

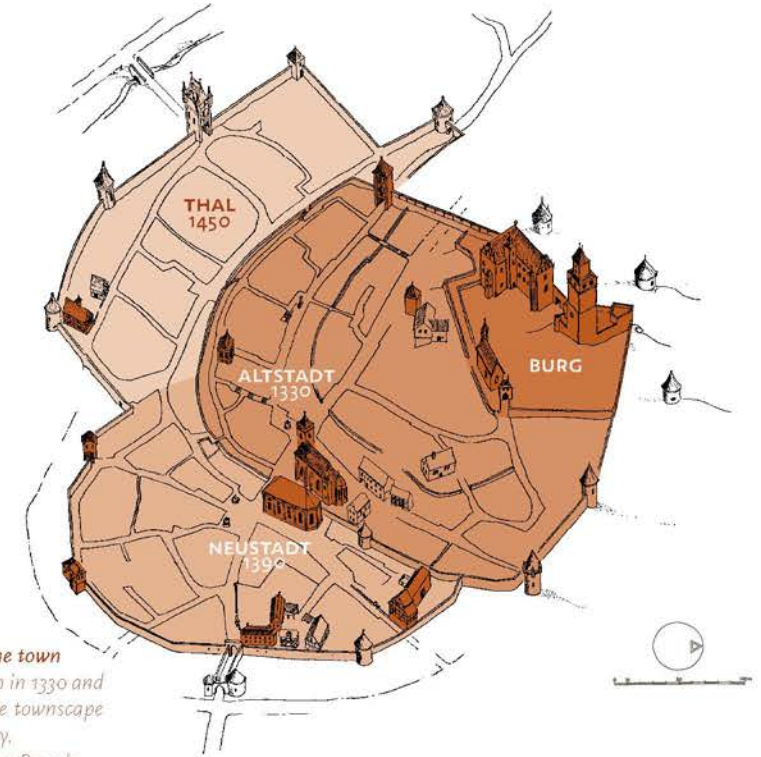


CITY GUIDE  
**KRONBERG**  
**IM TAUNUS** >

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FIVE ROUTES WITH MAPS

# HISTORY OF KRONBERG AT A GLANCE



*From the castle to the town*  
The town fortification in 1330 and its enlargements: The townscape until the 19th century.  
Drawing: ©Hanspeter Borsch

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The town of Kronberg originates from its castle built by the Lords of Eschborn in the second half of the 12th century. They were in the service of the Emperor as Ministry Officials and held it as a fief. The first known reference mentioning the name of Kronberg is found in a document dating back to 1230. The Lords of Kronberg were granted town ordinances for the settlement near their castle in 1330, and received permission to enclose it. In 1367 they were bestowed with full municipal rights. In 1389 disputes arose with the town of Frankfurt. Allied with Ruprecht von der Pfalz, the Kronbergers repeatedly attacked Frankfurt territory. When in May an array of armed forces from Frankfurt moved towards

Kronberg, they were defeated by troops belonging to the Count Palatine supported by the Kronberg people. More than 600 Frankfurt citizens were taken prisoner and released only after having paid a high ransom. In the service of the Emperor, the Lords of Kronberg were highly successful, thereby ensuring that their fiefdom flourished. The town expanded, and the encircling wall was extended in 1390 and 1450. During the Reformation period, Hartmut XII developed an enthusiasm for Luther, and he and Franz von Sickingen unsuccessfully fought against the Archbishop of Trier in the "Feud of Trier". In 1522, Kronberg was besieged and captured. Hartmut lost his fiefdom to Land-



- Tombstones of the Lords of Kronberg in Johanniskirche church
- Johann Schweikard of Kronberg, Archbishop-Elector of Mainz 1604–1626
- Johann Ludwig Christ (1739–1813), Protestant high pastor in Kronberg and pomologist

grave Philipp der Großmütige ("the Magnanimous") of Hesse, who in 1526 introduced the Reformation in his lands: Kronberg became Protestant. The Lords of Kronberg were given back their land in 1541 and they ruled until the last Lord of Kronberg died and the family became extinct in 1704.

For almost 100 years, until 1802, the Archbishop-Elector of Mainz had been the lord of the town. Disputes with the Catholic sovereign, considered justified on religious grounds, were mainly due to the clashing of traditional rights arising from feudalistic structures, and a developing modern political system. The most protracted conflict arose from the construction of what came to be known as the Streitkirche (conflict church). With the end of the empire and the dissolution of ecclesiastical principalities, Kronberg was incorporated into Nassau in 1802. During the Nassau period Kronberg lost its medieval townscape, large sections of the town fortification were taken down, and the town began to expand. In Kronthal valley, spa facilities developed under the guidance of medical officer Dr Ferdinand Küster. However, due to a poor infrastructure, disputes and more fashionable competitors in the surrounding areas they could not be maintained and were eventually abandoned. The economic life of early Kronberg was characterised by the crafts and trades, predominantly the locksmith

trade and agriculture. Johann Ludwig Christ, a Protestant high pastor of Kronberg from 1792 to 1813, was a renowned pomologist. He operated tree nurseries, offering sale by mail order, and researched means of improvement for fruit farms, thus helping to promote widespread awareness of this Kronberg line of production. The Kronberg products were dried and distributed over long distances. Kronberg chestnuts were also highly appreciated and widely marketed. The cultivation of strawberry plants since the end of the 19th century established the "Kronberg strawberry" as a brand of economic significance until World War II. With the romantic discovery of the Taunus, Kronberg evolved into the point of departure for the emerging excursion and hiking industry, causing the catering industry, too, to develop into an important line of business. Around the middle of the 19th century, painters from Frankfurt discovered the Taunus, the landscape, and what they considered picturesque motifs of Kronberg everyday life. Anton Burger was among the first painters who at first only made brief excursions to Kronberg. They found lodgings at the inn "Zum Adler", later took up permanent residence there, and were soon followed by others. The flowering period of the Kronberg artists' colony ended with the death of Anton Burger in 1905, and the colony was completely dissolv-



- Distributed over long distances: Water from Kronthal
- Fritz Wucherer (1873–1948), last painter of the artists' colony
- Branded good: Kronberg Strawberries
- Victoria Empress Friedrich (1840–1901), Portrait, H.v. Angeli 1894

ed upon the death of Nelson G. Kinsley and Fritz Wucherer a few years after World War II. In 1866 Kronberg became part of the Kingdom of Prussia. Following the painters, Frankfurt upper-class families discovered the advantages and the beneficial climate of Kronberg's geographical location near the city of Frankfurt. Around the town centre and in the nearby municipality of Schönberg, financially strong families built country houses, villas situated in huge park areas. Kronberg citizens found a wealth of employment opportunities in their households. Their personal financial commitment as well as the percentage of their income tax revenues still collected by the town during that time provided a huge impetus to the expansion of infrastructure and the development of Kronberg and Schönberg. Kronberg derived particular benefits from its connectivity to Frankfurt owing to the railway line built by a private railway company in 1873. Enhanced employment opportunities were opened up to Kronberg citizens, distribution of local products was facilitated, and Kronberg became an easily accessible point of departure for excursions by the townspeople to the Taunus. The town's attractiveness as a summer residence was further enhanced when Victoria Empress Friedrich had Friedrichshof Castle built as her dowager's domicile. There she spent every year from spring to autumn, from 1894 until her death

in 1901. The golden age of this era of noble villas was terminated with World War I, the subsequent French occupation, and the general economic decline. During this period a new drinking water reservoir, Bürgerstollen, and Waldschwimmbad (public swimming pool) were constructed as public relief works within the framework of the unemployment benefit programme. Even in Kronberg, in 1933 the National Socialism put at a disadvantage, including oppression, suffering or death, those persons who did not show an indifferent attitude towards or who even opposed the regime's ideology, or those who were excluded from the ideologically exaggerated "Volksgemeinschaft" ("National Community"). During World War II, Kronberg was largely spared from being destroyed. However, there were also people who died as a result of the air war. On 29th March 1945, U.S. armed forces occupied Kronberg. The development of Kronberg after World War II was characterised by the town's growth. The number of inhabitants increased by evacuees from bomb-racked Frankfurt, refugees, and displaced persons, making it necessary to increase housing capacities and expand the infrastructure. In the course of the Hessian administrative reforms, the town of Kronberg merged with the municipalities Schönberg and Oberhöchstadt in 1972 to form the town of "Kronberg im Taunus".

