Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Bavaria, Germany

Facts and Figures: 2018

Your contact:
Rothenburg Tourismus Service
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Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Facts and Figures:
Country: Germany
Federal State: Bavaria
Inhabitants: approx. 11,200
Latitude: 49° 24' 15"
Longitude: 10° 11' 20"

Location:
Rothenburg ob der Tauber is situated on the northwest corner of Bavaria, at the crossing of two main tourist roads:
“The Romantic Road” and “The Castle Road”.

How to get there:
By car: Located on the A7 autobahn, exit Rothenburg.
By train: Hourly connection by Deutsche Bahn via Steinach rail station (approx. 15 km from Rothenburg)
(Train ride Würzburg - Rothenburg: approx. 1 hour)
(Train ride Nuremberg – Rothenburg: approx. 1.5 hours)
Train station in Rothenburg: 10 minutes walking distance to Market Square
For schedules please check: www.db.de, then choose the English Version

By plane: Distance to airport in:
Nuremberg: approx. 80 km (50 miles)
Frankfurt: approx. 180 km (112 miles)
Munich: approx. 210 km (130 miles)

By bus: Romantic Road Coach, daily April-October from Frankfurt – Füssen with stop in Rothenburg. Schedule and tickets: www.romanticroadcoach.de

Hotels:
Rothenburg offers a wide range of accommodations in all categories from youth hostel up to first class hotel. In addition: 2 campgrounds and 2 sites for RVs.

Short description:
With its splendid location and charming medieval atmosphere, hardly any other town is able to captivate its visitors in quite the same way as Rothenburg. A walk through this small town is an unforgettable encounter with bygone centuries. The beginning of the town dates back to 1142. Elevated to a Free Imperial City in 1274, Rothenburg became one of the most important city states of the Middle Ages. Losing its importance in the following centuries, Rothenburg’s centre with more than 2 square-miles of imposing medieval buildings remained untouched. In the Romantic era, the town was discovered by painters and poets and became a symbol of the Middle Ages in Germany. Nowadays Rothenburg - situated half the way between the international airports of Frankfurt and Munich - is one of the most visited towns in Europe. 42 towers and gates, a walkable city wall as well as its richness of old medieval buildings and museums - like the famous Medieval Crime and Justice Museum and the Imperial City Museum - cause Rothenburg’s reputation as one of the most attractive destinations in Germany.
Museums

**Medieval Crime and Justice Museum**
Short description: This museum features a variety of objects related to legal history from the entire German-speaking region. Numerous instruments of torture and devices for carrying out the death penalty are displayed, as well as instruments for inflicting public humiliation punishments. You will also find documents, books, graphic art and seals in the exhibition.
[www.kriminalmuseum.eu](http://www.kriminalmuseum.eu)

**The German Christmas Museum**
Short description: This year-round exhibition offers interesting information about the history of the family festival steeped in tradition and how decorations have developed. Enjoy the enchanting and fantastically beautiful Christmas tree decorations made of glass, cotton, cardboard, the Christmas tree stands, paper mangers, Erzgebirge Christmas pyramids, incense burners and much more.
[www.weihnachtsmuseum.de/en/](http://www.weihnachtsmuseum.de/en/)

**Imperial City Museum**
Short description: Highlights include the monastery kitchen from the 13th century and the Rothenburg Passion of Christ, dating from 1494. Separate sections feature medieval sculptures, pre- and early history, Judaica and Vasa Sacra.
[www.reichsstadtmuseum.rothenburg.de](http://www.reichsstadtmuseum.rothenburg.de)

**History Museum with Town Dungeon**
Short Description: The History Museum with its town dungeon provides a vivid and impressive illustration of life in the town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber in the time of the Thirty Years’ War.
[www.meistertrunk.de/-historisches-staatsverlies-.html](http://www.meistertrunk.de/-historisches-staatsverlies-.html)

**Old Rothenburg Craftman’s House**
Short Description: At Stadtgraben No. 26 is a small house from 1270. Its interior is a real experience, for the centuries seem to have passed by this historical building without leaving a trace. In eleven originally furnished rooms and chambers, it demonstrates clearly and impressively, from the ground floor to the attic, how a simple artisan lived and worked here with his large family a few centuries ago.
[www.alt-rothenburger-handwerkerhaus.de/english](http://www.alt-rothenburger-handwerkerhaus.de/english)
Famous Sights

City Hall with City Hall Tower at Market Square
Opening hours of the City Hall Tower:
Jan. to March: closed due to construction
Apr. to Oct.: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm; 1–5 pm daily
Nov.: Sat. and Sun. 12–3 pm;
Nov 30th to Dec 23rd: 10.30 am – 2 pm and 2.30-6 pm daily
(Fri./Sat. and Sun. until 7 pm)

City Councilor’s Tavern with Tourist Information
The two windows to the right and left of the town clock open every hour between 10.00 am to 10.00 pm to show the famous “Meistertrunk” scence (Master Draught).

