website:

www.romantic-cities.com.



Germany
Simply inspiring

Rhineland-Palatinate
Tourist Board

awaiting you!

6 Cities

Trier
Mainz
Koblenz
Kaiserslautern
Speyer
Worms



Trier, Imperial Thermal Baths

Mainz Cathedral

1

Trier – the second rome

Still to this day the colossal Porta Nigra town gate marks the largest Roman metropolis north of the Alps. In the historical old town of Trier, hundreds of years of architectural history blend together with trendy cafés and cosy wine taverns to create a captivating atmosphere. Germany's oldest town is in the middle of the Moselle valley. Its idyllic environs abound with hidden treasures. Come and explore its beauty wandering through the vineyard slopes, strolling along the river banks or cruising down the Moselle, Saar or Ruwer rivers.

Sparkling moments are guaranteed in Trier since it is Germany's sparkling wine making capital! The Petrisberg above the Roman amphitheatre is the perfect location to enjoy a picturesque sunset. The panoramic view from St. Mary's Column down to the sun-drenched meander of the Moselle river is matchless for romantic evenings. Stylish candlelight dinners await you in the restaurants on the terraces of the Moselle river while a plethora of excellent meals and wines are to be found within the historic walls of the vineyards.

2

Mainz – wine throughout the year

When the vines are sagging with an abundance of plump grapes this town on the Rhine presents its most charming face with innumerable wine festivals and lively culinary experiences in the traditional vineyard taverns. The highlight is the Mainz Wine Market on the last weekend of August and the first weekend of September. Later in the year, sample exquisite Rheinhessen wines in the traditional wine taverns of the picturesque old town. Explore its narrow alleyways and splash out in its fancy shops.

Among the oldest cities in Germany, Mainz boasts a vast 1000-year-old cathedral, a perfect backdrop for the sea of lights which illuminate the Christmas market during the Advent season. You will frequently encounter Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press – Mainz has dedicated the Gutenberg Museum and the Johannistfest at the end of June to its most famous son. You will be overwhelmed by the heavenly blue light of St. Stephan's Church with its unique Chagall windows. The Shrove Monday procession is a festival of gaiety and the absolute highlight of the famous Mainz Carnival.



awaiting you!



Koblenz, Ehrenbreitstein

Kaiserslautern

3

Speyer, Old Gate

Koblenz – the only town on the Rhine & Moselle rivers

Situated at the Deutsche Eck, the world-famous “German Corner”, where the winding paths of the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet, nestles Koblenz, one of Germany’s most beautiful towns and the ideal starting point for exciting excursions into the Upper Middle Rhine Valley – a Unesco World Heritage Site. The history of this 2000-year-old town spans the Romans and Celts, the Franks and Merovingians up to modern times. This rich culture, the fresh local cuisine, the warmth of the Rhinelanders and the exquisite Rhine and Moselle wines give this town its unique flair.

A stroll through Koblenz’s old town and up to the Kaiser Wilhelm Monument at the Deutsche Eck is a living history lesson. Hop on a ferry across the Rhine to the spectacular Ehrenbreitstein fortress. Cruise along the Rhine from Koblenz to the legendary Lorelei Rock, a classic Rhine romance experience. Then explore the world of art in many museums, the culture in the town theatre and cabarets, shopping in petite boutiques and large malls... and why not enjoy a regional treat as a prickling refreshment in between: a glass of sparkling Riesling wine.

Kaiserslautern – city of contrasts

4

Kaiserslautern is surprisingly tranquil for its size and surprisingly untouched for an international city. Experience the creative tension that results from these contrasts and makes the atmosphere vibrate: In the city of Kaiserslautern, love, lust and passion are always in the air! See for yourself and be enchanted...

... there is so much to discover: The idyllic old town. The marvellous Japanese Garden. Exhibitions, sports, leisure and culture at the Garden Show. Art in the Palatine Gallery, one of the most significant collections in Rhineland-Palatinate. Stage highlights in the spectacular Palatine Theatre, live events in the Kammgarn Cultural Centre, classical music concerts in the impressive Fruchthalle (Fruit Hall). Palatine wine taverns and French-inspired restaurants and, of course, the Palatine Forest almost at the doorstep: gazing over the endless hills of the largest unbroken forest region in Germany, body, mind and soul regain their inner harmony.

