

WISSEMBOURG CITY MAP

City walls tour

Duration: 1h30

The city wall walk will take you on a tour of the defensive structure's main remains of the fortified town of Wissembourg, which was made up of four distinct elements: the Abbey walls (11th and 12thc.), the town walls (13th to late 16thc.), the walls of the first suburb known as the "Bannacker" (late 13thc.), of which nothing remains, and the walls of the second suburb known as the "s'Bruch" or "Bitche suburb" (14th and 15thc.).

1. Gate of Haguenau or Badewegertor (18thc.): marked the main entrance to the town, now no longer to be seen

2. Ditch junction and moat network (18thc.): also known as a "water gate" where the ditches joined together.

3. South wall and its 4 turrets (14thc.): solid round bastions on the south wall of the Bruch, untouched since the Middle Ages.

4. Lock (17thc.) and Hausgenossenturm (16thc.): protected the western entrance to the town.

5. Millers' Gate or Pfisterturm (15thc.): at the end of the "Bitche suburb" that runs along the canalized Lauter, the site of the former convent entrance gate through which the Benedictine monks gained access to their mill.

6. Walkway to the Bruch rampart (built in the late 19thc.): gives access to the northern rampart.

7. Remains of a religious building (13thc.): revealed during excavations in 1987.

8. Saint Stephen's Gate (13thc.): an essential part of Wissembourg's defensive structure, in the northern ramparts.

9. Ditch counterscarp (18thc.): outer embankment of the ditch of the fortified structure.

10. Powder Keg Tower (13thc.): located in the north-eastern part of the ramparts, this tower also played a major role in the fortifications of the 18th century.

11. Pfistermuehle: old mill visible after walking along the foot of the northern rampart.

12. Abbey walls (18thc.): location of the gateway to the Benedictine abbey.

13. The "Bruch" wash-place (19thc.): after passing along the monastery enclosure, which merged with the town walls, this small stone wash-place stands beside the stream.

14. Loopholes Tower or Schartenturm (13thc.): only remaining tower from the enclosure of the fortified Abbey.

Keys

-  Starting point of walks
-  Playground
-  Fitness-trail
-  Swimming pool
-  Coach drop-off parking
-  Toilets
-  Disabled toilets
-  Bus Park
-  Car Park
-  Hospital
-  Tourist Office
-  Service area for camping-cars
-  Bus stop
-  Railway station
-  Westercamp Museum



Sightseeing train

Departures every day from Easter to November in front of the Tourist Office.

Historical tour

Duration: 1h30

Historical tradition in natural surroundings. It is here, at the foot of the Vosges that Wissembourg nestles, in the midst of dense forests and fertile vineyards. A town steeped in history, the mark of time has given it an indefinable charm, a certain picturesqueness that you absolutely must discover. So, go and discover it!

1.The "Grange aux Dîmes": former tithe barn of the abbey and adjacent to it the "House of the Knights" from 1606.

2.Abbey Church of Saint Peter and Paul: second largest church in Alsace after the cathedral of Strasbourg. The square tower is the only remain from the roman abbey church of the 11thc. The gothic church was built under Abbot Edelin between the 13th and early 14thc. Outstanding stained-glass windows, frescoes and cloister.

3.Former Deanery of the Collegiate Church (1784): sold as national property in 1796. It has been the sub-prefecture from 1825, then museum.

4.Loopholes Tower or "Schartenturm": remains of the walls of the monastery built under abbot Samuel (11thc).

5.The "Bruch" washing place (19thc): small washhouse on the bank of the river Lauter.

6.House of "l'Ami Fritz": former tanner's house (1550), fine example of the Alsatian Renaissance style.

7.House of Baths: medieval house from the 14thc.

8.House Vogelsberger: Sebastian Vogelsberger was beheaded in 1548 on the orders of Charles Quint for having taken part in the coronation of Henry II in Reims.

9.St. John church: romanesque bell tower from the 13thc. Former parish church, which was considerably restored after 1945. Martin Bucer (1522) called for the Reformation from the pulpit of this church.

10.Medieval house (13thc).

11.Winegrower's house: outstanding window frames in carved wood.

12. Patrician house (16thc).

13.House of the Royal Moneylender: large building from 1798. Only the large carriage entrance with its Renaissance arch remains from the original building.

14.Former Augustinian monastery: founded in 1279 and converted into private houses after the Revolution. Famous Latin school in the 18thc.

15.House Schaaf "The Old Crown": patrician house (1491), then inn until 1603. Owned by the Bartholdi family at the end of the 18thc.

16.The Salt House (Maison du Sel): first, hospital of the town (1448), then it became the salt warehouse and a slaughterhouse.

17.City Hall: built from 1741 to 1752 according to the plans of Joseph Massol to replace the city hall that disappeared in the great fire of the town on 25. January 1677. Latin inscription above the clock. "Under Louis XV's reign, I rose from ancient ashes".

18.The house "Holzapfel" or "Burgerhof": guild house in 1506. Coaching inn from 1793 to 1855.

19.Former Dominican church: unused since 1552. Successively served as hospital, shop, stables and barracks. Cultural centre since 1980.

20.Former synagogue

21.The "Schlupf" also called the Little Venice of Wissembourg.

22.Commandery of the Teutonic Order: founded in the 13th century, destroyed under the Revolution.

23.Stanislas Palace: King Stanislas Leszczinski lived there from 1719 to 1725. His daughter Mary married Louis XV in 1725.