Castle Garden

Monastery Garden

Toppler’s Little Castle in the Valley

World famous “Plönlein” with Siebers Tower

Walkable city wall

42 gate houses and towers

All Sights/ description, including short town history and Jewish history:
http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de/index.php?id=574
 Churches

 St James’ Church:
 The construction of this church lasted over a century, from 1311 until its inauguration in 1484. The St James’ Church is famous for the “Holy Blood Altar” (1499 – 1505) by Tilman Riemenschneider and the Altar of the “Twelve Apostels” with paintings from the famous artist Friedrich Herlin.

Franciscan Church:
This church, built in early Gothic style in 1285 and consecrated in 1309, once belonged to the mendicant order of Franciscans who settled in Rothenburg in 1281. It is home to yet another fine altarpiece carved by Tilman Riemenschneider.

St. Wolfgang’s Church:
The late-Gothic church of St. Wolfgang is behind the Klingentower, and was once part of its fortifications, complete with gun emplacements and dungeons. It is also known as the Shepherds’ Church as it was built between 1475 and 1492 by a brotherhood of shepherds.

St. John’s Church:
The Catholic Church, built between 1390 and 1410.

Holy Ghost Hospital Church:
The foundation stone for this church was laid in 1281, the altar was consecrated in 1308.

Church of St. Peter and Paul
Located in Detwang, the oldest part of Rothenburg. This Romanesque style church was built around 968 and had many later alterations. The Crucifixion Altar (1510) by Riemenschneider, relic cross, Gothic Sacraments' niche and the octagonal funeral light are all of great interest.
**Things to do / FIT**

**Public Guided Tours**
http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de/index.php?id=512
No reservation necessary.

**Guided tour of the town (in English)**
This tour through the historic Old Town with its romantic alleyways and picturesque squares offers an overview of the various aspects and epochs of the history.
Meeting point: Market Square  
Duration: approx. 90 min  
2018  
26 March to 28 October: daily at 2pm  
30 Nov. to 23rd Dec.: daily at 2 pm  
Adults: 8 EUR; Students (12-18): 4 EUR

**Night Watchman Tour (in English)**
The famous Rothenburg Night Watchman leads the group through the nightly Rothenburg and tells stories about life in the Medieval Ages.
Meeting point: Market Square  
Duration: approx. 60 min  
2018  
1 January to 6 January: daily 8 pm  
13 January to 10 March: Saturday 8 pm  
17 March to 30 December (except 24.12.): daily 8 pm  
Adults: 8 EUR, Students (12 – 18): 4 EUR

**St James’ Church Tour (in English)**
A team of dedicated church guides introduces the group to the St. Jacob’s church.
Meeting point: St. Jacob’s Church, in the front bench rows of the central nave  
Duration: 30–45 min  
Saturdays at 3.30 pm  
Enter fee St. Jacob: 2,50 EUR

**Ghost Tour (in English)**
An historically accurate look at superstition, justice and the “curative arts” – “with plenty of black humor” (BR)
Duration: approx. 60 min.  
Beginning of April to beginning of January: daily at 7 pm  
Adults: 8 EUR

Rothenburg Tourismus Service also hands out **City Maps** with a description of the various sights.

**Others**
- Visiting the famous Käthe Wohlfahrt Christmas Shops:  [www.wohlfahrt.com](http://www.wohlfahrt.com)
- Hot Air Ballooning:  [www.happy-ballooning.de](http://www.happy-ballooning.de)
- Wine tasting in a “Taste of the Tauber” restaurant
**Things to do / Groups**

Rothenburg Tourismus Service arranges various group tours and programs, for example:
- Guided City Tours,
- Night Watchman Tours,
- Reception with the cellar master, etc.

These tours and programs are available on request and bookable with Rothenburg Tourismus Service. For further information and programs, please check our Sales Guide or contact us directly. [http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de/index.php?id=518](http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de/index.php?id=518)

Other group tours by external providers:
- “Retracing Jewish History in Rothenburg”,
- Church Tour (St. Jacob), etc.

**Excursions:**
Rothenburg is a member of the Romantic Road and the Castle Road and therefore a great place of departure for excursions to the surrounding area.

