



Welcome!

Rothenburg continues to embody the authentic reality of mediaeval urban life and remains a prime destination on any sight-seeing tour. The town's fortified walls enclose a wealth of listed buildings of every shape and size. This architectural heritage is a living expression of humanity, harmony and romanticism, releasing the full gamut of our emotions at every step. Although sometimes hard to access, its beautiful features are never less than enchanting! The town is a cultural treat for the eyes, the ears and the tastebuds. Its position high above the beautiful Tauber Valley makes it the

perfect vantage point from which to experience nature right at the town gates. For a small town in Franconia, Rothenburg has a huge reputation. It is a worldfamous heritage site that has been recognized by the German government for its diversity, an attractive setting where breath-taking cultural heritage and natural amenities exist side-by-side.

Our town is home to over 11,000 residents, young and old, from over 60 different countries. We are pleased to have been recognized for our diversity with the "Ort der Vielfalt" (Place of Diversity) prize.



City councilors tavern (Tourist Information Office) (B)

If you need further advice, we'll be happy to help:

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Things to – Cultural amenities

- green: wheelchair-accessible
- yellow: accessible with assistance
- red: very difficult to access

● (A) The Town Hall

The Town Hall on Market Square features two architectural styles: Gothic at the rear (1250–1400) and Renaissance at the front (1572–1578). (Plans to provide an elevator in the near future). It's worth the steep climb up the 200-ft tower for views over the ancient rooftops (via Town Hall's main entrance).

● (B) City councilors tavern / Tourist Information Office

The Tourist Information Office is in a former tavern that was once exclusive to city councilors. On the building, figures emerge from the astronomical clock and recreate the legend of the "Der Meistertrunk", the Master Draught (10 am to 10 pm).

● (C) The Historical Vaults

In the dungeons beneath the Town Hall, this museum reflects the Thirty Years War, when this part of Europe was in turmoil. Rothenburg's most powerful Lord Mayor, Heinrich Toppler, died here in 1408.

● (D) St James' Church

Construction of this church began in 1311. Rent an audioguide to appreciate highlights, such as the Altarpiece of the Holy Blood, carved in wood by the great Tilman Riemenschneider (first floor ●).

● (E) Imperial Town Museum

(Smaller sections wheelchair-accessible)
Housed in a former convent, the local history museum covers the art and culture of this former imperial city. Highlights include the 13th-century kitchen, the Rothenburg Passion painting (1494) and an important collection of weapons and pottery.

Your visit in Rothenburg

The town's medieval flair is characterized by the cobblestoned streets that are as much part of Rothenburg as its enclosing town walls. The sometimes considerable differences in height found in the picturesque town are both charming and challenging at the same time. The nooks and crannies, humps and hollows of this wonderfully twisted architecture are visually pleasing but can be physically punishing on residents and visitors alike. As you'd expect of buildings from past centuries, not every single part of the town can be made fully accessible to visitors with particular physical difficulties if this medieval jewel is to retain its unique character.

Markus Tower (R)



● (F) Castle Gate

The castle is gone, but the impressive outer gate remains. Note the mask with a "mouth". Through this hole, the castle's defenders poured hot tar onto attackers. The side doors were deliberately small, so that only one person at a time could enter at night.

● (G) Castle Garden

Where the garden is now was the site of the Hohenstaufen Castle in 1142. The castle was destroyed by an earthquake in 1356. Only the St Blaise Chapel was rebuilt. The castle garden offers a stunning view of the old town and the Tauber Valley.

● (H) Franciscan Church

The oldest church in the city, built in early Gothic style in 1285, is home to yet another fine altarpiece carved by Tilman Riemenschneider.

● (I) German Christmas Museum

An exhibition, open year-round, on the history of Christmas, its traditions, celebrations and decorations

● (J) George's Spring

The largest spring in the city is 25 feet deep, holds 25,000 gallons. The decoration on the pillar is from the late Renaissance period (1608).

● (K) Meat and Dance House

This patrician's house with its half-timbered gable is where you will find the exhibition space run by the members of the Rothenburger Künstlerbund e.V. art collective. In the old days, the vaulted rooms on the top floor were a place for dancing and celebrations, while butchers sold their wares down below.

● (L) Medieval Crime and Justice Museum

Devoted to the history of crime and punishment from the late Middle Ages to the 19th century, the collection



Christmas Market (A)

The aim of our town is to achieve noticeable improvements and to minimize barriers through continuous efforts. This town map includes recommended routes through the old town that have been tested by wheelchair users, so that you can decide for yourself where to go and what to do. You will also find a list of disabled parking, disabled toilets, wheelchair accessible cash machines and pharmacies. The play areas dotted around the city walls make this the perfect place for the whole family. Walks, such as the almost barrier-free Tower Walk, or, sensory paths, such as the Valley Mill Walk, or the wine and geology education trail will enable you to experience nature at first hand. You will see that Rothenburg is not a city for just one day or for a particular season. We hope you enjoy your stay!

Rothenburg touch tour

On the square in front of the St James' Church you can touch the historic buildings, courtyards, streets, squares and defenses on a tactile model of the old town – with Braille and plain text inscriptions.

includes instruments of torture, as well as historical documents and pictures

● (M) St John's Church

The Catholic Church, built between 1390 and 1410, wheelchair-accessible side entrance.

