

Meeting Place.

SPEYER





The 2,000 Year-Old City on the Rhine

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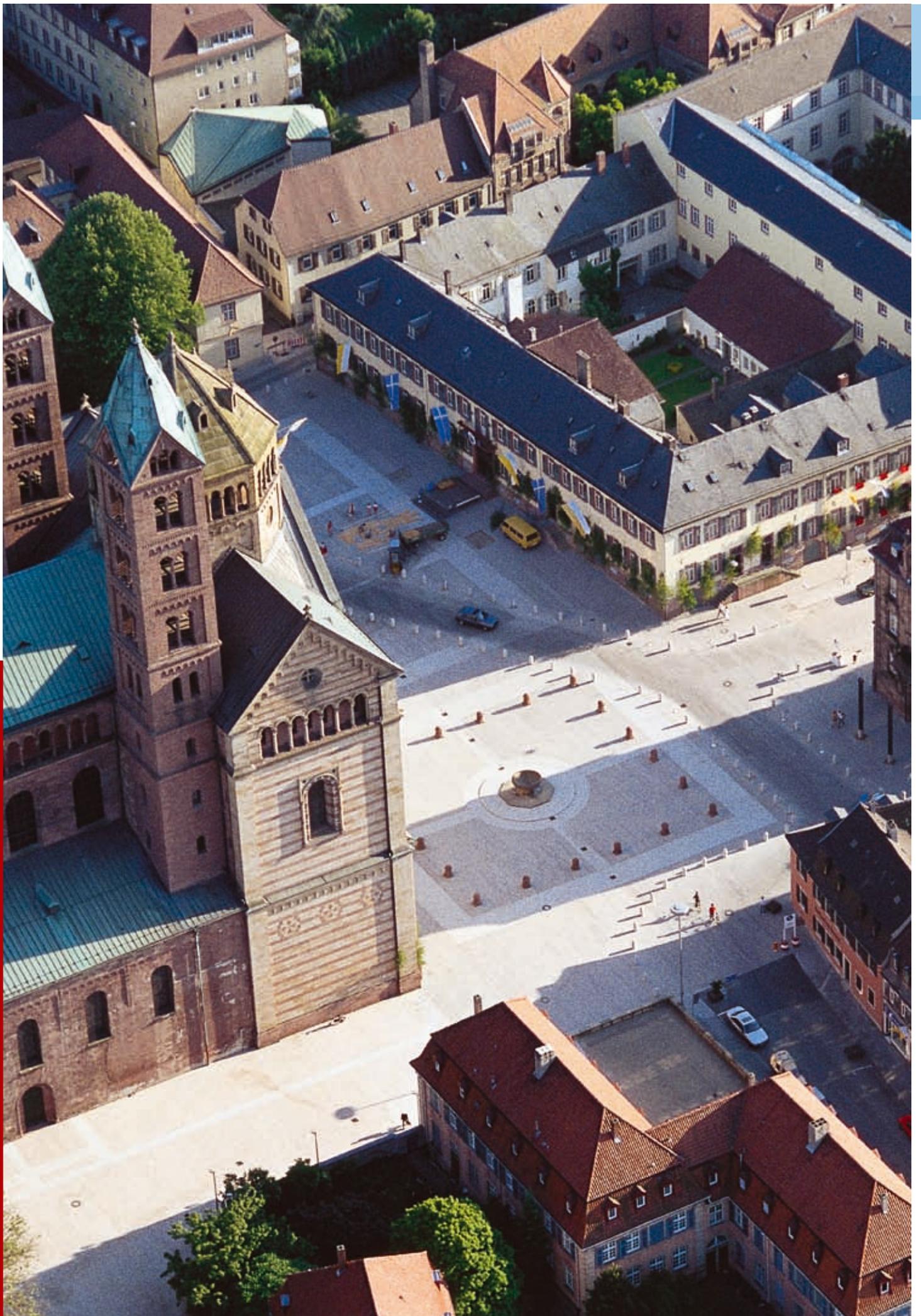
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Noviomagus – Civitas Nemetum – Spira – these three names have stood, over the course of more than 2,000 years, for an urban settlement on the left bank of the Rhine. Today this settlement is called Speyer, the Cathedral City, the Imperial City with its proud, powerful and historically significant examples of religious architecture, its smart building facades from different architectural periods, its quiet squares and side streets that are full of nooks and crannies.

Celts, Roman soldiers, wars and revolutions, ecclesiastical and secular rulers, and above all, the will of its citizens have shaped the face of the city. Already determined to have been a settlement during Celtic times, the first Roman military camp came into existence **in the year 10 B.C.** between what are today the Bishop's Residence and City Hall. The civilian settlement that developed, first called "Noviomagus" and then "Civitas Nemetum" grew, despite many setbacks, into a regional government and commercial center. In the 6th century, it was referred to as "Spira" in documents.



