



Huttenschloss

The final point of interest on the circular tour is *Huttenschloss*, i.e. Hutten Castle. The building was constructed in 1711 by the bailiff Amtmann Stern. Later on it became the property of the Counts of Hutten, an influential family of Franconian nobles whose coat of arms is displayed above the portal.

Guided City Tour

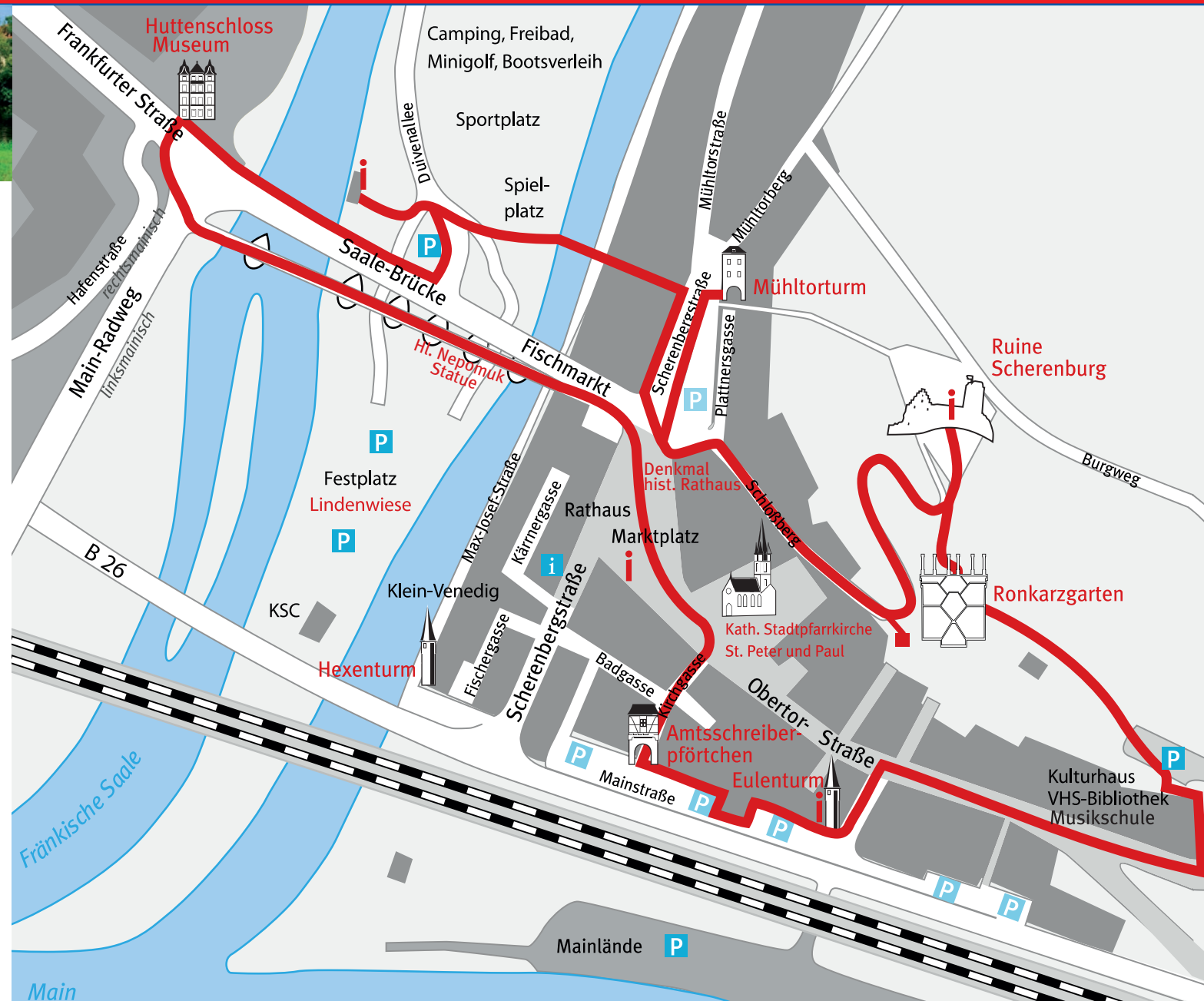
PUBLIC CITY TOUR for visitors and new citizens
Monthly, every first Saturday (April - October)
Meeting place: Rathaus (town hall) at 10.00 am
Price 3,- Euro/person 1.50 Euro/child

CITY TOUR

(max. 25 people)
City tours for adults or children
Duration: approximately 1.5 hours
Appointments upon request

IMPRINT:

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Andreas Hub, Ronald Grunert-Held, Eleonore Schuch, Jörg Ambrosius,
Historischer Verein, Touristinformation Gemünden
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South elevation of the historic town hall, built from 1585-1590 (destroyed 1945) surrounded by the *Marktplatz* (market place).



