The history of the city

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 expansion 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 lodge 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 seals quarters. The epoch of the Margraves and especially the 18th century left many interesting monuments and buildings in Roth.

After the last Margrave resigned in 1791, Prussia took over the principality. In 1806 it became part of the Kingdom of Bavaria.

The sale of the castle to the factory owner 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 production sites (christmas tree decorations, metal foil and cable) 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, today more than 25 000). As the seat of the new county administration which began 1972 and due to the location in the Franconian Lake District, Roth continues to expand its force of attraction.
Historic tour

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. Margrave Georg ‘the Godfearing’ built this impressive hunting castle from 1535 until 1536. 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 at the Retzet River’ (Rednitz River). With the resignation of the last Margrave in 1791 Johann Philip Stieber bought the castle and set up a production of Leoni 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./20. century Wilhelm von Stieber employed renowned artists to redesign the interior of the castle in the German and Italian Late Renaissance style. Among those artists were: Ferdinand Wagner, Rudolf von Setz, Friedrich Wanderer and Conrad Wallner: Elaborate stucco in the staircase with marble, artistically designed wood panels in the fireside room, conservatory and dining hall and the magnificent Prunksaal (splendid hall with ceiling paintings depicting ancient myths and Godolin paintings with scenes from the Odyssey. In 1942 the castle was donated to the City of Roth. The Museum Castle Ratibor was installed in the 2nd floor. The former royal stables now house of the public library as well as the city archives. The tourist-information is also situated at the eastern side of the castle.

Luitpold-Denkmal
Luitpold monument
Next to the Ratibor castle
For the 70th birthday of regent Prince Luitpold (March 12, 1891), the city bestowed this monument. This was the idea of painter Anton Setz, and it was supported by Wilhelm von Stieber. It is an artisan crafts-work of the local stonemasons Hemmert and Brunner.

Stadt Roth
Map of the centre city

Historical destinations outside of the centre city

Katholische Kirche
Catholic Church
Ratibor Straße
Dedicated to ‘Marien Aufnahme in den Himmel’ (Mary is Admitted into Heaven), Built in 1898 in Neo-Gothic style. Remodeling and extensions in 1958. Some valuable Gothic side altars (from Rednitzhembach), among them a shrine altarpiece from the 16th century depicting the scene ‘Empress Helena Finds the Cross’.

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 wiredrawer’s site. Oldest industrial site of Roth. From 1901 on it was a power station of the Stieber Leonian Wire Factory. It is the beginning of a scenic walk along the river Roth. Next to it in the building Obere Mühle 4 the museum of the Leonian Industry looking forward to your visit.

Ehem. Gasthaus „Zum Hirschen”
Former Inn “To the Deer”
Münchner Straße 5

Located at the “Upper Suburb”. 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. Features memorably Art Nouveau interior fittings.

Haus Mehl
Mehl house
Kugelbühlstraße 1

Old citizen house, built about the year 1700. Renovated in 1901 and provided with a stucco

Kreuzkirche
Cross church
Münchner Straße
Built in 1625 on the cemetery which was laid out earlier in 1534. In the Thirty Years’ War the interior of the cross church was fully destroyed. During the Hundred Years’ 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.

Stieberparkbrücke
Abenberg
0
200 m

Map of the centre city

Rednitz

Büchenbacher Weg

(A length 1.37 km)

Historic tour

(length 1.37 km)
Historic tour

Historical destinations outside of the centre city

1. 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. Margrave Georg the God-creating built this impressive hunting castle from 1535 until 1536. Decision for the location was the abundance of game in the surrounding forests. He financed the new building through revenues that he earned in his Silesian principalities Ratibor and Oppeln. Therefore, he called it “Ratibor castle at the Rednitz River” (Rednitz River). With the resignation of the last Margrave in 1791 Johann Philip Sibthor 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 main building through revenues that earned in his Silesian principalities Ratibor and Oppeln. Therefore, he called it “Ratibor castle at the Rednitz River” (Rednitz River). With the resignation of the last Margrave in 1791 Johann Philip Sibthor 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 main

2. Kreuzkirche
   - Cross church
   - Münchner Straße 1
   - Built in 1625 on the cemetery which was laid out earlier in 1534. In the Thirty Years’ War the interior of the cross church was fully destroyed. During the Hundred Years’ 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.

3. Luitpold-Denkmal
   - Luitpold monument
   - Next to the Ratibor castle
   - For the 70th birthday of regent Prince Luitpold (March 12, 1893), the city bestowed this monument. This was the idea of painter Anton Seitz, and it was supported by Wilhelm von Sibthor. It is an artisan craftswork of the local stonemasons Hemmert and Brunner.

