



CITY MAP

History of the city

Schweinfurt's roots go back to the Middle Ages and an illustrious past as Free Imperial City. Ingenuity makes Schweinfurt an industrial city of global renown.

Schweinfurt's coat of arms



The origins of Schweinfurt's coat of arms lie in the oldest seal - of which mention was made in 1306 - of the Free Imperial City of Schweinfurt, which already bears the eagle. The colourscheme featuring a white eagle on a blue shield appeared for the first time in 1771, and ultimately remained unchanged over the centuries.

A journey through time

■ **7th century** Merovingians settle around the castle hill known today as the Peterstirn (stella petri)

■ **791** First documented mention of the name Schweinfurt ("in suainfurtero marcu")

■ **1250** First City Ruination - devastation of the Free Imperial City in a feud between the Earls of Henneberg and the Prince-Bishop of Würzburg

■ **1542** Reformation - Schweinfurt converts to Protestantism

■ **1554** Second City Ruination - devastated in the Margrave War

■ **1570 - 1572** The city hall is built by Nikolaus Hofmann within a very short time

■ **1652** Four Schweinfurt physicians found the Academia Naturae Curiosorum, today called the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

■ **1802** Schweinfurt loses its imperial freedom and is made part of Bavaria

■ **19th century** Inventions that marked the birth of today's industry: Pedal-driven bicycle, ball grinding machine, torpedo free-wheel hub

■ **1943 - 1945** City suffers widespread devastation in World War II

■ **1993 - today** Development into a modern cultural and university city and an important center of business and science

Schweinfurt moves the world

For more than 100 years the name of this city has been closely linked with inventions that move the world.

In around 1860, Philipp Moritz Fischer of Schweinfurt came up with an invention that initially attracted little attention - a rotary pedal crank which he attached to the front wheel of a running machine and thus created a true bicycle.

Having invented the ball mill, Fischer's son Friedrich pioneered the subsequent ball bearing industry, and in 1883 produced the first mass-produced hardened steel balls. 1909 saw Georg Schäfer acquire Fischer's "First Automatic Cast Steel Ball Factory", thus marking the birth of the firm Kugelfischer (FAG).

Born in Swabia, Ernst Sachs helped give the firm "Fichtel & Sachs" its name. In 1903 he developed the renowned torpedo free-wheel hub and later the Sachs motor as well. The company has manufactured shock absorbers and clutches for cars since the 1930s.

The 1960s and 1970s saw Schweinfurt flourish economically, primarily thanks to its industry. The monopolistic structure also made Schweinfurt largely dependent on the prosperity of its factories, however. The structural crisis in the 1990s cost around 10,000 jobs and at the same time became an opportunity: Schweinfurt reoriented itself.

Sightseeing tour of the city

The city is full of stories that only become visible on a sightseeing tour. No matter whether you prefer a short or long tour, explore the city on your own - duration 1½ to 2 hours.

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- Legend**
- P** Car park | Parking garage
 - ZOB** Central bus station
 - B** Bus stop
 - PO** Post office
 - DB** Central railway station
 - SP** Shipping pier
 - CA** Canoe launching point
 - FL** Free bicycle lockers (keys at Tourist office)
 - MC** Main cycle path
 - MR** Motorhome | RV parking
 - TI** Tourist Information Schweinfurt 360°

A walk around the city

On the trail of the historic architectural monuments

Discover Schweinfurt's sights. Stroll through romantic streets and visit the museums and buildings.



1 City hall | Market square

The historic City hall is regarded as one of the most important secular Renaissance buildings in Southern Germany. This landmark was built by Nikolaus Hofmann between 1570 and 1572 and has miraculously survived all catastrophes and wars since then. There is a lot to discover on the facade, the gables and the turret, with the coats of arms of Emperor Maximilian II, the seven electors and of the city. On the gables there are 22 gilded allegorical figures depicting the seasons, craft trades and virtues.

Tip: A selfie in front of the City hall is an absolute must.

