

Frankfurt am Main

City tour

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Further information and city maps: Touristinfo Römer, Römerberg 27 (stop 11), telephone +49 (0)69 212 38800

Opening hours: Mon - Fr: 09.30 - 17.30 | Sa, Su and on public holidays: 09.30 - 16.00 | 31.12.: 10.00 - 13.00 | closed on 24. - 26.12. and 01.01.

1 Cathedral

Not even tourists and those new to Frankfurt can fail to miss the starting point of our historic stroll through the city: With its 95 m high tower rising over Frankfurt city centre, the Cathedral (Dom) can be seen from afar. Its beginnings date back to the year 852. Ten emperors were crowned here between 1562 and 1792. What does it matter that the term 'Cathedral' is actually a slight exaggeration, because it was never the home of a bishop...

Visitors can climb up its tower between April and October. The Cathedral museum houses treasures such as a Gothic liturgical vestment from 1350 and a gold-plated shining monstrance from 1720.

ADDRESS

Domplatz

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer



2 Archaeological Garden



From the Cathedral, we set out in the direction of Römerberg, the same route the Emperor took by foot after his coronation. Directly next to the Cathedral, there is tangible history: the Archaeological Garden (Archäologischer Garten) with excavations of a Roman settlement and a Carolingian royal palatinate.

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

Römerberg
U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

3 Canvas House

On the southern side of the Cathedral opposite the Tower, we find Frankfurt's oldest 'textile shop': the Canvas House (Leinwandhaus) dating back to the year 1399. Well into the nineteenth century, it served as a trading place for cloth and linen. Today it houses the Museum of Comical Art — Caricatura Museum.

ADDRESS

Weckmarkt 17

TRANSPORT CONNECTION



4 Iron Bridge



The Iron Bridge (Eiserner Steg) is already well over one hundred years old. The engraved water levels show how high the water once stood in Frankfurt.

ADDRESS

Mainkai

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

5 Customs Tower

We turn around, back in the direction of the Römerberg, taking a look at the Customs Tower (Rententurm) (built in 1456) on the corner on the right. This is where a collector sat: the paymaster who collected the harbour fee. Today the building is part of the historische museum frankfurt.

ADDRESS

Fahrtor 2

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer



6 Wertheim House



The Wertheim House (Haus Wertheim, directly opposite the historische museum) must be very lucky. It was the only timber-framed building in the old part of the city to survive the war. Just a few more steps and we have arrived on the Römerberg.

ADDRESS

Fahrtor 1

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

7 historisches museum frankfurt



The historisches museum on the Römerberg is Frankfurt's municipal museum. The unique historic architectural ensemble welcomes visitors with topical permanent and special exhibitions as well as a wide range of events and activities to accompany children and adults in exploring the city of Frankfurt and its history. Now that the renovation measures have been completed, the rediscovery of the historic Saalhofensemble is a particularly worthwhile undertaking. From 2008 to 2012, the historisches museum's old buildings were refurbished according to plans by the prestigious Diezinger Architekten firm of Eichstätt.

With the opening of the new building on the Römerberg, scheduled for 2015, the museum's alteration measures will come to a close and the historisches museum will present itself as a modern municipal museum of the twenty-first century with completely new exhibitions on Frankfurt's variegated history.

ADDRESS

Fahrtor 2

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

8 Old Nikolai Church

When you arrive on the Römerberg, on the southern side of the great square there is the Old Nikolai Church (Alte Nikolaikirche). It was the chapel of the Imperial Court from 1290 until the 14th century. The daily chimes at 9 a.m. and 12 noon are worth hearing.

ADDRESS

Römerberg

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer



9 Römerberg



A few more steps and we are in the middle of the Römerberg. Towards the Cathedral, the square is lined by historical timber-framed buildings as in the past. They bear sonorous names such as 'Großer Engel' (Great Angel), 'Goldener Greif' (Golden Griffin) or 'Schwarzer Stern' (Black Star). The houses were faithfully reconstructed according to the originals as if the dreadful night of bombing in March 1944 had never taken place, a night in which they all, along with the entire old part of the city, were destroyed.

