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, 4 Euro, children free of charge, 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 various noble estates. Special theme tours can be arranged upon request.

“Old Town Tour with Sekt”

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

“The Electors’ Castle”

Sightseeing tour of the Electors’ Castle, Eltville’s beautiful 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).

For further information and tour reservation please contact:

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Teil 1+2”) und Tourist-Information Eltville am Rhein

Kunststätten, Heft 129: “Eltville im Rheingau”; Rheinische Landesbibliothek

“History of the Electors’ Castle”

The St. Markus Catholic Church is surrounded by the famous Marcobrunn 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. The numerous noble estates are witnesses of Erbach’s former wealth. Schloss Reinhardtshausen, the former castle of the Prussian princess Marianne, today houses a five-star conference hotel.

Hattenheim

This wine village on the banks of the Rhine River welcomes its 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 Langevoort von Simmern family since 1462. Numerous noble estates are reminders of the town’s rich history.

Martinsthal

The village of Martinsthal, formerly called Neudorf (New Village), is surrounded by vineyards. Here you will see a small Gothic church that today hosts cultural events. 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 at the end of the village on the road to Schlangenbad. The boars are a symbol of Martinsthal’s most famous vineyard (“Wildkauf”).

Erbach

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

Rauenthal

The St. Antonius Church...
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 Simmern in the Rheingauer Straße by Baron Langwerth von Simmern in 1711. The remarkable building in Renaissance style dominates this courtyard. It once belonged to the Langwerth brothers, who ran one of the world’s first printing businesses during the era of Johannes Gutenberg. There are indications that the inventor himself was involved in the business here.

2. Castle Square and Castle Street
The castle square hosted Burg- and Burgrathalle features half-timbered houses from the 14th and 15th centuries. Here you can see the restaurant “Gelbes Haus” (Yellow House), which was built in 1635.

3. Gensfleischhaus
The “Gensfleisch” house – built in 1618 – was part of an old noble court that belonged to ancestors of Johannes Gutenberg, which dates back to 1640. The fragmented spire was reconstructed in 1989.

4. Langwerther Hof
This enclosed park-like estate consists of various adjacent buildings. The central building is the “Steinheimer Hof,” built around 1550 and acquired by Baron Langwerth von Simmern in 1711. The building dominates this courtyard. It once belonged to the Langwerth brothers, who ran one of the world’s first printing businesses during the era of Johannes Gutenberg. There are indications that the inventor himself was involved in the business here.

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 businesses during the era of Johannes Gutenberg. There are indications that the inventor himself was involved in the business here.

6. 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 school when the first printing businesses were founded in the city. The building is the oldest building in Eltville. The names of all school principals since 1584 are documented in the town’s public register.

7. 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 the town received its official charter. A 2-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 these towers still stand at the Kilometerend and at the “Gelbes Haus” (Yellow House) in the Burgstraße. In 1649 the parapet walls were dismantled and homes were built along or on top of the wall.

8. Market Square (“Marktplatz”)
The market square features buildings from several centuries. The second-oldest town hall (1327 to 1369) as well as the other houses on the east side originate from the Baroque era. You can see medie-

9. Oldest Town Hall (Schmittenstraße)
Eltville’s oldest town hall is located on the corner of Schmittenstraße and Grabenstraße and was built in the year 1131. The small 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 (Enetplein)
Formally an area used by the court and military, the square is now called “Entplein” (Dock Square). The “Entenbrunnen” (Dock Fountain) was created by Bonifazius Stirnberg in remembrance of the great-duke’s “Enten” – built in 1681 – was part of the “Sülztor” gate.

11. Sohler’scher Hof
Matthew Mueller acquired this building in 1811. He specialized in business and began producing sparkling wine (Sekt) in 1837. It was one of the first sparkling wine cellars in Germany.

12. City Park
At the northern part of the Leergasse the Sülztor gate preserved 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 the town received its official charter. A 2-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 these towers still stand at the Kilometerend and at the “Gelbes Haus” (Yellow House) in the Burgstraße. In 1649 the parapet walls were dismantled and homes were built along or on top of the wall.

13. Martin’s Gate (“Martinstor”)
Martin’s Gate is the only remaining of the original four city gates of Eltville. The winemakers used to drive their full carts through this gate to the old loading crane at the River Rhine to unload their wine casks onto boats. The three other former gates were the “Höfle,” located in the north, the “Kapellen” in the west, and the “Sülzer” in the east.

14. Eltzer Hof
Eltzer Hof is a group of buildings located between Rosengasse and Martingasse. The southern section of the west wing was built after 1577 and the northern part in 1605. On the eastern side you can see the Knights House, (Kavaliershaus) which dates back to 1600. In the adjacent Rosengasse are the former houses of the St. Victor and St. Peter monasteries from the first half of the 16th century.

15. Rose House (“Haus Rose”)
The Rose House was first mentioned in 1480 as the “Gelbes Haus” (Yellow House) in the Burgstraße. The building became public property in the 17th century and was renovated to become the guesthouse “Eltville’s Golden Rose.” In its current form the building dates back to 1739. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe had dinner in the splendid guest house during his stay in Eltville in 1814.

16. Rose Garden (“Rosengarten”)
The roses were planted in a wall, in the castle moat, and on the Rhine promenade delight many visitors. During early summer Eltville is literally covered by rose bushes. In 1988 Eltville was granted the title of Rose City (“Rosenstadt”) by the Association of German Rose Growers.

17. Grass Castle (“Burg Crass”)
Burg Crass, located outside of the city wall, is the oldest building in Eltville. The architecture is both Romanesque and Gothic, and the 13th century building was modified into a Gothic style. A small footpath leads to the “Rosenkranzgarten” which dates back to 1300. Opposite the building you will find the old public bath (“Gemeine Badstube”), which was mentioned for the first time in 1512.

18. City Tower (“Stadturm”)
The tower used to be part of the “Sülzer” gate and the town’s eastern fortification. Beginning in the 12th century it was used as a town prison. In the 16th century the tower was redesigned into a Gothic style, inspired by the nearby tower of the Elector’s castle.