As already in the Middle Ages, there is a vivid hustle and bustle on market days when regional vendors from the surrounding area come to the Schweinfurt market to sell their fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Market days: Tues and Fri 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wed and Sat 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

2 Rückert monument

In the center of the Marktplatz (market square) stands the monument to one of the city's most famous sons: Friedrich Rückert. The poet and orientalist (1788 - 1866) wrote over 20,000 poems and mastered more than 44, mostly oriental, languages.

Consideration was already given to erecting a monument to him while he was still alive, but this was not made reality until 1890 when it was built according to designs by Wilhelm von Rümmer and Friedrich von Thiersch. It depicts the creative activity of the poet and his works "Geharnischte Sonette" ["Sonnets in Armour"] and "Weisheit des Brahmanen" [Wisdom of the Brahmin].



3 Ebracher Hof

Formerly an estate owned by the Cistercian monks of the Ebrach monastery, this ensemble is one of the city's most important Renaissance buildings. The tithe barn once housed a large wine cellar, a chapel, living quarters and a granary, but today it is domicile of the city library.

Tip: Pay a visit to the bottom and top floors - you will be surprised



4 Georg Schäfer Museum

The award-winning museum houses a unique collection of paintings and sketches ranging

from 1760 to 1930. These include the world's largest Carl Spitzweg collection and many works by Caspar David Friedrich, Adolph Menzel, Max Liebermann, Lovis Corinth and Max Slevogt. In terms of quality and scope, the collection is on a par with those on display in Berlin's Alte Nationalgalerie and the Neue Pinakothek in Munich. The impressive building in the form of a cube was designed by the architect Volker Staab and was opened 2000.

Tip: In any case, take a look into the entrance hall of the museum and let the uncluttered architecture take its effect on you! www.museumgeorgschaefer.de

5 Brückentor | Bridge Gate

All demolished in the 19th century, the five Schweinfurt city gates were [counter]clockwise from the south on the River Main) the Brückentor [Bridge Gate], Mühltor [Mill Gate], Obertor [Upper Gate], Spitaltor [Hospital Gate] and Fischerpforte [Fisherman's Gate]. The Brückentor provided an exit from the city via what was known as the Staubrücke [Dust Bridge] that spanned the Main.

6 Harmony Building | Natural History Museum

The classicist Harmony Building was erected in 1833 as "club-house" of the Harmony Society. A historical bird collection has been on view there since 1988, having been put together and subsequently donated in 1892 to their hometown by the Schuler brothers. The exhibits are displayed against a natural background in their respective biotopes; drawings, photos and informative texts complete the ornithological presentation.

7 Main bastion | Rotary grab crane

The Main bastion along the River Main was expanded and massively reinforced up until the Thirty Years' War. Walls up to two meters thick provided protection against

invaders. Today the "city beach" on the Mühltor, once a magnificent city park. It was torn down in 1876 despite civic protests.



8 Zürich with Unterer Wall | Lower Wall | swineherd statue

Remains of a medieval fortification can be found on the way from the Main River bank. The city wall is one of the most impressive legacies of Schweinfurt's history.

Go up the spiral staircase in the Pulverturm [Powder Tower] and then down further steps from the ramparts to Zürich, one of the oldest parts of the city.

Small winding alleys, cobblestone and historic residential buildings bear witness to the city's medieval and free imperial city past.

Tip: Touching this statue is allowed. Gently stroking a pig's snout is said to bring luck.

9 St. Salvator Church

The church was built in New Baroque style from 1717-1719 on the site of an old place of worship (Lilienfrauenkirche). After suffering severe damage in World War II it was rebuilt in its original form. The Trumpet Angel on the cupola is worth seeing; it formerly served as a weather vane. This is why Friedrich Rückert also wrote: "At last look I saw that he is not in such a good mood, since he trumpets from the city and his backside turns inward".

Past St. Salvator, the steps lead directly back to the city wall. This used to protect the city; today the green space invites visitors to stand awhile and take a look around. Follow the city wall in a northerly direction to the Rückertstrasse.