● (N) Plönlein/Siebers Tower

One of the world's most popular photo opportunities is the Plönlein (Little Square), at the end of Schmiedgasse. Beyond, the Siebers Tower (dating back to 1385) was part of the "new" fortifications.

● (O) The Old Forge

A photogenic and historic half-timbered house.

● (P) Röder Gate

This town gate, dating from the late 14th Century, still has its toll booth and gatekeeper's cottage. The Röder Tower ● is the only lookout tower along the city walls.

● (Q) Old Rothenburg Craftsmen's House

Learn about the everyday life of a family of craftsmen in the Middle Ages in this house, built in 1270. The 11 rooms have original furnishings.

● (R) Röder Arch/Markus Tower

Look at the beautiful design of the doors. The buildings were part of Rothenburg's first fortifications around 1200.

● (S) White Tower

Part of the 12th-century walls, the 900-year-old White Tower is attached to the pink, half-timbered building that was the town's Jewish Community Center from 1390 to 1520.

● (T) St Wolfgang's Church

(Smaller sections wheelchair-accessible)
The late-Gothic church of St Wolfgang is behind the

City tours

Sign language town tour for deaf people: Information and reservations at the Rothenburg Tourism Service.

There is an online version of this city map on the website of the town of Rothenburg. www.rothenburg.de

Brief History of the city

- **960:** First community in Detwang in the Tauber valley.
- **1142:** Erection of the Imperial Castle (lat. "Castrum Imperiale") by the Hohenstaufen King Konrad III.
- A community, later named Rothenburg, develops on the hill next to the castle.
- **1167:** After the death of Friedrich, Duke of Rothenburg, the castle is abandoned. Thanks to its geographic location, the city develops over the years into a commercial center.
- **1274:** King Rudolf of Habsburg elevates Rothenburg to a Free Imperial City.
- **1356:** An earthquake destroys the entire imperial castle and parts of the city.
- **1400:** The city experiences its heyday under mayor Toppler. With over 6000 inhabitants, Rothenburg is one of the largest cities of the empire.

Tactile model (detail) at the St James' Church (D)



City wall at the Klingen Tower (T)

- **1525:** The city allies itself to the rebels' leader, Florian Geyer, during the Peasants' War. The city's decline begins.
- **1544:** The Reformation occurs in Rothenburg.
- **1618–1648:** During the Thirty Years' War, Protestant Rothenburg is occupied several times. In 1631 the so-called "Meistertrunk" (Master Draught) saves the city from destruction.
- **1802:** After 500 years of independence, the Franconian Rothenburg is reluctantly annexed to the Bavarian Kingdom.
- **1945:** The city is victim of a bombing attack by the allied forces. The eastern part of the city is destroyed and a total of over 40% of the old buildings goes up in flames. Generous financial support from all over the world enabled the destroyed areas to be restored. It is still protected by exemplary preservation laws.

Klingen Tower, and was once part of its fortifications, complete with gun emplacements and dungeons. It is also known as the Shepherds' Church and houses a display about the annual Schäfertanz, the Shepherds' Dance.

● (U) Galgen Gate

Entrance to the Old Town

● (V) Spital bastion

One of the most impressive of the town's fortifications, this 17th-century bastion has two inner courtyards, seven gates and an upper walkway. The Latin inscription over the gate says: "Peace to those who enter; Farewell to those who leave."

● (W) Imperial Town Congress Hall

Dating from 1699, this was where farmers delivered their tithes, or "taxes". Renovated and reopened in 1975, this is now a conference and event venue.

● (X) Kobolzell Gate

Built around 1360, this is part of the city's fortifications, with four gates.

● (Y) Kobolzell Church and Double Bridge

Walk through the Kobolzeller Gate (1360) with its views of the Tauber Valley and the famous Double Bridge. The Kobolzeller Church dates back to the 14th century.

● (Z) Toppler Castle

Built partly as a defensive tower, partly as a residence in 1388, this moated castle once belonged to the powerful Lord Mayor Heinrich Toppler. Now it is filled with furniture from the 16th to the 19th century.



City map for all

Attractions | History of the city
Practical advice

Rothenburg
ob der Tauber



City wall at the Koblzell Gate (X)

Ways and inclines

	Wheelchair-accessible routes
	Accessible with assistance (e.g. inclines, different street surfaces)
	Obstacles (e.g. very steep inclines, including difficult street surfaces)
	Incline
	steep incline
	very steep incline

Disabled parking spaces

P 1	Friedrich-Hörner-Weg	(4)
P 2	Nördlinger Straße	(4)
P 3	Schweinsdorfer Straße	(1)
P 4	Vorm Würzburger Tor	(3)
P 5	Bezoldweg	(2)
old town	Schrankenplatz	(3)
old town	Kapellenplatz	(2)
old town	Grüner Markt (Town hall)	(1)

The number of disabled parking spaces is shown in the parentheses (X).

Legend

	City walls
	Staircase for city wall walks
	Viewpoint
	Rest room
	Rest room for handicapped
	Traffic light
	Tactile model
	Car park
	Parking for coaches
	Parking for caravans

	Pharmacy
	ATM
	Railway station
	Children's playground
	Vineyard
	Camping ground
	Ballooning
	Schwimming bath
	Mills
	Youth hostel

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