



Montabaur
• Points of Interest •
A Short Town Walk

Welcome to Montabaur.



Tradition and Innovation.

Two concepts which define Montabaur. On one hand, the romantic old town with its half-timbered buildings, narrow streets, the old town wall and the castle. On the other, the modern architecture of the ICE-Centre, which reflects Montabaur's prime location as an innovative commercial centre.

Montabaur, the centre of the Southern Westerwald region, has much to offer. Discover its diversity.

Discover Montabaur.

Facts

- The town walk is just over a mile (1.95 km) – half a mile longer on the alternative route – and will take roughly an hour.
- The route is marked on the map in the middle of this brochure. The best place to start is at the Tourist Information office in Großer Markt 12.
- At various points along the route there are plaques, providing further information about the sites.
- The route is easily accessible, apart from the climb up the cobbled road to the castle. There is however an alternative (cf. Point 13).
- Further information is available from the Tourist Information office, where you can also book a variety of guided walks.

Town History.



959

The first mention of Montabaur was in a document of 959, where it was referred to as Humbach. At that time Humbach was the residence of Count Hermann in Engersgau, later Duke of Swabia. The document, which today is in the state archive in Koblenz, records that Archbishop

Henry of Trier consecrated the first church in Montabaur to be built on stone foundations.

1018

Humbach along with the Florinstift monastery in Koblenz was transferred to the Archbishopric of Trier.

1227

Archbishop Dietrich II of Wied (1212–1242) extended the fort of “Humbach” in 1227 with a defence tower in order to protect the castle against attacks from the Count of Nassau. He called the castle “Mons Tabor”, after Mount Tabor, which he knew from his crusade in the Holy Land: Hence the town’s present name.

1291

After Montabaur was granted a town charter by King Rudolf von Habsburg, it soon became an important trading centre for the Westerwald. Trade prospered due to a privilege granted by the German Emperor which guaranteed exemption from taxes and duties between Cologne, Wetzlar, Frankfurt and Mainz.

1491, 1534, 1667

In these years large parts of the town were destroyed in the three great fires, which led to severe economic setbacks. The town was also cursed by plague and war and suffered enormously during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648).

1794

The French Revolution put an end to the Electoral Principality of Trier, which, despite retaining a small territory on the right bank of the Rhine, was now devoid of all political significance. As a result of electoral reforms, Archbishop Wenceslaus of Trier was forced to relinquish his remaining territory to the Duchy of Nassau.

1866/67

As an ally of Austria, Duke Adolf of Nassau lost his Duchy to Prussia. Henceforth it became the Administrative District of Wiesbaden within the Province of Hesse-Nassau. A decree of 1867 divided this district into twelve regions. The Westerwald region was made up of the departments of Selters Montabaur and Walmerod, with the town of Montabaur as the seat of the regional administration.

1945/46

Following American and French occupation, the Allies took over the entire administration of the former territory of Nassau.

On 2nd January 1946 the Province of Rhineland-Hesse-Nassau was founded, with Koblenz as the seat of the regional government. The four districts of Diez, St. Goarshausen, Montabaur and Westerburg formed the District of Montabaur, consisting of 385 boroughs and municipalities.

1968

On 1st October 1968, following administrative reforms, the District of Montabaur was dissolved and merged with the District of Koblenz.

1972

April 1972 saw the merging of 24 parishes and villages into the Municipality of Montabaur.



1

Konrad-Adenauer-Platz (Konrad-Adenauer Square)

Over the years this modern square in the heart of the town has been used for a variety of purposes, ranging from monastery garden to fairground. Today it is the site of the weekly markets. Next to the Town Hall annex there are shops, banks, restaurants and cafés.



Sauerbrunnen (Drinking Fountain)

The Lion's head is a reminder of the original role of Montabaur as a seat of justice. The water in the fountain is drinkable but has a sour taste because of the high content of carbonic acid (2.000 mg/l) and iron. The water is very healthy and particularly effective in the treatment of a variety of ailments.

Schusterjunge (Cobbler's Lad)

The figure on the front of the building opposite the Town Hall annex is doing what many citizens would like to do: on every quarter hour he taps his forehead in the direction of the Town Hall, the German way of suggesting they are not quite right in the head. The cobbler's lad is a reminder of Montabaur's shoe-making tradition.

2



Marktbrunnen (Market Fountain)

The present Market Fountain was erected in 1989. On the central pillar the 13 town gates and the symbols of the 13 mediaeval guilds are depicted. There is also an outline of the history of the town. The engravings on the fountain wall depict the town crest along with those of the neighbouring boroughs. The original well was situated opposite, in front of the town hall.



3

Großer Markt (Great Market Square)

The town of Montabaur has always held a strategic position on the main trade routes. With the granting of a town charter in 1291 Montabaur also gained the right to hold markets. Thus a foundation was laid for the development of the town as the centre of the whole region. Nowadays several themed annual markets shape the town's image.



