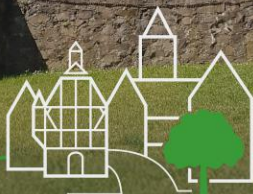




# Historical tour

through the old town of Grünberg



STADT GRÜNBERG



## Dear guests, welcome in the old town of Grünberg!

Immerse yourself in the exciting history of our historic half-timbered town and experience the special atmosphere in a medieval setting on the historical town tour. To make it easier for you to find your way around, we have prepared this guide to the historic old town for you.

The tour takes you across the market square, through winding alleyways and past well-preserved and restored half-timbered buildings from different eras.

Be amazed by the architecture of the former Antonite monastery or the so-called Thieves' Tower, whose ground plan is drop-shaped. The Brunntal

recreational area with its old water features is located right next to the old town and invites you to take a deep breath. A visit to the „Museum im Spital Grünberg“ is also worth it while on your discovery tour. For those who want to see and experience even more, we recommend a visit to the wart tower, which is located approx. a kilometer outside of town on a hill and offers you a wonderful view. Afterwards, you can stop off at one of the cafés and restaurants and stroll through the various stores to round off your town tour.

We are pleased to present the most iconic sights of our town to you and we wish you a pleasant and relaxing stay!

### **Your team of the tourist information**



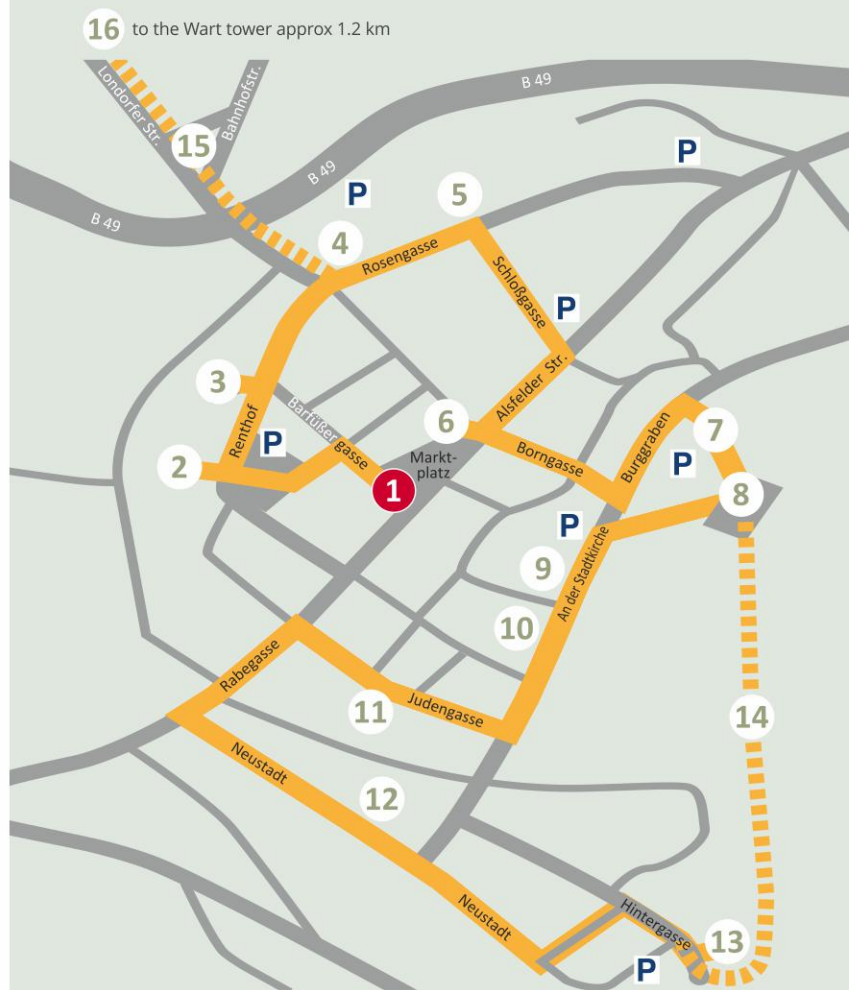


## Stops on the historical tour

Distance approx 1.2 km

(without „Brunntental“ and Wart tower)