View of the City of Speyer/Stadtsansicht



Emperors and Bishops

SPEYER

During the rule of the Salian emperors (1024 – 1125), Speyer rose to become one of the most important centers of the Holy Roman Empire. The decisive factor – also for the continued development of the city – was the laying of the cornerstone to the cathedral during the rule of Konrad II in 1030. The cathedral was consecrated in 1061. This Romanesque structure became the burial place of the Salian ruling house; the splendid crypt remains until today in its unaltered form. Eight emperors and empresses in all, including four Salian emperors were interred there. This, the largest surviving and most representative church of the Romanesque period, dominates the city's skyline to this day. The papal basilica was added to the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in 1981.

The Cathedral of Speyer

UNESCO World Heritage Site – global recognition and responsibility for Speyer.



In 1076, Heinrich IV began his pilgrimage to Canossa from his beloved city of Speyer. In this same time frame, there were more and more written references to Jewish inhabitants of the city. The sacred community of Speyer was, together with those of Mainz and Worms, among the most influential Jewish communities of Middle Europe. Only the **synagogue** (1104) and the **ritual bathhouse** (built before 1120) with its bathing shaft at 10 meter depth remain from the once rambling Jewish quarter.

In 1111, the last Salian, Heinrich IV bestowed basic freedoms on the populace. The first step on the long journey to self-government had been taken. In 1294, Church rule of the city came to an end and Speyer became one of the few **“Free Imperial Cities”** of the Holy Roman Empire's German Nation.

A visible external sign of Speyer's political and commercial importance during this period is the Old Gate, built during the 13th century as part of the defensive wall that surrounded the central city during the Middle Ages. It is one of the highest (55 meters) and most noteworthy city gates in Germany. This symbol of civil liberty continues to be connected to this very day to the great Cathedral through the “via triumphalis” – still one of the most imposing streets preserved from the Middle Ages.



Crypt/Krypta

Imperial Diets and the Reformation

The Parliament of the Holy Roman Empire (more commonly known as the Imperial Diet) met 50 times in Speyer, bringing the city not only political but commercial advantages. In the first half of the 16th century, Speyer was once again the focus of European attention. The imperial diets of 1526 and 1529 prepared the Roman Empire for the final splitting away of the Roman Church. The **Memorial Church (Gedächtniskirche)**, built between 1893 and 1904, is a reminder of the establishment of Protestantism which was carried out in Speyer in 1529. In 1527, one of the most important institutions for civil rights in the old empire was moved to Speyer: the **Supreme Court** of the Holy Roman Empire.

Speyer's days in the sun came to an abrupt end with the destruction of the city on New Year's eve in 1689. On order of Ludwig XIV, the city was burned down in the War of the Palatine Succession. Only the eastern portion of the cathedral, the Old Gate and a few buildings at the city wall survived. It was not until another 10 years had passed, in 1698, that the inhabitants were permitted to return and start rebuilding. Despite all the new baroque buildings like the **City Hall (Historisches Rathaus)** (1712 – 1726) and the **Trinity Church (Dreifaltigkeitskirche)** (1701 – 1717), the city's street plan from the Middle Ages has been retained. It is a fan-shaped plan oriented on the Cathedral.



Memorial Church/Gedächtniskirche

Science and Administration

In 1797, during the French Revolution, Speyer was annexed by France; then in 1816, it became part of the Bavarian Kingdom and seat of the regional government for that part of the Palatinate on the left bank of the Rhine. The face of the city changed as the build-up of the Bavarian governmental apparatus brought many functionaries to the aspiring city. The city earned the reputation it still enjoys today: a city of schools, governmental offices, religion, **records and libraries**.

An independent city in the Rhine-Neckar region since 1946, the Speyer of today is a competitive urban resource center with over 50,000 residents. Just under 22,000 are able to earn their living in the city. A major portion of these jobs range from the customer service sector across the spectrum to the **Speyer University for Public Administration**, the only postgraduate training center for the upper ranks of civil servants in Germany.



The Historic City Hall/Historisches Rathaus

Speyer is a tourist destination that holds much appeal to those seeking artistic and cultural-historical stimulation. It is not just the the big cultural monuments like the imperial cathedral, Trinity-Church, Memorial Church and the Jewish courtyard that draw visitors' attention. It is also the collections and special exhibitions in private and municipal galleries and cultural centers that attract visitors to Speyer. Also fascinating to many are visits to the **Historical Museum of the Palatinate (Historisches Museum der Pfalz Speyer)**, the **Technology Museum (TECHNIK MUSEUM SPEYER)** with its IM-AX Theater, and the big aquarium known as **SEA LIFE Speyer**. More information about those later.

Artists and intellectuals of every stripe feel themselves right at home in Speyer. That is why at present, there are over 60 visual artists living in the

city. Regular exhibitions by local art associations and by the municipal gallery in the **Kulturhof Flachgasse** and the **Künstlerhaus** in the Sämergasse offer the art lover many interesting insights into the accomplishments of Speyer's painters and sculptors. The Kulturhof Flachgasse and the Künstlerhaus are located right next to the **Skulpturengarten**; both are cared for by the Artists' League of Speyer. Under the motto, "Art in the Outdoors", more than 20 modern sculptures by male and female sculptors have been installed in recent years at various places in the city, including the Sculpture Garden. New contact opportunities and new possibilities for interaction between artists and the public have been highlighted, with the object of helping the public better understand art and artistic endeavor. Several other galleries contribute to this effort with rich exhibition programs of their own.