5

Speyer – the imperial city

Speyer looks back on over 2000 years of living history and rightly bears its imperial title – no fewer than eight German kings and emperors lie buried in the awe-inspiring Speyer Cathedral. The largest Roman church in Germany has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 1981 and attracts visitors from all over the world with its medieval beauty.

Once a centre of politics and power, today Speyer captivates visitors with its peerless sights and impressive historical Old Town. The Via Triumphalis, Speyer’s shopping promenade, is lined by hundreds of open-air seats for ‘spectators’. Between the cathedral and the Altpörtel a wealth of modern street cafés, traditional wine taverns and lively bistros are bunched together like pearls on a string. Oleanders adorn your way through the romantic alleys, palms decorate the historic squares while the promenades encourage you to pleasantly linger. Speyer – clearly a place of stylish romance!

Worms – the town of the Nibelung Saga

6

A town made for heroes. With every step visitors to Worms encounter the Nibelung myth of love, pride and pugnacity...

If you enjoy being on the water, then board a Rhine steamer and who knows – maybe you will find the legendary Rhine gold of the Nibelungs. If you prefer to see things from above, then take off in a hot air balloon and float over the Rhine Valley! Landlubbers will prefer an agreeable walk through the gentle hills of the vineyards. Follow the footsteps of Holy Jacob, for example, whose pilgrimage to Santiago in Spain began here.

When the sun slowly sets in the evening, the town of Worms is bathed in a very special glow. The narrow and winding medieval alleyways are irresistibly inviting with the festively lit cathedral and numerous monuments, the Rhine laps softly onto its banks, locals and visitors get acquainted in the snugly cosy bars and wine taverns. A romantic end to the day and a prickling start to the evening in one ...

Worms,
Municipal
Museum



inspiring you!



Speyer Cathedral

Koblenz, Stolzenfels Castle

Trier, römisches Weinschiff

Discover the cities – themed routes...

The cities of Rhineland-Palatinate reflect its chequered history. Unique monuments have survived the turbulent times and have plenty of tales to tell today's visitors ...

Of emperors, kings and imperators...



Emperor Constantine the Great, champion of Christianity in the Roman Age, had **Trier** built as his imperial seat in the 4th century AD, and the architecture he commissioned remains impressive even today. The dimensions of the Constantine basilica (aula palatina) are breathtaking. **Kaiserslautern** is the place to explore the legacy of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa. Secret tunnels and the remains of his castle can still be seen today in front of the town hall. Four German kings and four emperors found their final resting place in the cathedral of **Speyer**, so it is right that it should be known as an imperial cathedral.

Detailed information and booking on www.romantic-cities.com

www.romantic-cities.com



Of stepping back in time and UNESCO world cultural heritage...

Round Trip 2



The six Romantic Cities are home to three of the four world heritage sites in Rhineland-Palatinate: the Roman monuments, cathedral and Church of Our Lady in **Trier**, the Upper Middle Rhine Valley near **Koblenz** and the cathedral in **Speyer**. In short: monuments, buildings and landscapes that are sure to inspire you!

Detailed information and booking on www.romantic-cities.com

Of wine, the rivers of history and the people...

Round Trip 3



"As far as the tower of the Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) throws its shadow" was the measure to determine the area within which wines in **Worms** were allowed to give themselves the name "Liebfrauenmilch". In **Mainz** descend into the world's deepest cellar at the Kupferberg sekt winery! Sekt from **Koblenz** was very popular in the 19th century among wealthy merchants and the nobility. In **Trier**, the importance of the wine for the church is clear: the ties between Trier cathedral and viticulture go back a long way, and the Bischöfliche Weingüter estates are among the best-known producers of fine wines among the international cognoscenti.

Detailed information and booking on www.romantic-cities.com

guiding you!



Trier in 24 hours

Time travel included

Trier has no fewer than 8 (!) UNESCO world heritage sites, mostly dating from the glorious days of the Roman Empire: the **Porta Nigra**, the **Barbara Roman Baths**, the **Imperial Thermal Baths**, the **amphitheatre**, the **Basilica of Constantine**, the **Roman Bridge**, the **cathedral**, the **Church of Our Lady** and the **Igel Column** outside the gates of the city.

A tour of Trier is like a walk through more than 2,000 years of history. The best place to start is the ► **Porta Nigra 1**, the best preserved Roman city gate north of the Alps. Dating back to the second century, it is still the main gateway to Germany's oldest city.