- 1 **MARKET SQUARE**  
Town hall
- 2 **THIEVES' TOWER**  
Renthof (street name)
- 3 **„BARFÜßER“ MONASTERY**  
Barfüßergasse 26 (street name)
- 4 **CASTLE / ANTONITE MONASTERY**  
Rosengasse 2 (street name)
- 5 **UNIVERSITY BUILDING / „STAMMLERSCHES“ HOUSE**  
Rosengasse 8 (street name)
- 6 **FORMER LUTHERAN HOUSE**  
Market place / corner Markt-gasse
- 7 **FORMER FORTRESS / „BURGMANNSHAUS“**  
Burggraben (street name)
- 8 **BREWERY / WATER ART**  
Winter square
- 9 **TOWN CHURCH / „TRÄNENWEIBCHEN“**  
An der Stadtkirche (street name)
- 10 **OLD CHAPLAINCY / WELCKER HOUSE**  
Brückelchen 1 (street name)
- 11 **HOUSE OF THE GUILDS / OLD SMITHY**  
Judengasse 5 (street name)
- 12 **BIRTHPLACE OF THEO KOCH**  
Neustadt 42 (street name)
- 13 **„MUSEUM IM SPITAL GRÜNBERG“ / AUGUSTINIAN CONVENT / HOSPITAL CHURCH**  
Hintergasse 22-24 (street name)



14 **„BRUNNTENTAL“**  
South east of the town center

15 **MEMORIAL SQUARE**  
Bahnhofstraße / Corner Londoner Straße  
(street name)

16 **WART TOWER**  
Near L3127



## Stop 1: Market square

The market square was built directly on the old trade route "through the short Hesse" from Frankfurt to central Germany and is affectionately called "Gut Stubb" (good home). The market square was already the center back in the days and still serves as a meeting point for young and old people today. The Renaissance town hall was built in 1586/1587 by magistrate Hermann Rüdiger from Hersfeld.



Market fountain with the fountain viewer



## Stop 2: Thieve's tower

The town's landmark is the Thieves' Tower, built before 1250, with its unusual teardrop-shaped ground plan. It was built as a part of the town fortification and later served as a prison for a long time, hence its name. In 1895/96 it was converted into the town's water tower.

Since its restoration, it has served as a lookout tower from which you can enjoy a wonderful view over the Taunus and Vogelsberg mountains on a clear day. Inside the tower, a small exhibition explains the history of the town fortification.





### Stop 3: Barfüßer monastery

Not far from the Thieves' Tower is the Gothic building of the Franciscan monastery, also known as the Barfüßer monastery, which was founded in the 13th century. After the monastery was secularized in 1528, the last monks moved to Mainz, Limburg and Brühl. With the exception of the monks' residence, all the buildings were demolished at the end of the 16th century. The outer wall of the residential building stands directly on the city wall. Today, the building is used for cultural events.



*View into the courtyard*



## Stop 4: Castle / Antonite monastery

Founded around 1193, the Antonite monastery is of great importance for the history of Grünberg and the Antonite Order. The preserved monastery complex stretches from the highway B49 to Markt-gasse and Rosengasse. The outer wall of the monastery rises above the town wall. In north-western direction lies the monks' building, built in 1398, which originally extended beyond the outer walls. The building on the opposite side, the actual "castle", as it has been called since its reconstruction after 1577, still contains many structural remains from monastic times.



View Rosengasse



## Stop 5: University building „Stammlersches“ House

Upper Hesse's tallest half-timbered building was built at the beginning of the 16th century as a storage room for the Antonite monastery. After the revocation of the monasteries in 1527, the building came into the possession of the landgrave and continued to serve as a fruit storehouse and as the seat of the bailiff over the estates of the University of Marburg and, from 1607, the University of Giessen. Today the building is also known as the "Stammlersches Haus", named after its owners





## Stop 6: Former Lutheran house

Visitors will notice the construction gap in the building on the corner of market square and Marktgasse. Until its demolition in 1891, this was the site of the so-called Lutheran house, an impressive Gothic building in which Luther is said to have spent the night on his return journey from the Diet of Worms from April 30 to May 1, 1521.



*Lutheran house*



*The fortress shortly before its demolition*

## Stop 7: Former fortress

Built in 1186 by Landgrave Ludwig III, the fortress marks the beginning of Grünberg's town history. Destroyed by Mainz' troops, the fortress and the first settlements were soon rebuilt.

The relatively large fortress complex was designed like a semicircle, which roughly corresponded to the course of today's moat to the northwest. At that time, the fortress also included seven other buildings, including the brewery, which was built in 1441 and redesigned in the 18th century.