Theatre for Children and Young People Speyer/Kinder- und Jugendtheater Speyer



Cultural Courtyard/Kulturhof Flachsgasse

The life's work of two of the most revered artistic sons of Speyer: **Anselm Feuerbach** (1829 – 1880) and **Hans Purrmann** (1880 – 1966) are commemorated with permanent exhibitions in the houses in which they were born. Purrmann's name is also carried on the City of Speyer's Award for the Advancement of the Visual Arts, an honor recognized throughout Germany.

Last but not least, the variety of the cultural scene is enhanced by the growing number of theater and cabaret programs which find their audiences throughout the year on the stages and plazas of the city. Examples include the cultural program that takes place around the old Municipal Auditorium, the classical concert series in the historic City Hall, and the colorful rock scene in Hall 101.

Whether classical, jazz, rock or pop, professional soloists and ensembles offer visitors some unforgettable impressions. Known and recognized far beyond the region's boundaries are the organ, choir and orchestral concerts that make up the **International Music Days of the Cathedral of Speyer**. This classical concert festival has been luring music lovers to Speyer during August and September for over 20 years.

Our Tip:

Oldtime Jazz Festival – national and international bands impress their listeners annually in mid-August in the marvelous inner courtyard of the historic City Hall.

Festivals and Hospitality

It is not without pride that people from the Palatinate are likely to tell anyone within earshot, “In Speyer, you might think you were in Italy.” This hospitable city, full of zest for living, impresses visitors with its lively squares, promenades, hospitality and good food served along romantic streets amid magnificent architecture.

Hundreds of outdoor seats – supplied by street cafes, cosy wine taverns, and comfortable bistros – line up, one next to the other, like pearls on a string between the Cathedral and the Old Gate and between

Königsplatz and the Fischmarkt. “Father Rhine” has become a theme for some of the many Palatinate-style pubs in Speyer. Everywhere you wander, you’ll be enticed by the aroma of the delicious, homemade specialties.

And the residents of Speyer know how to celebrate! You’ll see what we mean when you join the thousands of visitors who gather with the city’s residents on the second weekend in July every year for the annual **Pretzel Festival (Bretzelfest)**, the biggest public festival on the upper Rhine. It got its name in 1910 from the crisply baked pretzel stick that is as much a part of Speyer today as the Cathedral and the Old Gate.

By way of contrast, it’s culinary delicacies that await epicures from near and far every August on Maximilianstraße, at once Speyer’s “where it’s happening” street and also its main promenade. At the **Emperor’s Table (Kaisertafel)**, Speyer’s restaurateurs and hotel owners offer everything that wine cellars and kitchens have to offer: culinary specialties, local and international, of incomparable variety, along with excellent in-between meals, featuring choice delicacies.

Public Celebrations in Speyer

Spring Fair (Frühjahrsmesse):

2nd and 3rd weekend in April (10 days)

Pretzel Festival (Bretzelfest):

2nd weekend in July (5 days)

Settler’s Celebration (Siedlerfest):

1st weekend in August (2 days)

Emperor’s Table (Kaisertafel):

2nd weekend in August (3 days)

Old Town Celebration (Altstadtfest):

2nd weekend in September (Friday and Saturday)

Farmer’s Market (Bauernmarkt):

3rd weekend in September (2 days)

Fall Fair (Herbstmesse):

4th weekend in October to 1st weekend in November (10 days)

Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt):

from the Wednesday before the 1st Sunday in Advent to December



Old Town Celebration/Altstadtfest

For an atmosphere that is full of life, be sure to come to Speyer's **Old Town Festival (Altstadtfest)** in September. Presented by Speyer's clubs and associations, it has developed a very special charm of its own over the years. Everyone comes to chat with old friends and meet new ones in the twisting side streets and inviting interior courtyards of Old Town. Vacationers who find themselves in the midst of it all are sure to feel welcome too. The carefree atmosphere is, quite simply, contagious.

Besides these special occasions, there are around 200 gastronomic establishments that invite the visitor throughout the year to celebrate or just enjoy cheerful get-togethers, while dining on everything

from fine but light cuisine to rustic kitchen specialties. You can always order the tried and true from your favorite chef or you can be more adventurous and discover something new. In this part of Germany, white asparagus from the Palatinate and from Schwetzingen are very much at home as are sweet chestnuts and other delicacies customarily served with the wine of the Palatinate. Experts confirm that the product of the Palatinate's vineyards ranks with the finest in the world.

Our Recommendation – Pretzel Soup:

A traditional soup that's a specialty in Speyer. Surprise yourself – try it.



A Walk through the City

“Get thee to Speyer” – that’s the translation of a line that appears in “Götz von Berlichingen”, one of Goethe’s plays. Thousands of visitors follow this tip every year. Many statesmen and stateswomen have also enjoyed the special flair of the Free Imperial City on the banks of the Rhine. These include Margaret Thatcher, George Bush and Michail Gorbatschow.

