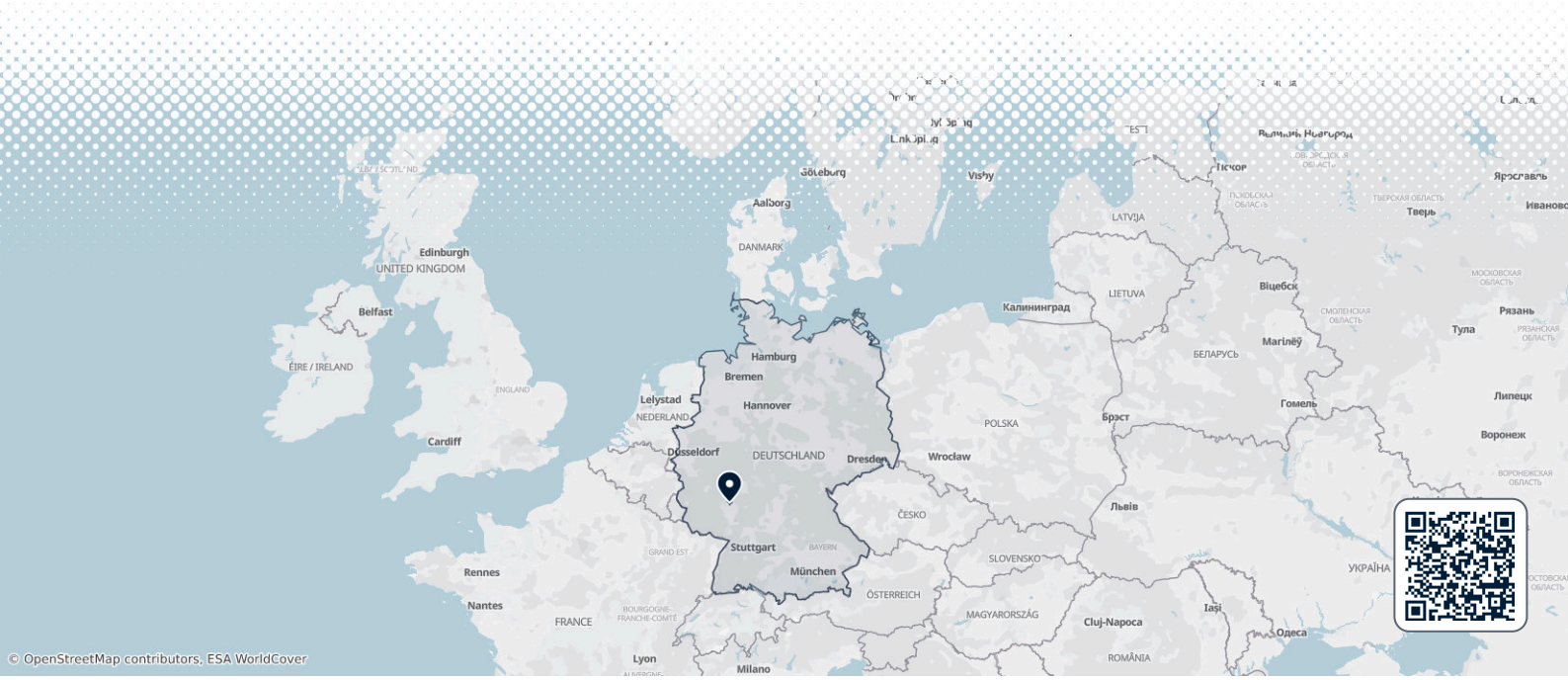


Mainz

Rhineland-Palatinate · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Mainz is the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate. It lies on the Rhine, across from the mouth of the Main river. The city has Roman roots, a medieval cathedral and a lively old town of small streets and squares.

Mainz is the city of *Johannes Gutenberg*, who developed printing with movable type here in the 15th century. It is also known for wine and for one of Germany's biggest carnivals. Mainz suits a weekend of sights, museums and wine taverns. It is also an easy base for the Rhine valley and Frankfurt.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the most pleasant seasons. Summer is warm, and evenings by the Rhine are popular. Winter is grey and damp, but the Christmas markets and carnival season keep the old town busy.