Follow the pedestrian area from the Porta Nigra past the lively ► **Hauptmarkt** (main market) **2** with its pretty buildings, market stalls, cafés and shops straight to ► **Trier Cathedral 3**. The original building from 330 AD was the largest Christian church in the ancient world, and around four times the size of the current cathedral. The Roman core is still preserved, with its original walls more than 25 metres high. Directly adjacent to the cathedral stands the earliest Gothic church in Germany, the ► **Church of Our Lady 4**, built in the 13th century. Past the baroque **Palais Kesselstadt**, and you take another huge leap back in time as you come to the 4th century ► **Basilica of Constantine 5**, one of the greatest architectural creations of the ancient world. The rectangular hall is 71m long and 32m wide – a space of overwhelming size and simplicity, closed off from the outside world by 2.7m thick walls. This monumental edifice was built for Emperor Constantine the Great, Roman emperor in Trier and champion of Christianity. Continue to the ► **Electoral Palace 6**, one of the most beautiful rococo palaces in the country.

Passing through the ► **palace gardens 6**, your journey through time takes you to the amazingly well-preserved ► **Imperial Thermal Baths 7** and, just a few minutes walk from there, to the ► **amphitheatre 8** where crowds of up to 20,000 spectators throng to watch the „Bread & Circuses“ event, Germany's largest Roman festival. Then it's a 25 minute walk in the direction of the Moselle to the ► **Barbara Roman Baths 9**, from where you have a view of the oldest preserved bridge north of the Alps. The ► **Roman Bridge 10** with its basalt pillars was built in the 2nd century AD and still

24h Trier

spans the Moselle today. The path along the river is a lovely place for a stroll, past the medieval cranes, and always keeping **St. Mary's column**, which towers high above the town, in view. The pretty restaurants on the sun terraces of the district of **Zurlauben** are a stylish place to end the day and enjoy a drop of fine wine while enjoying glorious views of the Moselle.

If you want to find out more about Trier's monumental buildings or the details of its proud Roman history, the ► **Rhenish State Museum 6** in the palace gardens is a must. No other museum in Germany provides such comprehensive information about the civilisation, economics, settlement, religion and art of the first four centuries AD.

After so many stone reminders of the past, you may fancy a little greenery... If that's the case, follow the **Moselle Wine Route** through the romantic river valley as it winds its way gently towards Koblenz, where the Moselle finally flows into the Rhine.

Seasonal tips:

- Antiquity Festival
- Old Town Festival
- Bread & Circuses
- Zurlauben Moselle Festival
- Christmas market

► www.romantic-cities.com

“Romance & History”

A guided historical tour, a boat excursion on the Moselle, a “cocktail d'amour”, a romantic candlelight dinner, a visit to a day spa and a champagne breakfast in your hotel room...

► Online booking:

www.romantic-cities.com

► **Next Holy Robe pilgrimage to Trier in 2012;**
www.dominformation.de





Mainz in 24 hours

From wine to Rhine

Mainz and wine – the two go hand in hand. Situated on the edge of Rheinhessen, Germany's largest wine-growing area, the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate worships the nectar of the gods. Rheinhessen is also known as the "land of 1,000 hills", so it is only fitting that you should begin your tour of Mainz at the top of one. ► **Kupferberg hill 1** affords spectacular views across the city and is also the location of the Kupferberg sekt winery. The name "Kupferberg" is synonymous with sparkling wine. Explore the centuries-old vaulted cellars, which burrow several storeys deep down into Kupferberg hill, and sample some sekt in the magnificent rooms of the neo-classical building.

From Kupferberg, it's on to the next hill, Stephansberg, where the ► **Gothic Church of St. Stephen 2** contains a unique treasure: stained glass windows by the French artist **Marc Chagall**. They bathe the church in an iridescent blue that looks like something from another world. Admire the breathtaking beauty of the windows - and don't miss what may well be the most beautiful cloisters in Rhineland-Palatinate.