ADDRESS

Römerberg

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

10 Fountain of Justice



In the centre of the Römerberg stands the Fountain of Justice ('Gerechtigkeitsbrunnen'). When an emperor was crowned, the people of Frankfurt could enjoy themselves here. Not only water flowed but also wine, and the people of Frankfurt could smell the aroma of 'ox on the spit'.

ADDRESS

Römerberg

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

11 Römer

The Emperors meanwhile enjoyed themselves at the banquet feast. Today, in general, the entire city hall complex is referred to as the 'Römer'. The actual 'Römer', however, is only the middle one of three houses with its characteristic stepped gables. It has served as a town and city hall since 1405. The Emperors' Hall is situated on the first floor. All 52 emperors who ruled the Empire from 768 to 1806 are immortalised here in oil paintings.

ADDRESS

Römerberg 27

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer



12 Stone House



We proceed on into the narrow alleyway between the new Römerberg settlement and the Stone House (Steinernes Haus, on the right). The bold-looking house made of 'steynen and muwren' (stones and walls), as contemporaries note appreciatively, was built in 1464. The old trading house is one of the few preserved Gothic profane buildings that were designed like royal residences or castles.

ADDRESS

Markt 42-44

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

13 St. Paul's Church

Via the Römerberg, we go past the Römer to the Paulsplatz that is dominated by the red sandstone St. Paul's Church (Paulskirche). As the seat of the first German national assembly (1848/49), it is the symbol of German democracy. Commemorative plaques on its façade recall famous politicians and honorary citizens of the city; on its north side a monument reminds us of the victims of National Socialism.

We return to the south side of the church and on the square there, look at the 'Unification Monument'. We then proceed into Bethmannstraße. Our route now takes us right through the heart of Frankfurt's government quarter: on the right and left, we see the extensions to the City Hall dating from around the turn of the century. After that, we then turn immediately left into Buchgasse.



ADDRESS

Paulsplatz 11

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

14 St. Leonhard's Church

At the end of Buchgasse, we can see the old St. Leonhard's Church (Sankt Leonhardskirche) with its five naves. It has many worthy sights but the 'Salvatorchörlein' is the most remarkable. When we leave the church door, we turn left into Alte Mainzer Gasse; after a few metres we turn right into Karmelitergasse.



ADDRESS

Am Leonhardstor 25

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 4/5, tram line 11/12 Römer

15 Carmelite Monastery



On the left-hand side you will see the Carmelite Monastery (Karmeliterkloster). It is known above all for the murals by Jörg Ratgebs in the cloisters. In the southern part of the monastery grounds there is a museum for pre- and early history/archaeological museum. The northern part presents a lot of history on shelves that are kilometres long: the city archive is one of the biggest of its kind.

ADDRESS

Münzgasse 9

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 1-5, Willy-Brandt-Platz, tram line 11/12 Römer

16 Goethe House

Via the footbridge, we now cross the ramp of the car tunnel, go slightly to the right on Berliner Straße and soon reach the Großer Hirschgraben (on the left). Here, we are allowed to take a look at the kitchen of Goethe and his mother 'Frau Aja'. In the Goethe House (Goethe Haus), everything is as it was back then.

ADDRESS

Großer Hirschgraben 23-25

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

S 1-6/8 Hauptwache, U1-5 Willy-Brandt-Platz



17 St. Catherine's Church



We then go further on straight ahead from the 'Großen' (Big) to the 'Kleinen' (Little) Hirschgraben and already see the mighty St. Catherine's church (Katharinenkirche), built between 1678-81. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was baptised and confirmed here.