Today, there are three terraced houses in the fortress area, the space between the southern and central terraced house roughly corresponds to the location of the former fortress house. The old fortress wall can still be seen in several places along the path below the former castle.



## Stop 8: Brewery / „Wasserkunst“ (water supply system)

Winter square is dominated by the former brewery, a half-timbered building from the 18th century, which was converted into a residential building in 1921. The fountain in front of it is a replica of an old fountain on the market square.

A small fountain house from 1582 stands directly on the slope. The pressurized water pipeline, which has been pumping water up from the well valley 50 metres below, using various systems since 1419, ends here.





## Stop 9: Town church / „Tränenweibchen“

Nowaday's town church in neo-gothic style was built between 1846 and 1852. The Gothic St. Mary's Church stood on the same spot from the 13th century until it collapsed in 1816. On the south side of the town church is a replica of the so-called "Tränenweibchen", a tomb sculpture by Samuel Nahl from 1783.



„Tränenweibchen“







### Stop 10: Old Chaplaincy / Welcker house

From 1562 to 1839, the old chaplaincy on the "Brückelchen" served as residence for the second parish priest. Therefore, it was also the birthplace of Friedrich Gottlieb Welcker (1784-1868), who was born here as the son of a assistant priest. Welcker was one of the most important classical scholars of his time and he worked as a professor of classical philology and archaeology at the universities of Giessen, Göttingen and Bonn.

### Stop 11: Old smithy and the house of the guilds

Judengasse 5 leads to the old smithy, a fully equipped blacksmith's shop. Next door, the "House of the Guilds" displays numerous treasures from the past. Lovingly furnished, visitors are shown many crafts - from hairdresser to shoemaker - with old and original exhibits. On request, this jewel can also be visited (contact via Grünberg tourist office).







### Stop 13: „Museum im Spital Grünberg“ / Augustinian convent / Hospital church

The medieval new town, a settlement dating back to approx. 1300, had its own church: St. Paul. Right next to it, Augustinian nuns built a monastery in the mid-15th century, of which a long half-timbered building still remained until today. After the Augustinian convent was dissolved in 1530/1531, it served the town as a hospital. Poor and frail people were housed here until 1952.

The „Museum im Spital Grünberg“ was opened there in 2007. The baroque hospital church was built there in 1723-1740 in place of St. Paul's Church. The Gothic bell of the previous building from the 14th century is one of the oldest bells in Hesse.

### Stop 12: Birthplace of Theo Koch

The birthplace of the important South America researcher Theo Koch (1872-1924) is located at Neustadt 42. The second floor of the „Hospital Museum of Grünberg“ has a permanent exhibition dedicated to him, focusing in particular on his research trips to the Amazon rainforest region.



