



Historical Tour





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## TOWN HISTORY

Dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Age the area where the Alb river leaves its valley was settled by the Celts, Romans, Alemannes and Franks. In 788 Ettlingen was first mentioned as Ediningom in a document among the deeds of the monastery of Weißenburg. The favourable location where two main roads crossed became the basis for economic advancement in the region. In 965 the town was awarded market rights by Emperor Otto the Great.

In 1192 Ettlingen was granted municipal rights by Emperor Heinrich VI and could then build fortifications to protect the town. Following the transfer to the Margraves of Baden in 1219 the town coat of arms changed to a red bend on gold and a white tower with a blue background.

In 1462 Margrave Jakob I established the first paper mill in Baden. At the same location there is now the Buhlsche Mill which has been converted into a conference centre. At the time of the Reformation the scholars Irenicus, Hedio and Erb tried to settle the religiously motivated conflicts of the time. The 16<sup>th</sup> century was characterised by numerous changes of denomination amongst the population, who had to adopt the current belief of the ruling margrave.

The worst catastrophe in the history of Ettlingen took place during the Palatinate War of Succession (1688–1697). The French troops



crossed the Rhine and left behind them a trail of destruction. On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1689 they set the town on fire. Margravine Sibylla Augusta played a significant role in the rebuilding of the town during the following decades. She financed the restoration of the castle and St Martin's Church and implemented a scheme of model houses to serve as dwellings for the populace. Thus the town took on a baroque flair, which reached its height with the design of the chapel, today the Asamsaal in Schloss Ettlingen, with its ceiling paintings depicting the life and work of Saint Johannes Nepomuk.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was characterised by industrialisation and the Baden Revolution. In 1836 the Baden Company for Spinning and Weaving was established. Within a few years it was one of the three largest factories which belonged to the Grand Duchy. It was followed by the paper factory Vogel & Bernheimer, then Bardusch, and also Lorenz the machine works, all established by the end of the century. Meanwhile the town enjoyed the advent of a liberal body of thought through Philipp Thiebauth, who was responsible for establishing the fire brigade, the choral society Liedertafel and the Ettlingen sports club.

The time since the Second World War has been marked by a comprehensive alteration of the townscape. Through a process of property-related renovation in the historic centre it was possible to maintain the character of a medieval town with baroque features.

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## 1 – SCHLOSS ETTLINGEN

The story of Schloss Ettlingen began with the building of a castle in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The medieval keep of the castle still exists today. After the division of the Margraviate of Baden between the brothers Ernst and Bernhard in 1535 a new prestigious castle complex was built in an attempt to demonstrate Ettlingen's power in comparison to the neighbouring House of Durlach. In 1600 the Renaissance castle was completed with three wings, retaining the medieval tower.

The magnificent dolphin fountain, designed by Johannes Schoch in 1612, originally provided water for the castle dwellers.

In 1689 during the Palatinate War of Succession the building was burned to the ground by the soldiers of King Louis XIV.

In 1727 Margravine Sibylla Augusta (1675–1733), the widow of Margrave Ludwig Wilhelm of Baden (1655–1707), had the castle ruins rebuilt as an elaborate Baroque Schloss, that is a residence or small palace. Her court architect, Johann Michael Ludwig Rohrer, directed the work and used existing building material.

The artistic highlight was the design of the chapel. In just ten weeks the great master of the late baroque period, Cosmas Damian Asam (1686–1739), created wall and ceiling frescoes which beautifully portray the legend and life of the Saint of Nepomuk. Today the former chapel (now Asamsaal) is used mostly as a concert hall because of its excellent acoustics.







After the death of the Margravine in 1733 a variety of uses of the Schloss led to its downfall. In 1812 it was used as a military hospital and uniform arsenal. From 1871 until 1912 the housing of a Prussian school for non-commissioned officers led to major alterations and loss of the original features. In 1912 the ownership of the Schloss was taken over by the municipality of Ettlingen.

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## 2 – ROSE GARDEN

Since its conception in 1988 the rose garden has combined nature and art in a variety of ways. The sculptures of Volker Krebs show human and animal forms in natural and worked materials.