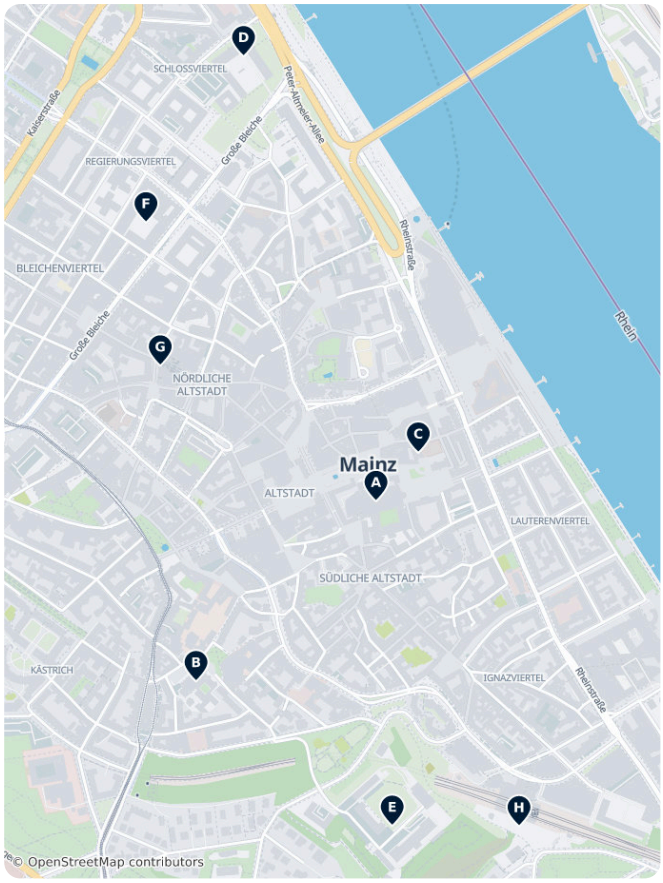
The biggest annual event is the Mainz carnival, called Fastnacht. The season starts in November. The peak is the Rosenmontag parade, held between February and early March. Expect large crowds, costumes and full hotels.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-1° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	-1° / -9°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -4°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 12°	5° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 34°	15° / 10°	14 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 34°	15° / 10°	13 rainy days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 30°	11° / 6°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	16° / 23° Feels like 13°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	9° / 15° Feels like 5°	3° / -3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 11° Feels like 0°	0° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Hoher Dom St. Martin zu Mainz is the city's landmark. This Romanesque sandstone cathedral dominates the old town.
- B St. Stephan is a Gothic church on a hill above the old town. *Marc Chagall* made its blue stained-glass windows in the 1970s and 1980s.
- C Druckladen des Gutenberg Museums is the museum's print shop, near the cathedral. It shows how Gutenberg printed.
- D Kurfürstliches Schloss was the residence of the prince-archbishops. It stands by the Rhine promenade.
- E Zitadelle is a 17th-century fortress on a hill south of the old town.
- F Landesmuseum shows regional art and history.
- G Isis- und Mater Magna-Heiligtum holds the remains of a Roman sanctuary, found beneath the modern city.
- H Ausgrabungsstätte Römisches Theater is an excavated Roman theatre. It shows that Mainz was an important Roman town.

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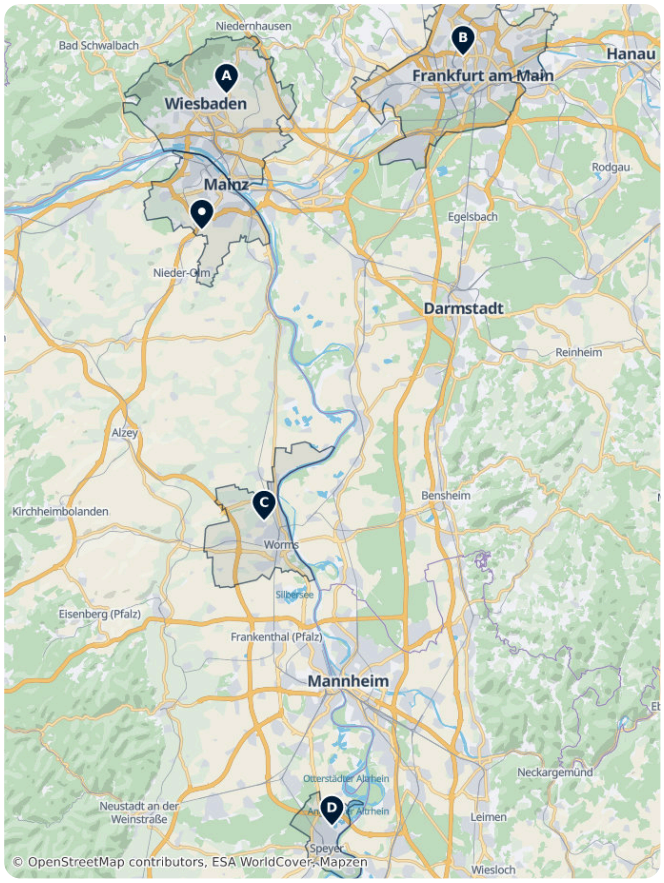
What to experience