ADRESSE

An der Hauptwache 1

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 1-3/6-7, S1-6/8 Hauptwache

18 Hauptwache

It is only just a few more metres to the baroque 'Hauptwache' (built between 1729 and 1731), once the most important 'police station' in the free city of Frankfurt and today the centre of the city. The Hauptwache became better known in 1833 when it was occupied by revolutionary democrats. The 'Frankfurt guardhouse uprising' was soon over.

ADDRESS

An der Hauptwache 15

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 1-3/6-7, S1-6/8 Hauptwache



19 Old Opera House



After the Hauptwache, we then turn left into Bibergasse and Große Bockenheimer Straße (Freßgass'), on which we arrive straightaway at the Old Opera House (Alte Oper). Just go in and let the 'Old Foyer' impress you with its splendour with which Richard Lucae once tried to surpass even the opera houses in Paris and Dresden.

The building, constructed between 1873 and 1880 was – after it had been destroyed by bombs in the Second World War – reconstructed/restored between 1976 and 1981. A café inside the Old Opera House invites visitors to drink their coffee in style.

ADDRESS

Opernplatz 1

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 6-7 Alte Oper

20 Nebbien's Garden House

We now turn right, past the Old Opera House, and we soon turn right into Bockenheimer Anlage again.

We go past a pond and soon come across a symbol of a playful love of life surrounded by greenery: Nebbien's Garden House (Nebbiensches Gartenhäuschen), located at the end of the pond, was built by the Frankfurt publisher, Marcus Johann Nebbien, in 1810 to celebrate his third wedding.

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

Bockenheimer Anlage



21 Eschenheim Tower

At the end of the Bockenheimer Anlage, the Eschenheim Tower (Eschenheimer Turm) shines out at us on the right-hand side. It was one of 42 watchtowers of the former city fortifications. One of many? No, the finest of its kind and quite old: built in 1428. Incidentally, also probably the highest city tower in Germany.

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

U 1-3, Bus 36 Eschenheimer Tor



22 St. Peter's Cemetery



We now go through the pedestrian subway into Stiftstraße and on into Stephanstraße. On the left-hand side, right at the edge of the street, there are gravestones. We have arrived at the St. Peter's Cemetery (Peterskirchhof), a part of the municipal burial grounds used between 1503 and 1828. This is where a few well-known names can be found and next door in a schoolyard there is the grave of 'Frau Aja', Goethe's mother.

ADDRESS

Bleichstraße

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

Bleichstraße/Stephanstraße
U 1-3, Bus 36 Eschenheimer Tor

23 Staufer Wall

We continue on to Große Friedberger Straße, turn right, down to the Konstablerwache and continue straight on into Fahrgasse. The entire city was once surrounded by walls of the size that we will soon find on the left-hand side: the Staufer Wall (Staufermauer), from the 12th century, was part of the first Frankfurt city fortifications.

ADDRESS

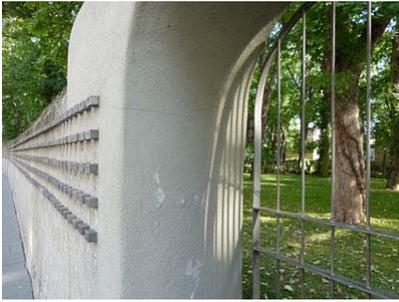
Fahrgasse

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

Fahrgasse/Töngesgasse
U 4-7, Bus 30 Konstablerwache



24 Jewish Cemetery



Further down the Fahrgasse, then left into Berliner Straße and a few more metres down into Battonnstraße: on the right we see a large closed cemetery wall. It surrounds the Jewish Cemetery (Jüdischer Friedhof) that was used from 1462 to 1828. It is unique in its kind in the world. A small iron gate permits a view through the cemetery wall.

We turn around towards Börneplatz. We walk back to the Cathedral via Berliner Straße and Braubachstraße. Our little 'journey through time' is finished. We have very easily passed through quite a few centuries. Would you have believed that history could be so entertaining?

ADDRESS

Battonnstraße 2

TRANSPORT CONNECTION

Linie 11 Battonnstraße, Bus 30/36 Börneplatz