So let’s get going and take an enjoyable walk through the city. We have nicknamed the walk, “2,000 Years of Speyer”. It climaxes, as you might expect, at the city’s landmark: the romanesque Imperial Cathedral, a **UNESCO World Heritage** site since 1981. But along the way, you will first experience buildings, squares and side streets that are also an important part of Speyer. We’ll end with a walk through the Cathedral Garden to the Rhine Promenade; in our opinion, this should also be a part of every visitor’s program.

We will begin our walk directly beside the Tourist Information Office. There you will find the **City Hall**, a structure representative of late Baroque style. It was built between 1712 and 1726 on the former site of a 15th century office building and two adjacent homes that were destroyed in the great fire of 1689. Especially worth seeing inside the building are the Council Chamber, built in early rococo style, the Council of Elders Hall, and the Marriage Hall. Until 1995, the ground floor, with its baroque interior decoration, housed the city archives.

Next, we leave the City Hall and cross Maximilianstraße to the right and reach Geschirrplatz, where, in years gone by, tableware was sold. Please note the **Hohenfeldt’sche Haus**, built around 1700 and at one time, the temporary residence of the writer, Sophie La Roche. She was the grandmother of Bettina and Clemens von Brentano, significant because on the latter’s invitation, Schiller and Goethe also lived in this house for a time. On the 275th anniversary of her birthdate in 2005, a memorial to the writer was opened in the form of the **Sophie-La-Roche-Haus**.

St. James Pilgrim from Speyer

For 1,000 years, pilgrims have been following the Way of St. James to Santiago de Compostella in Spain. Speyer, the Palatinate’s starting point for such a pilgrimage, became an important way station for pilgrims during the Middle Ages.



St. James Pilgrim/Jakobspilger



Trinity Church/Dreifaltigkeitskirche

All of a sudden, we are standing in front of **Dreifaltigkeitskirche**. It was built between 1701 and 1717 as a Lutheran church, modeled after Katharinenkirche in Frankfurt by the master builder, J. P. Graber. The interior decoration, most of it still intact, embellishes a richly painted wooden vaulted ceiling. The wood carvings by Christian Dathan on the pulpit, altar and galleries are especially noteworthy.

We follow Große Himmels-gasse a few meters further in the direction of the Cathedral, turn left into Kleine Himmels-gasse and follow it all the way to the end and the **Holzmarkt**. The Holzmarkt, first mentioned in 1303 and the Fischmarkt nearby, first mentioned in 1290, both served as storage areas, transshipment

points and marketplaces for their respective commodities. At the start of the 1980s, this area, then in the most urgent need of renovation, was turned into what is now a much-sought-after residential area. From the **Fischmarkt**, we can see the remains of the houses of the former patrician family of Retschelin who owned a building-and-courtyard complex here (the most important secular building in the Speyer of the Middle Ages). Its remains are now referred to as the “Retscher Ruin” by the people of Speyer.

St. Georgengasse leads us back uphill to Große Himmels-gasse. On the left (No. 2) stands the **Bell Tower (Läuturm)** of Dreifaltigkeitskirche which was

A Walk through the City

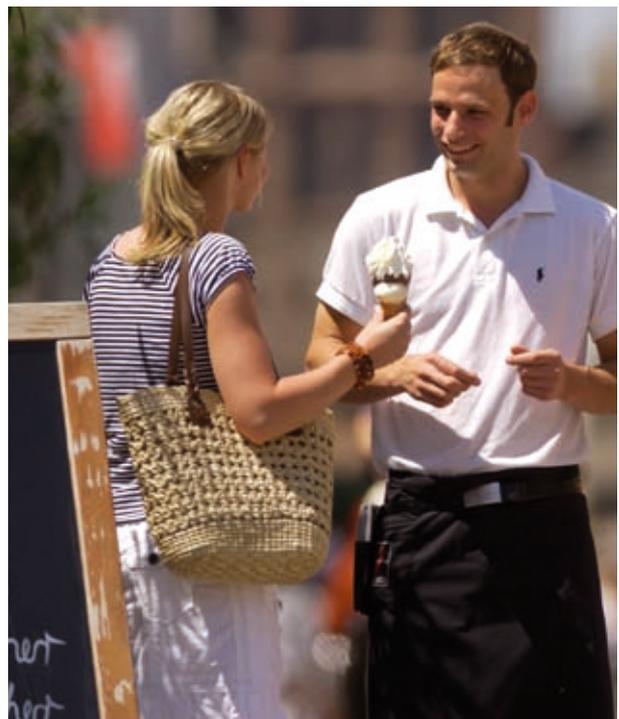
formerly a tower of the St. Georgenkirche (first mentioned in 1312).

On the southern side of Johannesstraße and a few meters toward the outskirts of the city lies the **Church of the Holy Ghost (Heiliggeistkirche)**, the first church of the Reformed Congregation of Speyer, which was built between 1700 and 1702 and today serves as an exhibition space, among other uses.

