

Dear Visitor,

Why not set out on a fascinating journey of discovery?

Herford – more than 1,200 years of fascinating history. The town emerged around the year 800 from the oldest monastic foundation for women in Westphalia, at the crossroads of important mercantile and military routes around one of the royal courts of Charlemagne. In this location, aristocratic women – the abbesses of the imperial abbey – administered the religious rule, with the support of kings and emperors. In the Middle Ages Herford was a significant centre for spirituality in Westphalia, a place of pilgrimage devoted to the earliest visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary north of the Alps and an educational resource for the aristocracy. Queen Mathilde, mother of the first German emperor, Otto I, was educated here.

In close cooperation with the abbey, which was under the direct patronage of both the Pope and the emperor, the town was granted direct imperial patronage and from 1631 to 1652 was the only free city in Westphalia, apart from Dortmund. Well-to-do merchant families and master craftsmen shaped the life of the town and were involved in the trade and politics of the Hanseatic League. Since 2014 the town has been known as Hansestadt Herford. Even today, evidence of the medieval abbatial district of Freiheit, Radewig and the Old and New towns can be found in the present layout of the town. In the 13th and 14th centuries, four impressive hall churches were built in Herford that reflected the transition from Romanesque to Gothic. There is evidence of the existence of numerous monasteries and religious communities. Surviving merchants' houses – including some from the Weser Renaissance – and buildings in styles from Romanesque to modern can be found in Herford. Numerous monuments illustrate the story of the town and its historic personalities.

The 3.5 kilometre long Wallpromenade together with the Werre and the Stadtgraben mark the line of the former town fortifications. Beyond the medieval town centre are the pilgrimage destination of Stiftberg, park areas, the villa district and the old cemeteries which are protected monuments. The renovation of former industrial estates are an indication of the dynamic urban development of the town. One outstanding example of this is the Elsbach Areal district which is home to the Marta Museum Herford.

City tours:

The city tour (Route 1) takes you through the heart of the town on the Werre and tells you all about the most important sights. Route 2 takes you on a walk round the ramparts with a focus on contemporary works of art in public spaces. You can choose to combine these two routes to experience the lively contrast between Gothic and Gehry.

Yours,
Pro Herford GmbH
Stadtmarketing

» Detour from the Neuer Markt to Stiftberg

27 Jahnstraße and Schützenhof

Going out from the Lübbertor, Jahnstraße, with its mansions dating from the period of industrial expansion and the Jahn statue, leads up the hill. Passing Schützenhof, where the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie is based, Stiftbergstraße leads the visitor up towards Stiftberg.

28 Luttenberg

Tradition and legend maintain that in the mid-10th century, the first vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be experienced north of the Alps took place here. Luttenberg and its church dedicated to our Lady are still a place of pilgrimage today.



Monday to Friday, summer: 15:00 till 17:00 / winter: 14:00 till 16:00

» Continuing the city tour (Route 1)



church square with its cobbles in the shape of a Maltese cross, is the oldest stone building in the town. [Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 8:00 – 12:30 and Mon to Fri 14:30 – 17:00]

Route 1 City Tour

Start and Destination: Alter Markt

Former Abbey Church



was recovered in 1967. The bronze alloy column (Sculptor: Ulrich Henn, 1990) in front of the Minster "Paradise" recalls the charitable works of the medieval imperial abbey which stood on this site for over one thousand years.

2 Archaeological Excavation Sites around the Minster

Numerous interpretation boards give details of the results of archaeological digs from 1988/90 which examined the history of the building of the monastic foundation. After the imperial religious foundation was secularised in 1802, the Abbey was sold and two successive mechanised spinning mills were set up there.