In front of the building of the town library, originally a drill hall which belonged to the Schloss, one can see the sculpture "An meine Freunde" – "To my friends" with which the sculptress Sabine Gärtner-Classen pays tribute to the poet Elke Lasker-Schüler, who animated and cultivated the cultural dialogue between Germans and Judaism. Fragments of the text from the poems "An meine Freunde" and "Ankunft" grow out of the ground like a tree turned to stone, and enlivened by blue water veins.

The building "Klösterle" served as a domicile for the Fathers who took care of the spiritual welfare of the Schloss inhabitants.



### 3 – BADISCHER HOF

Here one can see the Gothic entrance to the former town hall built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, now the Badischer Hof. This large building served as the official seat and cellar, that is, as a storage place for tithes to be paid in agricultural produce.

In a niche in the wall there is a Madonna with Child made of sandstone dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, clothed in a blue cloak and crowned as the Mother of God. On the building opposite a niche above an oriel also houses a 19<sup>th</sup> century Madonna with Child.









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## 4 – JESTER'S FOUNTAIN

According to records the Jester's Fountain was created in 1532 and was originally located on the corner directly in front of the former Gasthaus Sternen. In 1872 it was moved to its current position because of an increase in traffic. The old shell-shaped trough, which is now to be found in Watthalden Park, was exchanged for a new one.

The coat of arms of both Ettlingen and the State of Baden are depicted on the column of the fountain. Also a variety of jester's paraphernalia are shown, such as rings and the jester's hat, as well as the medallion of the court jester of Singen also with rings and a jester's hat.

The central figure is that of a jester wearing the garments of a servant with a coat and knee breeches plus a jester's hat on his head. A boy with his bottom exposed is accompanying him, holding a board bearing the words: "Despise me not, take heed, before God the world's wisdom and splendour are regarded as mere folly".

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## 5 – GEORGE'S FOUNTAIN

Saint George is depicted on the fountain in front of the Town Hall. Since 1494 he has watched over law and order at the weekly market. He is wearing armour typical of the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. From 1872 until 1954 a cast-iron Justitia decorated the column of the fountain. Displayed on it are the town coat of arms, and also those of the upper and lower counties of Sponheim which were jointly owned by the Margravine of Baden and the Elector of Palatinate. With the coats of arms they enforced their rights of ownership. The Austrian coat of arms refers to the mother of Margrave Christoph I during whose rule the fountain was constructed. The fourth coat of arms, that of the Diocese of Trier, reminds us of the brother of the Margravine who made a financial contribution to the setting up of the fountain.

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## 6 – TOWN HALL

Following the burning of Ettlingen in 1689 the Town Hall was built in 1738 in Baroque style. The building is symmetrically laid out and is crowned with a curved gable. According to the norm of that time the creative emphasis focuses on the main axis which is decorated with statues. Johann Valentin Götz made the group of sculptures which are over the Town Hall entrance with the coat of arms of the town. One storey above on the balcony is the coat of arms of the Margraviate. In a representation dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century St George keeps watch over law and order. Above all Justitia stands as the emblem for justice which should be observed irrespective of the rank of the person concerned.

In 1892 the Town Hall was extended to the west in the same style by the town architect Alexander Kiefer. In 1963 the stained glass windows were added on the western gable side of the building. They portray two important stages in the history of Ettlingen. The ground floor window shows the Mayor receiving the town charter from the hands of Stauferkaiser Heinrich VI in 1192, a scene which has no historical proof. The charter was not received, the procedure can only be indirectly deduced.

The first floor window depicts a scene after the town fire of 1689. Margravine Augusta Sibylla is receiving a plan from the architect Michael Rohrer for the rebuilding of the ruined St Martin's Church as a Baroque hall church with a gallery.

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## 7 – TOWN HALL TOWER

The tower of the Town Hall served as the northern gateway to the town until the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The quarter of the town between the river Alb and Pforzheimer Straße first came into existence in the following centuries.