# CASTLE AND HISTORIC TOWN

## ORIGIN OF THE TOWN

*On the former main road along impressive buildings through the oldest parts of the town until reaching the castle.*

### 1 FRANKFURT GATE

Two sandstone steles located at the entrance to the historic town are symbols of the site of the former "Frankfurt Gate". It was built during the first enlargement of the town wall, which enclosed the "new town" since 1390. In 1840 the gate was taken down. (Frankfurt Gate of the first town wall, built after 1330 10)



### 4 INN "ZUM ADLER"

The inn "Zum Schwarzen Adler" has existed for centuries. Today the inn still looks the same as it was reconstructed after the major fire of 1780. The "Adler" was a legendary meeting place for painters who moved to Kronberg in the middle of the 19th century to paint "en plein air". In the early stages of the artists' colony, this is where they found board and lodging. Even after the artists had settled down here, the "Adler" continued to be a central meeting place. It was the place where they exchanged views and ideas in a convivial and artistic atmosphere and celebrated artists' festivals. The timber framing uncovered in the 1920s was plastered true to the original design when refurbished in 2015.

### 3 RECEPTUR

Today, the late-baroque building complex of the administrative office "Kellerei" can be found on that site, dating back to the times of the Electorate of Mainz around 1710. The coat of arms of the Archbishop of Mainz Franz von Schönborn is visible on the street facade. After 1803, the buildings had accommodated the Nassau office of financial administration "Receptur", and subsequently the national forest administration until 1972. Eventually acquired by the town, refurbished, and opened in 1982 as a municipal cultural centre "Receptur", the building is today home to the registry office and Kronberg Academy.



### 2 WESTERBURG CASTLE

The families of the Lords of Kronberg did not live exclusively at the castle, there are also residential mansions located in the urban area. The archway of the former "Westerburg" castle is still preserved, bearing the date 1570 and the monogram of Wolfgang von Cronberg.



2a Another archway of Westerburg castle is located on Tanzhausstraße.



### 5 SCHIRN

The Schirn, the former market, is the central square of the historic town. The cubit attached to the tower of Johanniskirche church as a unit of measure is still a testimony to the former market place. With its predecessor buildings, the "Grüner Wald" is considered one of

the oldest inns of Kronberg, its cantilever being a visual proof of the craftsmanship of the Kronberg locksmith trade. Due to lack of space a fountain originally located on the Schirn was removed at the end of the 19th century. It had become redundant after the construction of a

water pipe. In 1973, a Schirn fountain was rebuilt for decorative purposes. The sculpture "Feierabend" (Knocking-Off Time) crafted by the Kronberg sculptor Fritz Best (1894–1980) crowns the raised pedestal on the well curb in reminiscence of Kronberg peasant life.



### 6 TANZHAUSSTRASSE

The street Tanzhausstraße derives its name from the town hall and dance hall ("Tanzhaus") destroyed during the city fire of 1792. The fountain at "Tanzhausplätzchen" little square carries water from Quellenpark Kronthal.

### 7 ZEHNTSCHEUNE (TITHE BARN)

In 1552, Hartmut XIII von Kronberg constructed this building for the storage of field crops paid as tax in kind, called the tithe. In 1848, the town bought the building, using it to accommodate the fire brigade until 1962. Today, the Zehntscheune is an event venue. Behind the building part of the town wall is visible. The breakthrough to Hainstraße was not created until 1898.



**8 STREITKIRCHE CHURCH**

"Large tithe barn", Nassauer Hof inn, since 1891 pharmacy and residential building of the Neubronner pharmacist's family until 1978: The building which had initially been a church and ended as "Streitkirche" (conflict church) successively served all these purposes.



According to the provisions of the Peace of Westphalia, Kronberg was a Protestant town, with the services of the Catholic parish being held at the castle chapel. The different denominations were living together in harmony in Kronberg when in 1737 the Archbishop-Elector of Mainz ordered a new church for Catholics to be built in the town. The Protestant parish promised to financially support the construction of a church, and even the proximity of the construction site to Johanniskirche church was initially no problem, either. However, one year later resistance was formed: Several citizens gained influence within the Protestant parish and took action in a manner forcing the Mainz government to react – despite the fact that they were not the official representatives of the Protestant parish, i.e. the pastor or parish council. The protest against what was, in fact, the unlawful new construction of the church, was extended by claims against the alleged religious oppression by the Catholic sovereign. Memorandums and petitions were written to the Diet of Regensburg.

Thereupon Mainz launched an investigation of the situation in Kronberg revealing that the majority of the general public did not support the protest against the construction of the church and the alleged religious oppressions. The construction of the church, however, had become a political issue beyond Kronberg, inducing even the Prussian king to intervene. At the end of 1738, the order was given to demolish the

church, which meanwhile had almost been completed. Conflicts and negotiations concerning the demolition went on for years, the bell tower was demolished in 1765. In 1768, the government of Mainz finally declared the "Streitkirche" church to be a civil building for all times. The arcades were erected when it was rebuilt and turned into an office building in 1978. At present the building is privately owned.



"Perspektivischer Riess derer beiden Kirchen zu Kronberg"

**9 JOHANNISKIRCHE CHURCH**

The predecessor of the present church was Johannes chapel built by the Lords of Kronberg around 1355. After major fires had devastated large parts of the small town of Kronberg in 1437, also affecting the chapel, the Lords of Kronberg set about building a larger church around 1440, the choir of which was constituted by the chapel. At the outside of the bell tower as well as in the arch of the choir room, the coat of arms of Frank IX, also called "the Rich" and his wife Katharina von Isenburg is visible, both of whom made a significant contribution to this construction.



Since that time Johanniskirche church has preserved its outer appearance. High pastor Johann Ludwig Christ initiated the first recorded fundamental alteration to the interior. Under his guidance, the walls and ceilings were whitewashed and a large part of the furnishings of Johanniskirche church removed. Tombstones of the Lords of Kronberg, works of art such as the tracery and the nave's medieval glass windows fell victim to this transformation.