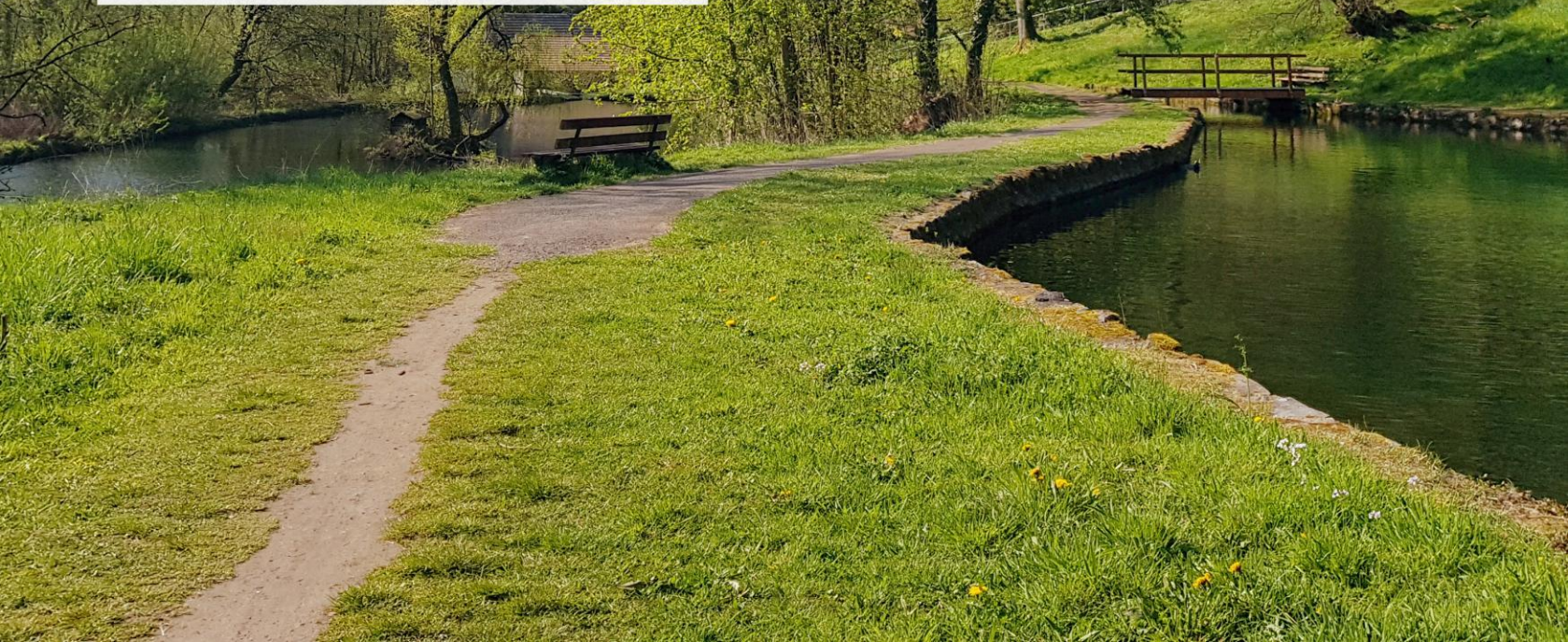
## Stop 14: „Brunnental“

To the north-east of the winter square, the terrain falls away steeply for 60 meters and forms the „Brunnental“ valley with the opposite slope, through which the „Äschersbach“ stream has dug its bed. Clear spring water gushes up from many underground basalt fissures, which collects in two ponds and downstream once powered the fountain art in the valley, the pumping station for pumping drinking water into town and in the further course (downstream), the „Mühle zum heiligen Born“, the town mill and the stone mill. Spring water has been drawn from the „Brunnental“ valley since 1419. Guided tours to the „Brunnental“ are available on request (contact the Grünberg tourist office).

Today's „Brunnental“ recreation area invites you to stay with its many walking paths. For families, the water playground and the XXL ball track are absolutely worth experiencing.



*Three-piston pump in the town mill*





### Stop 15: Memorial square

The memorial, erected in 1873, commemorates the fallen of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71.



### Stop 16: Wart tower

Just outside of town, on a hill north of the old town wall, is the Wart tower, an advanced defensive post protected by a moat and rampart. As a lookout tower, it offers a beautiful view over the town and the surrounding fields and forests. From the old town, it is approx. a kilometer's walk.





## An overview of Grünbergs history

- ca. 1170/80** Foundation of the castle and settlement of Grünberg.
- 1193** First mention of the Antonite monastery.
- 1222** First documented mention of the town of Grünberg and the court.
- ca. 1230** Landgrave's mint in Grünberg.
- before 1250** Start of construction of the Gothic St. Mary's Church and the town wall.
- ca. 1250** First documented mention of the Franciscan monastery.
- 1261** First mention of the new town to the west.
- 1272** Confirmation of the town privileges by Landgrave Heinrich I.
- 1353** First mention of the first town school.
- 1370 / 1391** Devastating fires destroy a large part of the town.
- 1419** Construction of a central water supply system, the „Brunnenkunst“.
- 1481** Awarding of a market privilege for Gallus Day (Oct. 16) by Emperor Frederick III.
- 1482** Foundation of the Augustinian convent.

**from 1540** Seat of the bailiff over the estates of the universities of Marburg and, from 1607, Giessen in the university building of the Antonite monastery.

**before 1586** Construction of the Alsfeld Bridge, which considerably simplifies and shortens the trade route from Frankfurt to central Germany.

**1593** The city acquires the magnificent Renaissance building on the market square and uses it as town hall ever since.

**1723-1740** Construction of the hospital church.

**1832-1874** Grünberg obtains the status of a district town.

**1846-1852** New construction of the town church in place of the St. Mary's church, which had collapsed in 1816; it was not consecrated until 1853.

**1968** Demolition of the so-called castle and start of the redevelopment of the old town.







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