## 8 – WAR MEMORIAL

Oscar A Kiefer created this cenotaph with its unusual imagery for the victims of the First World War. Death as the grim reaper is riding an enormous horse regardlessly through soldiers and civilians alike and is wielding his lethal scythe mercilessly. Using the image of the countless victims of the First World War, the aim of the artist was to warn of the horrors of war, and not in a distant location in a cemetery, but in a well-frequented place within the town.

Since the addition of "1939–1945", made in 1995, the fallen soldiers of the Second World War are also remembered.





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## 9 – HALF-TIMBERED HOUSES

In 1689 the half-timbered houses burned down to their foundations. These were rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A coat of arms dating from 1585 mounted on the corner house recalls its owner, Mayor Hans Jakob Rauch, who lived in one of these houses.

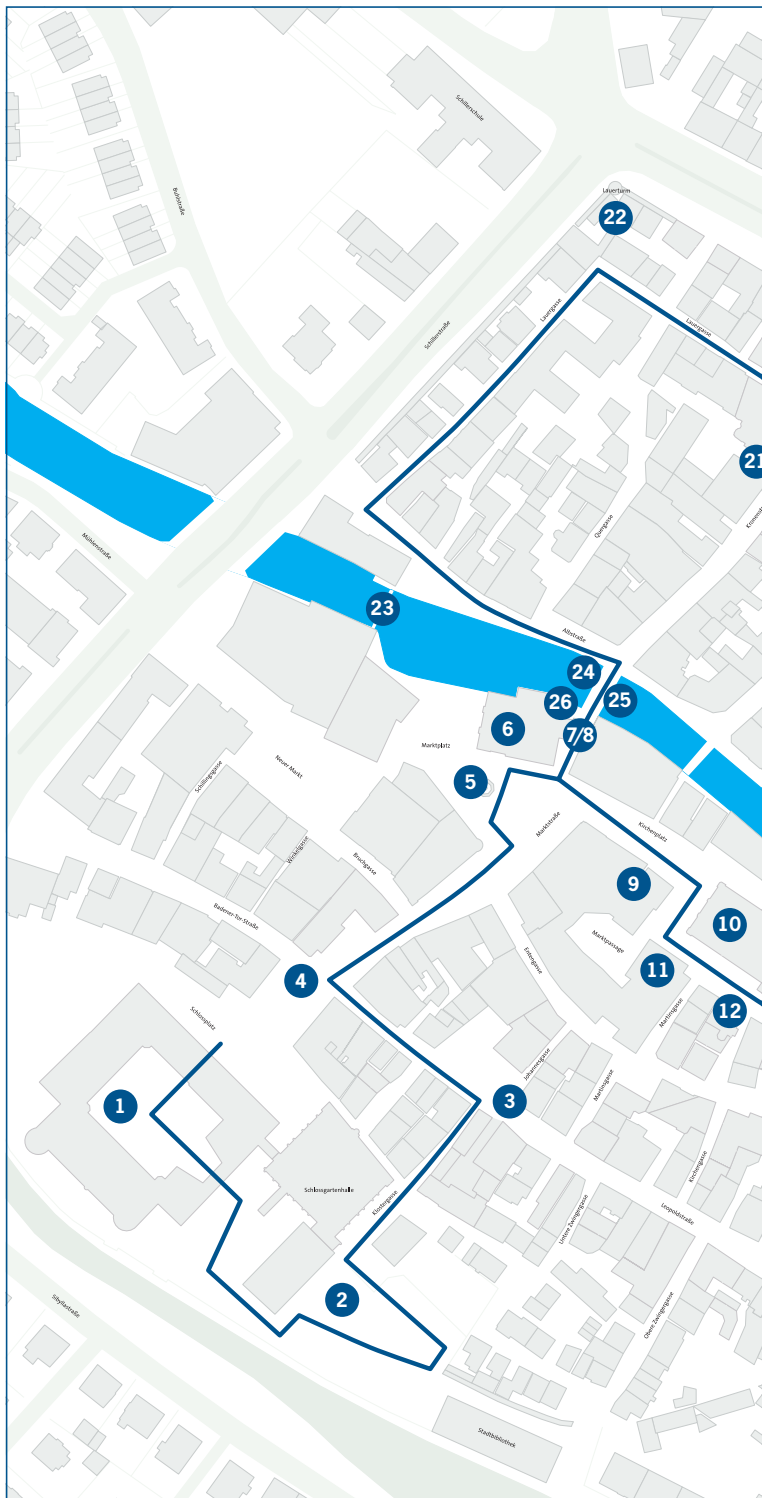
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## 10 – ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