In 1897, Victoria Empress Friedrich initiated the refurbishment of Johanniskirche church, notably the uncovering and restoration of the overpainted works of art: The paintings on the walls of the nave, the paintings on the wooden barrel vault created in 1617 by the master craftsman Johann Friedrich Spangenberg from Frankfurt, and the altar of the Virgin Mary on the south wall of the choir. This altar is considered the most significant piece of art of the church, the painting on the outside of the wings was crafted by a Middle Rhine artist around 1440/50. The choir also features the remarkable tombstone made by Dietrich Schro, with a highly detailed visual representation of Anna von Kronberg who died at the age of two, and the tombstone of Walter von Reifenberg which is considered to be the work of Hans Backofen. The five large funeral monuments of knights and their wives made of grey sandstone in the nave originate from the time around 1500. On the exterior of the church: At

the stairway at the side of the road a lintel is embedded in the wall, discovered during refurbishment in 1965. It displays the coat of arms of one of the constructors of the initial Johannes chapel, Frank VII von Kronberg and his wife Loretta von Reifenberg. The west side of the bell tower displays an epitaph for Victoria Empress Friedrich, who after her death in Kronberg was laid out for the funeral service at Johanniskirche church. The marble relief crafted by Adolf von Hildebrand representing the entombment of Christ and a bronze relief showing the portrait of the Empress was unveiled in 1904 in the presence of her son, the Emperor Wilhelm II.



10 FIRST TOWN WALL

This is where the "Zollpforte" (gate where duty was paid) or "Frankfurter Pforte" (Frankfurt gate), was located, the southern gate to be found in the first town fortification built after 1330. "Hembus House", a visible-timber framed building, was erected on the site of the torn down town wall.



11 "ZUM LÖWEN" HOUSE

Eichenstraße 3 is the site of the oldest half-timbered house of Kronberg, the former inn "Zum Löwen" mentioned as early as 1435.



12 "DREI RITTER" HOUSE



"Drei Ritter" house ("Three Knights"), at the corner of Friedrich-Ebert-Straße and Doppesstraße, one of the still existing triple-zone half-timbered houses in Kronberg, was built by the Lords of Kronberg as a council and court building around 1600. The motto visible along the carving of the panel, "Dein Rat viel zu spat"

("Your advice much too late"), illustrates the Lords' claim to power over their citizens. Not least because of this, the Kronbergers continued to prefer their old town and dance hall. The house was probably named "Drei Ritter" when it came to be used as an inn, which moved to the "Neue Drei Ritter" opposite in 1915.

14 DOPPESTRASSE 7 HOUSE

From 1786 to 1813, high pastor Johann Ludwig Christ lived and worked in the former Protestant pastor's house at Doppesstraße 7.



13 DOPPESTRASSE 5 HOUSE

Beside the entrance of the mansion at Doppesstraße 5, there is a tile displaying the alliance coat of arms of Hartmut XIII and his wife Margarete Brendel von Homburg. Today's building dates back to the 18th century.

15 MUSEUM STADTGESCHICHTE

The Museum of Town History illustrates the town's political and urban development, and the citizens' living conditions as well as the development from the little town in the countryside to the Frankfurt garden suburb.



16 KRONBERG CASTLE

The oldest part of Kronberg Castle is the upper castle **A** built around the second half of the 12th century. The lower castle **B**, built at a later date, was destroyed except for the gatehouse and the castle chapel **C**. The so-called middle castle **D** was erected along with the construction of the "Big House" around 1320. The North wing, today home to the museum, was completed around 1500. Around that time also the castle keep **E** was given its present appearance and height by adding another storey.

Margarete Landgravine of Hesse. In 1911, the so-called Prince's tower **F** was built as the most recent construction, and the castle chapel was re-dedicated in 1912. In the same year the castle was opened to the public as a museum, though only for a few years. In 1992, the town of Kronberg im Taunus acquired the castle from Hessische Hausstiftung (Hessian House Foundation). The castle chapel, destroyed during World War II and only partially reconstructed, remained in their possession as a burial ground of the House of Hesse.



After the lineage of the Lords of Kronberg ceased to exist in 1704, the castle passed into the ownership of the Electoral Mainz. It was the first official residence of the Mainz Senior Civil Servant. Since the Reformation, the castle chapel served as a church for the Catholic parish, the Catholic school being accommodated at "Flügelstammhaus" house from 1781 to 1894. In 1892, the Emperor Wilhelm II donated the crumbling castle to his mother Victoria Empress Friedrich, who had it restored and complemented. After her death the castle passed on to her daughter





17 HELLHOF

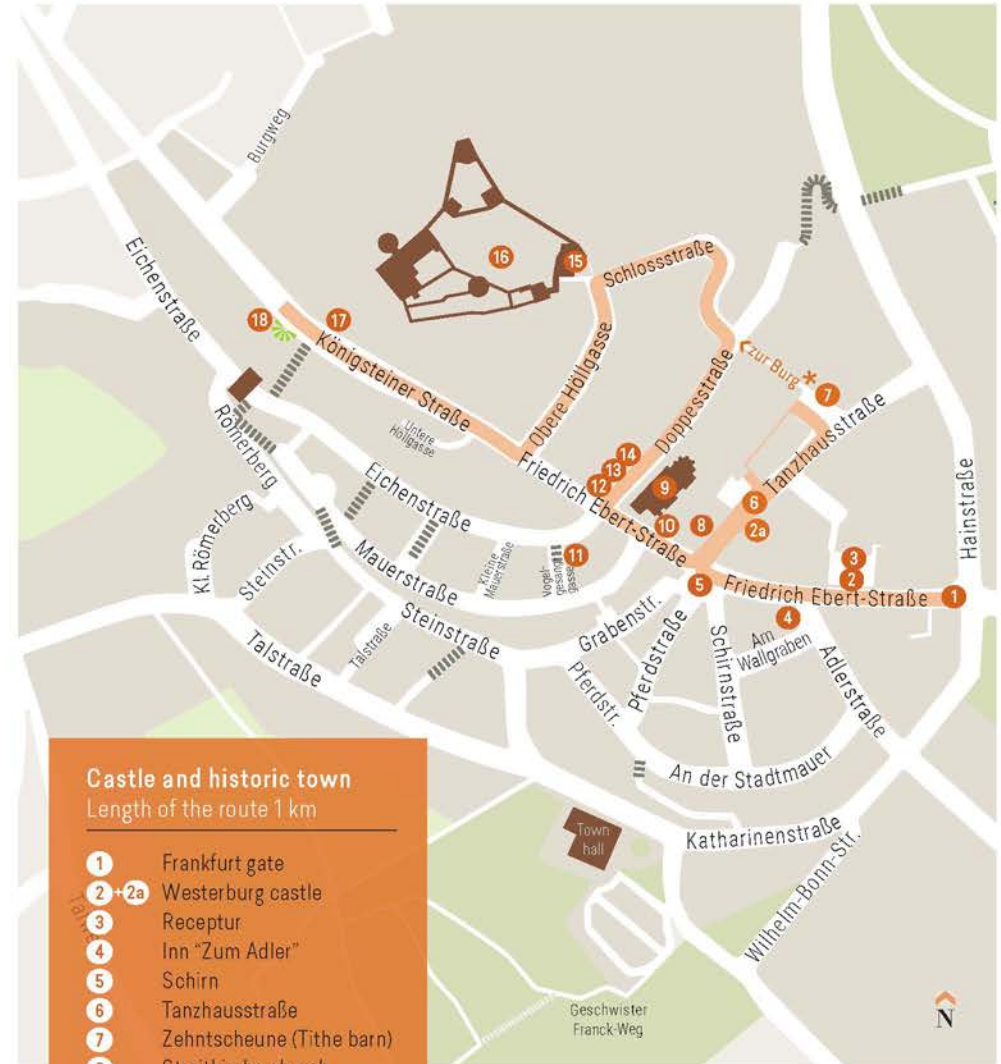


Höllgasse alley is the passage to Hellhof, the remnants of a residential manor and farmyard located in front of the castle with a triple-shell tower. The name of the courtyard and the alley originally terminating at that courtyard originates from the old term of "Hell" describing something "located below". In the middle of the 19th century the Hellhof was partially torn down in order to create a passage and a new connection to the road to Königstein. The original road leading out of town ran through the narrow Eichenstraße and the Eichentor gate. The previous site of the town wall is marked by a red stripe on the pavement.