10 Mühltor | Mill Gate

Unfortunately, nothing remains of the Mühltor, once a magnificent city park. It was torn down in 1876 despite civic protests.

11 Weisser Turm | White Tower 12 Oberer Wall | Upper Wall 13 Fichtelsgarten Park with Upper Gate and garden house

The walk now leads into the green belt to the Oberer Wall (Upper Wall) with the city wall and the fragments of the White Tower, which was demolished in 1805, and of the Wiesenhütterturm tower and the moats.

Taking the path to the left makes the tour a bit shorter.

The larger tour takes you past the Samturm [Velvet Tower] in the direction of the Obertor. With its pond, fountain and playground, the Philosophengang [Philosopher's Trail] is a paradise for children. You then pass the Gartenhaus [garden house] on the way to the Fichtelsgarten park.

14 Alte Reichsvogtei | Cultural forum

The narrow alleyway leading to the Alte Reichsvogtei was named after the knights of Wenkheim, who owned a manor on the site of the Reichsvogtei as early as 1330. The Reichsvogtei was the official residence of the imperial governor, whose duty originally was to ensure law and order as the emperor's representative. Later in private ownership, it served until 2009 as the domicile of the city gallery, which is now housed in the Kunsthalle Schweinfurt.

15 Altes Gymnasium Museum

A fine example of German Renaissance architecture can be found right on Martin-Luther-Platz. Erected as a school building in 1582/83, it has housed a museum since 1934. The elaborate gables and the richly decorated portal made of sandstone with Latin inscriptions are impressive fea-



16 St. Johannis Church

Its construction goes back to the 12th century and exhibits a mix of architectural styles from various epochs. The baptismal font with its original painting (1367), the baroque pulpit (1694) and the classical high altar are particularly worth seeing. The oldest denomination picture in southern Germany hangs in the men's choir. The church was a parish church and was repeatedly worked upon to adapt to the needs of its parishioners. It is therefore one of the most important ecclesiastical architectural monuments between Bamberg and Würzburg. Nowadays it serves as the parish church of the protestant congregation.

Tip: Look to the south side and marvel at the ornate bridal portal.

17 Gunnar Wester Haus Museum

The museum houses a great diversity of valuable cultural-historical objects pertaining to fire creation, as well as lamps, lights and lanterns from the Middle Ages up into the 19th century. Highlights on display include early fire devices from the Baroque and Biedermeier periods. The Fritz Glöckle icon collection provides an insight into the sacred Russian art of the 16th to 19th centuries in three rooms on the ground floor.

18 Zeughaus | Armory

The magnificent Renaissance building with its two tall gables, the octagonal stair tower and the gable roof testified to the prosperity of the Free Imperial City. The



Zeughaus served as the municipal weapons store until 1798, and was later used by the industrialist Wilhelm Sattler.

19 Theatre | Châteaudun Park | Höpplerles Tower

At the center of the Châteaudun Park you will find the Schweinfurt City Theater and a fountain that is well worth seeing. The "Höpplerle" is a section of the city wall over 250 meters long, along the inner side of which an earthen wall formerly ran, to which it owes its name. Numerous towers lined the wall in the course of the city's expansion in 1437, but have all since been destroyed. Private initiatives have in the meantime enabled the reconstruction of the Höpplerlesturm tower according to the original plans.



20 Kunsthalle Schweinfurt | Museum of modern art

"Schweinfurt swims in art" is a truly appropriate slogan. The renovation and repurposing of what were formerly the Ernst Sachs Bad swimming baths into an art gallery provided a fitting location for the top-class collection of post-1945 German art. Contem-

porary Franconian art is a further focus of the museum. The former swimming baths' imposing ceiling height fascinates visitors and artists alike.