If we go further down the street, we come to the St.-Guido-Stifts-Platz and **Bernhard's Church (Bernharduskirche)**, also called the Peace Church (Friedenskirche). It was built in 1953–1954 by French and Germans working together and stands today as a testimonial to modern architecture. In Adenauer Park right next to the church, one can still find the remains of the old cemetery. The gothic chapel, Unsere liebe Frau (Our Precious Lady) was built in 1516.

Back across Johannesstraße and Salzgasse, one arrives at the Old Marketplace and the so-called **Alten Münze**. The House of Minters that had stood here during the Middle Ages was destroyed in 1689 and replaced in 1748 by the construction of what was then called the “New Department Store at the Marketplace”. It has had many functions over the course of the years; for example, it was used for administration purposes during the Bavarian rule of Speyer. Once past the Alten Münze, our path leads us into

Korngasse (first mentioned in 1327) and on to the Seminary Church of St. Ludwig, which incorporates the remainder of the choir of the Dominican Church, built in the years after 1266. After the destruction of 1689, it was rebuilt during the years following 1698 and after 1834, it was remodeled into a seminary church. With the so-called Bossweil Altar and a knit altar cloth, the church owns two significant art works of the late Gothic period. A short walk down Predigergasse brings us to the **Purrmann-Haus** (Kleine Greifengasse No. 14), the birthplace and parental home of Hans Purrmann (1880–1966), a schoolmate and friend of Henri Matisse. The Eichgässel brings us back to Maximilianstraße. Ever since its construction in the 11th century, this mighty



street has represented the main axis of the city. The houses on the right and left sides of the street have their origins in different eras. On the western side of the street, the historic layout of the houses, which dates to well before the Baroque Period, has been retained. The buildings on the north side, built over a period of time extending well into the 19th century, are relatively simple and low. The buildings on the south side are distinguished by their prominently raised ornamental gables favored by the local patri- cians and are visually connected to the City Hall with its late Baroque styling. A few years ago, this wide

boulevard of Speyer's – it was renamed in 1816 in honor of the Bavarian king, Maximilian I – received a new look, thanks to a comprehensive overhaul and repaving.

Looking west, you will see one of Germany's tallest (55 meters) and most significant city gates, called Altpörtel and connected to the Cathedral in the fashion of a Roman "via triumphalis". First mentioned in 1176, this was once the main western entrance to the city and it remains today as the most significant part of the former fortification. The lower portion was built between 1230 and 1250; the uppermost floor of the tower with its late Gothic tracery balustrade and the arcade arches of the gallery were added from 1512 – 1514. The steep roof with its lantern was added in 1708. The east side of the tower (formerly, the city side) is particularly richly decorated; the west side features small embrasures. On the north side of the Old Gate's pass-through can be found the standard length of Speyer, the 29 centimeter high iron **Shoe of Speyer (Speyerer Schuh)**, by which every commercial transaction in Speyer was governed. Happily, the tower survived the general destruction of the city in 1689. It remains today as one of the few remnants of the city's fortifications during the Middle Ages.

Once you have climbed the 154 steps to the gallery of the Altpörtel, you are rewarded with a marvelous



Old City Gate/Altpörtel/Stadttorturm Altpörtel

A Walk through the City

SPEYER



Roof of the Memorial Church/Dach der Gedächtniskirche

panoramic view over the upper Rhine plain between Heidelberg and the German Wine Route (Deutsche Weinstraße). No high-rise disturbs the view over the old houses and streets which, since the Middle Ages, converge in a star pattern on the Cathedral. The majestic Cathedral dominates the countryside between the Odenwald and the Palatinate Forest. Inside the Altpörtel on the second floor, a permanent exhibition has been set up that documents the history of Speyer's fortifications in general and the Old Gate in particular.

If we follow the street further and then turn right into Bahnhofstraße, we will reach, a few meters further

on, a portion of the old city wall (called the Postgraben) that has been preserved, thanks to the housing development that was built around it. It is not intended to be a formal part of this walk but we suggest that you walk further down Bahnhofstraße to the Villa Ecarus (built in 1892), a magnificent restored building built during the period of rapid industrial growth in Germany at the end of the 19th century. Today, it is the home of the Adult Education Center, the municipal library and the School of Music. On the opposite side of the street is the Train Station, rebuilt between 1951 and 1953 on the site of the former station which was destroyed in 1945.

Now back to the Altpörtel. From there, it is not far to the **Archäologischen Schaufenster**. Then follow Gilgenstraße to Gedächtniskirche, also known in Speyer as the Retscherkirche, which was built from 1893 – 1904 to commemorate the events of the Protestant Reformation that took place in Speyer. With the highest tower in Speyer (100 meters), this church, built with a great emphasis on quality and in the style of a neo-Gothic cathedral, is one of the outstanding artistic accomplishments of its time. Note especially the stained glass window cycle. Across the street, you will find the Catholic **St. Joseph's Church (St. Josephskirche)**, built from 1912 – 1914.