From Stephansberg, your tour takes you through picturesque lanes down to the old quarter. The main street here is **Augustinerstrasse**, lined with little boutiques and home of the baroque Augustinian Church. Strolling towards the cathedral, on your left you'll see the Cherry Garden – a romantic square at the heart of the ► **old town 3**. A few more steps across Leichhof square brings the imposing ► **1,000-year-old cathedral 4** into view. Did you spot the mounted figure on the roof? It is St. Martin, after whom the cathedral is named. On the other side of the cathedral is the pretty ► **market square 5**, where a lively market is held on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturday days.

Cross the square in the direction of the Rhine, and you will come to the Haus zum Römischen Kaiser, home of the ► **Gutenberg Museum 6**. This is one of the oldest museums of printing in the world and is dedicated to one of the city's most famous sons, **Johannes Gutenberg**. As well as a copy of the world-famous Gutenberg Bible and many other unique printed treasures, the museum also has an authentic reconstruction of Gutenberg's printshop. There is a demonstration every hour from 10am onwards (except 1pm).

24h Mainz

From the museum it's just a stone's throw to the Rhine. There, you can either take a cruise with a Rhine riverboat and admire Mainz from the river, or wander along the pretty promenade. To the left is the ► **state parliament 7** and the ► **Electoral Palace 8**, while if you head right you pass the historical ► **Fort Malakoff 9** and the shopping arcades to reach the ► **Museum of Ancient Shipbuilding 10** which has five original shipwrecks dating back to Roman times.

Outside the gates of the city, the wide **Rheinhessen hills** stretch into the distance, reminding many visitors of Tuscany. Whether exploring the idyllic villages along the Rhine or the many villages of the 'hinterland', it's worth looking out for the **vintner's taverns** – a Rheinhessen institution. These cosy taverns are run by the wine-producers themselves on their own estates, and can be recognised by the bunches of flowers hanging above the doorway. A delightful and romantic way to round off your Mainz experience!

Seasonal tips:

- Carnival and the Rose Monday carnival procession
- Johannistfest festival
- Mainz Wine Market
- Christmas market

► www.romantic-cities.com

"Romance & Wine"

Wine tasting in the traditional Weinhaus Horn, a four-course candlelight dinner, a visit to a day spa including a cocoa back massage, the "Mainz-Card" and a surprise gift...

► Online booking:

www.romantic-cities.com





Old Town

Stolzenfels Castle

Koblenz in 24 hours

Discovering the area between the Rhine and Moselle

Koblenz lies at the point where the Moselle flows into the Rhine. The name couldn't be more apt, as it comes from the Latin "confluentes" or "confluentia", meaning "the place where rivers meet". ► **Deutsches Eck 1** (German corner), the symbol of the city, is thus an excellent place to start your tour. This is where the Moselle flows into the Rhine under the watchful eye of **Kaiser Wilhelm I**, whose bronze equestrian statue sits in splendour atop 100 stone steps.

Koblenz is not just a place where two great rivers come together: it is also a meeting point for people, and has been since Roman times. Evidence of the city's 2,000 year old history confronts you at every turn. Immediately behind the Kaiser is the oldest of Koblenz's churches, the ► **St. Kastor basilica 2** which was built in the 9th century outside the walls of Koblenz at that time. Stroll along the banks of the Moselle, where the cruise ships moor up, then wander back through the picturesque lanes of the old quarter to Florinsmarkt and the ► **Church of St. Florin 3**, and the ► **Middle Rhine Museum 3** in the old Kauf- und Danzhaus (shop and dance house).

From here, all roads lead to the ► **Church of Our Lady 4** and its beautiful baroque onion domes. Your tour continues across the square and through the area known as **Entenpfuhl** to ► **Jesuitenplatz 5**. Through the portal of the former Jesuit college and the current town hall you come to a pretty inner courtyard and the ► **Schängelbrunnen fountain 6**. Past the **municipal theatre** and across **Deinhardplatz**, headquarters of the Deinhard sekt producer, you come to the ► **Electoral Palace 7** and the Rhine Parks.

On the opposite side of the Rhine, the mighty ► **Ehrenbreitstein Fortress 8** clings to the rock, 118 metres above the river. Getting there can be a romantic adventure in itself: Take the ferry across the river then let the chair lift swing you up to the fortress. From here, you have incredible panoramic views across the city, hills, river valleys... and when the time and the weather are right, you get a glittering sunset thrown in for free!

If you enjoyed your short ferry trip and would like to spend more time on the water, then we recommend a river cruise - a classic way to experience the romance of the Rhine. Several companies offer cruises on the Moselle and the Rhine, along the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which stretches 65km upriver to Rudesheim.

