



PLACES TO GO

GOTISCHES HAUS

Gothic House was built in 1823, originally for court hunting trips, excursions and festivities. It now houses a museum and the archives of the town of Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe. The museum offers an interesting look at the history of the town and Landgraviate. It also houses special collections: The hat museum, the Marienbad Collection, and the coin cabinet. Located in the suburb of Dornholzhausen at Tannenwaldweg 102, it is easy to reach by bus.

Museum: Telephone +49(0)61 72-3 76 18; **Fax** +49(0)61 72-93 72 16

Archives: Telephone +49(0)61 72-3 78 82; **Fax** +49(0)61 72-93 58 01

HESSENPARK OPEN-AIR MUSEUM

The open-air museum is home to buildings from Hessen villages that have been rebuilt in typical regional groups. Some of the buildings are furnished virtually as they would originally have been. The demonstration of old crafts and traditional events are particularly interesting. Approx. 15 km from Bad Homburg (heading toward Usingen), it can also be reached with public transport.

Telephone +49 (0) 60 81 - 5 88 - 0; **Fax** +49 (0) 60 81 - 5 88 - 1 60

SAALBURG ROMAN FORTRESS

The Saalburg Roman fortress on the Limes - the former boundary of the Roman Empire - was rebuilt on its original foundations at the end of the 19th century. The Limes and the Saalburg both became UNESCO world cultural heritage sites in 2005. The museum offers a unique collection of archaeological finds providing interesting insight into the daily lives of the Roman legions. 7 km outside Bad Homburg (heading toward Usingen). Several bus connections from Bad Homburg every day.

Telephone +49(0)61 75-93 74 - 0; **Fax** +49(0)61 75 - 93 74 - 11

Saalburg Restaurant: Telephone +49(0)61 75 - 7 96 20

Masthead

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Please feel free to ask the team at Tourist Information + Service for more information about leisure or sports facilities, entertainment, events, hikes, guided tours, spas, the Kur-Royal Day Spa, etc.

Advance ticket sales, subscriptions to the Kurtheater, information brochures, guided tours around the town and Kurpark, hikes through the Taunus, and much, much more.

CHAMPAGNERLUFT UND TRADITION
Bad Homburg

WALKING TOURS

Tourist Information + Service

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Saturday 10.00 – 14.00 h

Subject to alterations





Dear Guests

A warm welcome to the town of Bad Homburg v. d. Höhe. You might be interested in these two walking tours (each about one hour long), both of which are best commenced at the **Kurhaus 1**.

TOUR A – TOWN CENTER AND OLD TOWN

Start by heading down Louisenstrasse about 60 m and turn right into Thomasstrasse. After about one minute, you will reach historical Dorotheenstrasse (first right again), a street that was populated by court officials and the bourgeoisie in the 18th century. **Hölderlin-Haus 2**, no. 34, is one of the houses where the poet lived during his two stays in Homburg, and has been rebuilt virtually to its original state after being torn down in 1983. Next, you will come to the **Stadtbibliothek 3**, no. 22 on the same side. Originally built as a court of justice, it served as the District Court before becoming home to the town library in 1975.





On the other side of the road you will see **St. Marienkirche** ④. This Catholic church, which was built between 1892-95 in neo-Gothic style by L. Becker, a famous cathedral architect from Mainz, towers above Mühlgrund. If you continue up towards the Castle, past Friedrich-Rolle-Haus (Taunus researcher and geologist, 1827–1885), you will come to the former reformist church, **Jakobskirche** ⑤, which was built in 1718. House no. 8 was home to the Möckel hat factory between 1808 and 1932. Its owner, Ph. Möckel, created the famous “Homburg” hat around 1880 for the then Prince of Wales, who was later to become King Edward VII of England.

Next, you will come to **Erlöserkirche** ⑥. The Church of the Redeemer was commissioned by Emperor Wilhelm II and his wife Auguste Viktoria, and built in the neo-Romanesque-Byzantine style by Berlin architects M. Spitta and F. Schwechten in 1908. Opposite Erlöserkirche (corner of Löwengasse/Dorotheenstrasse) you will see **Sinclair-Haus** ⑦. The poet and philosopher von Creutz was born in this baroque residence in 1724. It is named after Isaak von Sinclair, a government official who was a friend of Hölderlin.



Pass through the main gate bearing the coat of arms of the Landgraves to enter the Castle Park, walk past the Lebanese cedars, which were planted in 1820, and enter the **Landgraves Castle 8**. It was built in the last quarter of the 17th century by Paul Andrich, and commissioned by Landgrave Friedrich II “with the silver leg”. Pass through the hall to the upper courtyard, where you will see the magnificent portal of the “Prince of Homburg” on your right. The Castle is built on the site of a former fort, the only trace of which remains is the “White Tower” (48 m high), which is the town’s landmark. The upper and lower arch take you past the castle chapel and into the actual park. Once you have passed through the second arch, bear left, then continue to the right past the small lake, and turn right again to stroll along the wall surrounding the Old Town toward **Ritter-von-Marx bridge 9**.