18 OSTERRIETH HOUSE



Königsteiner Straße 5, was built as the first villa of a "Frankfurter" in Kronberg in 1858. The family's coat of arms is visible above the left entrance door. Setting up a public company specifically for this purpose, the merchant Johann Adam Osterrieth had built a luxury health resort next to the spa facilities of Dr Küster in Sauerbornstal valley. Osterrieth and his public company established and coined the name of Kronthal for the site previously called Sauerbornstal valley.



Castle and historic town  
Length of the route 1 km

- 1 Frankfurt gate
- 2 +2a Westerburg castle
- 3 Receptur
- 4 Inn "Zum Adler"
- 5 Schirn
- 6 Tanzhausstraße
- 7 Zehntscheune (Tithe barn)
- 8 Streitkirche church
- 9 Johanniskirche church
- 10 First town wall
- 11 "Zum Löwen" house
- 12 "Drei Ritter" house
- 13 Dopesstraße 5 house
- 14 Dopesstraße 7 house
- 15 Museum of Town history
- 16 Kronberg Castle
- 17 Hellhof
- 18 Osterrieth house

\* ➤ Straight to the castle? Follow the track that runs behind "Zehntbringer", a sculpture crafted by the sculptor Hermann zur Strassen, leading between the houses directly to Schlossstraße.

# STEPS AND NARROW ALLEYS HISTORIC TOWN AND "THAL" VALLEY

*Traditional houses and street patterns are reminiscent of bygone times.*

**19** SCHUTT-TREPPE STEPS



Originally, the Schutt-Treppe steps were the direct connection between the castle and Eichenstraße and the northern town exit, the Eichentor gate.

**20** EICHENTOR GATE



The Eichentor gate, a triple-shell tower, is part of the first town wall and is the only preserved town gate out of three. Since the end of the 19th century, the half-timbered construction on the town's side has been covered by shuttering panels. Today, house no. 39 stands on a plinth of the outer gate of the original double-door gate construction.

**21** MAUERSTRASSE

From "Römerberg" steps lead up to Mauerstraße, which was built on the first town wall. "Davidsburg" castle built in 1913 is named after the builder's first name. The steps next to the house lead down to the "Thal", i.e. the valley, to Steinstraße, the town's first cobbled street.



**22** SITE OF THE SYNAGOGUE

The synagogue, built in 1703, was located at the corner of Mauerstraße/ Kleine Mauerstraße (called Synagogenstraße until 1935). In 1908, the Jewish parish of Kronberg merged with the parish of Königstein and abandoned the synagogue. The building, which was in a state of disrepair was sold and demolished in 1926. Eichenstraße was a much sought-after place to live for the Jewish citizens, whose population fluctuated over the course of time. A couple of years ago a mikvah was rediscovered at this site.

*You can also choose the following path to the "Thal": Via "Kleiner Römerberg" to Talstraße*



**23** VOGELGESANGASSE

At the end of the 19th century, Vogelgesangasse (Birdsong Alley) was allegedly named after the canary bird breeders living there. A "Brandwinkel", a narrow alley, leads to the next point.

**24** FRITZ BEST PLATZ

The square Fritz Best Platz on Grabenstraße was designed by a private initiative in 1995 and has since been equipped with a portrait bust of the Kronberg artist (5). Fritz Best house with museum: 64



**25** PFERDSTRASSE 5 HOUSE

A typical half-timbered Rhineland house built around 1600. After the major fire destroyed part of Pferdstraße in 1726, this house was presumably bought at demolition value in the Rheingau area and rebuilt in Kronberg.





26 BURCKHARTSTURM TOWER



The street An der Stadtmauer runs along one part of the second town wall, built after 1390 to immure the area then known as the "new town". The Burckhartsturm tower located at house no. 4 served as a prison until the 18th century. In 1821, a residential building was erected on the plinth, and refurbished in 2006. The one-storey building built against the wall served to dry off fruits (Dörrhäuschen) 27.



28 PETER BEYER TOWER



The town wall's "Peter Beyer Tower" is located An der Stadtmauer 6. In 1804, the poet and scholar Johann Isaak von Gerning built a two-storey annex on the base of the tower and called it "Tauninum". Gerning is considered to be mainly responsible for the introduction of the name of "Taunus", discovered in the works of Tacitus, for the entire mountain range that was until then simply known as "die Höhe" (the hill).

29 SPITAL (HOSPITAL)



This three-zone half-timbered house is quite as impressive as is "Drei Ritter" 12: "Spital", a building erected in 1609 by the Lords of Kronberg, to be used by their hospital foundation first mentioned in records in 1436. It served as a poorhouse and an old people's home for the destitute. "Hospitalstiftung der Evangelischen Kirche zu Cronberg" (hospital foundation of the Protestant church in Cronberg) is responsible for the management of the building, which offers council housing and was refurbished in 2006. It is the oldest ecclesiastical foundation of Hesse.

- Historic town and "Thal" valley  
Length of the route about 1 km
- 19 Schutt-Treppe steps
  - 20 Eichentor gate
  - 21 Mauerstraße
  - 22 Site of the synagogue
  - 23 Vogelgesanggasse
  - 24 Fritz Best Platz
  - 25 Pferdstraße 5 house
  - 26 Burckhartsturm tower
  - 27 Dörrhäuschen
  - 28 Peter Beyer Tower
  - 29 Spital (Hospital)



➔ Zwingerweg is a beautiful path through Rentbachtal valley, to the Kronberg orchards and to Quellenpark Kronthal. Length of the route about 1.2 kilometres, the walk takes about 20 minutes.



# AROUND BERLINER PLATZ

*The modern town of Kronberg, at the same time conscious of its tradition, is located outside the walls of the old town.*



### 30 VILLA BONN / TOWN HALL

Villa Bonn is one of the villas characteristic of Kronberg and Schönberg, dating back to the penultimate turn of the century. Since the 1860s the Bonn family owned a country estate in Kronberg, where the widely ramified Frankfurt banking family spent their summers. Wilhelm Bonn erected the present building in 1901. He died in Kronberg in 1910, and as the entire family felt a strong affinity towards England, his son sold the estate in 1922 to the town, which has used it ever since as the town hall. In 1942, Wilhelm Bonn's daughter Emma died at Theresienstadt concentration camp ("Stolperstein" [or "stumbling stone", a cobblestone-sized brass] memorial

in front of the entrance). His nephew, the famous political economist Professor Moritz Bonn, was forced to emigrate to England in 1933. In accordance with his wish, in 1965 his urn was buried in the wall beside the entrance.

### 31 MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS

In 1983, a memorial located in the town hall garden was erected to commemorate the victims who died as a result of racial persecution during the National Socialist era. A Taunus boulder originating from a site close to the former Jewish cemetery, selected and crafted by the sculptor Hermann zur Strassen, displays the memorial plaque.