From the Altpörtel, we take the streets with the names, Rossmarkt and Allerheiligen to the **Feuerbachhaus**, birthplace of the painter, Anselm Feuerbach (1829 – 1888). The road then leads us through the Skulpturengarten, with works created by Speyer's own sculptors and the Künstlerhaus to **Königsplatz**. Established in 1806, this square hosts a colorful farmer's market every Saturday. A Craftsman's Fountain with the Pretzel Baby and the coats of arms of 16 guilds adorns this marvelous plaza. In the Historische Museum der Pfalz Speyer, there is part of a large, antique, Jupiter column that was found here during excavations. It has led historians to believe that there was once a Roman forum here.

At the southeast end of the plaza, the Herdstraße begins. It dates back to the first millennium. Toward the East, oriented toward the Cathedral, lies the Kleine Pfaffengasse, likewise one of the oldest streets in Speyer. Here we find, behind one of the big gates to the City Hall courtyard, the building that housed the old municipal auditorium, which was erected as a theater at the end of the 19th century. Across the street in a new building called the **Kulturhof Flachgasse** are the exhibition rooms for the Art Association and the Municipal Gallery.

At No. 10 Kleine Pfaffengasse, the extended western wing of the one-time prince's residence begins. In 1847 and the years thereafter, it was renovated, ex-



Jewish Courtyard with Mikva/Judenhof mit Mikwe

A Walk through the City

SPEYER



Cathedral Treasure in the Historical Museum/Domschatz im Historischen Museum

panded and connected to the Administration Building (Maximilianstraße No. 5); since 1902, it is an office building. The County Council's conference hall inside – today, it is the conference hall of the city council – is one of the most beautiful neoclassical rooms in Speyer. A few steps further on at No. 21 Kleine Pfaffengasse, we find the **Jewish courtyard from the Middle Ages** with its synagogue (ruin) and ritual washing bath. In the 1080s, Jews settled here as well as in Old Speyer. Around 1100, the previously destroyed synagogue was rebuilt. Here you will also find the ritual bath (in Hebrew, Mikwe), built in 1128 and the oldest installation of this type in Germany. It features a built-in bathing shaft at 10-meter depth.

The **Johann-Joachim-Becher-Haus**, a memorial to this multi-talented and much admired son of Speyer (1635 – 1682), has been located at No. 21 Kleinen Pfaffengasse since 2005. Viewings are available on request at the Tourist Information Office.

The road now leads us to the well-known **Historische Museum der Pfalz Speyer** which was built between 1907 and 1910. The museum presents on its more than 6,000 m² of exhibit space a varied assortment of exhibitions on the art, history and culture of the city and surrounding region from the Stone Age to the present. One of its proudest possessions is the “Golden Hat” of Schifferstadt which was apparently used around 1300 B.C. in ritual ceremonies. There

are only four examples of this legendary, cone-shaped hat in existence.

The museum's highly touted special exhibitions on national and international subjects include the Cathedral treasure with the burial crowns of the Salian emperors and the Wine Museum with its "Roman Wine", probably the oldest wine in the world from the 3rd century A.D. The Youth Museum of Speyer (JUMUS) offers children and young people eventful, interactive exhibitions on various subjects. Attractive programs featuring top-notch lectures and exciting workshops round out the multifaceted offerings.

On the plaza in front of the Cathedral's main entrance stands the **Domnapf** (1,560 liters capacity), which once symbolized the separation between city and church. The building complex on the left side – the former vicars' courtyard – has been used as the Bishop's Residence since its renovation in 1821.

Just a short distance away on Bauhof Street is the builder's yard. On this spot probably once stood the palace of the Salian tribal counts, kings and emperors. From 1340 on, the City Hall of the Free City of Speyer has stood here. From 1529–1688, the Supreme Court of the Holy Roman Empire's German Nation was located here.



Cathedral Basin/Domnapf

A Walk through the City

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On the east side of Stuhlbrudergasse, the former College of Jesuits with its Jesuits Church (Jesuitenkirche) and crypt was located.

Turning right into the Sonnengasse, one arrives at the Sun Bridge, the only bridge remaining in Speyer from the Middle Ages; it was referred to as the Nicolas Bridge for the first time in 1242. The half-timbered house, To the Half-Moon (Zum Halbmond), built after 1689, is decorated with a architecturally interesting, polygonal bay window.

From the Sun Bridge, it is just a few steps to the **St. Magdalena Dominican Cloister**, the place where the philosopher and Carmelite, Dr. Edith Stein worked before she was murdered by the National Socialists. The founding of the cloister dates from the year 1232. It was converted in 1304 to a Dominican cloister. Our road continues past the east side of the Cathedral and the **Pagan Tower (Heidentürmchen)**, once a part of the city wall. The Heidentürmchen was built in 1280 and was a two story defensive installation with two stair towers.

On the south side of the Cathedral stands the centerpoint of the former cloister, the **Ölberg**. G. Renn, a 19th century sculptor from Speyer, created the figures we see today. The original array of sculpted figures, created from 1505 – 1512, was largely destroyed in 1689 and 1792.



