

historic tour through the City of Roth



Museum Castle Ratibor

Hauptstraße 1

Opening hours:
April until September
Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m - 4 p.m.
Please call +49-9171-848 330 for further information

Museum of the Leonian Industry

Obere Mühle 4

Opening hours:
End of March until September
Saturdays and Sundays 1.30 p.m - 4.30 p.m.
Please call +49-9171-6 05 64 for further information

Historical Ironforge Eckersmühlen

at the road from Roth to Eckersmühlen

Opening hours:
April until October
Wednesday until Sunday 1 p.m - 5 p.m.
Please call +49-9171-81 329 for further information

Tourist-Information in the Ratibor castle

Hauptstraße 1

Opening hours:
Monday until Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Please call +49-9171-848 330 for further information
www.stadt-roth.de
tourismus@stadt-roth.de



IMPRESSUM

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Roth was first mentioned in a document for the consecration of a church by bishop Gundekar II. in the year 1060. The market place developed in the 12th century during a planned extension of the city; in the middle of the 14th century Roth became a city.

Long before Roth started to be important in the economic life, its name was well known beyond Franconia for the asylum it could grant and that was even respected by the emperor. Those who came in conflict with the law without intention found a place of refuge here, in Roth.

Beginning in 1535, the Margraves from Ansbach (the rulers of the region) erected the Ratibor castle in the south-western corner of the city. It served as a hunting castle and was the seat of the Margravian administration. The Margraves, a branch of the Hohenzollern family, had the black and silver seal of the Zollern, which was granted to the City of Roth as the seal with an additional "R" in one of the seal's quarters. The epoch of the Margraves and especially the 18th century left many interesting monuments and buildings in Roth.

After the last Margrave resigned, Prussia took over the principality. In 1806 it became part of the Kingdom of Bavaria.

The sale of the castle to the factory owner Johann Stieber marks the beginning of the industrialization in Roth even before 1800. Stieber produced so-called Leonian commodities, i.e. fine weavings made out of false gold and silver threads. Due to the favourable location of Roth - especially due to the access of the railway in 1849 - the Leonian production flourished in the city. Quite a few small factories and related businesses like Christmas tree decorations, metal foil and cable production sites were founded. Some of those companies still exist today. For a while Roth held the title of the "Most Industrialized Small City in Bavaria".

After World War II. the city grows on the economic base of the traditional Leonian industry (1960: 10 000 inhabitants, more than 25 000 today). As the seat of the new county administration which began 1972, as a garrison town of the German armed forces and due to the location in the Franconian Lake District with its touristic opportunities, Roth continues to be attractive for business and leisure.



Old Town



1 Altes Rathaus - Old City Hall

Hauptstraße 14

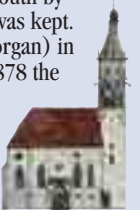


Built in 1758/59. At the north side of the Baroque building gable statue "Justice" and the manorial seal of the rulers, held by two eagles and topped by the Margravian hat. The "R" for Roth was added later to the seal. West side: balcony, from which the official proclamations were made public. To the south: stone with a seal and the Brandenburgian eagle dating back to 1533 originating from an earlier building.

2 Evangelische Stadtkirche - Protestant Church

Kirchplatz

Dedicated to "Zu unserer lieben Frau (To Our Lovely Mother)", 1511-1513 enlargement of the Gothic church to the south by Endres Embhart, the tower with Romanian elements was kept. Rebuilt in the Margravian style (gallery, altar, pulpit, organ) in 1738 by Margravian master builder Steingruber. In 1878 the tower was on fire. The new tower with five bells was aligned with the centre aisle of the church. Epithaps and tombstones from the 16./17th century. Neo-Gothic interior styling. Renovation of the interior in 1977, new organ. Renovation of the exterior in 1985.



3 Neues Rathaus - New City Hall

Kirchplatz 2-4

Rebuilt after the fire of 1878 as a school building. From 1903 on seat of the city administration. Site of a representative building from 1533, whose owner was exempt from all public charges, therefore called "freehouse". From 1621 until 1625 Margravian "Kipper" coins (i.e. coins with a small share of silver or copper) were minted here. Today the city hall is complemented by a modern extension building.



4 Kugelbühlplatz - Kugelbühlsquare

Kugelbühlstraße

It came into being due to a medieval extension of the city. Narrow old houses, some of which are restored very well. Remarkable timber frame building house number 23 "Anno Domini", dating from 1650. House number 44 was the site of the synagogue. The members of the Jewish parish that can be traced back to the 16th century settled here, therefore also called Jewish lane.