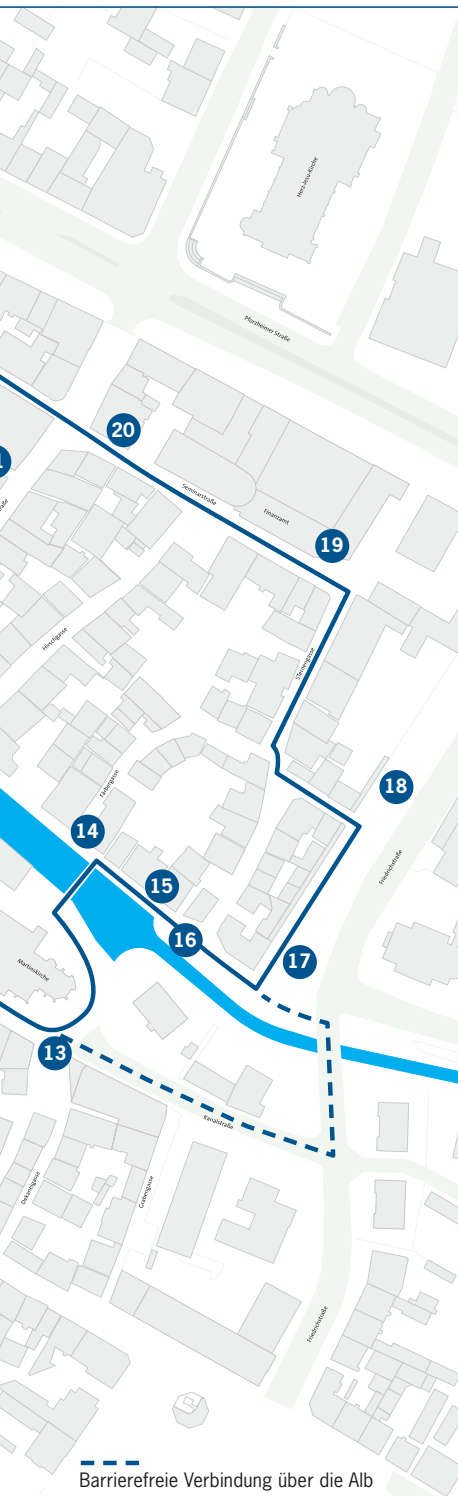
The western facade of St Martin's Church is dominated by the figure of its patron who is sharing his cloak with a beggar. Beneath this the magnificently displayed joint margravian coats of arms of Ludwig Wilhelm and Augusta Sibylla reflect the special protection of these Houses which was given to the church. After the devastation of the Palatinate War of Succession it was rebuilt in its present form with the help of Augusta Sibylla and finished in 1733. It took until the eighties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to enliven and complete the interior of the church with modern ceiling paintings created by the artist Emil Wachter. This involved the interaction of the church, the state and the bureau for the preservation of state monuments.

Explanations of the ceiling paintings are available at the information table in the church.









- 1 Schloss
- 2 Rose garden
- 3 Badischer Hof
- 4 Jester's fountain
- 5 George's fountain
- 6 Town Hall
- 7 Town Hall tower
- 8 War Memorial
- 9 Half-timbered houses
- 10 St Martin's Church
- 11 Weißenburger Hof
- 12 Half-timbered house
- 13 Roman fountain
- 14 Dyer's Alley
- 15 Sign-holder well
- 16 Synagogue
- 17 Eastern town wall
- 18 Young Alb
- 19 Jesuits' College
- 20 Figure of monk
- 21 Krone, former post office
- 22 Lauerturm
- 23 Alb weir
- 24 Statue of saint
- 25 Bridge over Alb, St Nepomuk
- 26 Neptune Stone



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## 11 – WEISSENBURGER HOF

In this vicinity the monastery of Weißenburg from Alsace had a manor dating back to the beginning of the 8th century. From here the estate in Ettlingen was administered and the dues collected from the surrounding area. The monastery had obtained the Ettlingen market rights from Kaiser Otto the Great in 965 and thus established the beginnings of a commercial point of focus. When Ettlingen was taken over by the Margraviate of Baden in 1219 the monastery lost its influence in Ettlingen.