   - Former Inn “To the Deer”
   - Münchner Straße 5
   - Located at the “Upper Suburb”. 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. Features memorably Art Nouveau interior fittings.

5. Haus Mehl
   - Mehl house
   - Kugelbühlstraße 1
   - Old citizen house, built about the year 1700. Renovated in 1901 and provided with a stucco marbling, artistically designed wall panels in the fresco room, conservatory and dining hall and the magnificent Prunksaal (splendour hall) with ceiling paintings depicting ancient myths and goddes paintings with scenes from the Odyssey. In 1942 the castle was donated to the City of Roth. The Museum Castle Ratibor was installed in the 2nd floor. The former royal stables now house of the public library as well as the city archives. The tourist-information is also situated at the eastern side of the castle.

6. Katholische Kirche
   - Catholic Church
   - Ratibor Straße 3
   - Dedicated to “Marien Aufnahme” in the Himmel (Mary is Admitted into Heaven), built in 1689 in Neo-Gothic style. Remodelling and extension 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”.

7. Obere Mühle und Fabrikmuseum
   - Upper Mill and Museum of the Leonian Industry
   - Unterer Mühlhof 11
   - Traced back to the beginning of the 15th century. Besides its use as a mill, it was also a copper forge and wireworks’ site. Oldest industrial site of Roth. From 1901 on it was a power station of the Sibthor Leonian Wire Factory. It is the beginning of a scenic walk along the river Roth. Next to it in the building Obere Mühle 4 the museum of the Leonian Industry looking forward to your visit.
Historic tour

17 **Städtler-Brunnen**
Städtler Fountain

Next to the Kauernhof bridge across the river Rednitz

Designed by Prof. Rössner from Nuremberg, erected by the municipality in 1909 in memory of Sebald Städtler who was born in Roth in 1689. He left his fortune that he had gathered in Roth in 1689. He left his fortune to the city in order to build an old people’s home for men.

18 **Kulturfabrik/Bürgerhaus**
Culture Factory/Citizen House

Stieberrstraße 7

Finished in spring 1992, the House for the Citizens was built up on the base of a fabrication hall of the Leonian factory plant dated from 1906. Foundation walls and parts of the walls were integrated into the new building. The Leonian factory and the house for the citizens are standing on the site of the former “gunpowder mill”. Today the cultural programme offered by the Kulturfabrik (Culture Factory) attracts visitors from far and near.

19 **Jugendhaus**
Youth Centre

Hauptstraße 33 a

The former flattening house of the Leonian wire factory (Johann Balthasar Stieber) served as temporary church for the small Catholic parish from 1860 until 1898. Since the modification in 1991 it is the “Jugendhaus” (youth centre) of the city of Roth.

20 **Stadtbräustüberl**
Inn of the City Brewery

Hauptstraße 39

Citizen house dated middle of the 17th century with a picturesque gable. Modified by the margravian official Simon Wechselbaum (in office from 1727 until 1754). Ferdinand Rothbart (1823-1899), painter and illustrator, was born here. Until about the middle of the 20th century inn of the city brewery, then seat of the public utility company. Without use at the moment.

21 **Stieberhaus**

Hauptstraße 33 a

Citizen house carrying the seal of the Stieber family at the north side. Built in the 15th/16th century, modified in the middle of the 18th century, at that time owned by the founder and owner of the Leonian Wire Factory, Johann Balthasar Stieber (moved to Mühlhof near Nuremberg in 1834). In this house, two famous citizens of Roth were born: Sebald Städtler (also see number 17), son of a blacksmith, later emperor’s food administrator (1689) and Anton Seitz (1829-1908), academy teacher, genre painter and the first Honorary Citizen of Roth. Later the post office, mayor’s seat, private hospital and a shop building.

22 facade by master craftsman, Fire Chief and councillor Konrad Hofer. Restored from 1981 until 1983 by the Mehl family.

23 **Kugelbühlplatz**
Kugelbühl square

Kugelühlstraße

It came into being due to a medieval expansion of the city. Here you can find small old houses; some of them are restored very well. Remarkable is half timber house number 23 which is from about 1650. House number 44 was the site of the synagogue. Most of the members of the Jewish community that can be traced back to the 16th century settled here before their expulsion and their murder in the 3rd empire – that’s why it was called „Jewish Lane“ earlier.

