Discovering our town of culture on foot

Suggested walk (approx. 1.5 to 2 hours)

1 The Tourist Information is located in the municipal library building between Johanniskirche Palace and Stadthalle am Schloss Conference Centre. Our team provides advice, assistance and a comprehensive range of tourist services to ensure that you have a pleasant and interesting stay in Aschaffenburg. You’ll find extensive information on the town and the region, a free accommodation-finding service, insider tips, general and themed guided tours, a great selection of souvenirs, an events calendar, books on the town and much more besides.

On the other side of Schlossplatz square is the Stadthalle am Schloss Conference Centre which, with its twelve rooms and auditoriums, multi-purpose conference technology and capacity for over 1,200 people, is an ideal venue for events and conferences.

A fitting place to start a sightseeing tour through our historic town in the heart of the Spessart hills is the town’s pride and joy, Johanniskirche Palace. This splendid building dates back to the German late Renaissance. Built between 1605 and 1614, it was commissioned by archbishop and elector Johann Schweikard von Kronberg and designed by Strasbourg architect Georg Ridinger. The archbishops and electors of Mainz used it as a second official residence. Today, Johanniskirche Palace is home to the largest state collection of paintings outside the Bavarian capital Munich as well as the world’s largest collection of cork architectural models. Also within its walls are the royal apartments with original, classical furnishings, the municipal palace museum and the court and collegiate library. Notable paintings by Cranach, Kirchner and Schad are among those on display. The 48 bronze bells of the carillon ring out from the palace’s east tower dormer every day at 9.05 am, 12.05 pm and 5.05 pm.

Leaving the palace along Schloßgasse towards the old quarter, you arrive within minutes at the Catholic parish church, Cranach’s Altar of St Magdalene. From the Stiftbrunnen fountain, re-erected in 1998, it’s a short walk up to the town’s oldest church. The seminary of St Peter and St Alexander was founded in around 950 and is a remarkable architectural ensemble comprising the late-Romanesque collegiate church, famous cloister and medieval collegiate chapter buildings. It has many art treasures and gems waiting to be discovered inside, including a 10th century crucifix, the tomb of archbishop and elector Albrecht von Brandenburg, and Grünewald’s Lamentation of Christ.

To the right of the church is the town hall. Walking away from Schloßplatz square down the length of Pfaffengasse brings you out at Schönbusch Park (30 mins. walk, by car on the B26 or bus line 3). This English-style landscaped park is one of the most beautiful in Germany and has, for generations, been popular for family outings among locals and visitors alike thanks to its lake and lakeside mansion, orangery, temples, pavilions, maze and restaurant with beer garden. See you soon — where Bavaria meets the Rhine-Main region.

Other official Aschaffenburg publications are available at Tourist Information.

Contact and information
Tourist Information
Schloßplatz 1 · 63739 Aschaffenburg
Tel.: +49 (0 60 21) 39 58 00 · Fax +49 (0 60 21) 39 58 02
E-Mail: tourist@info-aschaffenburg.de
www.info-aschaffenburg.de
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Church of our Lady the Mother of God with its superb baroque facade, 13th century Romanesque-Gothic tower and impressive ceiling frescoes.

Across from the church is Aschaffenburg’s attractive municipal theatre, built in 1811 in the classical style during the tenure of archbishop Carl Theodor von Dalberg. The Aschaffenburg sundial (almost six metres high) with its spherical time indicator displays the ‘true’ time, both day and night. Our tour continues via Dalbergstrasse (named after the last archbishop and elector of Mainz, Carl Theodor von Dalberg) deeper into the picturesque old quarter with its charming half-timbered buildings along romantic alleys. The traditional bars and restaurants here offer a range of local and international specialties.

Reigersberger House (Dalbergstrasse 41) is the former residence of Nikolaus Georg Ritter von Reigersberger, mayor of Aschaffenburg and co-signatory to the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

Climbing down towards the river and right along the Main, you come to the Theoderichstor gate. Carrying on up a few steps into the palace gardens takes you to the Pompeianum, one of the finest mediterranean-style buildings north of the Alps. This Roman villa is loosely based on the House of Castor and Pollux in Pompeii. King Ludwig I of Bavaria gave this ‘Pompeiian house’ (built 1840-1848) to his beloved Aschaffenburg. After undergoing several renovations, it now houses important exhibits from the State Antiquities Collection and the Glyptothek in Munich. Pompejaner, the famous local wine, is made from grapes grown in the Pompeianum’s own vineyard.

On the way to Karlstrasse you walk past the Capuchin monastery, which was built after archbishop and elector Johann Schweikard von Knobeln summoned the Capuchin monks to Aschaffenburg in 1620.

Continuing down Karlstrasse and then onwards via Agathaplatz, Treibgasse and across Luitpoldstrasse, you reach the Wolfshofplatz square, where the Jewish synagogue once stood. The former rabbinic house is now home to the Museum of Jewish History and Culture. From here, the tour carries on along pedestrianised Herstallstrasse, past the Herstallturm tower and on to the City Galerie shopping centre.

Via Sandgasse and Erbsengasse you reach Schönborner Hof, one of Aschaffenburg’s few intact aristocratic residences. The triple-winged palace, built in 1680 for the senior state official Melchior Friedrich Graf von Schönborn and the town’s first baroque building, today houses the various collections of the municipal and collegiate archive and the Natural History Museum.

Continuing past the Freihof, along Landingsstrasse and left onto Dalbergstrasse you find yourself in Stiftsplatz square with its Löwenapotheke pharmacy (a fine reconstruction of a half-timbered house). The nearby Stiftsmuseum houses the collegiate treasury and ...