Altes Rathaus (Old Town Hall)

This imposing neo-Gothic redbrick building was built in 1866/67. It is the third Town-Hall on this site. The town hall is also referred to as the Red Lion because in the Middle Ages, when judicial proceedings were held here, the lion was a symbol of jurisdictional power, while the red symbolised justice. Today it houses the mayor's office.



Haus Melchior (Melchior House)

For many years (from 1589) this building was an important inn. In the middle of the 18th century an internal family feud ended in a case of manslaughter. Thereupon – on the order of the prince – the building was split into two, as you can tell from the double gable and the dividing wall on the ground floor. The loft was probably used to store the town's salt reserves. The Prince Bishops of Trier, under whose tutelage Montabaur stood, held a state monopoly on the salt trade.

TIP: Stop at one of the cafés or restaurants in the Großer Markt, relax and take in the historical setting.



4

Kirchstraße (Church Street)

The Kirchstraße is dominated by the half-timbered houses of the old patrician families. The timbered frames are typical of streets in the lower part of the central Rhineland. Most of the houses here, like those in the Großer Markt and Kleiner Markt, date back to the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century.

Kirchstraße 1 (1 Church Street)

The small half-timbered house on the left is thought to be the oldest in the town. A wooden beam bearing the date 1570 was found during renovation works.



Kirchstraße 16 (16 Church Street)

The inscription above the baroque doorway was put there in 1886 by Peter Jung as a kind of advert for his shop. From 1678 to 1780 the house belonged to a family of local aristocrats, the von Steins, who did not live in the house themselves but rented it out to important officials.

TIP: The Färberbachstraße (on the right) is worth a look. Number 4 has been lovingly restored and is now part of a hotel. A good place to stay in a mediaeval setting.

Katholische Pfarrkirche St. Peter in Ketten

(RC Parish Church St. Peter in Ketten)

This is the oldest church in the lower Westerwald region. The first wooden structure of 940 was replaced in 959 by a second church on stone foundations, dedicated to Saint George and Saint Peter. Building on the present church was started at the end of the 12th century and completed in the middle of the 14th century. Later on it was repeatedly refurbished and rebuilt as a result of fires and structural damage. The last complete refurbishment was in 2003.

TIP: In the church porch there are leaflets which provide detailed information on the architecture and history of the church.

5



6

Denkmal Joseph Kehrein Joseph Kehrein Monument)

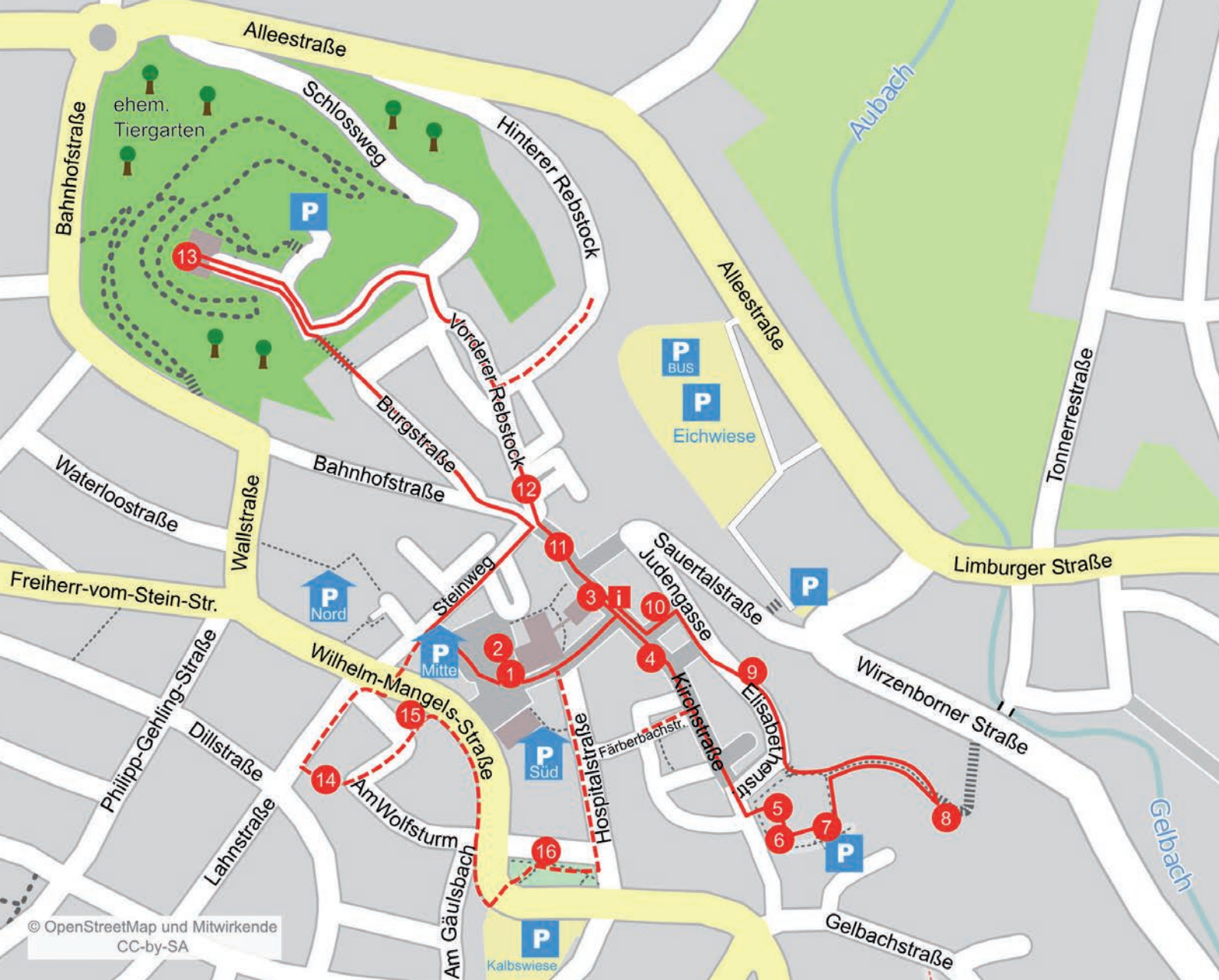
The scholar and educationalist Joseph Kehrein, who had a decisive influence on Montabaur's education system was made a freeman of the town in 1874. He came to Montabaur in 1855 as Dean of the Catholic Teacher Training College and immediately embarked on an extensive programme of education in Montabaur. To this day Montabaur remains an important centre of learning for the whole region.