24h Koblenz

On the banks of the river are picturesque little villages, vineyards and forests, and every now and then you spy an ancient building reaching out from amid the greenery. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley has 40 (!) castles and palaces. One particular highlight is **Marksburg Castle** near Braubach, which has remained virtually intact since the Middle Ages. In Koblenz itself, **Stolzenfels Castle** is a perfect example of early Romanticism on the Rhine. Even the climb up to it is something of an experience: from the Stolzenfels area of the city, the path snakes up to the castle through a wooded gorge, past a rock grotto with a waterfall and underneath a viaduct.

If you want to see the world-famous **Loreley**, you have to continue your journey as far as St. Goarshausen. This is the home of the fabled rock where, according to legend, a beautiful water-nymph combed her golden hair and lured sailors to a watery grave with her beguiling song...

There are plenty of wine bars and restaurants in Koblenz where you can stop for a drink or a bite to eat to keep you going. Proximity to the major wine-growing areas of the Middle Rhine and Moselle means you can be sure of a drop of the good stuff in your glass.

Seasonal tips:

- Festival at Ehrenbreitstein Fortress
- Auguste-Viktoria Festival
- Rhine in Flames
- Street entertainers' festival
- Christmas market
- www.romantic-cities.com

"Romance & Rivers"

A cruise along the Rhine, a horse-drawn carriage ride through the picturesque old town, transfer to the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress with a candlelight dinner and a guided tour through Stolzenfels Castle...

► Online booking:
www.romantic-cities.com

► **National Garden Show 2011 in Koblenz, April 15th to October 16th; www.buga2011.de**





11

St Martin's Square

"Spinnrädl"

Kaiserslautern in 24 hours

The Palatinate in a nutshell

Experience the "city of contrasts" on a tour that takes in quaint corners of the old quarter, lively shopping areas, grand gardens and extensive forests. As your starting point, we suggest the ► **imperial fountain 1**. It was built in 1987 and has a proud 12-metre diameter. Its figures are a comic representation of the history of the city, with Emperor Barbarossa at the centre.

Not far from here is the ► **Theodor Zink Museum 2** with its fascinating cultural heritage and municipal history collections. It is housed in a former coaching inn built in 1817 and, along with the Wadgasser Hof opposite, is a charming introduction to the historical **old quarter**. Admission to the museum also includes a visit to the **Wadgasser Hof**, where you can view the magnificent stucco room.

At the other end of Steinstrasse with its many bars and bistros is the romantic St. Martin's Square, shaded by old chestnut trees. Two buildings from the mid 18th century, the Altes Stadthaus and the Rettigsches Haus, combine with the former Hotel Zum Donnerberg, where Napoleon once ate breakfast, and the cast-iron fountain dating from 1891, to create an idyllic atmosphere.

St Martin's Square is the setting for the 14th century ► **St. Martin's Church 3**, a typical example of a Franciscan church for the mendicant order. Have a look at the graveyard while you're there. It is still surrounded by remnants of the medieval city walls. A brief detour down Rittersbergstrasse leads to the baroque ► **Little Church 4** (built in 1711 – 1717), which is still popular with couples tying the knot today. At the end of Marktstrasse, the ► **collegiate church 5**, one of the foremost late-Gothic hall churches in Germany, completes the Kaiserslautern trio of churches.

Look around you: the fountain in front of the church, the Adler Pharmacy and other old buildings form a picturesque ensemble amid the modern city. This is also the location of Kaiserslautern's only remaining half-timbered building: the **Spinnrädl**. This historical inn is a good place to enjoy some typical Palatinate cuisine to fortify you for the afternoon ahead. Kaiserslautern still has a lot more to offer!

If you're in the mood to shop, cross Schneiderstrasse and enter the city's main shopping zone. Or, if you're ready for a bit more **sightseeing**, head across Schillerplatz instead. This will bring you to the ► **Fruchthalle concert hall 6**, built on the model of the Palazzo Medici in Florence, and the ► **New Palatinate Theatre 7**. Both lovely to

24h Kaiserslautern

look at on the outside, and even lovelier to experience from the inside, at one of the superb performances. The unmissable, 84-metre-high skyscraper nearby is Kaiserslautern's **town hall**. The Panorama Lounge on the 21st floor is the perfect place to begin a romantic evening...

