

Sightseeing Tour II

From the Museum Bridge to the former municipal granary, through the Craftsmen's Courtyard, past the Way of Human Rights and the Marriage Carousel to the glockenspiel on the Church of Our Lady on the Main Market Square.

① Main Market Square

The heart of the Old Town

The Main Market Square and the Church of Our Lady were created in the 14th century on the site of the Jewish quarter, after the pogrom of 1349. The Church of Our Lady was the first Gothic hall church in Franconia. Each year before Christmas, the Nuremberg Christkind opens the world-famous Christkindlesmarkt from the balcony of this church.

If you need more information for your stay in Nuremberg, then you're in the right place: At Tourist Information at Hauptmarkt 18, you'll find everything your heart desires.

② Museum Bridge

One of the oldest river crossings in Nuremberg

The Museum Bridge is today one of the central connectors between the two sides of the Old Town. In 1954, this two-arched bridge was rebuilt after it was damaged in the war and made broad enough for large motored vehicles.

Continue along the Königstraße, making your way up the hill. Soon you'll see St. Lorenz's Church on the left. This three-aisled basilica from the 13th century is worth a visit. Then continue to walk south on Königstraße until you see the street sign "An der Mauthalle".

③ Mauthalle

Largest former granary of the Imperial City

The Mauthalle – which is 84 meters long, 20 meters wide and 29 meters high – was the largest of 12 granaries built by the Free Imperial City of Nuremberg. Erected by Hans Beheim, the grain stored there was to feed the citizens of Nuremberg in times of crisis. From the 16th century onward, the city's custom house and municipal scales were located in the ground floor of the building – hence the name "Mauthalle", as Maut is the German word for toll.

The Königstraße will lead you to the Craftsmen's Courtyard. Directly across the street is the second Tourist Information office.

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

④ Craftsmen's Courtyard & Neues Museum

A blend of past and present

The former defensive courtyard in the city wall is today a popular tourist attraction. Here, in the middle of the busy Nuremberg Old Town, surrounded by the towers and walls of the medieval city fortifications, you'll find typical half-timbered houses, small workshops, little stores offering souvenirs – and naturally the original Nuremberg bratwurst.

After a little look around and maybe some shopping, leave the Craftsmen's Courtyard from the gate located on the right of the opposite side of the courtyard. You'll be standing on Klarissenplatz, where the Neues Museum – a new structure with clean lines of modern architecture – blends past and present in an impressive fashion.

⑤ The Way of Human Rights

A stern reminder carved in stone

"The Way of Human Rights" was planned and designed between 1988 and 1993 by the artist Dani Karavan. The work of art consists of a gate, 27 round columns, two ground plates and a columnar oak. Each of the 30 elements – representing the 30 articles of the United Nation's Human Rights Convention – bears the text of an article in German and a foreign language. "The Way of Human Rights" is both an indictment of the crimes of the National Socialist regime as well as a stern reminder to all of humanity that human rights are still grossly violated in many countries of the world today.

If you pass through the gate of "The Way of Human Rights", the path will lead you over the Kornmarkt to the Krebsgasse, which ends at the Breite Gasse. The Breite Gasse, along with the Karolinenstraße, is the heart of Nuremberg's pulsing shopping district. Here, you'll find famous names, specialty shops, large fashion stores and plenty of places to pick up a snack. Turn left in the Breite Gasse and enjoy a stroll through the hustle and bustle of the pedestrian zone.

⑥ Marriage Carousel

The pleasure and pain of married life

The Marriage Carousel, created in 1984 by the artist Jürgen Weber, contrasts the positive and negative sides of married life. The basis for this monumental fountain is a poem written in 1541 by the Nuremberg artist Hans Sachs, called “The Bittersweet Married Life”. The Marriage Carousel shows the entire spectrum of marriage from naked eroticism to a fight to the death. The poet himself is portrayed at the head of the fountain as a dancing figure.

⑦ Weißer Turm & Jakobsplatz

Historical relics in the heart of the shopping area

Directly behind the Marriage Carousel, you can see the Weißer Turm – White Tower – which is one of the few remaining pieces of the second-to-last city wall. The paint which gave the tower its name has long-since disappeared – maybe that’s no surprise, as the tower was originally built in 1250.

Behind the Weißer Turm is the Jakobsplatz, where the Churches of St. James and St. Elisabeth are located. Turn your back on the Weißer Turm and head east through Ludwigsplatz to the Karolinenstraße, which runs parallel to Breite Gasse.

When you pass a clothing store on the left with a large glass façade, turn left into the narrow Ebracher Gässchen. Then take the steps down over the Köpfleinsberg and you’ll end up in the Kaiserstraße. If you want to do some (window) shopping in Nuremberg’s most exclusive street, then you’re in the right place.

From the Kaiserstraße, you can head back over the Fleischbrücke to the Main Market Square.

Have any questions? We’d be happy to help:

Tourist Information at the Main Market Square

Hauptmarkt 18
90403 Nuremberg

Opening Hours:

Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