You will see the Old Town of Bad Homburg to your right and left when crossing the bridge. Dietigheim, the original settlement, is nowadays the subject of archaeological digs and research. In the 14th century, the village evolved into a settlement of craftsmen, was elevated to the status of a town in 1330, and surrounded by a town wall.

At Schlossplatz, you will see the **Hexenturm 10** on your right. It was not until 1905 that this “Witches’ Tower” built on medieval foundations was incorporated into the bridge crossing the Old Town. Walk past the tower and the guards’ watch with the Homburg crest and turn left into Rathausstrasse.

Straight away, you will see another tower. The **Rathausturm 11** was used as a prison in the 18th century. Opposite is the so-called **Stumpfer Turm 12**. This “tower stump” next to Landgraf-Ludwig School is part of the former town fortifications. You will arrive at Haus der Altstadt.

Turn into Rind’sche Stiftstrasse (named after J. Chr. Rind, a merchant who, in 1776, donated his fortune for the construction of a hospital for the people; a monument in his honor is located at the lower end of the street), and then take the first alley to the right, past the **oldest house in Bad Homburg 13**. “An der Weed” with its refurbished and reproduction houses shows how successful the revitalization of old parts of a town can be. Walk along Neue Mauergasse and Obergasse until you reach Elisabethenstrasse.



Only 100 m down on the left, you will see a **monument to the Jewish citizens 14** who lost their lives during the Third Reich. This is where the former synagogue was originally located. Take the next right into Haingasse to bring you out at the upper end of Louisenstrasse. If you look to the right, you will see the old school with its small bell tower, and the Engel pharmacy, which dates back to 1684. Continue on to the left until you come to **Marktplatz 15**. The center of the square is occupied by the **Laternenbrunnen 16**, the lantern fountain designed by H. Freder (1979). Continue on to **Waisenhausplatz 17** with its war monument commemorating those who lost their lives in 1870/71. In the background you will see the former orphanage, which was founded by Landgrave Friedrich III in 1721.

Just a few more steps will bring you back to the starting point of your tour, the **Kurhaus 1**. The Kurhaus was built between 1982 and 1984 on the site of the former Kurhaus (built in 1863), which was destroyed during an air raid on March 8, 1945.

You can start Tour B around the Kurpark from here. But if you should have any questions still outstanding, please don't hesitate to pop into the **Tourist Information+Service in the Kurhaus**.



TOUR B – KURPARK

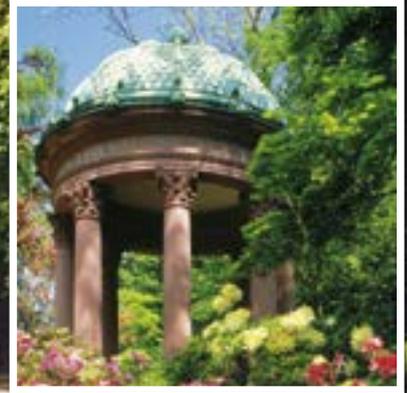
Starting in front of the Kurhaus, go through the main entrance into the Kurhaus and take the stairs down, to exit onto the **Kurhaus garden** **1**. Go through the garden to Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade. If you cross over using the pedestrian crossing in front of Wicker Clinic, you will come straight to the monument commemorating **Peter Joseph Lenné** **2**, who created the Kurpark. The Kurpark, which is one of the largest and loveliest in Germany, was designed between 1854 and 1914 in the Wiesental valley of the Kirdorf stream.

Lenné himself designed the section between Schwedenpfad and Kisseleffstrasse, with the extensions being completed to his drafts after his death in 1866. The park measures a total of 1.5 km in length, and spans an area of 44 hectares.

Stroll towards the Schwanenteich lake and, after 100 m, you will come to the **Hölderlin monument** **3**, which commemorates the times the poet stayed in Bad Homburg. Before bearing half left, cast your eyes over the **Schwanenteich** **4** with its large fountain.

Heading north, you will see the **“Sala Thai im Park”** **5**, the temple donated by King Chulalongkorn of Siam in 1907 as a sign of gratitude for his successful treatment. King Bhumipol visited the memorial site in 1960, together with Queen Sirikit. When you have finished looking at the temple, and continue on eastwards toward the **tennis courts** **6** you might be interested to know that this was the site of the very first tennis courts built on the continent, in 1876. The foremost event to be hosted here was the Federation Cup in 1973. The tennis clubhouse was built in the English style in 1992. Take the second path to the left after the tennis courts and cross over Kisseleffstrasse, which was named after a Russian Countess who was addicted to gambling.