Part of the City Wall/Heidentürmchen

The last stop and also the climax of our tour is the **Cathedral**, the symbol of Speyer. The cornerstone was laid in 1030, during the reign of the Salian emperor, Konrad II and it was consecrated in 1061. From 1080 until the early part of the 12th century (around 1106), extensive renovations were made, expanding it into one of the largest Romanesque structures in all of Germany. The Cathedral of the Bishopric of Speyer – it later became the papal basilica – had higher arches than any of its predecessors. It also embodied the first application of the blind arch system and the dwarf gallery. After its partial destruction in 1689, the reconstruction of the nave bay into its original form began in 1772 – 1778, from 1854 – 1858, the western wing was rebuilt.

Special attention should be paid to the **crypt (Krypta)** which has been preserved without modification. Eight German emperors and kings, four queens and a series of bishops have been laid to rest there. Here you will find the tomb of Konrad II, who always looked upon this Cathedral as the home church and the burial church of the Salian dynasty. Despite its numerous renovations, this building is impressive even today with its monumental simplicity and its balanced dimensions. You can reflect on your impressions by next taking a relaxing walk through the rambling Cathedral Garden.

In the Cathedral Garden we will walk further toward the east, cross Schillerweg, and after crossing the Speyerbach, reach another attraction, the giant aquarium known as **SEA LIFE Speyer**. This attraction



Aquarium SEA LIFE Speyer/Großaquarium SEA LIFE Speyer



Technology Museum Speyer/Technik Museum Speyer

invites you to take an underwater journey along the Rhine, through the North Sea, into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean and further to the colourful tropic world of sharks and schooling fish. Over 3,000 fish from over 100 species in more than 30 naturally decorated tanks show species including seahorse, star fish, rays and sharks. Information about the environment and water pollution as well as yearly changing SOS action contributes to a better understanding of conservation. Through interactive games, films, and trained personnel, your trip through the underwater world becomes an informative, exciting and entertaining experience for young and old alike.

Before you finish your tour with a stop into one of the many comfortable wine bars, cafes or restaurants by having, perhaps, a draft of local beer, you should not miss out on visiting the **TECHNIK MUSEUM SPEYER**, located quite close to the Cathedral in a

A Walk through the City

historically protected former aircraft assembly hall (25,000 m² inside and another 125,000 m² outside). Superlative exhibits from the entire fabric of technological history await the visitor: for example, what was until recently the largest passenger plane in the world, a Boeing 747 has been available for viewing since 2003; the 46 meter-long U-Boat that was placed into service by the German merchant marine in 1966 has laid at anchor here in Speyer since 1993; you will be able to walk through it. Locomotives, fire engines, and the musical impressions you get from a tour through the music room of a tastefully restored

building called Wilhelmsbau with its mechanical musical instruments – all this will fascinate you in the TECHNIK MUSEUM SPEYER. The main attraction since October 2008 is an original russian “BURAN” Space Shuttle together with Europe’s biggest space exhibition. It is open at all times of the year. There is one more “winner” to be enjoyed by young and old at the Museum: the IMAX dome film theater presents the world to visitors from unusual perspectives. The sensational productions are so realistic that the viewer feels as though he is a part of every scene.