TIP: Next to the bust there is an engraved map of the old school campus.

Immediately behind the monument there is a tactile scale model of Montabaur in the Middle Ages.





© OpenStreetMap und Mitwirkende
CC-by-SA

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Konrad-Adenauer Square | 5 RC Parish Church
St. Peter in Ketten | 9 Jews' Alley | 13 The Castle |
| 2 Cobbler's Lad | 6 Joseph Kehrein Monument | 10 Recruiters' Alley | 14 The Wolf Tower |
| 3 Great Market Square | 7 Chapel of St Anne | 11 Small Market Square | 15 Burgundy Garden |
| 4 Church Street | 8 Town Wall Tower | 12 The Grapevine | 16 Town Wall |

**7**

Chapel of St Anne (Waggoner's chapel)

The former cemetery chapel is in the group of half-timbered buildings next to the church. Also known as the Waggoner's chapel, it was first mentioned in 1439. The other buildings here, which include the former rectory, were for a time used as a school for boys.

Stadtmauerturm Schiffchen (Town Wall Tower)

Remains of the old town wall can still be seen in the Judengasse. Apart from its military function, the tower was also used as a jail for people who had committed minor offences.

TIP: From here you have a fantastic view of the Sauerthal, which was for centuries the main road in and out of Montabaur.



Stadtmauerturm (Town Wall Tower)

The "Gebück" – the slope behind the church – was the impregnable hedge of thorns and brambles, which along with the tower, often referred to as the Swedes' Tower, was the first line of the town's defence fortifications. The tower originally jutted out five feet from the edge of the precipice, delicately poised over the sheer drop to the Sauerthal below.

8

Werbhausgasse (Recruiters' Alley)

The "Zum Heiligen Geist" Inn was first mentioned in 1476. Later in the 18th century, when officers and nobles wishing to enlist soldiers for their regiments stayed there, it became known as the Werbehaus: "Werben" means to recruit, hence the name of the alley.

10

» Your route will now take you through the Werbhausgasse to the Kirchstraße and on to the Großer Markt, which you crossed at the beginning of the tour.

9

Judengasse (Jews' Alley)

The Jews of Montabaur lived in this street in the Middle Ages. They left when Jews were expelled from the Archbishopric of Trier between 1414–1420. Jewish people later returned and settled around the Vorderer- und Hinterer Rebstock.

**11**

Kleiner Markt (Small Market Square)

This is where the daily dairy market was held in the Middle Ages. It is nicknamed the Trichter (filter funnel), as it is so narrow because of the overhanging upper floor of the half-timbered building. The date on the facade is 1682. The slate facades, typical of the region, are always found on the weather side of the building.





12

Rebstock (The Grapevine)

There is some evidence that Montabaur had its own vineyard at the foot of Humbach Castle, which is one explanation for the name of this part of the town (Rebstock=vine). Up to the time of the Nazi persecution many Jews lived in the Vorderer- und Hinterer Rebstock. They were often merchants or cattle traders. Vorderer Rebstock 26 housed the congregation's prayer room until 1889 when a synagogue was built in the Wallstraße.

