

Welcome to Worms

... and welcome to an enchanting and vibrant city in the heart of Germany. Arguably the country's oldest city, there is no doubt it has many a story to tell. Archaeologists have found traces of settlements that go back more than 6,000 years. In the **MIDDLE AGES**, Worms was the scene of events that shaped European history, with German Emperors holding momentous Imperial diets, and even a Pope being elected in its magnificent **ROMAN-ESQUE CATHEDRAL**. The Middle Ages come alive every year in a giant re-enactment fair in the City Park. The setting of the **NIBELUNGENLIED**, the city pays tribute to Germany's great mediaeval epic in monuments, statues, street names and of course the Nibelungen Festspiele, a drama festival staged every summer against the backdrop of the Cathedral. Worms is the place where in 1521 **MARTIN LUTHER** refused to recant his writings when pressed to do so by the Emperor and the Church. In the Middle Ages, Worms was home to one of the most famous Jewish communities in the world. Its **JEWISH SITES**, most of all Jewish Cemetery, have been declared part of the UNESCO World Heritage in 2021, along with their counterpart sites in Speyer and Mainz. A city of **WINEMAKING** at least since the Roman period, Worms also celebrates the Backfischfest, a fun fair drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors every summer, one of many occasions to sample the rich variety of splendid wines.

Tourist Information Worms



















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Hours

Apr – Oct Mon – Fri 9 am – 6 pm, Sat, Sun, public holidays 10 am – 2 pm
 Nov – Mar Mon – Fri 9 am – 5 pm

Key

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
|  | Public toilet |  | Places of interest |
|  | Accessible toilet |  | More details overleaf |
|  | Baby changing facilities |  | Pedestrian or vehicle access |
|  | Tourist Information (C 5) |  | Barrier-free access to the Cathedral via Schlossgasse (B 4) and Schlossplatz (C 4) |
|  | Parking |  | Pedestrian area |
|  | 30 min bus parking (C 5) |  | Salians and Rhine Terraces cycling routes |
|  | Bus parking (G 1) |  | Barbarossa cycling route |
|  | Central Station (A/B 1) |  | Veloroute Rhein cycling route |
|  | Post office (D/E 3) | | |
|  | Caravan site (I 1) | | |

 Part of ShUM Sites of Speyer, Worms and Mainz (UNESCO World Heritage, further details overleaf)

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Places of interest

- 1 St Peter's Cathedral (Dom St. Peter)** B/C 4
Romanesque pillar basilica with a double choir and a transept, built 1125/1130–1181 on the foundations of a structure erected by Bishop Burchard (1000–1025). Elaborate decorations in the east and west choirs. The Emperor's Portal on the north side is the setting of the Quarrel of the Queens in the Nibelungenlied epic. Gothic south portal (pre-13th century) with elaborate design, displaying an illustrated stone Bible; Gothic St Nicholas Chapel adjoining. The Cathedral's interior features Romanesque and late-Gothic stone sculptures. After the city's devastation in 1689, the east choir was given a baroque design (high altar by Balthasar Neumann). Burial vault with sarcophagi of five generations of Salian dukes (10th–11th centuries). Open for sightseeing in summer 9 am – 6 pm, in winter 10 am – 5 pm. Website: www.wormser-dom.de (German only).
- 2 St Magnus' Church (Magnuskirche)** B 5
Former Carolingian one-room church (8th/9th century), extended later to become a three-nave pillar basilica. Parish church of the former St Andrew's Chapter. Early Protestant preaching church and hotbed of the Reformation in Worms around 1521.
- 3 City of Worms Museum (Museum der Stadt Worms)** B 5/6
The Museum, formerly built as St Andrew's Church and cloister in the Romanesque style (12th/13th century, Gothic extensions and more recent alterations), illuminates the city's pre- and early history, the Roman, Franco-Gothic, mediaeval and modern eras. City model.
- 4 Luginsland** A/B 5
Historic vineyard site by the city wall running along Andreasstrasse / Willy-Brandt-Ring. Emperor Frederick II had his son, the German king Henry VII, incarcerated here in 1235 in the Luginsland ("look-into-the-country") tower.
- 5 Jewish Cemetery (Jüdischer Friedhof Heiliger Sand)** A 4/5
Europe's oldest extant Jewish cemetery with 2,500 gravestones (oldest stone: 1058/1059). Iconic view of the Cathedral from the younger part on the former outer city ramparts. Male visitors are asked to cover their heads during the visit. Closed on Saturdays and Jewish religious holidays. Updated opening hours: www.visitworms.de.
- 6 Heylshof Museum** C 3
Art museum with a notable collection of paintings, china, small-scale sculptures, stained glass, glass, ceramics and graphic art. Special exhibitions. Updated opening hours: www.heylishof.de (German only).
- 7 Heylshof Gardens (Heylshofpark)** (former Bishop's Palace) B/C 4
Before its destruction in 1689, the bishop's palace was the scene of the momentous confrontation between Emperor Charles V and Martin Luther on 17/18 April 1521. Bronze sculptures mark the location and scene of the Diet. Educational and interactive walk with art installations on Luther's recantation (May–Oct).
- 8 Luther Memorial (Lutherdenkmal)** C 3
One of the world's largest Reformation memorials, completed in 1868 and based on a design by Ernst Rietschel. Statues and emblems illustrate Reformation history, with Martin Luther and the Diet of Worms in the centre.