You will come to **Brunnenallee** **7** and, as such, to the center of the park, the actual spring area.



On your left you will see **Kaiser-Wilhelms-Bad** 8, commissioned by famous Homburg builder and architect Louis Jacobi (1836–1910) between 1887 and 1890. This therapy center, which was so comprehensively equipped, strengthened the reputation of Bad Homburg as a spa. Nowadays, the impressive facade opens onto lovingly refurbished premises that house state-of-the-art therapy facilities. „Kur-Royal“ offers feel-good programs that are guaranteed to promote relaxation and recuperation. The bronze monument in front of the building depicts Emperor Wilhelm I. (F. Gerth, 1901). Right next to Kaiser-Wilhelms-Bad is the salt-water spring, **Ludwigsbrunnen**. This was the first mineral spring in Homburg to be discovered, in 1809. The remains of a Roman bath were found next to it.

Now, you should take a closer look at the neo-classical Brunnensälchen. It is home to the **Casino** 9 which was founded by the Blanc brothers in 1841. The casino in Homburg owes its sobriquet „Mother of Monte Carlo“ to the fact that Francois Blanc used the experience gained in Homburg to make the casino in Monte Carlo world famous from 1863 onwards.

From the casino, you will look straight at **Kaiserbrunnen**. Opposite, you will see **Stahlbrunnen**. A total of five cold, carbon dioxide-rich salt springs and two steel springs are located around the area of Brunnenallee. The water is drunk for healing purposes and used for mineral baths, primarily for chronic cardiac, bowel and abdominal afflictions, but also to treat skin diseases. You should take a closer look at **Auguste-Viktoria-Brunnen** with its small round temple. It is named after the wife of Wilhelm II. Right next to it, on lower ground, are **Landgrafenbrunnen** and **Louisenbrunnen**. Both are very deep (151 and 95 m). Also on the left-hand side, you will soon come across the sculpture of the girl at the well by Prof. Richard Hess (1994), which commemorates the profession of the well girls.



At the end of Brunnenallee, you will find the spring for which Bad Homburg is best known: **Elisabethenbrunnen** **10**. Its existence has been known since 1622, and it was rediscovered in 1834 and named after the famous Landgrave Elizabeth.

Now take the path to the left of Elisabethenbrunnen. You will come to the war memorial commemorating the 80th Fusiliers Regiment. It is not far from here to the **Garden for the Blind** **11**, the first of its type in Germany. From here, it is well worth taking the time to go and see the **Sala-Thai at the Chulalongkorn spring** **12**, which was gifted by the Thai Royal Family. The temple was built in summer 2007 as a sign of the bond and to mark the 100th anniversary of Siamese King Chulalongkorn's visit to Bad Homburg. Back at Elisabethenbrunnen, you will see the **Landgraves monument** **13**. The 12 m high porphyry obelisk, designed by F. Gerth in 1906, is dedicated to the dynasty of Landgraves. Behind the Landgrafendenkmal (to the east) you will see the **Taunus Therme thermal baths** **14**.

Your route will now bring you to the historic **Orangerie in the Kurpark** **15**: In payment of the gambling debts he had amassed in the spa of Bad Homburg, Elector Wilhelm von Hessen donated 40 valuable orange trees in 1844, for which a representative Orangerie was built to protect them in winter. The building also served a further important function as a place for strolling and drinking, and thus became a focal point of social spa life. In 1908/1909, Louis Jacobi redesigned the building attractively, adding a hall of pillars. The Orangerie has been rebuilt in parts, and renovated overall, in line with the historical plans. Since 2011 it has been restored to the former splendor created by master builder Jacobi.

You would never know that the Music Pavilion next to the Orangerie is new. It was built in 2012 – also to old plans designed by Louis Jacobi – but equipped with state of the art equipment. And it rotates into three different positions. Now that this lovely building ensemble with its uniform style has been completed, this section of the Kurpark has been visually restored to what it always was in the eyes of the spa guests: the heart of the park.



You are now walking past Germany's oldest **golf course** **16**. When you reach the memorial stone - right next to the new clubhouse, which was built in 1992 - you will see the **Russian Church** **17**. It was designed by Louis Benois from St. Petersburg. The last Russian Czar and his wife even attended the laying of the foundation stone in 1896. The church was consecrated in 1899.

Continuing straight on, you will pass the **Agnon monument** **18**, built in honor of Jewish writer and Nobel Laureate S. Joseph Agnon in 1993. Agnon lived in Bad Homburg between 1921 and 1924. Passing the Samaritans monument, cross over Kisseleffstrasse, and head up toward the park to **Schmuckplatz** **19** with its monuments commemorating the German Emperor Friedrich III and his wife Victoria. Crossing the Promenade brings back to the starting point of your tour, the **Kurhaus** **1**.