

Find Out More

Tours in German language through the historic Old Town start every Saturday during summer season at 3:00 p.m at the tourist-information in the Electors' Castle (city map #1). From April to October, no registration required.

Our professional guides offer individual walking tours for groups. Below you can find some examples of tours that can be booked in English.

The historic Old Town of Eltville

Find out more about the Old Town with its half-timbered architecture, the Electors' Castle, St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and many noble estates. (Special theme tours can be arranged upon request.)

Old Town with Sekt

Walk through the Old Town by a Sekt (sparkling wine) reception in the historic castle cellar or garden (10 - 30 participants).

The Electors' Castle

Sightseeing tour of Eltville's beautiful historic landmark from the 13th century, located between Old Town and Rhine River.

In the footsteps of Gutenberg

Discover traces of Johannes Gutenberg, the famous inventor of movable type for the printing press, who had lived and worked in Eltville in the 15th century.

Eltville – Rose City

A walk through the magnificent rose gardens of Eltville (maximum 30 people, best in May and June).

After your sightseeing tour take the opportunity to discover and enjoy the wide range of dining and shopping locations in the charming city center. Restaurants, wine taverns, coffee shops, stores and boutiques ... all within easy walking distance.

For further information and tour reservation please contact:

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Text:

Helga Simon (nach Kremer, H.: "Historische Bauten in der Eltviller Altstadt"; Rheinische Kunststätten, Heft 129: "Eltville im Rheingau"; "Eltville am Rhein – 650 Jahre Stadt"; Kratz, W.: "Eltville – Baudenkmale und Geschichte, Teil 1+2") und Tourist-Information Eltville am Rhein
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Four charming villages surround Eltville. They invite you to discover interesting sights, beautiful views and hidden treasures. Don't miss Eberbach Monastery – one of the most significant architectural heritage sites in Hessen.

Erbach



The St. Markus Catholic Church is surrounded by the famous Marco-brunn vineyards. The church was built in the second half of the 15th century and expanded between 1720 and 1730. Also worth visiting is the Protestant church of St. John ("Johanneskirche") from the 19th century. In 2015 the historic interior of the church was lavishly restored to its original condition. The numerous noble estates are witnesses of Erbach's former wealth. Schloss Reinhartshausen was the former castle of the Prussian princess Marianne.

Hattenheim



This wine village on the banks of the Rhine River welcomes guests with a well-preserved town center and unique half-timbered buildings. Don't miss the idyllic market square and the Baroque church of St. Vincenz. Hattenheim's medieval castle from the 11th century has been in possession of the Baron Langwerth von Simmern family since 1462. Numerous noble estates are reminders of the town's rich history.

Martinthal



Martinthal, formerly called Neudorf (New Village), is surrounded by vineyards. Here you will see a small Gothic church. A short walk away is the market square with an ornate half-timbered building from the 16th century which functioned as a town hall, a bakery and even a tavern. Here you can get a glimpse of the historical figure named the "Stand-up Collar Vintner" ("Stehkragenwinzer") by Bonifazius Stirneberg. The same artist who created this figure also designed and constructed the bronze sculpture of wild boars located on the Wildsau-platz. They are a symbol of Martinthal's most famous vineyard ("Wildsau").

Rauenthal



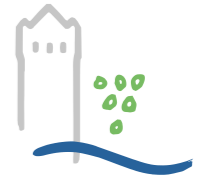
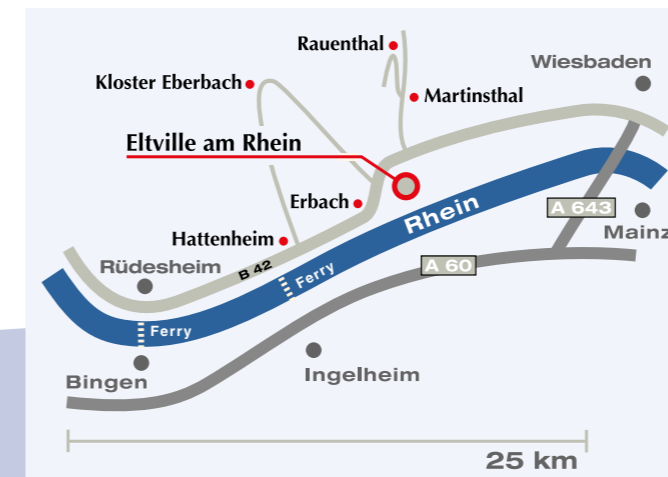
The St. Antonius Church is more than 500 years old, its late Gothic spire can be seen from far away. Many visitors like this little wine village because of the idyllic church square, the wine taverns and the hiking trails through the vineyards. A walk up to the "Bubenhäuser Höhe" will reward you with a fantastic view of the surrounding countryside.