5 Stadtmauer – City Wall

Remainders of the City Wall that used to be reinforced by towers can be seen at three locations: the Kugelbühlsquare, behind the building of the bank "Sparkasse", the so-called "Old Office Quarter" at the market square and along the Stieberstraße. Three gates led into the old town: south of the bridge across the river Roth the "Lower Gate"; to the east of the Ratibor castle the "Upper Gate" and next to the Seckendorff castle the "New Gate" which was built in 1719. All these gates were demolished during the 19th century because they were obstacles for the traffic.



6 Seckendorff-Schlösschen – Seckendorff Castle

Hilpoltsteiner Straße 2a

Built in 1768 by the official Robert von Seckendorff next to the "New Gate" at the new city extension. Owned in 1797 by the official Heuber, who added the staircase, the hall and the wing. Bought by the city in 1828. In 1884-1937 it was the city hospital; Renovated in 1979/80. Since 1989 seat of the city's adult education programme.



7 Katholische Kirche – Catholic Church

Lohgartenstraße

Dedicated to "Mariae Aufnahme in den Himmel (Mary is Admitted into Heaven)". Built in 1898 in Neo-Gothic style. Remodelling and extensions in 1966. Some valuable Gothic side altars from Rednitzhembach, among them a shrine altar from the 16th century depicting the scene "Empress Helena Finds The Cross".



8 Brunnen am Markt – Fountain at the Market

Marktplatz

Built in 1757 as a gift from the city of Roth for Ruler Carl Wilhelm Friedrich. The Baroque fountain column carries his initials "CWF", three gargoyles formed like lion heads and a woman portrait. Topped by the Brandenburgian eagle as a symbol of power and control.



9 Ehem. Gasthaus "Zur Weintraube" – Former inn "To Grapes"

Hauptstraße 30

First mentioned before 1529. Two story Renaissance building with a gable organized by mouldings and a round arch gate. In the middle of the 17th century, the court was conveyed in order to built the Traubengasse (the grape lane).



10 Post – Post Office

Hauptstraße 11

Beautiful example of the Art Nouveau. Built in 1904/05, restored in 1987/88. This area once was the location of the large inn "Zum Schwarzen Bären (To The Black Bear)". It had to make room for a modern hotel building at the end of the 19th century. This hotel "Zur Post" was demolished by a fire in 1899. Then the site was sold to the Royal Bavarian Mail.



11 Stieberhaus

Hauptstraße 33a

Citizen house carrying the seal of the Stieber family at the north side. Built in the middle of the 18th century, then owned by the founders and owners of the Leonian Cable Factory, Johann Balthasar Stieber, which moved to Mühlhof near Nuremberg in 1834. In this house, two famous citizens of Roth were born: In 1689 Sebald Städtler (see also number 18), son of a blacksmith, later became an emperor's food administrator for the troops. In 1829 Anton Seitz, academy teacher, artist. He became the First Honorary Citizen. Later the house became post office, mayor's seat, private hospital and a shop building.



12 Stadtbräustüberl – Inn of the City Brewery

Hauptstraße 39

Citizen house dated middle of the 18th century with a picturesque gable. Built by the Margravian official Simon Wechselbaum (in office from 1727-1754). Until 1900 it was owned by the succeeding officials. Ferdinand Rothbart (1823-1899), painter and illustrator, was born here.



13 Riffelmacherhaus

Hauptstraße 43 (Markgrafenapotheke)

One of the most beautiful timber frame buildings in Franconia. The cellar vault dates back to the late medieval, the lavishly decorated stories with the little towers probably from the 17./18th century. Owners were wealthy land owners and beer brewers.



14 Alte Kanzlei – Old Office Quarter

Hauptstraße 38, 40–44

House number 38: site of the building of the Margravian official, mentioned in 1531. Later house for the city clerk. Today's building dates back to 1724. Houses 40-44: Once seat of the official. The estate comprised a dwelling house and stables, a grain barn, the official salt stock and a backing oven.



14a An der Freiong

Due to the construction of the Valentin shopping mall, this idyllic path along the city wall offers nice views of the old town. The fountain is made out of an old beer cooling apparatus from the Valentin brewery that used to be here. The name "Freiong" is a reminder of the asylum in Roth.



15 Obere Mühle und Fabrikmuseum – Upper Mill and Museum of the Leonian Industry

Traced back to the beginning of the 15th century. Besides its use as a mill, it was also a copper forge and wirepuller's site. Oldest industrial site in Roth. From 1901 on it was a power station of the Stieber Leonian Cable Factory. It is the beginning of a scenic walk along the river Roth. Next to it in the building Obere Mühle 4 is the museum of the Leonian Industry which demonstrates the interesting tradition and the broad range of Leonian production.