- 9 Wheel of Fortune (Schicksalsrad)** C 3
Double-sided, rotating bronze wheel created in 1986 by Gustav Nonnenmacher. One side shows events that impacted on the city, the other depicts scenes from everyday local life.
- 10 Winegrowers' Fountain (Winzerbrunnen)** D 3
Created in 1983 by Gustav Nonnenmacher. Centre of the Kämmererstrasse pedestrian area. Wine-related historic scenes and allegories point to Worms' significance as a winegrowing city.
- 11 Ludwigsplatz** D 2
Memorial (1895), 24.3 metres tall, with obelisk and a fountain flanked by lions, in honour of Ludwig IV, Grand Duke of Hesse (died 1892).
- 12 St Martin's Church** D 2
Three-aisled Romanesque pillar basilica (11th–13th centuries) with a straight-ended choir. According to legend, St Martin of Tours was incarcerated in a dungeon beneath the church.
- 13 Martin's Gate (Martinspforte)** E 2
Built in 1904 to designs by Georg Metzler, inspired by the forms of the former northern city gate (destroyed in 1689).
- 14 Rashi Synagogue and Jewish Quarter** E 2
Worms, *Varmayza* in Hebrew, had a prosperous Jewish community from the 11th century on. Romanesque synagogue (first building from 1034, rebuilt in 1174/1175, destroyed in 1938/1941, reconstruction completed in 1961) with women's *shul*. Updated opening hours: www.visitworms.de. Men are required to cover their heads during the visit. The ritual bath (*mikvah*, 1185/1186) is temporarily closed due to restoration works. More information: www.schumstaedte.de.
- 15 Jewish Museum in Rashi House** E 2
Built in 1982 on the foundations of the former site of the Jewish community centre (12th), which had been used as a hospital, a dance hall and a weekday synagogue before its demolition. Parts of the basement date back to the 12th century. Updated opening hours: www.juedischesmuseum-worms.de.
- 16 Woog Bridge (Woogbrücke)** F 3
Remains of the impressive ramparts of the former bastion (17th century?), one of the main access points to the mediaeval city.
- 17 Frederick's Church and Red House (Friedrichskirche und Rotes Haus)** E 3
Church of the Reformist community, built in 1744. The only extant bourgeois Renaissance structure, built in 1624, the Red House is currently used as a Protestant community centre.
- 18 St Paul's Church (Pauluskirche)** E 4
Built in 1016 by Bishop Burchard on the foundations of the Salian ducal castle as a three-aisled pillar basilica (11th–13th centuries). Romanesque choir and western building with octagonal dome (13th century). Nave remodelled as a baroque hall after the city's devastation in 1689. The tops of the towers are inspired by Saracen architecture (hence the nickname heathen towers). Today the chapter buildings and the cloister house a Dominican monastery.

- 19 Nibelungen Museum and Torturmplatz** E 5
Museum about the mediaeval epic, attached to the mediaeval city wall, opened in 2001 as a "walkable audio book" on the Nibelungenlied. Underground Lab of Myths with multimedia information hub on sagas and myths of the world. Updated opening hours: www.nibelungenmuseum.de. Torturmplatz (Gate Tower Square) with Siegfried's Tomb, a mound flanked by two sandstone menhirs.
- 20 Romanesque House Wall** D 4
Preserved wall of a grand residential house (early 13th).
- 21 City Hall (Rathaus), Market Square (Marktplatz), Fountain of Justice (Gerechtigkeitsbrunnen)** D 4
The City Hall (1958) was erected on the site of the grammar school, which had been built after the city's destruction in 1689. The late medieval City Hall was situated in today's Hagenstrasse. Fountain of Justice, originally set up at the site of today's Siegfried Fountain in 1778 as a watering place.
- 22 Trinity Church (Dreifaltigkeitskirche)** C/D 4
Built after the city's 1689 devastation in the form of a baroque hall (1709–1725) as a Lutheran and Reformation memorial church. Reconstructed (1955–1958) to plans by Otto Bartning after its destruction in World War II.
- 23 Siegfried Fountain (Siegfriedbrunnen)** C 4
Heptagonal fountain (1921) with larger-than-life statue of Siegfried the dragonslayer, based on designs by Adolf von Hildebrand. Gift of Cornelius Wilhelm von Heyl, a former local leather magnate.
- 24 Baroque Building** C 5
Stately bourgeois residence (1725). Birthplace of the composer Rudi Stephan (1887–1915). Used as a pharmacy today.
- 25 Rhine Promenade** I 2/3
Charming riverfront park, originally laid out in the 1920s, with several attractions inspired by the Nibelungenlied: the Nibelungen Tower, one of formerly two bridge towers (Karl Hofmann, 1900; used by the Scouts today); the Hagen statue (Johannes Hirt, 1905), which depicts Hagen on the point of sinking the treasure of the Nibelungen in the river; Kriemhild's Rosengarten (Eichfelder, 2021), a piece of land art; and Eindutzend (Birgit Schuh, 2022), a light and sound installation.
- 26 City Wall (Stadtmauer)**
Begun in 900 AD, with major parts still extant, the city wall backs against the museum of the city next to the wall opening at Andreastor (St Andrew's Gate, 1907) (A/B 5/6), towers the city moat behind the west choir of the Cathedral on the foundations of the former Roman wall (B 4), and marks the north side of the Jewish Quarter with an opening in the wall (1907) at Rashi Gate (E/F 2). Gate Tower Square (E 4/5) offers the most impressive view of its obverse towards the east, with the major and lesser Rhine Gates, the Civic Tower, the Fishermen's Gateway, and the Gate Tower.
- 27 Church of Our Lady (Liebfrauenkirche)** E 1
Late-Gothic pilgrimage church (13th–15th), set in the renowned vineyard that produced the original Liebfraumilch wine (which lost its fame when a large number of cheap wines began to be sold under that name).

worms: more than history



City Map

A Walk Through 2,000 Years of History