Part of the town hall complex, ► **Casimir Hall 8** was built by Count Palatine Johann Casimir who is celebrated in song as the legendary „hunter from the Palatinate“. The hall and the secret underground passageways can be visited as part of a guided tour (times and dates from tourist information). A little further on, information boards and a few remnants of the walls are all that's left of the former ► **Imperial Palace of Emperor Frederick I 9**, also known as Barbarossa. North of Ludwigstrasse is the ► **Pfalzalerie 10** with its excellent painting and sculpture collections.

If you are visiting between April and October, Kaiserslautern has two „green treats“ to offer. The ► **Japanese Garden 11** on Lauterstrasse is one of the largest of its kind in Europe. The plants, ponds, waterfalls, fish, lanterns and rock gardens create an authentic oriental atmosphere. You can even enjoy a genuine Japanese tea ceremony by prior arrangement. The Regional Garden Show offers beautiful parks, indoor flower shows, themed gardens, exhibitions and a comprehensive programme of cultural events. From the top of Kaiserberg hill on the 22 hectare site you have fantastic views of the city. **Tip:** Buy a combined ticket if you want to visit both sites.

There's no charge to visit the **Palatinate Forest** just outside the city. The Hotel-Restaurant Bremerhof (on Bremer Strasse behind the main train station) is an easy-to-find starting point for your day out in the country. From there, it is a half-hour walk to the **Humbergturm** tower. The tower marks the starting point for a number of well-sign-posted footpaths, and from the viewing platform you have great views of the wonderful forest landscape and the city of Kaiserslautern.

Seasonal tips:

- Kammgarn Jazz-Festival
- Altstadtfest
- „Swinging Lautern“
- Kammgarn Blues-Festival
- Weihnachtsmarkt

► www.romantic-cities.com

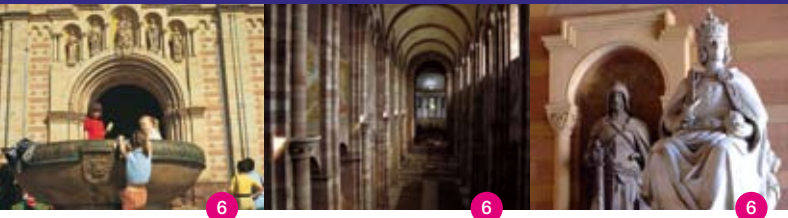
"Romance & Gardens"

Visit the Japanese Gardens and the Garden Show, enjoy an aroma massage and an emperor's bath in candlelight, a horse drawn carriage ride with a picnic and a candlelight surprise dinner...

► Online booking:

www.romantic-cities.com





Speyer in 24 hours

In the footsteps of the emperors

The Salian emperors made Speyer the intellectual centre of their empire. They had ambitious plans for their city, and you can aim high too, by starting your “imperial tour” with a climb to the top of the ► **Old Gate 1**. At 55m, it is Germany’s tallest city gate, built in the early 13th century. After exactly 154 steps you will be rewarded with fantastic views as far as Heidelberg and the German Wine Route. You can also see what’s in store for you on your sightseeing tour.

If you stroll from the Old Gate down **Maximilianstrasse**, Speyer’s main street, towards the cathedral and the Rhine, you pass by virtually all the main highlights along the way, although it’s always worth a little detour or two. **Our tip:** take a walk to the ► **Memorial Church 2**, which was endowed by the Prussian Kaiser Wilhelm II. Can you see the emperor’s children? Seven angels’ heads in the centre windows are dedicated to them. Kaiser Wilhelm II is quoted as saying: “Once they were seven little rascals (Bengelchen), now they are little angels (Engelchen).”

Of all the beautiful baroque and rococo buildings on Maximilianstrasse, two are worthy of special mention: the **Old Mint** built in 1748 and the town hall from 1726. From here you can already see the acclaimed Speyer imperial cathedral, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, but we recommend that you try and suppress your curiosity for a moment and take two little detours on either side of the town hall.