### 32 VATICAN MISSION

A memorial plaque located on the wall of the Catholic church commemorates the residence of the Vatican's representative in the defeated Germany, who from 1945 to 1951 stayed at the villa of the tea factory owner Grosch after its confiscation by the occupying forces. Demonstrating a commitment far beyond his original task to take care of "displaced persons", the American bishop Alois Münch also exercised his influence to the benefit of German citizens. After the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany, he was appointed Pontifical Ambassador based in Bonn, and the transitional institution in Kronberg was closed down.



### 33 ST PETER UND PAUL

The Catholic parish church St Peter and Paul was designed by the architect Max Meckel in the neo-gothic style and completed in 1877. Until then, the parish had held church services at the castle. The unique work of art displayed at the church is a late gothic altar of the Virgin Mary crafted by a Franconian master around 1500.

### 34 PASTOR CHRIST MONUMENT



A historic monument in honour of Johann Ludwig Christ, the Protestant high pastor, pomologist and natural scientist who worked in Kronberg from 1786 to 1813 and who as an expert of orchards played a significant role in developing Kronberg's fruit growing industry. The monument was erected in 1885 by the orcharding and horticultural club on the former grounds of Christ's nurseries.

### 35 MUSEUM KRONBERGER MALERKOLONIE

The Kronberg Artists' Colony Museum located in the former home of the painter Heinrich Winter displays works by painters of the artists' colony founded in Kronberg around the middle of the 19th century. Painters of Frankfurt discovered their idyllic Taunus scenes here, the landscape and the picturesque motifs of Kronberg everyday life. At about 1860 the first painters took up permanent residence in Kronberg: Anton Burger and Jakob Fürchtegott Dielmann. Over the years 60 artists were members of the colony, including Wilhelm

Trübner, Hans Thoma, and Philipp Franck. The deaths of Nelson G. Kinsley in 1945 and Fritz Wucherer in 1948 marked the end of the Kronberg Artists' Colony history.



*F. Wucherer, Kronberg vom Thalerfeld aus*

### 36 BERLIN WALL



In 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, three segments of the Berlin Wall originally taken from Potsdamer Platz square and donated to the town were erected on Berliner Platz square. As a token of solidarity with the Cold War's frontline city, the square had been named Berliner Platz in March 1961.

### 37 CIVIC CENTRE



The civic centre's unique eye-catcher is the exceptional design of the wood-panelled banquet hall. In former times it had been the dining hall of the Falkenstein sanatorium for patients suffering from con-

sumption, which the town had bought for demolition and reconstructed as a gym at this site in 1906. In 1992, the "gym" was extended by annexes and an underground car park to build a civic centre.



**38 TWINNING FOUNTAIN**

The twinning fountain created by Gernot Rumpf displays the heraldic animals of the four twinning towns of the town of Kronberg im Taunus: Dolphins stand for Le Lavandou on the Côte d'Azur, the dragon for Aberystwyth in Wales, the lions for the Italian city of Porto Recanati, and the bears for the twinning alliance with the town of Ballenstedt in the Harz area, still established during the GDR era. The grapes symbolise the partnership with the wine-growing municipality of Gul-dental on the river Nahe.

**39 SCHOOL GARDEN**

The small park was laid out around 1890, when the school, which no longer exists, was erected on the southwest side. Of the trees planted at the suggestion of the Empress, only a mammoth tree and a pyramid-shaped oak have survived. The statue of the knight Hartmut XII **40**, created by Eduard Schmidt von der Launitz, is a donation by the Empress to the school garden. Originally it was located by the villa that was later torn down for the construction of Friedrichshof Castle. The historic monument was given its present location when in 2006 the area



was reused for building development. Near the mammoth tree on the path leading to Berliner Platz, a fountain carries drinking water from Kronthal springs.

**41 ROSTROPOVICH STELE**

Historic monument in honour of Mstislav Rostropovich erected by the Kronberg Academy. It was unveiled on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of his death on 27th April 2008 to commemorate to the cellist who had declared Kronberg "The world capital of the cello".

**42 OLD CEMETERY**

In 1896 the "Old cemetery" was partly removed to make way for the construction of Hartmutstraße. Some of the graveyard monuments were preserved, including that of Kaspar II von Kronberg who died in 1573.



**43 FRANKFURTER STRASSE CEMETERY**

At Frankfurter Straße cemetery, a panel displaying a site plan points out the tombs of historical personalities buried there, such as Benno Reifenberg and Friedrich Stampfer, as well as honorary citizens and painters of Kronberg artists' colony, including Anton Burger and Adolf Schreyer.

**44 BRAUNCOLLECTION**

After having established a separate design department in 1956, the Braun company developed a pioneering characteristic product design which is shaped by a high level of aesthetic quality as well as functionality. The permanent exhibition Braun-Sammlung ("BraunCollection"), presents the development of design in all product segments.



**Around Berliner Platz**  
Length of the route 1.5 km (except BraunCollection plus 1.4 km)

<b>30</b> Villa Bonn /Town hall	<b>37</b> Civic center
<b>31</b> Memorial to victims	<b>38</b> Twinning fountain
<b>32</b> Vatican mission	<b>39</b> School garden
<b>33</b> St Peter und Paul	<b>40</b> Statue Hartmut XII
<b>34</b> Pastor Christ monument	<b>41</b> Rostropovich stele
<b>35</b> Museum Kronberger Malerkolonie	<b>42</b> Old cemetery
<b>36</b> Berlin Wall	<b>43</b> Frankfurter Strasse cemetery
	<b>44</b> BraunCollection

➤ A beautiful walk leads from the Pastor Christ historic monument along Ludwig-Christ-Straße and Geiersbergweg to the Pastor Christ orchard meadow **61**. The route is about 1.1 kilometres long, the walk takes about 15 minutes.

# THROUGH VICTORIA PARK TO THE WIDER SURROUNDINGS

*Along the splendour of imperial times and noble villas in Schönberg until reaching vibrant Oberhöchstadt.*



**45 SCHILLER POND**

The name of Schiller Pond built in 1906 was derived from its location on Schillerstraße.

**46 ANTON BURGER FOUNTAIN**



The fountain was installed in 1908 at the request of the Frankfurt-Kronberger Künstlerbund (Association of Frankfurt and Kronberg's artists) as a memorial to the co-founder of the artists' colony, Anton Burger.

**47 BLEICHWEIHER**



The linen washed at a washhouse until the 1920s was laid out for bleaching on the meadows next to the "bleaching pond" which existed already prior to creation of the park.

Today's Victoria Park was designed as a scenic setting for the historic monument of Emperor Friedrich III, which was the central reference point of the park's design, and even the Empress herself was involved in the project. After World War II, the "Emperor Friedrich's Historical Monument Park" was renamed Stadtpark (Town Park), on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Victoria Empress Friedrich's death it was renamed Victoria Park.

**48 MONUMENT TO CASALS**

"Stretching towards the sky—Homage to Pablo Casals" by Walter Schembs, donation to Kronberg Academy.

**49 PFINGSTBÖRNCHEN**



Legend has it that the stork delivers Kronberg's babies out of Pfingstbörnchen spring.

**50 VILLA SCHRÖDL**



The Villa on Hainstraße 18 was the painter Norbert Schrödl's domicile, who was much appreciated as a portraitist in court circles and by public figures and who was a member of the artists' colony. Victoria Empress Friedrich, who had already got to know Schrödl in Berlin, was a frequent guest in his studio and took classes with him.

**51 MEMORIAL STONE "1813-1913"**

The stone commemorates the centenary of the Battle of Leipzig.