Eberbach Monastery ("Kloster Eberbach")



In the Middle Ages this Cistercian monastery was the center of the Rheingau wine region. Except for the fountain and two side walls of the cloister the structure is still intact. The huge Romanesque basilica was built between 1145 and 1186, and its Gothic style chapels with stained glass windows were later added between 1310 and 1340. History truly comes to life as you wander through the vast impressive dining halls, dormitories and refectories once used by the monks and lay brothers. Discover the 14th century chapter house, a hospital (built between 1215 and 1220), and a library building from around 1500.

Map of Eltville's surrounding area:



ELTVILLE AM RHEIN
WEIN-, SEKT- UND ROSENSTADT



Walking tour

through the historic Old Town of Eltville am Rhein

Overview of Erbach, Hattenheim, Martinthal, Rauenthal and Eberbach Monastery

Rheingau



red line: regular walking tour **>>>** uphill grade / downhill grade **i** Tourist information / Electors' Castle
green line: barrier-free walking tour **♿** Euro-WC **★** public toilet (fee) **■** pedestrian zone

Welcome to Eltville am Rhein!

Eltville is known for wine, sparkling wine (Sekt) and roses. But the city has much more to offer. The charming medieval town center (Old Town) with countless historic buildings, beautiful courtyards and a romantic promenade along the Rhine River is the perfect setting for a walking tour through quaint lanes in the footsteps of history.

1 Electors' Castle ("Kurfürstliche Burg")



The castle's construction began in 1330 by Balduin von Trier on the ruins of a castle destroyed during the Tariff Wars. Construction was completed in 1350 by Heinrich von Virneburg. During the 14th and 15th centuries the castle was the residence of the archbishops and electors of Mainz. In 1635 Swedish troops destroyed the entire property, sparing only the residential tower. The east wing was rebuilt in modified form in 1682/83. The Gutenberg exhibition in the tower pays tribute to the famous inventor of movable type for the printing press, who received the only official honour of his lifetime here in 1465. Today Eltville's landmark invites visitors to stroll through the courtyard and beautiful rose garden. The castle is a popular location for events, weddings and meetings. The tourist-information with its gift shop is located in the tower. From here you can climb up 123 steps to the panorama platform for a spectacular view.

5 Hof Bechtermünz



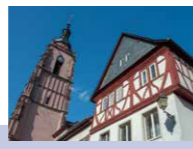
An impressive building in Renaissance style dominates this courtyard. It once belonged to the Bechtermünz brothers, who ran one of the world's first printing companies during the era of Johannes Gutenberg. There are indications that the inventor himself was involved in the business here.

6 St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church



This church was built between 1350 and 1440 in late Gothic style. In 1686 the spire was destroyed by lightning and replaced by a new Baroque dome. Inside you will find numerous notable paintings and sculptures. A portrayal of "The Last Judgement", created between 1405 and 1410, can be seen in the entrance hall.

7 Old School ("Alte Schule")



The public school was built on the church knoll. The half-timbered upper floor dates back to the 16th century. Latin was already being taught at this school when the archbishops of Mainz began to reside in Eltville. The names of all school principals since 1584 are documented in the city's public register.

2 Castle Square and Castle Street



The cobblestoned Castle Square ("Burgplatz") and Castle Street ("Burgstraße") feature half-timbered houses from the 17th and 18th centuries. Here you find the restaurant "Gelbes Haus" (Yellow House), which was built in 1635.

3 Gensfleisch-House



The Gensfleisch-House – built in 1681 – was part of an old noble court that belonged to the ancestors of Johannes Gutenberg. Friele Gensfleisch, Gutenberg's brother, lived here from 1434 to 1447.