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a.main

Touristinformation

Scherenbergstraße 4
97737 Gemünden a. Main
Telefon 09351 8001-70
Telefax 09351 80000-65
touristinformation@gemuenden.bayern.de
www.stadt-gemuenden.de





Lindenwiese

The walking tour of the city starts at the *Lindenwiese* (i.e. literally linden meadow) parking area on an island in the middle of the Saale River, which is surrounded by the two branches of the Franconian Saale. The name *Lindenwiese* does not mean that linden trees used to grow there: it derives its name from the fact that linen sheets used to be hung out to dry at this spot by the river near where clothing and linens were laundered. The wooden bridge over the *Mühlgraben*, i.e. Mill Stream, one of the two branches of the Franconian Saale, leads up into the town. Every year at the end of June/beginning of July the traditional city fair *Kirchweih- und Heimatfest* is celebrated here.

Mühltorturm

The first point of interest is the *Mühltorturm*, i.e. Mill Gate Tower, the only city gate of Gemünden that has been survived. The exterior is dominated by a segmental arch transom concealing a sliding groove for raising the portcullis gate. The year 1530 is inscribed on the wall. Gemünden once had a perimeter wall that extended down from the castle via *Mühltor* to *Mühlgraben*, from there to the river Main, past the still existing round towers and from the second tower straight back up to the castle again. There were two city gates in that perimeter wall – the second gate, “Obertor”, i.e. Upper Gate, no

longer exists. But parts of the old perimeter wall have been preserved.

Next the path gradually winds up to the castle; the ascent starts on the right behind Cafe Maxl Bäck. A wonderful view of the Main river valley rewards those who climb to the top.

Scherenburg Castle

The earliest known owners of Scherenburg Castle were the Counts of Rieneck. It is no longer possible to determine when it was constructed. The first references to it can be found in 13th century documents. However, there is no doubt that Gemünden is much older, for Charlemagne himself is said to have travelled through the former fishing village. Under Bishop Rudolph von Scherenburg, the castle became the property of the Prince-Bishopric of Würzburg as of 1469 and was used as living quarters until the 18th century.

Ronkarzgarten

Just below the castle, the path continues on to a garden area called *Ronkarzgarten*. This historic monument laid out in several terraces was named after its builder, Heinrich Ronkarz, who held the office of *Medizinalrat*, i.e. medical officer. Created in the period from 1830 to 1845, it is a “noteworthy and rare example of middle-class horticultural art and garden design of the modern age” according to

the Bavarian Office for the Preservation of Historic Monuments.

From *Ronkarzgarten* a gravel path on the slope above the roofs of Gemünden leads to the parking area of the *Kulturhaus* cultural centre, from where a stairway leads back downhill into the town centre.

Eulenturm

At *Hotel Koppen*, one of the oldest inns in Franconia with a 500-year tradition, the walking tour route turns left towards the tower called *Eulenturm*, i.e. Owl Tower. An information panel there describes the eventful history of Gemünden.

Amtsschreiber-Pförtchen

Further along the city wall is a wicket gate called *Amtsschreiber-Pförtchen*, i.e. Town Clerk’s Gate, which used to be one storey higher until it was destroyed. It is one of the two original wicket gates, which were probably built to allow boatmen and fishermen in particular to get to the River Main even after the city gates had been shut.

Passing through the *Amtsschreiber-Pförtchen* and along *Kirchgasse*, the route leads to the church, giving visitors an impression of how cramped and twisted the tiny streets in the entire medieval town centre were before it was destroyed.

Parish church St. Peter und Paul

In *Obertorstraße* there are still some ancient half-timbered houses that have been preserved as well as the parish church *Stadtpfarrkirche St. Peter und Paul*. All that remained of the old Late Gothic church after the war was the foundation walls and the lower level of the tower with its ribbed vault. Only a few isolated sections survived.

So following its reconstruction from 1948 to 1950, the church today has been kept intentionally simple, whereby an attempt has been made to carefully achieve a synthesis of the old and the new, especially in the interior. The left side of the façade displays likenesses of the two patron saints, Peter and Paul, and a memorial tablet commemorating the reconstruction. An old, undated coat of arms of the city can be seen below the clock. A bronze plaque beside the main portal provides additional information.

Marktbrunnen

The *Marktbrunnen*, i.e. Market Fountain, was created on the occasion of the renewal of the historic town centre. The enclosure of the fountain displays the coats of arms of the communities that were amalgamated as parts of Gemünden; the central column is decorated with insignias of skilled trades and guilds.

Monument Julius-Echter-town hall

Beside the Market Fountain, a monument and a sandstone outline of the building footprint commemorate the former town hall, *Julius-Echter-Rathaus*, which was destroyed by bombing raids in 1945 just before the end of the war.

Nepomuk

The walking tour of the city continues on over the stone bridge that was constructed between 1598 and 1613, also under the rule of Julius Echter, Prince-Bishop of Würzburg. The sandstone figure on the bridge represents St. John of Nepomuk: it is a facsimile - today the original can be found in a passage next to the town’s parish church.

The route of the walking tour crosses two waterways at this point: The larger one is the Franconian Saale, just after it merges with the River Sinn; the smaller stream is a branch called *Mühlgraben*, i.e. Mill Stream. Both of them flow into the Main just a short distance downstream. The idyllic houses along *Mühlgraben* have been nicknamed Little Venice. But there is nothing idyllic about living there during the regular flooding that occurs.