**52 STÄNDERSCHALE**

This is a pillar with a bowl which originates from the park of the former Kronberg Villa Guaita and is dedicated to the memory of Mathilde von Guaita, a Frankfurt patron.



**53 MONUMENT TO THE EMPEROR**

The historic monument to Friedrich III, a recast of the historic monument by Joseph Uphues in Wiesbaden, was solemnly unveiled by Emperor Wilhelm II in 1902. The site, which is only partially preserved, was designed by Ernst Eberhard von Ihne.



**54 SCHLOSSHOTEL (CASTLE HOTEL) KRONBERG/ FRIEDRICHSHOF CASTLE**



In 1858, Victoria Princess Royal, the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, married Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia. He died in 1888, in the year of his accession to the throne, as Emperor Friedrich III. His dowager Victoria Empress Friedrich had Friedrichshof Castle built, where she lived from 1894 until her death in 1901. She was an accomplished painter and demonstrated a professional knowledge and interest in the arts and culture. Thinking in terms of progress and social commitment, she made a point of promoting women's education and social issues. Among others, she instigated the construction

of the new school building **56** in Schönberg. In Kronberg, she sponsored the founding of a public library and the erection of a hospital subsequently named after her. After the death of Empress Friedrich the Castle, built from 1888-94 according to plans of the architect Eberhard von Ihne, passed on to her daughter Margarete, married Princess of Hesse. After World War II, the building was used by U.S. occupation forces as an officers' club. Since 1954 it has been operated by Hessische Hausstiftung (Hessian House Foundation) as the Schlosshotel (Castle Hotel) Kronberg. Parts of the castle garden are open to the public.



**55 ST ALBAN**

The impressive Rococo church was built from 1763–66 upon the foundation walls of a predecessor church. The church windows were financed by collections and donations and bear the names of donors, many of

whom had their summer residences in Schönberg. The church's Lady Altar once belonged to the Empress and was formerly part of the castle chapel.



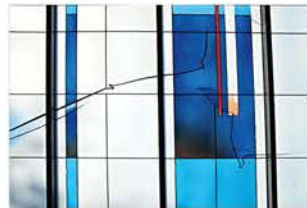
**58 RICARDA HUCH PLAQUE**

At Parkstraße 7/9 there is a commemorative plaque in honour of the writer and historian Ricarda Huch who died in 1947 after having spent several days at the guest house of the city of Frankfurt, which has meanwhile been taken down.

**56 VICTORIA SCHOOL**



**57 SCHREITER WINDOW**



A unique sacral atmosphere is achieved by the leaded window designed by stained glass artist professor Johannes Schreiter (\*1930) for the Protestant parish Evangelische Markusgemeinde, creating a visual link between the prayer room and an extension room.

**59 DALLES FOUNTAIN**

Donated by the town of Kronberg im Taunus as a gift on the occasion of the 1200th anniversary of Oberhöchstadt's first official record in the year 782.



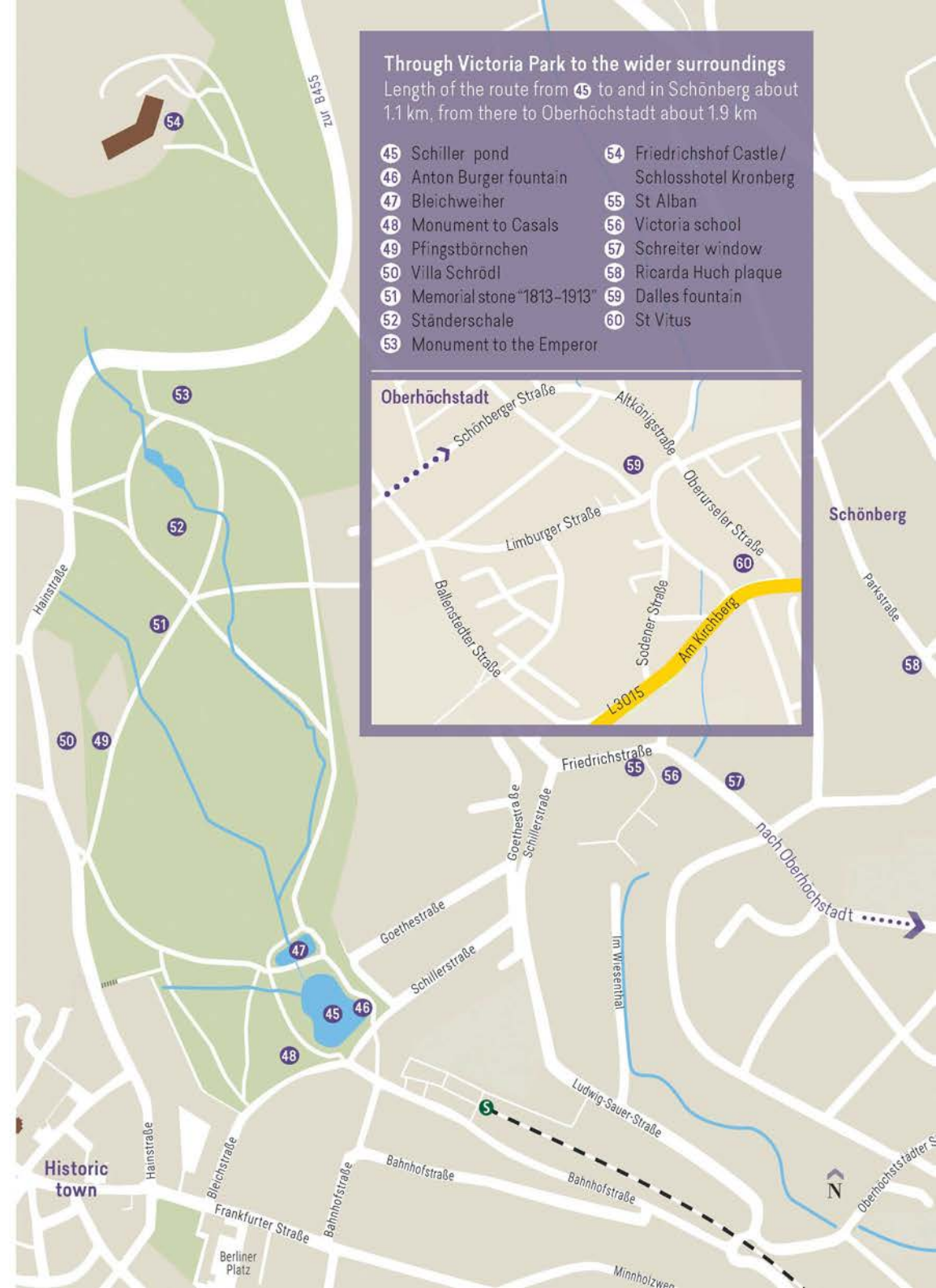
**60 ST VITUS**

The original church was built in 1722/23 under Prince Bishop Lothar Franz von Schönborn. Today it constitutes the choir room and sacristy of St Vitus church, which was extended in 1962. The probably most important sculpture in the parish church is "Madonna and Child" crafted by the Frankfurt sculptor Cornelius Andreas Donett (1682–1748).

