



Historic guided tour



1. Town Hall (Rathaus)

Built in the Voralberg baroque style by Johann Felder from Brezau in Bregenserwald. It was erected after the second major town fire of 1735. It is the fourth town hall on this site and is considered a very fine example of typical baroque architecture. The earliest record of a town hall dates from 1427/28.

2. Fountain (Marktbrunnen)

The most beautiful gothic spire fountain in south-west Germany. The original fountain, which dates from 1483, is in St. Moriz church for safe-keeping; the replica at the market square was made in 1911. The fountain is a record of Rottenburg's long historical connection with the western province of Austria from the time of the Habsburg Dynasty. The sculptures supposedly represent the Habsburg Emperor Friedrich 111, Archduke Sigmund von Tirol and Archduke Siegfried 1V von Tirol.



3. The Cathedral Church of St. Martin

In the 12th century this was Liebfrauenkapelle am Markt and from the end of the 15th century, St. Martin's parish church. Since 1828 it has been the Cathedral Church of the Catholic Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. The nave was destroyed in the town fire in 1644 and a new one completed by 1655. The town's landmark is the late gothic church spire which was constructed by Hans Schwarzacher of Rottenburg.

4. Kreuzlinger Hof

Built in 1740, this was formally the property of the Augustinian Monastery in Kreuzlingen near Constance and served as an administrative centre for monastic property in the area. From 1825-1938 it was the administrative centre of the Württemberg District Authority and today houses the police station.



5. The Bishop's Palace (Bischöfliches Palais)

Built by the Counts of Hohenberg (1657/58). It was a Jesuit college and grammar school from 1661 until the Suppression of the Jesuits in 1773. There after it was an administrative centre and since 1821 has been the administrative office of the Catholic Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart.



6. Gothic Knight Fountain (Ritterbrunnen)

The symbolic figure of Austrian Sovereignty is of a knight in lansquenet clothing with a chain and Golden Fleece medal learning on a red and white shield. The 16th century original statue is in the Sülchgau Museum; the replica is from 1974.



7. Sumelocenna Roman Museum

This museum houses a section of the ancient Roman settlement Sumelocenna (approx. 80-260 AD). It was opened in 1992 and, amongst numerous other finds, the exhibits include the largest set of public Roman latrines north of the Alps. Replicas of Roman monuments, including a large Jupiter column, can be found in the Lapidarium in front of the museum.

8. The Moat (Stadtgraben)

A well-preserved part of the east side of the town's fortifications with a double wall, a partially filled-in moat, ward and town towers.



9. Executioner's House and Ward (Scharfrichterhaus und Zwinger)

The ward was part of the eastern fortifications at the former Kiebingen Tor. The Executioner's House (Amannhof 13) was attached to the "Criminal's Tower" which was abandoned in 1779. The 14th century round Ward Tower and Executioner's House are of particular interest.

10. a Tithe Barn (Zehntscheuer)

The Tithe Barn was built in 1645 to hold produce made over as tithes to the Austrian governors. Two double-eagle reliefs decorate the north and east sides of the building. Adjacent is the imposing former Town Mill. Since renovation in 1983 both Tithe Barn and Mill have been used as a Cultural Centre.



10. b Fountain (Narrenbrunnen)



Rottenburg is known for its traditional Swabian-Alemannic Carnival. Tens of thousands flock to this centre of traditional carnival to watch one of the largest and most colourful parades, to marvel at the Ahland Dance and enjoy some of the many and varied street parties and fancy dress balls. Therefore a fountain was built in 2009 which shows masks and scenes of Rottenburg Carnival. "Ahland", "Pompele", "Hexe", and "Laufnarr" are the main characters shown on the column. On the top thrones countless Mechthild, who organized the first Carnival in 1452.



11. St Johann Nepomuk on the Josef Eberle Bridge

The statue of the Bohemian Patron Saint of Bridges was commissioned in 1732 by the choir-master at St. Moriz's Church, Josef Anton Neupp. It has stood at its present location since the end of the 18th century. It became well-known after the publication of the poem "St Nepomuk" by Sebastian Blau, alias Josef Eberle (1901/1986).



12. Collegiate Church of St. Moriz

The church was built around 1300, the spire in 1433. From 1330-1806 it was the Collegiate Church of the Convent of Canons St. Moriz.

Inside the church are several important art treasures including figurative funerary monuments of the Counts of Hohenberg (14th century), Gothic painted pillars and wall frescoes (14th/15th).

Since 1986, the museum in the Gothic room has housed the ecclesiastical treasury.



13. Nonnenhaus

Rottenburg's oldest house, A half-timbered building in the „Alemannic style“, was built in 1440.

It belonged to the Franciscan Nuns from 1688 until their retreat was dissolved in 1782.



14. Kirchberger'sches Haus

A half-timbered house built in the „Franken“ style in 1569. After 1588 it was the family seat of the Austrian aristocratic family Kichberger v. Kirchberg.



15. Weingärtner-Haus

This typical winegrower's house in the Kapuzinergasse is a testament to Rottenburg's importance as a wine growing town. Viniculture flourished up until the 17th century.

16. Capuchin Gate (Kapuzinertor)

The only remaining gate (14th century) from the Ehingen district of the town. The half-timbered upper floors were added at a later date. In 1617 a Capuchin Monastery was built outside the town and could be reached through this gate. Prior to this date, the gate was known as "Jupperstor".





17. Kalkweiler Gate (Kalkweiler Tor)

The Kalkweiler Gate Tower, erected in the course of the building of the hospital (14th century), is the only remaining Gate Tower in Rottenburg. The Tower, with battlement access to the neighbouring Schütte Tower, is a striking cornerstone of the old town. The Tower contained an apartment for the former town watchman and was occupied until 1968. (Tower Key at WTG)

18. Holy Ghost Hospital (Spital zum Hl. Geist)

Built in 1361, a new building added in 1560/61. The former hospital wine press and the entrance gate remain.

After the fire of 1735 the upper floors were added and these are the old people's home today.



19. Hospital wine press (Spitalkelter)

First mentioned in the 15th century and rebuilt in its present form after the fire of 1736, this last remaining of ten Rottenburg wine presses bears witness to the earlier importance of wine-growing.

After demolition of town houses formerly on this site, the gothic east wall of the hospital was uncovered.

20. Seminary and Diocesan Museum (Priesterseminar und Diözesanmuseum)

The first Carmelite Monastery on this site dates from 1281. The present building was built after the fires of 1644 and 1735. The former Carmelite Monastery was dissolved in 1806 and since then the building has housed the Seminary of the Catholic Diocese Rottenburg-Stuttgart. In 1996, the former monastery church was converted to the public Diocesan Museum and Library. The Museum is considered to have one of the most important art collections in the state. The collection of religious art from southern Germany and Swabia includes, amongst other things, late-gothic panel art, sculptures, mediaeval crucifixes and altar furnishings. The Library is on the upper floor (approx. 150,000 volumes).







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