Further information:
- [www.romantischestrasse.de](http://www.romantischestrasse.de)
- [www.burgenstrasse.de](http://www.burgenstrasse.de)
- [www.romantisches-franken.de](http://www.romantisches-franken.de)

**Highlights and Events in 2018**

**May 18th – 21st:**
**Historical Festival Play “The Master Draught”**
Every Whitsun, the legend of the “Master Draught” comes alive:

In 1631 during the Thirty Years War, Rothenburg was taken by catholic troops under General Tilly. Somewhat amused after being handed the welcome drink - a tankard holding 3 ¼ litres of wine - the General promised mercy if one of the town citizens could drink the whole tankard in one draught. Former Mayor Nusch took up the challenge and thereby saved his town.

This episode was first performed as a festival play in 1881. Every Whitsun this event is recreated when hundreds of citizens dress up in costume and take part in the "Master Draught", the historical procession and a variety of military camps.

**Ambassadors of Music**
Throughout the summer, several orchestra groups from the United States perform on the Rothenburg Market Square. For detailed dates please contact Rothenburg Tourismus Service or go to [www.rothenburg.de](http://www.rothenburg.de).
August 10th – 12th
Taubertal Open Air Festival
Well-known Open Air Festival with German and international bands. For further information please go to: www.taubertal-festival.de

August 15th – 19th
Wine Festival
The Rothenburg Wine Festival invites you to a culinary discovery tour. The festival takes place in the center of the town, located between the town hall and the St. Jacob’s Church. A mix of popular and rare wines will be presented together with matching dishes.

September 7th – 9th
Imperial City Festival
The Imperial City Festival represents a highlight of the annual calendar of events. The entire history of the town is brought alive by around a thousand participants, and the firework with music along the façade of the impressive Town Hall marks the beginning of this top event on Friday. Each group represents a certain period or a special profession of former days. Meet the knights of 1274, the riflemen’s guild or the town pipers of the renaissance.

November 30th – December 23rd
Christmas Market
At the end of the year, Rothenburg presents itself from its most attractive side. Embedded in the picturesque setting between the Town Hall and St. Jacob’s Church, the Christmas market is considered by many to be one of the most charming ones in Germany.

For further ongoing events, go to: http://www.tourismus.rothenburg.de/index.php?id=673
**Culinary Packages Striffler’s Bakery**

**Baking pretzels at Striffler’s bakery.**

Explore our baking skills and experience how our typical Rothenburg pretzels are made by taking part in our guided tour in our bakery. This tour informs you about our bakery’s history and traditions which have held through generations. You will have the opportunity to bake pretzels under the expertise and guidance of Florian Striffler. After that you will be presented with a baking diploma from Striffler’s Bakery. Eventually the scrumptious pretzels will be enjoyed with a cup of coffee.

This event lasts for 1 hour.

- Groups with 1 – 5 persons costs \(8,00\) €
- Groups with 6 - 10 persons costs \(7,00\) €
- Groups with 11 - 20 persons costs \(6,50\) €

This event includes a tour through the bakery, a short narrative about our history and an opportunity to bake our pretzels. Each person will be offered 2 pretzels and a drink of their choice at the bakery café.

**Snowball pastry experience at Striffler’s bakery.**

The world famous Schneeballen (snowballs) are known to every visitor in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Take the opportunity to experience how Striffler’s bakery meticulously prepares and bakes these Schneeballen.

Take part in our guided tour with Florian Striffler who will tell you how this pastry found its way here. Our great grandfather Striffler brought the original recipe to Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

- Groups with 1 – 5 persons costs \(13,50\) €
- Groups with 6 – 10 persons costs \(13,00\) €
- Groups with 11 - 20 persons costs \(12,00\) €

We are very pleased and looking forward to welcome interested visitors from all over the world.

Contact  
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Untere Schmiedgasse 1  
91541 Rothenburg ob der Tauber  
www.baecker-striffler.de  
Florian Striffler: fl.st@gmx.de or  
Jutta Striffler: jstriffler1@gmx.de
**Costume Experience – Welcome to the Middle Ages!**

Do you want to feel like a knight, a night watchman or an elegant noblewoman of the Middle Ages? Do you wonder how heavy chain armors feel or how a medieval robe suits you? Dress yourself as a knight or a noblewoman and imagine the life of the people in the Middle Ages.

**Rate**
12,00 € per Person (no pictures included)
Visitors are required to bring their own camera

**Contact and Reservation**
Die Waffenkammer in
Rothenburg ob der Tauber
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**Rothenburg Tourismus Service**

Rothenburg Tourismus Service offers:

- Guided tours in different languages
- Planning and organization of touring programs
- Information material and brochures

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