**Through Victoria Park to the wider surroundings**

Length of the route from 45 to and in Schönberg about 1.1 km, from there to Oberhöchstadt about 1.9 km

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 45 Schiller pond              | 54 Friedrichshof Castle/ Schlosshotel Kronberg |
| 46 Anton Burger fountain      | 55 St Alban                                    |
| 47 Bleichweiher               | 56 Victoria school                             |
| 48 Monument to Casals         | 57 Schreiter window                            |
| 49 Pflingstbörnchen           | 58 Ricarda Huch plaque                         |
| 50 Villa Schrödl              | 59 Dalles fountain                             |
| 51 Memorial stone "1813-1913" | 60 St Vitus                                    |
| 52 Ständerschale              |  |
| 53 Monument to the Emperor    |  |



# PARKS AND NATURE

## ALONG THE REGIONAL PARK ROUTE

*Traditional paths leading to the Kronberg orchards are points of departure for this extensive route. In the event of inclement weather, sturdy shoes are recommended.*

**61 PASTOR CHRIST CIRCULAR PATH**



The Pastor Christ meadow orchard is located close to Kronthal. It was designed as a memorial to the Protestant high pastor Johann Ludwig Christ who lived here from 1786 until his death in 1813 and who made Kronberg a centre of fruit growing. A nature trail runs between old mirabelle plum trees and newly planted historical fruit varieties, with information panels describing milestones in the life of Pastor Christ and his manifold activities. A wild fruit path links them to the "experiential learning meadow orchard".

**62 EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MEADOW ORCHARD**

This meadow orchard was laid out by the orcharding and horticultural club. With its various information and experiential learning stations it provides a wealth of facts on traditional fruit growing in Kronberg and its ecosystem. The site provides information on topics relating to local wildlife, and all the 40 varieties of fruits planted on the meadow are labelled.

**63 QUELLENPARK KRONTHAL**



A spring spouting acidulous mineral water was first mentioned in Sauerbornstal valley in 1568. The valley was commercially developed when medical officer Dr Ferdinand Küster (re-)discovered the healing effect of the springs **Q**. It was Dr Küster who had the first springs enclosed and set up small spa facilities in 1823. He met with competi-



tion from the Frankfurt merchant Johann Adam Osterrieth who in 1835 built a luxury spa and bath house, which however shut down soon afterwards for lack of spring water. It was located above the present boules pitch laid out on the former terrace **B** of the house. Even though Küster's spa facilities prospered for several years, a "Kronthal Health Retreat" could not be established on a permanent basis in view of regional competitors who offered easier access and a wider range of recreational distractions. Today, the former Küster's spa house is part of Seniorenstift (retirement home) Kronthal. Thanks to Osterrieth who coined the name of "Kronthal", the park was designed as an English landscape garden, reconstructed by the Rhine-Main regional park in recent years.

**64 FRITZ BEST HOUSE**  
With Fritz Best museum **5** and **24**

**65 KASTANEUM**

The "Kastaneum" on Scheibelbuschweg features a chestnut grove reconstructed according to historical records. Gaps between the original rows of trees were filled with wooden columns displaying information and recipes. Wooden deckchairs and open views to the castle and the town add to the tranquil atmosphere.



**66 OPEL ZOO**



Georg von Opel open-air enclosure for animal research – the Opel Zoo houses about 1600 animals and more than 230 species, including the only elephants in Hesse. In the African Savannah enclosure giraffes, gnus, zebras and impalas can be observed living in common ground

husbandry. Yet a special attraction is to watch the African penguins "flying underwater". Nature trails, educational offers related to the zoo, a petting zoo, and also a large playground make the Opel Zoo one of the most frequently visited leisure, educational and cultural centres of Hesse.

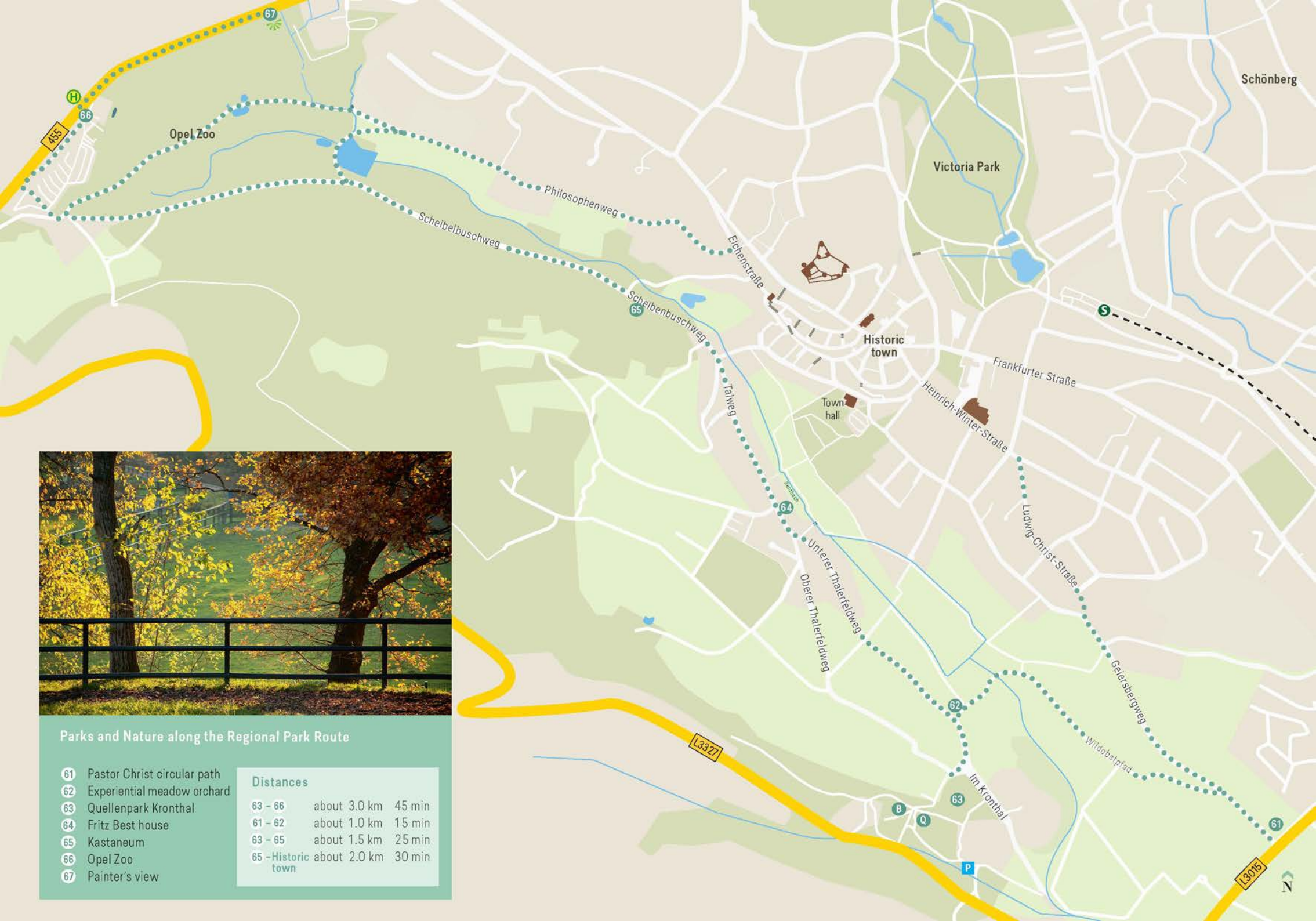


*Alfred von Schönberger, Blick auf Kronberg*

**67 PAINTER'S VIEW**

The fascinating "Painter's View" derives its name from the many paintings created over the decades by

Kronberg artists' colony painters from that viewpoint to the Rhine-Main plain.