TIP: Step into the "Hinterer Rebstock". Some of the old houses there are decorated with beautiful carvings, paintings and inscriptions.



13

Schloss (The Castle)

The yellow castle is Montabaur's most famous landmark and its impressive skyline and unusual colour make it immediately recognisable. The present baroque castle was built between 1687 and 1709. Since 1969 it has belonged to the German Cooperative Bank Academy (ADG) and now houses a congress and conference centre as well as the ADG business school.

» If you can't manage the steps, return to Kleinen Markt Wolfsturm

TIP: If you have a little time, it's worth making a small detour to the Wolfsturm: however the last part is quite steep. So if you want to look at Burgunderplatz and the old town wall on the way back, it will take an extra 15 minutes.

Wolfsturm (The Wolf Tower)

The Wolfsturm was probably built in the mid-14th century and is the largest tower in the old town fortifications with a height of 20 metres (66 feet). For many years this two-storey tower was used as a prison. From 1628–31 men, women and children were imprisoned here and tried for witchcraft.

» There is no public access to the interior

14



15

Burgunderplatz (Burgundy Garden)

Montabaur is twinned with Tonnerre in Burgundy. The bronze sculpture combines the skylines of the two towns, thus symbolising their multi-faceted, long-standing bonds.



16

Stadtmauer (Town Wall)

Part of the old wall can still be seen in the heart of Montabaur. In summer the small public garden with the "Frog fountain" is ideal for relaxing or a game of bowls. The garden and the wall are also used for exhibitions and installations by local artists.



Experience and discover Montabaur.

More to see: Montabaur also has

- weekly markets offering fresh regional produce held on Thursdays and Saturdays in the Konrad-Adenauer-Platz

More to do: Art and Culture

- the sculpture trail in Reckenthal: walk in the fresh air and admire the 42 wooden installations along the way
- the Pilgrimage Church in Wirzenborn (Gelbachtal)
- the Motorbike Museum in Wirzenborn
- concerts, plays, exhibitions, variety, readings, markets, festivals: are all listed and updated in our events guide – available at the Tourist Information Office or online

Montabaur and Sport: Sport and Recreation (Facilities)

- Quendelberg Recreation Park: a large adventure playground offering sports facilities for children of all ages (table-tennis water playground, trampoline, climbing frame, zip wire) and an 18-hole crazy golf course.
- Mons-Tabor-Bad – swimming baths: indoor and outdoor pools
- Horse-riding centres
- Nordic-Walking Trails – three in the local woods
- Nature trail and “Kneipp facility” in the local woods
- Rambling in Montabaur: in the romantic Gelbachtal, along the Schusterjungenweg, the Elchweg in Elgendorf, around Reckenthal on the sculpture trail, or from Horressen to the watchtower on the Köppel, the highest peak in the Montabaur Hills

Guided walks and Town walks.



Exploring Montabaur: Guided walks

We offer a wide range of guided walks, for individuals or groups with or without pre-booking:

Choose from culinary or musical themes, twilight walks with lanterns, for children, for people with vision or hearing impairment, for quiz fans – with our Fibber Baron Paul von Monte Taboro, or guided cycle tours. Take your pick – we're there to meet your needs.

Your town guides look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy your visit to Montabaur.

Town walks

- *Guided Walks on Saturdays*
For individuals and families there is a free guided tour in German (Saturdays 11 am, May to October). It is not necessary to book, just turn up at the old town hall. The walk takes about 1½ hours

- *Group Tours*
Year-round Walk through the old town for groups of up to 25, pre-booking required. | Duration 1½ hours | Price per group 40,00 €.

Including the castle grounds
Duration 2 hours | Price per group 50,00 €.

For enquiries about these and our many other town walks please contact: Tourist-Information | Tel. 02602/126-777
E-Mail: stadtfuehrungen@montabaur.de
www.suedlicher-westerwald.de



Published by

Stadt Montabaur
Großer Markt 10 | 56410 Montabaur

Contact:

Monika Decker
phone +49 2602 125-272 (8 am–12.30)
mdecker@montabaur.de
www.montabaur.de

Further information available from:

Tourist-Information
Großer Markt 12 | 56410 Montabaur
Tel. +49 (0) 26 02 950 2780
tourismus@montabaur.de
www.suedlicher-westerwald.de



Tourist-Information Office opening hours:

May to September

Monday – Friday: 9.00 am–5.00 pm
Saturdays: 10.00 am–3.00 pm

October to April

Monday – Friday: 9.00 am–4.00 pm

For information on other seasonal opening times we will be happy to answer your phone enquiries, or just check out our website.