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## 12 – HALF-TIMBERED HOUSE

The half-timbered house at Kirchenplatz 22 is an example of the successful restoration of properties in the old centre of Ettlingen which influenced the townscape in the seventies and eighties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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## 13 – ROMAN FOUNTAIN

The square in front of the chancel of St Martin's Church is dominated by a fountain designed by the Ettlingen sculptor Volker Erhard and made from Roman foundation stones.

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## 14 – FÄRBERGASSE – DYERS' ALLEY

In 1719 four Jewish families settled in this alley, which for many years was also called Jews' Alley. Over the door of the corner house an inscription relates "Isai Wenzel 12. Heschwan 496". This means by our calendar reckoning that he lived in this house in the year 1736. It was also used as a school due to the fact that before 1862 Jewish children were not allowed to attend the school for the Christian populace.

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## 15 – SIGNHOLDER FOUNTAIN

This fountain, also known as the harlot fountain, was originally located on the corner of Kronenstraße and Seminarstraße. Due to an increase in traffic the fountain was moved in 1934 to its current location. The statue of the fountain shows a woman in a, for that time, provocative pose, wearing a splendid robe and valuable jewellery. She is holding the coats of arms of the town and state as they were in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.





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## 16 – SYNAGOGUE

In the vicinity of the fountain a rounded protrusion is noticeable in the wall by the river. Here there used to be a wooden tanning house. To be able to carry out this profession it was necessary to have easy access to flowing water. In 1848 the small Jewish community of Ettlingen acquired this building to be used as a synagogue. The flowing water was used for ritual cleansing. In 1873 Albstraße was opened up to traffic and the synagogue was dissolved and a new one was built at Pforzheimerstraße 33.

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## 17 – EASTERN TOWN WALL

In terms of defense the gates of entry and points where the river enters and leaves a town pose potential weak points in a town wall. Thus a fortified tower, known as "goose", reinforced the wall at this point where the river Alb flows through the town. The unusual term arose perhaps from the fact that the fortified tower served as a prison for women.

The northern part of the old town, unlike the southern part, was protected by a simple wall, fortified towers and a moat. The moat was drained in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and used for grazing cattle. Later on this was filled in and today makes a relatively wide ring-road around the old part of the town. Along the eastern part of the town wall a grass verge was created.

On the opposite side of the road is the Johannes Church which was the first protestant church in Ettlingen and was built in 1880. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the miller Dörrfuß was one of the most influential men of public life. After the foundation of the spinning and weaving factories he promoted the creation of a protestant parish for the growing numbers of followers. At first the former chapel in the Schloss was used, but then premises were made available beside the Alb for the building of the first protestant church, the Johannes Church.

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## 18 – YOUNG ALB

In 1963 Walter Rößler created the sculpture "The Young Alb" according to the design of Karl Albiker. Originally the planned location was the small island in the river beside the Town Hall.

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## 19 – JESUITS' COLLEGE

The Jesuits' College, currently the tax office, served as the training place for Jesuit priests who completed their studies here. In 1783 the Jesuit order was dissolved and the college lost its importance. In 1836 a teacher training college was established in this building and existed until 1926. Until 1957 Ettlingen's grammar school was housed here when it was then moved to the new location of the Eichendorff grammar school.

On the same side of the street there was a church belonging to the Jesuits' College, Erhard's Church.



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## 20 – MONK FIGURE

On the corner of Kronenstraße and Seminarstraße there is a plaque showing the figure of a monk, which directs us with the Latin "hic" that from here, following his pointing finger, was the way to the town's hospital.