### Parks and Nature along the Regional Park Route

- 61 Pastor Christ circular path
- 62 Experiential meadow orchard
- 63 Quellenpark Kronthal
- 64 Fritz Best house
- 65 Kastaneum
- 66 Opel Zoo
- 67 Painter's view

#### Distances

63 - 66	about 3.0 km	45 min
61 - 62	about 1.0 km	15 min
63 - 65	about 1.5 km	25 min
65 - Historic town	about 2.0 km	30 min

# SIGHTS OVERVIEW

## ROUTE 1 > (S.06)

### CASTLE AND HISTORIC TOWN

- 01 Frankfurt gate
- 02 Westerburg castle
- 03 Receptur
- 04 Inn "Zum Adler"
- 05 Schirn
- 06 Tanzhausstraße
- 07 Zehntscheune (Tithe barn)
- 08 Streitkirche church
- 09 Johanniskirche church
- 10 First town wall
- 11 "Zum Löwen" house
- 12 "Drei Ritter" house
- 13 Doppesstraße 5 house
- 14 Doppesstraße 7 house
- 15 Museum of Town history
- 16 Kronberg Castle
- 17 Hellhof
- 18 Osterieth house

## ROUTE 2 > (S.14)

### HISTORIC TOWN AND "THAL" VALLEY

- 19 Schutt-Treppe steps
- 20 Eichentor gate
- 21 Mauerstraße
- 22 Site of the synagogue
- 23 Vogelgesangasse
- 24 Fritz Best Platz

- 25 Pferdstraße 5 house

- 26 Burckhartsturm tower

- 27 Dörrhäuschen

- 28 Peter Beyer tower

- 29 Spital (Hospital)

## ROUTE 3 > (S.18)

### AROUND BERLINER PLATZ

- 30 Villa Bonn /Town hall

- 31 Memorial to victims

- 32 Vatican mission

- 33 St Peter and Paul

- 34 Pastor Christ monument

- 35 Museum Kronberger Malerkolonie

- 36 Berlin Wall

- 37 Civic center

- 38 Twinning fountain

- 39 School garden

- 40 Statue Hartmut XII

- 41 Rostropovich stele

- 42 Old cemetery

- 43 Frankfurter Straße cemetery

- 44 BraunCollection

## ROUTE 4 > (S.22)

### THROUGH VICTORIA PARK TO THE WIDER SURROUNDINGS

- 45 Schiller pond

- 46 Anton Burger fountain

- 47 Bleichweiher

- 48 Monument to Casals

- 49 Pflingstbörnchen

- 50 Villa Schrödl

- 51 Memorial stone "1813-1913"

- 52 Ständerschale

- 53 Monument to the Emperor

- 54 Friedrichshof Castle  
Schlosshotel Kronberg

- 55 St Alban

- 56 Victoria school

- 57 Schreiter window

- 58 Ricarda Huch plaque

- 59 Dalles fountain

- 60 St Vitus

## ROUTE 5 > (S.26)

### PARKS AND NATURE ALONG THE REGIONAL PARK ROUTE

- 61 Pastor Christ circular path

- 62 Experiential learning meadow  
orchard

- 63 Quellenpark Kronthal

- 64 Fritz Best house with museum

- 65 Kastaneum

- 66 Opel Zoo

- 67 Painter's view

#### Websites of museums:

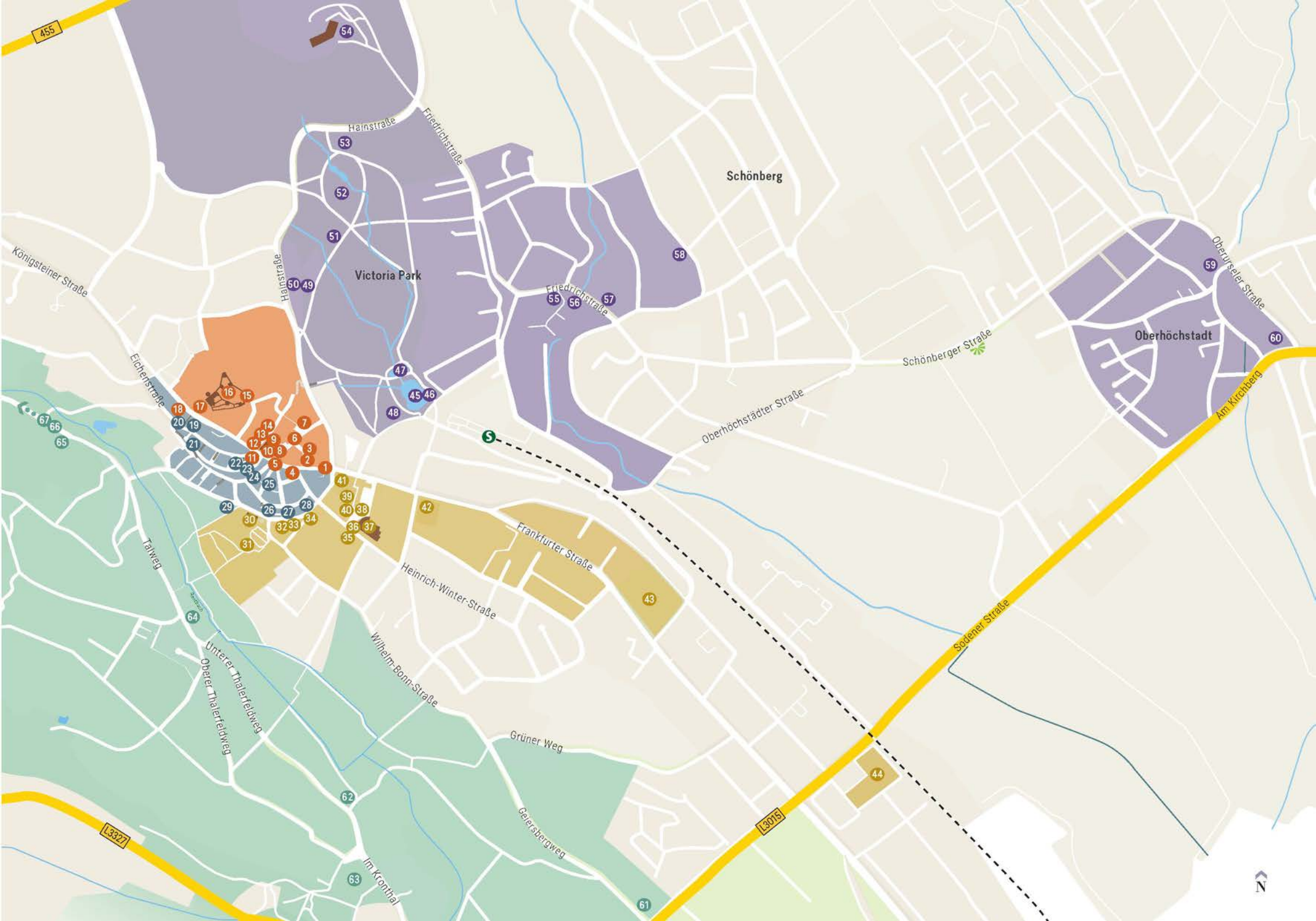
[www.burgkronberg.de](http://www.burgkronberg.de)

[www.kronberger-malerkolonie.com](http://www.kronberger-malerkolonie.com)

[www.foerderkreis-braunsammlung.de](http://www.foerderkreis-braunsammlung.de)







Schönberg

Victoria Park

Oberhöchstadt

S





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