

with map of the inner city

STADT
ROTH

HISTORIC TOUR THROUGH THE CITY OF ROTH



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Market place, Friedrich Trost, 1913

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



Dining hall Ratibor castle

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.



City arms of Roth

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.



Museum of the Leonian Industry

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 lo-

cation 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.

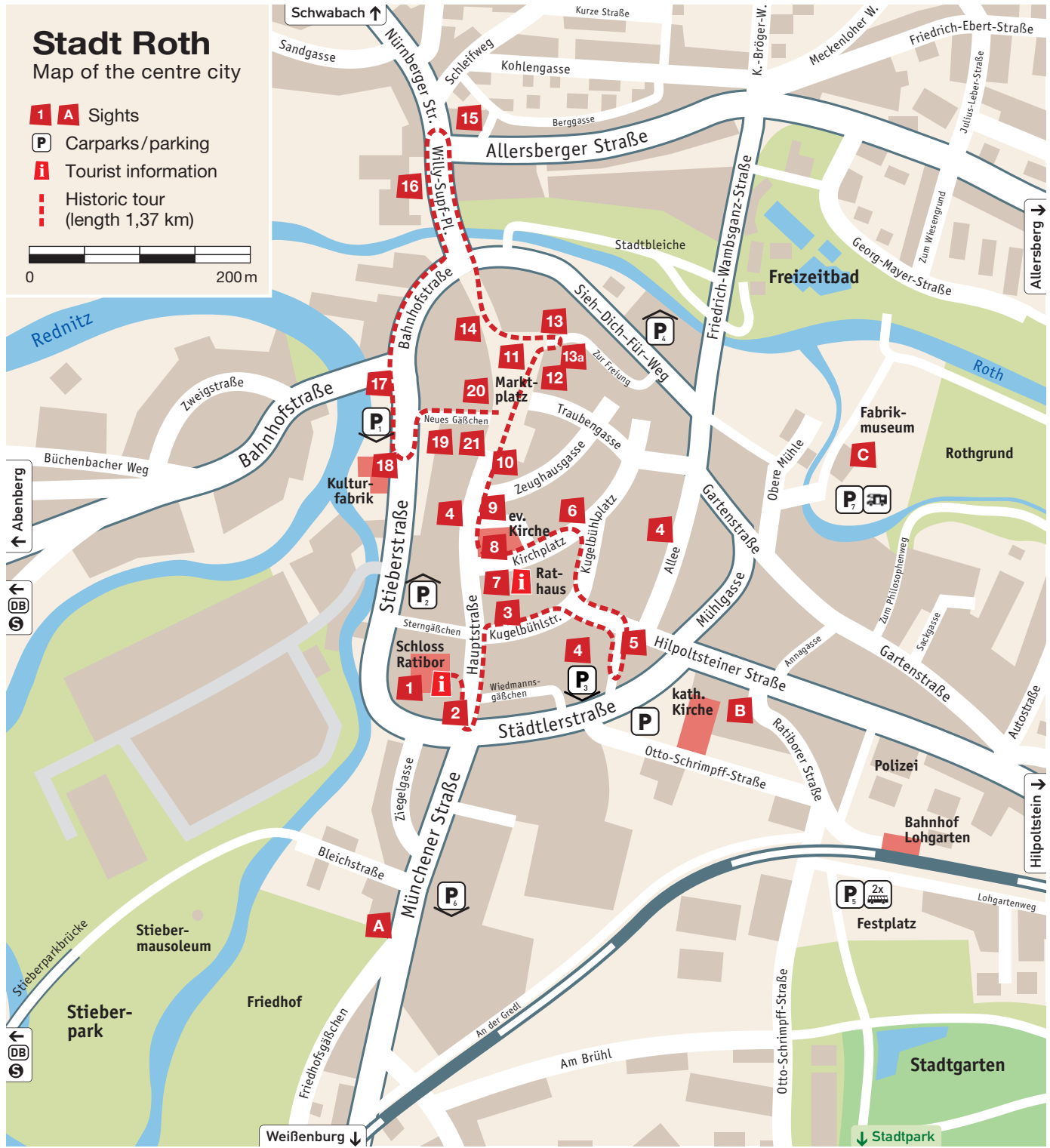
After World War II. the city grows on the economic base of the traditional Leonian industry (1960: 10 000 inhabitants, today more than 25 000). As the **seat of the new county administration** which began 1972 and due to the location in the **Franconian Lake District**, Roth continues to expand its force of attraction.



Stadt Roth

Map of the centre city

- 1 A** Sights
- P** Carparks/parking
- i** Tourist information
- Historic tour (length 1,37 km)





1 RATIBOR CASTLE

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 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 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 Late Renaissance and Italian Early Baroque style. Among those artists were Ferdinand Wagner, Rudolf von Seitz, Friedrich Wanderer and Conradin Walther: Elaborate stucco in the **staircase with marble**, artistically designed wood panels in the fireside room, conservatory and dining hall and the **mag-**

nificent Prunksaal (splendour hall) with ceiling paintings depicting ancient myths and Gobelin 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.



2 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 Seitz, and it was supported by Wilhelm von Stieber. It is an artisan craftwork of the local stonemasons Hemmeter and Brunner.