Pretzel Festival/Speyerer Brezelfast

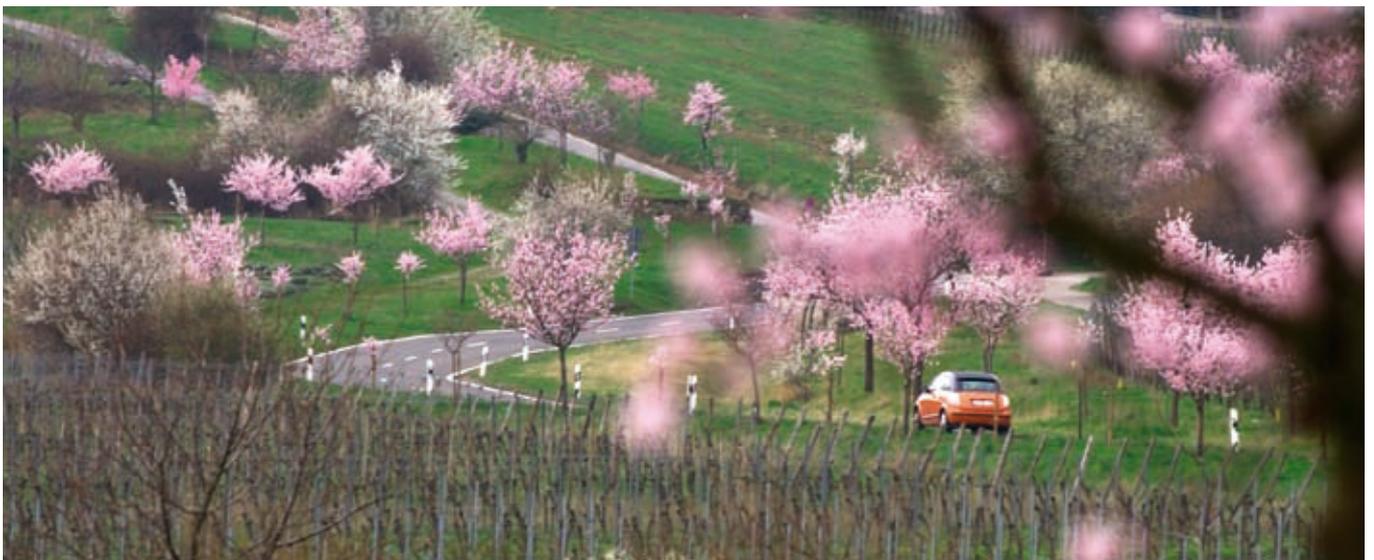
The Rhine-Neckar Metropolitan Region

The Cathedral City (or if you prefer, the Imperial City) of Speyer lies nestled amid meadows, forests and fields in the middle of the mild Upper Rhine Valley. The venerable **University City of Heidelberg** with its romantic castle is easy to reach by highway as are Ludwigshafen and Mannheim, the latter incorporating Germany's biggest baroque castle. Located in the middle of the Electoral Palatinate, the neighboring city of Schwetzingen offers one of the most attractive gardens of the baroque and rococo periods.

Let an idyllic drive along the **Deutsche Weinstraße** during almond blossom time or during the autumnal wine harvest entice you. If you go, don't forget to include a proper retreat into one of the numerous wine cellars along the way. A visit to the nearby **Holiday**

Park in the town of Haßloch also makes a suitable excursion. Or how about a drive to Strasbourg in El-sace, France or a tour of the city of **Worms** with its romanesque cathedral. Both cities make for easy day trips.

The championship golf courses of Golfpark Kurpfalz in the town of Limburgerhof, Golfclub Pfalz Neustadt on the German Wine Road in Geinsheim, and Golfclub St. Leon-Rot in the town of the same name are all located in the region and await both beginners and expert players. Or make a pit stop at the famous **Hockenheimring** and let the German Automobile Club, ADAC give you a driver's safety course. These are just some of the additional possibilities for a variety-filled and sport-oriented experience, while in Speyer.



Almond Blossoms along the German Wine Route/Mandelblüte an der Deutschen Weinstraße

Shopping in Speyer

SPEYER

Even during the Middle Ages, Speyer was one of the leading shopping centers and market places on the Upper Rhine; in other words, buying and selling have a solid tradition here.

Until today, the productive retailing businesses in Speyer attract many from the surrounding communities. This is true not only for the many specialty stores and service businesses that line Maximilianstraße, the main shopping street. Many of the adjoining streets are among Speyer's oldest and most

tradition-rich shopping streets and offer a comprehensive assortment.

Performance is written in capital letters in Speyer in terms of offerings, variety and service. Behind it is not only extensive experience but also the willingness to approach the customer as an informed and competent partner. The historic inner city provides an attractive and varied background for strolling, window-shopping, shopping and enjoyment.



Shopping in Speyer/Einkaufen in Speyer

Interesting Sights and Museums



TECHNIK MUSEUM SPEYER

A destination for the entire family, open 365 days of the year. Accessible airplanes include a Boeing 747 and an Antonov 22; Oldtime autos; submarines including the U-9; locomotives, fire engines, the Wil-

helmsbau (featuring mechanical music machines, fashion and accessories, uniforms, weapons, and puppets), russian space shuttle Buran, the only IMAX domed movie house in Germany, model museum, marine museum, special exhibitions, playground, restaurant and convention center as well as a presentation room for lectures.

TECHNIK MUSEUM SPEYER

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E-Mail: speyer@technik-museum.de

www.technik-museum.de



Take a fascinating trip into the underwater world of the region by following the course of the Rhine – from its origin in the Alps, across Lake Constance, past Speyer, into the North Sea and on into the depths of the Atlantic. Thirty aquaria house animals of more than 100 species, from snails to a cat shark. The aquariums reproduce the respective natural environments. The highlight of the exhibit is an 8-meter-long glass tunnel through the Atlantic aquarium that holds 320,000 liters of water 5 meters deep.

SEA LIFE Speyer

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Phone: +49(0)6232 6978-0, Fax: +49(0)6232 6978-27

www.sealifeeurope.com



Historisches Museum der Pfalz Speyer

Let yourself be taken on a fascinating trip through history at the Historisches Museum der Pfalz Speyer. Exciting special exhibitions, valuable collector's items, and multimedia productions have spread the reputation of the museum well beyond the borders of the region.

The museum presents its exhibitions on 6,000 square meters of floor space. Included are the Cathedral treasury, in which the unique furnishings of the graves of the Salian emperors in the Cathedral are consolidated. For further information, please take a look at our website.



Historisches Museum der Pfalz Speyer

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Pretzel Festival/Brezelfest

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Hours of Business

From November 1st to March 31st:

Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm,

Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm

From April 1st to October 31st:

Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm,

Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm

Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm

Holidays from 10 am to 2 pm

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