24 **Neues Rathaus**
New City Hall

Kirchplatz 2-4

Former school building, that was rebuilt after the fire of 1878; since 1903 seat of the city administration. Here was the site of a representative building from 1533, whose owner was exempted from all public charges, therefore called “freehouse”. From 1621 until 1625 Margravian “Kipper” coins were minted here (i.e. coins with a small share of silver or copper). Today complemented by a modern extension building.

25 **Seckendorff-Schlösschen**
Seckendorff Castle

Hilpoltsteiner Straße 2 a

Built in 1768 by the bailiff Robert von Seckendorff next to the “New Gate” at the new city expansion. Owned in 1797 by the official Heuber. The staircase, the hall and the wing are from the time he lived here. Bought by the city in 1828. From 1856 on a servants hospital. The city’s hospital from 1884 to 1937. Renovated in 1980. Since 1989 seat of the city’s adult education programme.
**Evangelische Stadtkirche**
Protestant Church
Kirchplatz
Dedicated to “Zu unserer lieben Frau (To Our Lovely Mother)”. Late gothic building from 1511 to 1513 of which the tower with Romanian elements were kept to a hall Margravian 1738 by Stein-Modification church in the vian style in Margravian ter builder gruber. After the fire in the tower in 1878 a new tower in the centre aisle of the church was set up. Inside you can find an impressive figure of the Holy Catherine (about 1520) as well as epitaphs and tombstones from the 16./17th century. Neo-Gothic interior styling.

---

**Post – Post Office**
Hauptstraße 11
Beautiful example of the Art Nouveau. Built in 1904/05, restored from 1987 until 1989. 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, the site then was sold to the Royal Bavarian Post.

---

**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 and a woman portrait. Topped by the Brandenburgian eagle as a symbol of power and control.

---

**Altes Rathaus**
Old City Hall
Hauptstraße 14
Built in 1758/59. At the north side of the Baroque building the gable statue “Justizia” as well as the manorial seal of the rulers, held by two eagles and topped by the Margravian hat. West side: balcony, from which the official proclamations were made. To the south stone with a seal and the Brandenburgian eagle dating back to 1533 originating from the earlier building.

---

**An der Freyung**
Due to the construction of the Valentin Shopping Mall this idyllic path along the city wall, that offers nice views of the old town, was made up. The fountain, that shows an traveling entertainer, is made out of an old beer cooling apparatus from the Valentin brewery that used to be here. The name “Freyung” is pointing out the old imperial asylum in Roth.

---

**Willy-Supf-Platz**
Willy-Supf-Square
Once the village square, older than the market square. Site of the former “Meierhof” (a mansion) for the bailiff from the Bamberg bishopric at the old housing scheme of Roth, the later “Lower Suburb”. 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.

---

**Riffelmacherhaus**
Hauptstraße 43
One of the most beautiful half-timbered buildings in Franconia. The cellar vault dates back to the late middle ages, the decorative superstructure with the little corner towers from the 17th century. Owners were wealthy land owners and beer brewers.
Historic tour

17 Städtler-Brunnen
Städtler Fountain

Next to the Kauernhof bridge across the river Rednitz

Designed by Prof. Rössner from Nuremberg, erected by the municipality in 1909 in memory of Sebald Städtler who was born in Roth in 1689. He left his fortune that he had gathered across the river Rednitz 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.

18 Kulturfabrik/Bürgerhaus
Culture Factory/Citizen House

Stieberstraße 7

Finished in spring 1992, the House for the Citizens was built up on the base of a fabrication hall of the Leonian factory plant dated from 1906. Foundation walls and parts of the walls were integrated into the new building. The Leonian factory and the house for the citizens are standing on the site of the former “gunpowder mill”. Today the cultural programme offered by the Kulturfabrik (Culture Factory) attracts visitors from far and near.

19 Jugendhaus
Youth Centre

Neues Gässchen 3

The former flattening house of the Leonian wire factory (Johann Balthasar Stieber) served as temporary church for the small Catholic parish from 1860 until 1898. Since the modification in 1991 it is the “Jugendhaus” (youth centre) of the city of Roth.

20 Stadtbräustüberl
Inn of the City Brewery
Hauptstraße 39

Citizen house dated middle of the 17th century with a picturesque gable. Modified by the margravian official Simon Wechselbaum (in office from 1727 until 1754). Ferdinand Rothbart (1823–1899), painter and illustrator, was born here. Until about the middle of the 20th century inn of the city brewery, then seat of the public utility company. Without use at the moment.