16 Willy-Supf-Platz – Willy-Supf-Square

Once the village square - older than the market square - with a mansion (see also number 17) and "Lower Mill"; nowadays Tscheulin-Rothal company which developed out of the Supfsche Stanniol factory. Old industrial site due to the water power. Next to the bridge across the river Roth: site of the St. Nikolaus chapel, which was pulled down in 1534.



17 Gasthof "Schwarzer Adler" – Inn "Black Eagle"

Allersberger Straße 1

Probably the site of the mansion for the official from the Bamberg bishopric who governed Roth when it was a small settlement. First mentioned as an inn in 1536. Since 1646 under the name "Zum Coronet", from 1796 on as "Schwarzer Adler (black eagle)" important inn with large stables.



18 Städtler-Brunnen – Städtler Fountain

Next to the Kauernhof bridge across the river Rednitz. Designed by Prof. Rössner from Nuremberg, erected by the city in 1909 in memory of Sebald Städtler who was born in Roth in 1689. He left his fortune that he had gathered during his term as emperor's food administrator for the troops during the Turkish wars to the city in order to build an old people's home for men.



19 Jugendhaus – Youth Centre

Neues Gässchen 3

The former flattening house of the Leonian cable factory served as temporary church for the small Catholic parish from 1860 until 1898. Remodelled in 1991 to become the youth centre of the city of Roth.



20 Bürgerhaus/Kulturfabrik – House for the Citizens/Culture Factory

Stieberstraße 7

Finished in spring 1992, the House for the Citizens was built up on the base of a fabrication hall of the Leonian fabric dated from 1906. Foundation walls and parts of the walls were integrated into the new building. This was the site of the gunpowder mill. Today the cultural programme offered by the Kulturfabrik draws visitors from far and near.



21 Ehem. Gasthaus "Zum Hirschen" – Former Inn "To Deer"

Münchener Straße 5

The inn (built in the second half of the 16th century) was demolished in 1684 and rebuilt the same year. Restored in 1929 and 1989. It is listed as a historic monument and features an Art Nouveau interior.



22 Luitpold-Denkmal – Luitpold monument

next to the Ratibor castle

For the 70th birthday of regent Prince Luitpold (March 12, 1891), the city donated this monument. This was the idea of painter Anton Seitz, and it was supported by Wilhelm von Stieber. It is a work of art that the stonemasons Hemmeter and Brunner from Roth executed.



23 Haus Mehl – Mehl house

Kugelbühlstraße 1

Example of a citizen house from the year 1901. Built by master craftsman, Fire Chief and councillor Hofer. Restored in 1989.



24 Schloss Ratibor – Castle Ratibor

Hauptstraße 1

The building of the Margraves of Brandenburg-Ansbach is one of the few well preserved estates of the German Early Renaissance featuring elements of the Late Gothic. After the introduction of the reformation Margrave Georg "the Godfearing" built this impressive hunting castle from 1535 until 1538. Decision for the location was the abundance of game in the surrounding forests. He financed the new building through revenues that he raised in his Silesian principalities Ratibor and Oppeln. Therefore, he called it "Ratibor castle on the Rednitz River". South wing and royal stables form a court yard. Princes and kings used it as inn in the course of voyages. With the resignation of the last Margrave in 1791 Johann Philip Stieber bought the castle and set up a production of Leonian wires (i.e. fine wires made out of false gold and silver). From 1858 until 1892 the district court was in session in the western building. At the turn of the 19./20th century Wilhelm von Stieber employed renowned artists to redesign the interior of the castle in the manner of the German and Italian Late Renaissance. Among those artists were Ferdinand Wagner, Rudolf von Seitz, Friedrich Wanderer and Conradin Walther. Elaborate stucco in the staircase with marble, intricately designed wood panels in the fireside room, conservatory and dining hall and the magnificent Prunksaal (splendour hall) with ceiling paintings depicting ancient myths and Gobelin paintings with scenes from the odyssey. In 1942 the castle was given to the City of Roth as a donation. The Museum Castle Ratibor was installed in the 2nd floor. The former royal stables now accommodate the public library as well as the city archives. The west wing also offers a restaurant. The tourist-information is also situated in the castle.



25 Kreuzkirche – Cross church

Münchener Straße at the cemetery

Built in 1625 on the cemetery which was laid out earlier in 1534. During the 100-year-war destruction of the interior. Expanded at the end of the 18th century. In 1903 five colourful church windows were added (artist von Zettler, Munich); extensive restoration in 1983 with the addition of a vestry.