4 Langwerther Hof



This enclosed park-like estate consists of various adjacent houses. The central building is the "Stockheimer Hof". It was built around 1550 and acquired by Baron Langwerth von

Simmern in 1711. The "Lichtenstern'sche Hof" in the Rheingauer Straße originates from around 1669 and contains structural elements from even before 1660.

8 Market Square ("Marktplatz")



The market square is surrounded by houses from several centuries. The second oldest town hall (1827 to 1862) as well as the other homes on the east side originate from the Baroque era. You can see medieval half-timbered buildings next to 19th century architecture. The fountain was created by the sculptor Finger-Rokitnitz in 1989.

9 OldTown Hall ("Altes Rathaus")



Eltville's oldest town hall is located on the corner of Schmittstraße and Grabenstraße and was built in the year 1513. The ornate half-timbered building was used as a town hall until 1827. Opposite the building you will find the old public bath ("gemeine Badstube"), which was mentioned for the first time in 1512.

10 Am Breitenstein ("Entenplatz")



Formally an area used by the court and military, the square is now called "Entenplatz" (Duck Square). The Entenbrunnen ("Duck Fountain") was created by Bonifazius Stirnberg in memory of the ducks which swam in a nearby creek until the year 1900.

11 Sohlern'scher Hof



Matheus Müller acquired this building with its neoclassical entrance gate in 1811 and opened a wine business. In 1837 he started one of Germany's first sparkling wine (Sekt) production sites. Today it belongs to the sparkling wine company Rotkäppchen-Mumm.

12 City Wall



At the southern end of the Leergasse the medieval city wall preserves its original character and height yet today. Here, as in few other places in Eltville, you can see remnants of the old fortification that was built in 1332 after Eltville received its official town charter. A 20-meter wide and 5-meter deep moat was located in front of the wall. Half-shell stone towers 80 meters apart were used to defend the town against hostile attacks. Two of those fortress towers can still be seen at the Kiliansring and at the "Gelbes Haus" (Yellow House) in the Burgstraße (see #2). In 1689 the parapet walks were dismantled and homes were built along or on top of the wall.

13 Sebastian's Tower ("Sebastiansturm")



The Sebastian's Tower and the statue of the city patron, St. Sebastianus, once formed the southwestern cornerstone of the city's fortification. The tower was originally surrounded by the fisherman's district. The city hospital was located outside the city wall at the mouth of the creek that flowed through the city moat.

14 Martin's Gate ("Martinstor")



Martin's Gate is the only remaining of the original four city gates of Eltville. The winegrowers used to drive their full carts through this gate to the old loading crane at the Rhine River to unload their wine casks onto boats. The three other gates were the "Holztor," located in the north, the "Kappeltor" in the west, and the "Sülztor" in the east.

15 Eltzer Hof



Eltzer Hof is a historic ensemble of buildings between Rosengasse and Martinsgasse. The southern section of the west wing was built after 1577, the northern part in 1905. On the eastern side you can see the Knights House (Kavaliershaus) from 1600. The houses in the adjacent Rosengasse once belonged to the former monasteries St. Victor and St. Peter and date back to the first half of the 18th century.

16 House of Roses ("Haus Rose")



It was first mentioned in 1480 as the court "uff de Rosen" ("on the roses"). The building became public property in the 17th century and was renovated to become the guesthouse "Zur güldenen Rose." In its current form the building dates back to 1739. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe had dinner in the splendid guest hall during his stay in Eltville in 1814.

17 Rose Garden



The roses along the city wall, in the castle moat and on the Rhine promenade delight many visitors. During early summer Eltville is literally in bloom when 22,000 rose bushes paint the city awash with colour. In 1988 Eltville was granted the title of Rose City ("Rosenstadt") by the Association of German Rose Growers.

18 Crass Castle ("Burg Crass")



Crass Castle, located outside of the city wall, is the oldest building in Eltville. The architecture is both Romanic and Gothic. Around 1840 it was reconstructed into New Gothic style. A small footpath through the picturesque garden connects Burg Crass with the Rheingauer Straße.

19 City Tower



The tower used to be part of the "Sülztor" gate and the town's eastern fortification. From 1753 on it was used as a prison. In the 19th century the tower was redesigned into New Gothic style, inspired by the nearby tower of the Electors' castle.