To the right, in Kleine Pfaffengasse, are the ► **Jewish Baths 3** (open for viewing from April to October). The ritual cleansing bath (mikveh in Hebrew) is the oldest of its kind. Its 10-metre-deep bathing shaft was built before 1128, and the eastern walls of the adjoining men’s and women’s synagogue are also still preserved. In the Middle Ages, Speyer, Mainz and Worms were the centres of Ashkenazi Judaism along the Rhine. To the left of the town hall is Grosse Himmels-gasse and the ► **Trinity Church 4**, consecrated in 1717 and a wonderful, internationally important example of late-baroque wooden architecture. (Open for viewing Wednesdays and Saturdays, and as part of a guided tour of the town).

Stop! Don’t retrace your footsteps straight away, but go a little bit further along Nonnenbach into the ► **Hasenpflu 5** district. This lovingly restored former fishermen’s and sailors’ quarter with its fig trees, rose bushes and fountains, is the perfect spot for a romantic interlude.

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And now, it’s time for the ► **cathedral 6!** Stand for a moment and admire the perfect layout, the balanced distribution of the mighty structures to the east and the west, the symmetry of the towers on the corners of the nave and the transept. Rhenish Romanesque in its purest form! The foundation stone for what is now the city’s most famous landmark was laid in 1030 by Konrad II. Together with the cathedrals of Worms and Mainz, it forms the triumvirate of “imperial cathedrals on the Rhine”. Speyer cathedral is a place of superlatives: it is the oldest of the three imperial cathedrals. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest fully intact Romanesque building in Europe. 134 metres long, 33 metres high with a central nave 14 metres wide, it has the dimensions of a Gothic cathedral. In its crypt, which remains virtually unchanged to this day, eight German emperors and kings have found their final resting place.

Next to the cathedral is another major attraction. Covering an area of around 6,000m², the ► **Historical Museum of the Palatinate 7** houses an impressive collection of exhibits from the Stone Age to the present day.

Directly behind the museum and the cathedral, the Rhine is a lovely, romantic place to end your visit to Speyer. Cruise past the cathedral and old quarter on a pleasure boat, discover the unspoiled quality of the idyllic “old Rhine” or marvel at the glorious display of the setting sun on the water...

Seasonal tips:

- “Bretzelfest” food festival
- “Kaisertafel” food festival
- Old Town Festival
- Christmas and New Year market

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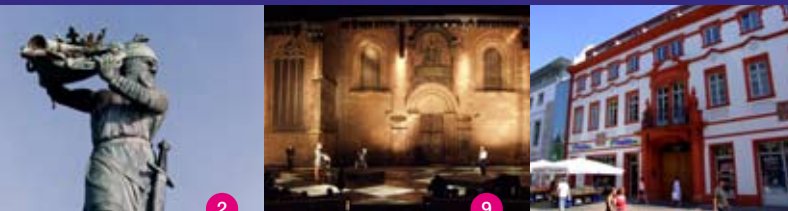
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Old Town

Worms in 24 hours

From sagas to sunken treasures

According to the saga, Hagen sank the Nibelung treasure in the Rhine near Worms. So what better starting point for your tour of the city than the ► **Nibelungenbrücke 1** over the Rhine? Although this picturesque bridge with its mighty gate tower was only built at the end of the 19th century, it gives the impression of being a gateway to the mysterious days of the 12th century, when the Song of the Nibelungs was written. Just a few minutes' walk northwards on the bank of the Rhine is the bronze ► **Hagen statue 2**, a reminder of the city's fabled history.

10 minutes' walk towards the town, at the Fischerpfortchen gate, is the ► **Nibelung Museum 3** which opened in 2001. Behind the attractive exterior – the museum is housed in two towers of the medieval town wall – is state-of-the-art multimedia technology which brings the Nibelung saga to life in an exciting and unusual way. **Tip:** it is still possible to walk along parts of the town wall.

Now to explore Worms, town of churches. There are seven in the centre, all built before 1745. Close to the Nibelung Museum, on the right hand side of Petersstrasse, is ► **St. Paul's Church 4**, a hall church built between the 11th and 13th centuries, with a Dalberg high altar and Gothic cloisters, both worth a visit. To the left of Petersstrasse towards the market square is the baroque ► **Trinity Church 5** dating from 1725. The mighty cathedral is already in view, but there is another little detour to the left before you get there. The **Adler Pharmacy** building on Neumarkt square is one of the handful of town houses that has survived from the baroque era. Passing by the south side of the cathedral you come to the ► **Church of St. Magnus 6**. The simple, one-roomed church has its roots in the Carolingian era of the 9th century and was later extended to include Romanesque and Gothic elements.