Tip: Don't forget to take a photo of the sprayed banana by the artist Thomas Baumgartel on the outer facade. www.kunsthalle-schweinfurt.de

21 Jägersbrunnen

A well has been situated at this location since way back in the 16th century, and ultimately gave its name to the whole area. The name "Am Jägersbrunnen" appeared for the first time in 1833 - it alluded to the nearby residence of the Free Imperial City's gamekeeper.



22 Heilig-Geist Church

The hospital church was built in the 15th century and almost completely destroyed in 1554. It was rebuilt in the 16th century in Gothic style and, after the demolition of the old church, reconstructed in 1897-1902 in neo-Romanesque style. The main portal with the figure of King David and the depiction of the first Pentecost feast is impressive. Also take a look at the two side portals and the tower with a meters-high statue of the Virgin Mary.

23 Alter Friedhof | Old Cemetery

The founding of the Carmelite Monastery in Schweinfurt was enabled through a donation by Kunigunda Esel, a citizen of the city, in 1366. From 1554 the city built what was known as the Bürgerstall, a poorhouse and orphanage and a cemetery. Up until 1874 around 40,000 citizens of Schweinfurt found their final rest-

ing place here at what is today a park. Friedrich Rückert's parents and his youngest sister Marie, for whom he wrote "Five Fairy Tales for Failing Asleep", were also buried here.

Detours worth making: 24 Jungfernkuss Tower 25 Spitaltorbrücke

Numerous gruesome legends surround the Jungfernkuss, a half-tower from the old city wall. The historic Spitaltor-Brücke [Hospital Gate Bridge] was built in 1748 to replace an older wooden bridge with stone pillars. What remains is the northern half of the bridge extending around 25m; three arches, the old pavement and the base of the parapet wall.

26 Gutermann-Promenade

This promenade with green spaces on the north bank of the Main follows the course of the towpath along which horses once pulled boats upstream. It is named after the Schweinfurt teacher and local historian Hubert Gutermann (1892-1974). Here you will also find a diversity of industrial monuments, including a cast-iron manual revolving crane or the works of the former mill weir.

27 Kunstmühle | Little Industrial Museum

The inscription on the plaque indicates that imperial city mills already existed in the 14th century, and not until later a Kunstmühle [flour mill]. For many years the AKI association collected exhibits of industrial culture and has built up its own museum in parts of the spinning mill. The collection shows momentous technology and 70 years of Schweinfurt's industrial manufacturing history. A highlight is the production of ball bearings on original machines. www.aki-schweinfurt.de

28 Schroturm | Shot Tower

Built in 1611 as a stair tower of a Renaissance house, the landmark of the southern old town was used in the 19th century as facility for the production of shot. This not

only gave the tower its name but also four additional floors.

Tip: Knock on the impressive door with the grimacing face!

29 Wehranlage Park

You still have a little time to then head for new shores and cross to the other side of the River Main. From there you have a wonderful view of the old town quarter and the hustle and bustle on the Main. Just a few steps more take you to the "Saumain" - wild and natural, pure nature. Simply chill out in the word on hot days or in the evening as well around the fountain in the Wehranlage Park.

Tip: Take a closer look at one of the other tree along the way. You will be amazed at the rarities that flourish in the former zoo.

30 Otto Schäfer Museum

The Otto Schäfer Museum is dedicated to book art, graphic arts and applied arts. The industrialist Otto Schäfer (1912-2000) already began collecting graphic art in his youth. Today the museum has a collection of about a thousand illustrated prints, of which most stem from the 15th and 16th centuries. A further collection: German literature. It now comprises around 5,000 volumes, most of which are first editions from the Goethe era, as well as priceless bindings and works on paper. www.museumottoschaefer.de

31 Sachs exhibition by ZF-Friedrichshafen AG

Fichtel & Sachs, a globally renowned name! In a former production hall you will be taken on a journey into the illustrious history of the company by the exhibits, fascinating interactive hands-on stations and computer displays. Bicycle hubs, engines, chassis and driveline components are on display to be marvelled at. And topics of the future such as lightweight designs and electric drives are also spotlighted. www.zf.com/sachs-ausstellung