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## 21 – KRONE, OLD POST OFFICE

The former inn, "Zur Krone", or "crown", which also gave its name to the street, is a further example of the successful renovation of the town centre during the '70s. During the early modern era it served as an inn and postal station. In connection with the revolution of '48 it was the meeting place of a gathering which planned an attack on the Ettlingen railway line. The destruction of the railway at today's Ettlingen-West was planned to stop the Prussian troops on their journey to southern Baden to suppress the insurgents.

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## 22 – LAUERTURM

The Lauerturm is a symbol of the town and the last remaining tower of the northern town fortifications. The name of the tower derives from tanning, a medieval trade. The "Lauer" was the craftsman who "Loue" (also "Lowe" or "Laue"). Today the agricultural and industrial department of the Albgau Museum is located here. The outer wall of the Lauerturm from the base up to the town coat of arms is a corner wall dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The round tower is built upon this. Along Schillerstraße one can see further strong walls of the original town fortifications.







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## 23 – ALB WEIR

The oldest mill of the town stood on the opposite side of river until 1973. It was called Zwingelmühle, Brockhaus'sche Mühle or Gierich'sch Mühle and was one of the oldest grain mills. The weir belonged to the mill. It had to be rebuilt more than once following flooding.

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## 24 – SCULPTURE OF SAINT

There is a splendidly embellished niche sculpture opposite to the inn "Zum Kreuz", which was a meeting place for conservatives during the '48 Revolution.

Created by Michael Heilmann, the sculpture shows Saint Borromäus, Count Carlo Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan and patron saint of pastors. Carl Anton Tagliasacchi, a merchant and mayor of Italian origin, decorated his house with this sculpture in 1755. An inscription on a medallion features capital letters in the middle of words, which can be taken to follow the Latin style of writing used in the year 1755.







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## 25 – ALB BRIDGE, SAINT NEPOMUK

Another donation made by Tagliasacchi was a statue of St Nepomuk. These are often to be found near bridges reflecting the martyrdom of St Nepomuk following his fall from a Moldau bridge. The story of the trials and tribulations of the Bohemian saint are also depicted on the ceiling fresco of the Asamsaal in the Schloss. Opposite to him there was a statue of the Madonna, until both statues were washed away by floods in 1824.

Across the bridge and back in the old part of the town on the facade of the first house on the left there is a high-water mark dated 1542. It proclaims that after several days of heavy rain in August the water was as high as is shown by the horizontal line. Similar markers are to be found along the banks of the Alb, in particular at Albstraße 35.

Over the gateway one can see a plaque paying homage to the abolition of serfdom.

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## 26 – NEPTUNE STONE

The Neptune Stone, which is mounted on the Town Hall wall and dates from Roman times, is of particular importance. It's discovery in 1480 prompted the imagination of the Humanists. In 1554 Caspar Hedio drew up an inscription in Latin, in which he dated the foundation of Ettlingen in the year 1111 B. C., and related the story of the changing ownership of the Neptune Stone.





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## GUIDED TOURS

On request the following guided tours are available in English.

The historical town centre of Ettlingen  
Ediningom – the middle ages in Ettlingen  
Baroque Ettlingen  
Ettlingen Schloss

Each tour lasts 60–120 minutes  
Maximum 25 people

**Cost:**

Monday to Friday 55–110 €  
Saturday/Sunday or Bank Holiday 65–130 €

**Contact address:**

Museum Ettlingen  
Phone 07243 101273  
museum@ettlingen.de

**For further information, please contact:**

Stadtinformation Ettlingen  
Schlossplatz 3  
D - 76275 Ettlingen  
+49 (0)7243 101 380  
info@ettlingen.de  
www.ettlingen.de

**Editor:**

Stadtinformation Ettlingen

**Edited by:**

Dorothee Le Maire

**Concept:**

Planungsamt, Stadtarchiv  
und Stadtinformation Ettlingen





## Contact



Stadtinformation Ettlingen  
Schloss  
76275 Ettlingen

07243 101-380  
[info@ettlingen.de](mailto:info@ettlingen.de)  
[www.ettlingen.de](http://www.ettlingen.de)