3 Wolderuskapelle

The unpretentious hall we see today dates from 1735 and was extended in 1852. It is the fifth Wolderuskapelle to be built on this site, the first being the tomb of Waltger/Wolderus, the founder of the convent, which was established in the year 825. From 1652 to 1692 and again from 1800 to 1902 the Reformed Protestant congregation held its services here. Today it is home to the Greek Orthodox congregation and is known as the Nektarios Chapel.



impressively large space. High and late Gothic extensions are notable on the south side, while the north side retains its strongly Romanesque character. [Opening times: Monday to Saturday 10:00 till 16:00]



ated in the neo-Gothic style in 1892/93. The building is packed full of symbolic details: for instance 248 LED lights inside the synagogue represent the night sky above Jerusalem on the feast of Rosh Hashana in the year 5770 (2009). The lights are a symbolic representation of the 248 Jewish commandments. The leaded windows are also very impressive. The building was designed and built by the Herford architect Paul Gerhard Dahlmeier.



chairs of office of the craft guilds. [Opening times: daily from 10.00 – 18.00]



5 Cantor House

Thought to have been built during the term of office of Abbess Anna von Hunolstein (1484–1494), the Cantor House is one of the oldest surviving east Westphalian half-timbered houses. It was once a school and is now the home of the cantor of the Minster.



dolphin calls to mind the days of the Abbey. The Tourist Information is also located in the building of the market hall. (www.herford.markthalle.de)

7 Cell Block

The Memorial, Documentation Centre and Place of Encounter housed in the former police prison in the town hall (to the rear of the town hall) is a reminder of the minorities in and around Herford who were persecuted and documents the terror regime of the GESTAPO during the Nazi era. A memorial plaque in the small market hall is a reminder of the deportation of Herford Jews from 1941 onwards (for further information and material, go to www.zellentrakt.de).



rights. This resulted in over a century of successful collaboration between the town and the religious foundation. As a result, Herford developed into a prosperous merchant city, and due to the establishment of numerous religious communities also became known as "Holy Herford". Both effectively exercised the rights of a free city, even though the town was not officially awarded this status until 1631.



learned women of her time. Elisabeth corresponded regularly with people such as René Descartes, William Penn and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz.

34 Elisabethhaus and Remains of the Süsternkapelle

The half-timbered house which is number 33 Holland was where Elisabeth von der Pfalz lived for 16 years in rightful expectation of her appointment as Abbess until she attained this position in 1667. The architectural remains of the Süsternkapelle in Berliner Straße are a reminder of the rich ecclesiastical tradition of Herford.



11:00 to 17:00]



Since 2004 the Rilke poem "Der Ball" can be read on a 153 metre loop in front of the Marta Herford. The text of the poem runs in a rotating loop that can be read from either side and which stretches from the entrance of the museum complex to the roundabout on Schil-lerplatz. A highly-polished silvery, glossy stainless steel ball, 3.5 metres in diameter, sits in the middle of the roundabout and reflects the townscape around it.

37 Wilhelmsplatz and Augustastraße

Attractive villa district with buildings dating from the beginning of the 20th century, situated close to the confluence of the Werre and Aa.

Route 2 Wall Tour with Contemporary Art in Public Places
Start and Destination: Marta Herford

Herford emerged at the natural crossings (fords) of the Werre and Aa. From the 13th century the town was a massive fortified site with walls, five city gates and an encompassing rampart, whose 3.5 kilometre length can still be walked on today. It is well worth walking completely around the ramparts: a viewing platform at the intersection of the Stadtgraben and Aa at the Steintorwall and an interpretation board on the Deichtor-wall provide interesting insights.



38 Marta Herford

Since its opening in May 2005, the Marta Museum Herford has been drawing visitors from all over the world to its internationally respected exhibitions. The Marta offers a triad of contemporary art, design and architecture. The unique spatial sculpture by the American star architect Frank Gehry houses an entire "creative system" of exhibition spaces, events forum, gastronomy, shop, seminar rooms and offices.



Among those living in the half-timbered curia houses in the 17th and 18th centuries were canonesses and senior officials of the imperial abbey. In the 17th century, a group of Labadists (a Protestant movement, whose members lived in monastic community) found refuge in house number 7 under the protection of Abbess Elisabeth von der Pfalz. In 1999 Heinrich Wemhöner established Germany's only history hotel in house number 9, which houses numerous reproductions illustrating the history of Herford.

11 History of Coins in the Sparkasse

The Herford Sparkasse has a detailed display of the history of coins in Herford inside and in front of their main bank. The outline of the abbatial and civic mint which stood on this site can be seen in the pavement in front of the bank.