3 MEHL HOUSE

Kugelbühlstraße 1

Old citizen house, built in 1755. Renovated in 1901 and provided with a stucco facade by master craftsman, Fire Chief and councillor Konrad Hofer. Restored from 1981 until 1983 by the Mehl family.



4 CITY WALL

Remainders of the City Wall that used to be reinforced by towers can be seen at the Kugelbühlsquare, behind the building of the bank "Sparkasse" and the so-called chambers as well as at 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 KUGELBÜHL-SQUARE

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.



5 SECKENDORFF CASTLE

Hilpoltsteiner Straße 2a

Built in 1768 by the bailliff 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.



7 NEW CITY HALL

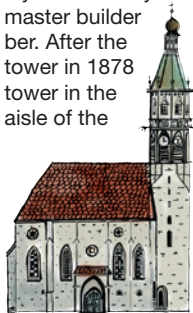
Kirchplatz 2-4

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.

8 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. Modification to a hall church in the Margravian style in 1738 by Margravian master builder Steingrubner. After the tower in 1878 tower in the aisle of the



new centre 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 16th/17th century. Neo-Gothic interior styling.



9 OLD CITY HALL

Hauptstraße 14

Built in 1758/59. At the north side of the Baroque building the gable statue "Justitia" 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.



10 FORMER POST OFFICE

Marktplatz/Hauptstr. 20

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)". The former building 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.



11 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.



12 FORMER INN "TO THE GRAPES"

Marktplatz/Hauptstr. 30

First mentioned before 1529. Long time tavern with the right to

bake. Two story building with a gable organized by mouldings (renaissance) and a round arch gate. In the middle of the 17th century, the court was conveyed in order to build the Traubengasse (the grape lane).

13 OLD OFFICE QUARTER

Hauptstraße 36, 40-44



House number 38: site of the office building of the margravian reign (mentioned in 1531). Later house for the city clerk. Today's building dates back to 1724.

Houses 40-44: Once seat of the officials. The estate comprised a dwelling house and stables, a grain barn, the official salt stock and a baking oven.



13a AN DER FREIEUNG

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 "Freieung" is pointing out the old imperial asylum in Roth.

14 RIFFELMACHERHAUS

Marktplatz/Hauptstr. 43

One of the most beautiful half-timbered buildings in Franconia.



The cellar vault dates back to the late medieval, the decorative superstructure with the little corner

towers from the 17th century. Owners were wealthy land owners and beer brewers.



15 "SCHWARZER ADLER"

Allersberger Straße 1

Probably the site of the "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.



16 WILLY-SUPF-SQUARE

Once the village square, older than the market square. Site of the former "Meierhof" (also see number 15) and "Lower Mill". Old industrial site next to the River Roth. In front of the Willy-Supf-Square was the St. Nikolaus chapel, which was pulled down in 1534.



17 STÄDTLER FOUNTAIN

Bahnhof-/Stieberstraße

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 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 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 factory plant dated from 1906. Foundation walls and parts of the walls were integrated into the new building. Culture factory is standing on the site of the former "powder mill". Today the cultural programme offered by the Kulturfabrik (Culture Factory) attracts visitors from far and near.



19 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 INN OF THE CITY BREWERY

Marktplatz / Hauptstr. 39

Citizen house dated middle of the 17th century with a picturesque gable. Modified by the margravit official Simon Wechselbaum. Ferdinand Rothbart (1823-1899), painter and illustrator, was born here. Until about the middle of the 20th century inn of the city brewery.



21 STIEBERHAUS

Marktplatz / Hauptstr. 33a

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.

HISTORICAL DESTINATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE CENTRE CITY



A CROSS CHURCH

Münchener 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.



B CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ratiborer Straße

Dedicated to "Mariae 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".



C UPPER MILL AND MUSEUM OF THE LEONIAN INDUSTRY

Obere Mühle 4

Traced back to the beginning of the 15th century. Besides its use as a mill, it was also a copper forge and wire-drawer'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 is looking forward to your visit.

Impressum

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www.stadt-roth.de

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MUSEUM CASTLE RATIBOR

Hauptstraße 1

Opening hours: April until November
Tuesday until Sunday and bank holidays:
1 pm - 5 pm
Guided tours by appointment with the
Tourist-Information +49-9171 848-513



MUSEUM OF THE LEONIAN INDUSTRY

Obere Mühle 4

Opening hours: April until October
Sundays: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Groups at any time by calling
+49-9171-6 05 64
www.fabrikmuseum-roth.de

HISTORICAL HAMMER MILL

Eckersmühlen

at the road from Roth to Eckersmühlen
Opening hours: April until October
Wednesday until Sunday and
bank holidays: 1 pm - 5 pm
Wrought demonstration by appointment
by calling +49-9171-81 20 20
or +49-9171-81 13 29
www.eisenhammer-eckersmuehlen.de

TOURIST-INFORMATION IN THE CASTLE RATIBOR

Hauptstraße 1

Monday until Friday:
9 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 5 pm
In August also Saturdays: 1 pm - 3 pm
October until March
Monday until Friday: 9 am - 12 pm
and Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays:
1 pm - 4 pm
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