21 Stieberhaus
Hauptstraße 33 a

Citizen house carrying the seal of the Stieber family at the north side. Built in the 15th/16th century, modified in the middle of the 18th century, at that time owned by the founder and owner of the Leonian Wire Factory, Johann Balthasar Stieber (moved to Mühlhof near Nuremberg in 1834). In this house, two famous citizens of Roth were born: Sebald Städtler (also see number 17), son of a blacksmith, later emperor’s food administrator (1689) and Anton Seitz (1829–1908), academy teacher, genre painter and the first Honorary Citizen of Roth. Later the post office, mayor’s seat, private hospital and a shop building.

22 Seckendorff-Schlösschen
Seckendorff Castle
Hilpoltsteiner Straße 2 a

Built in 1768 by the bailiff Robert von Seckendorff next to the “New Gate” at the new city expansion. Owned in 1797 by the official Heuber. The staircase, the hall and the wing are from the time he lived here. Bought by the city in 1828. From 1856 on a servants hospital. The city’s hospital from 1884 to 1937. Renovated in 1980. Since 1989 seat of the city’s adult education programme.

23 Kugelbühlplatz
Kugelbühlsquare
Kugelbühlstraße

It came into being due to a medieval expansion of the city. Here you can find small old houses; some of them are restored very well. Remarkable is half timber house number 23 which is from about 1650. House number 44 was the site of the synagogue. Most of the members of the Jewish community that can be traced back to the 16th century settled here before their expulsion and their murder in the 3rd empire – that’s why it was called „Jewish Lane“ earlier.

24 Neues Rathaus
New City Hall
Kirchplatz 2–4

Former school building, that was rebuilt after the fire of 1878; since 1903 seat of the city administration. Here was the site of a representative building from 1533, whose owner was exempted from all public charges, therefore called “free-house”. From 1621 until 1625 Margravian “Kipper” coins were minted here (i.e. coins with a small share of silver or copper). Today complemented by a modern extension building.
Historic tour

1. **Schloss Ratibor**
   - Castle Ratibor
   - Hauptstraße 1
   - The building of the Margraves of Brandenburg-Ansbach is one of the few preserved estates of the German Early Renaissance. Margrave Georg ‘the Godfearing’ built this impressive hunting castle from 1535 until 1536. Decision for the location was the abundance of game in the surrounding forests. He financed the new building through revenues that he taxed in his Silesian principalities Ratibor and Oppeln. Therefore, he called it ‘Ratibor castle at the Retzet River’ (Rednitz River). 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 German and Italian Late Renaissance style. Among those artists were Ferdinand Wagner, Rudolf von Seitz, Friedrich Wanderer and Conrad Walther: Elaborate stucco in the staircase with stucco in the staircases with Art Nouveau interior fittings. The former royal stables now house of the public library as well as the city archives. The tourist-information is also situated at the eastern side of the castle.

2. **Luitpold-Denkmal**
   - Next to the Ratibor castle
   - For the 70th birthday of regent Prince Luitpold (March 12, 1893), the city bestowed this monument. This was the idea of painter Anton Sette, and it was supported by Wilhelm von Stieber. It is an artisan craftswork of the local stonemasons Hemmert and Brunner.

3. **Kreuzkirche**
   - Cross church
   - Münchner Straße 9
   - Built in 1625 on the cemetery which was laid out earlier in 1534. In the Thirty Years’ War, the interior of the cross church was totally destroyed. During the Hundred Years’ 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.

4. **Katholische Kirche**
   - Catholic Church
   - Ratibor Straße
   - Dedicated to ‘Marien Aufnahme in den Himmel’ (Mary is Admitted into Heaven)? Built in 1898 in Neo-Gothic style. Remodeling 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’.

5. **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 wirefencer’s site. Oldest industrial site of Roth. From 1901 on it was a power station of the Stieber Leonian Wire Factory. It is the beginning of a scenic walk along the river Roth. Next to it in the building Obere Mühle 4 the museum of the Leonian Industry looking forward to your visit.

6. **Haus Mehl**
   - Mehl house
   - Kugelbühlstraße 1
   - Old citizen house, built about the year 1700. Restored in 1901 and provided with a stucco

---

Historical destinations outside of the centre city

1. **Kreuzkirche**
   - Cross church
   - Münchner Straße 9

2. **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 wirefencer’s site. Oldest industrial site of Roth. From 1901 on it was a power station of the Stieber Leonian Wire Factory. It is the beginning of a scenic walk along the river Roth. Next to it in the building Obere Mühle 4 the museum of the Leonian Industry looking forward to your visit.