The Radewig District

12 Radewig Bridge

The Radewig Bridge crosses the Aa in the Radewig district of Herford. From the 13th century Radewig mill and its so-called "witch people" were located here and this is where, until the 17th century, those accused of witchcraft were subjected to trial by water. When the bridge was rebuilt in 2014, a sculpture (die Hexentreppe) by the artist Susanne Albrecht was erected, together with a panel commemorating the event. Some merchant houses dating from the Renaissance period can still be seen on the south side of Radewiger Straße.



unified furnishings were added to the hall church following a fire in April 1778 and the work was completed in 1786. The church was reinstated as a pilgrimage station on the newly-instituted St James pilgrimage route from Minden, via Bielefeld and Lippstadt to Soest. [Opening times: on request]

14 Fürstenau Statue

[Sculptor: Wolfgang Knorr, 1990]
This statue, with its multiple faces and exaggerated gesture commemorates Anton Fürstenau (1593-1653). During the Thirty Years War, he resisted the takeover attempts by the great Electors of Brandenburg in 1647 but eventually failed to preserve Herford's status as a free city which had been granted in 1631. He was the first honorary citizen of Herford.



Hamburg and was murdered in Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944. Parts of the family library are exhibited and preserved as a place of remembrance in the Elsbach Haus. Nowadays the Elsbach Haus is used as an office and shopping complex with 8,000 square metres of shopping space. The combination of historic architecture (Art Nouveau) and contemporary elements is a successful counterpart to the contemporary architecture of the Marta Museum.



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» Overlaps with Route 1
[Positions 35, 36, 37], Option for changing routes



In this sculpture a square plate penetrates an annulus, creating very variable spatial and mass effects in the two bodies. The size of the sculpture relates to the architecture of the building. The spatial effect, reinforced by the diagonal directions, determines the area in front of it without having a monumental character. [There are two further works inside the Herford Job Centre.]



This picturesque museum complex on the Stadtgraben comprises the entrepreneur mansion of Schönfeld, built in 1874/76 which has been home to the municipal museum since 1941, and the exhibition hall built 100 years later (Architect: Dieter Osterlein). It is named after the Herford-born architect of the Zwinger Palace in Dresden. The Herford Art Association (www.herforder-kunstverein.de) stages art exhibitions here three or four times a year. Following restoration in accordance with the rules for listed buildings, Villa Schönfeld was re-opened in May 2013 as an accessible exhibit. A state-of-the-art permanent exhibition is now being assembled step by step in the Villa. Go to www.poeppelmannhaus.de for information on the current state of the exhibition and the opening times of the Villa. On the opposite side of the Stadtgraben is the old Herford community centre, built in 1900, which is now where the communal archive is kept for Herford and its surrounding area. It is also the office of the Herford History Society (www.archive.nrw.de, www.geschichtsverein-herford.de).

» Overlaps with Route 2
[Positions 45, 46], Option for changing routes



uses art as a meaning of reawakening awareness of the "lost" historic city gates of Herford. They mark out the much frequented road junction by the Bertgort as a conceptual construction site and a borderline between a safe area this side of the cones and an unsafe area on the far side of the cones. Their blue windows, which are illuminated at night also evoke concepts of dwellings, lighthouses and fairytales refugees. In this work, Oppenheim refers not only to particular architectural forms, but also poses questions about life and housing in a town. Gifted by the Wemhöner Foundation to the town of Herford, implemented in collaboration with the Marta Museum Herford.



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43 Susanne Tunn: Wartestein

1989 - 90, multi-part, diabase, steel



time the sculpture "reinforces the murmuring of the water" from the river close by: As the spectator comes closer to the openings in the stone, the hidden inner shape becomes more apparent and more acoustically noticeable. The four-part sculpture "Situation einer Gruppe" (situation of a group) raises awareness in a different way of the hidden shape within a rock. In this sculpture, one of the last figurative works of the artist, parts or traces of the human form can be discovered which appear to have been overgrown by the rough rock.



Old Town District

18 Orphanage and Bäckerstraße

The orphanage and Mönchstraße are a reminder of the location of the former Franciscan monastery. The Bäckerstraße pedestrian zone follows the route of a medieval trade route.



1900 in what was then an aspiring industrial town.