The **St. Andrew's Seminary** on the other side of Weckerlingplatz square is home to the ► **municipal museum 7** which traces the city's history from prehistoric times to the present day. The "Luther Room" contains original manuscripts by the great reformer himself.

Behind Willy-Brandt-Ring is ► **Heiliger Sand 8**, Europe's oldest Jewish cemetery dating back to the 11th century, with more than 2,000 preserved gravestone inscriptions. Next on your sightseeing programme is the magnificent ► **cathedral 9**. The Romanesque basilica dates from the 11th and 12th centuries, and, like Mainz and Speyer,

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belongs to the famous triumvirate of imperial cathedrals on the Rhine. A more recent highlight is the baroque high altar by **Balthasar Neumann**. Legend has it that the northern imperial portal is the site of the fabled battle between Nibelung queens Kriemhild and Brünhild, which ultimately resulted in the murder of Siegfried the Dragon Slayer and the downfall of the Burgundy Kingdom.

Opposite the cathedral, set amid parkland, is the ► **Heylshof Palace 10**, home of some wonderful art collections. The Palace Gardens were the scene of numerous imperial diets, including that of 1521 when Martin Luther stood in front of Emperor Charles V and refused to recant his propositions. Memorial plaques on the ground record this momentous encounter. From here you can see the ► **Luther monument 11**, erected in 1868, it is the largest of its kind in the world.

Through the gardens, which follow the line of the former city fortifications, you come to the church of ► **St. Martin 12**, a Romanesque basilica in red sandstone with a lovely west portal. Then continue along Kämmerer Strasse into the former ► **Jewish quarter 13**. Together with the Jewish cemetery, the **synagogues** and the **Jewish museum in Raschi Haus** form a striking reminder of the once influential Jewish community in medieval Worms.

After all this sightseeing you'll be ready to discover Worms, city of wine. Continue northwards for another 10 minutes to the ► **Gothic Church of Our Lady 14**.

Seasonal tips:

- "Spectaculum" – medieval market
- Jazz Festival "Jazz & Joy"
- Nibelung Festival
- Backfisch Festival
- Christmas market
- www.romantic-cities.com

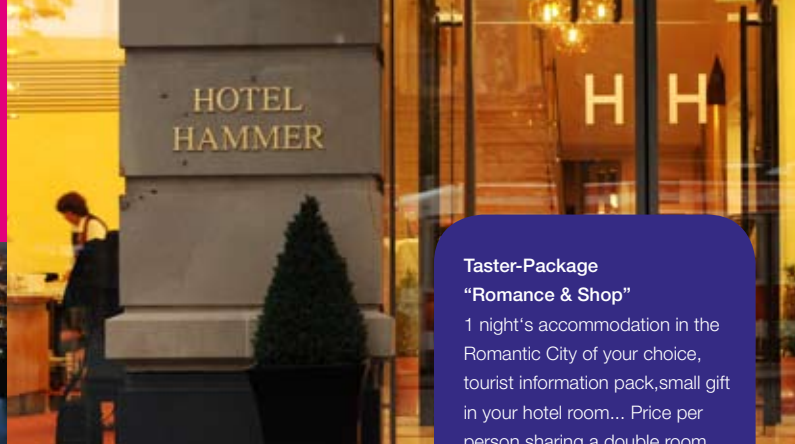
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Tel. +49 (0) 261/ 915 200
info@rjp-info.de
www.rjp-info.de

Speyer Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 6232/ 142 392
speyer@romantic-cities.com
www.speyer.de

Kaiserslautern Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 631/ 365 23 17
kaiserslautern@romantic-cities.com
www.kaiserslautern.de

Trier Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 651/ 978 080
trier@romantic-cities.com
www.trier.de/tourismus

Koblenz Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 261/ 303 880
koblenz@romantic-cities.com
www.koblenz-touristik.de

Worms Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 6241/ 250 45
worms@romantic-cities.com
www.worms.de

Mainz Tourist Information

Tel. +49 (0) 6131/ 286 210
mainz@romantic-cities.com
www.mainz.de/tourist

AG Städteforum Rheinland-Pfalz

c/o Rheinland-Pfalz Tourismus GmbH
 Löhrrstraße 103 – 105, 56068 Koblenz
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