» Detour from Alter Markt or wall tour to the cemeteries
20+21 Cemeteries

The "Am Eisgraben" cemetery was established in 1808 after the Herford churches relocated their graveyards and it is now a park. The war memorial, which used to stand in the Alter Markt in the centre of the town, was moved here in 1964. The cemetery in Hermannstraße with its numerous large burial places and war graves has been used since 1873. The Jewish cemetery has been used since the 17th century and is therefore one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Westphalia that is still in use [can only be visited on a guided tour].



half-timbered house in Westphalia. The figures on its external roof trusses illustrate the Christian hierarchy of Jesus as judge of the world over the saints and the mortal sins up to the entry into hell. Further impressive examples of late Gothic half-timbered architecture are the Engelking Haus (28 Brüderstraße), built in 1532 and the Rothe Haus, built in 1560 (15 Brüderstraße).



until the 1970s the Bowerie, the source of the Werre itself, ran here. It powered a mill

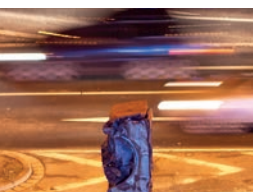


which is raising itself up from the ground and one steel negative shape which lies buried in the earth. In his architectural sculptures the artist addresses the issues of inside and outside, architecture and movement, space and "spatial disturbance". Unlike his large-format, walk-in works, "Stollen" (adit), "Passagen" (passages) and "Kreuzgängen" (cloister) the scale of this work has been selected to allow the observer simply to enter into it conceptually. (A further work by this artist is located in the interior of the Daniel -Pöppelmann-Haus.)



artist. The main view suggests that the massive columns are so closely pushed together that they block the passageway. A walk around the sculpture opens up a new perspective to the observer, however, and an interplay occurs between transparency and limitation, heaviness and lightness, internal and external space.

» Overlaps with Route 1, Option for changing routes



The work "Stehender Verkehr" (vertical traffic) is located at an important traffic junction in the town. The artist uses the compressed green Volvo standing upright in the shape of a column to reach into everyday life: The work debunks the car as a revered status object. Clearly intended as a counterbalance to the flow of traffic on the multi-lane junction, the work also touches on questions relating to the environment and urban design.

and separated the Old and New towns. A reminder of this is the water course on the present Linnenbauer playground, which provides 3,000 square metres of space where several generations can enjoy spending time. The popular children's playground on Linnenbauerplatz now features on a poster for child-friendly Herford.

New Town District



also located in this building. [www.theater.herford.de, opening times: Tuesday to Friday 11:00 till 18:00, Saturday 10:00 till 14:00.]

25 Bürgermeisterhaus, Höckerstraße 4

The house was built in 1538 by the Bürgermeister (mayor) of the new town, Heinrich Crüwell. It has a stepped gable and the inscription on its gable reads: "Built in the Year of Our Lord 1538, to the glory of God, in honour of the town of Herford and for the benefit of the people."



1988. The façade of the Wulfert House, built in 1560, was partially reconstructed in the 1970s in the style of the Lippe Renaissance. The building bears witness to the self-confidence of the merchants and citizens of Herford.

Spread around the Town

Gunter Demnig: Stolpersteine
[in association with the cell block (7) and the synagogue (31)]

The international art project "Stolpersteine" (stumbling blocks) by Gunter Demnig (*1947) is a memorial to the victims of the Nazi era. The brass plates are intended to preserve the memory of the people who once lived in the buildings they mark. The citizens of Herford have taken on sponsorship for the production and relocation of the 123 stumbling blocks transferred so far. In a similar vein, bronze reliefs can be discovered in numerous "Places of Jewish Life" that have been designed by pupils of the Wilhelm Normann vocational school in Herford (www.stolpersteine-für-Herford.de, www.ortejudischenlebens.de).

Marta Herford
Museum for contemporary art with a special focus on design and architecture, events forum
Museum opening times:
Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays 11:00 – 18:00
First Wednesday of every month 11:00 – 21:00
Tel. 05221 9944300
www.marta-herford.de

Daniel-Pöppelmann-Haus – Municipal Museum
Herforder Kunstverein e.V.
Opening times:
Wednesday to Saturday 14:00 – 18:00
Sunday 11:00 – 18:00
Tel. 05221 189-4434 and 05221 189-689
www.poeppelmannhaus.de, www.herforder-kunstverein.de

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