- Join the carnival season. Parades, costume parties and stage shows fill the city from November to the Rosenmontag peak.
- Come for the Johannisnacht in summer. This street festival honours Gutenberg.
- Visit the Mainzer Weinmarkt in late summer.
- Walk or cycle along the Rhine promenade in the evening.

Day trips

Mainz has fast rail links to several cities and to the Rhine valley.

- A Wiesbaden: about 15 minutes by train. It is a spa city with grand 19th-century architecture.
- B Frankfurt: about 30 minutes by S-Bahn. It has museums, a rebuilt old centre and a skyline.
- C Worms: 30 to 60 minutes by train. It has a Romanesque cathedral and an important medieval Jewish heritage.
- Rüdesheim am Rhein and Bingen: 30 to 60 minutes by train. They are the gateway to the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage landscape of castles and vineyards.
- D Speyer: 1 to 1.5 hours by train. Its Romanesque cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Where to explore

Farther along the Rhine and in the Palatinate:

- Koblenz lies where the Rhine meets the Moselle.
- Sankt Goar is a small town in the Rhine Gorge.
- Cochem is a Moselle wine town with a castle.
- Landau in der Pfalz is a quiet town in the Palatinate wine country.

Getting there

- **By air**: Frankfurt Airport is the gateway, about 30 minutes from Mainz by S-Bahn. Mainz has no commercial airport of its own.
- **By train**: Mainz main station has direct trains to Frankfurt, Koblenz and Worms. Book at Deutsche Bahn.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Trams and buses run in Mainz, and the main station is the central interchange. Mainz is part of the regional RMV network, so the same tickets cover the S-Bahn to Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. Buy tickets in the RMVgo app or at ticket machines. See RMV for the network.
- **On foot**: The old town is compact and mostly pedestrian. Most sights are within a short walk of the cathedral.
- Cycling: Terrain is flat. The Rhine Cycle Route runs through the region.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and mostly pedestrian, and most sights are close to the cathedral.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The terrain is flat and the Rhine Cycle Route runs through the region.

Food & drink

Mainz sits in the Rheinhessen wine region. Look for local white wines such as Riesling and Silvaner. Wine taverns serve them with simple regional food. Try Spundekäs, a soft cheese spread eaten with pretzels. Many places also sell *Weck, Worscht und Woi*: a bread roll, sausage and a glass of wine.

The market square by the cathedral has stalls and nearby cafés. The old town streets around Augustinerstraße are full of wine taverns and pubs.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Mainz is a safe city for visitors. Petty theft such as pickpocketing can happen at the main station and in crowds. Keep your bag closed and in front of you at the carnival and at festivals.

History

Mainz began as the Roman military camp Mogontiacum, founded in the late 1st century BC. Roman remains still lie under the city. See Isis- und Mater Magna-Heiligtum and Ausgrabungsstätte Römisches Theater. The Roman monument Drususstein stands near the citadel.

In the Middle Ages, Mainz was the seat of powerful archbishops. Archbishop *Willigis* started the cathedral Hoher Dom St. Martin zu Mainz around 975. Together with Speyer and Worms, Mainz was also a major centre of medieval Jewish learning. The three cities share a UNESCO listing. Neue Synagoge Mainz is the city's modern synagogue.

In the 15th century, *Gutenberg* introduced printing with movable type here. Druckladen des Gutenberg Museums keeps that story alive.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



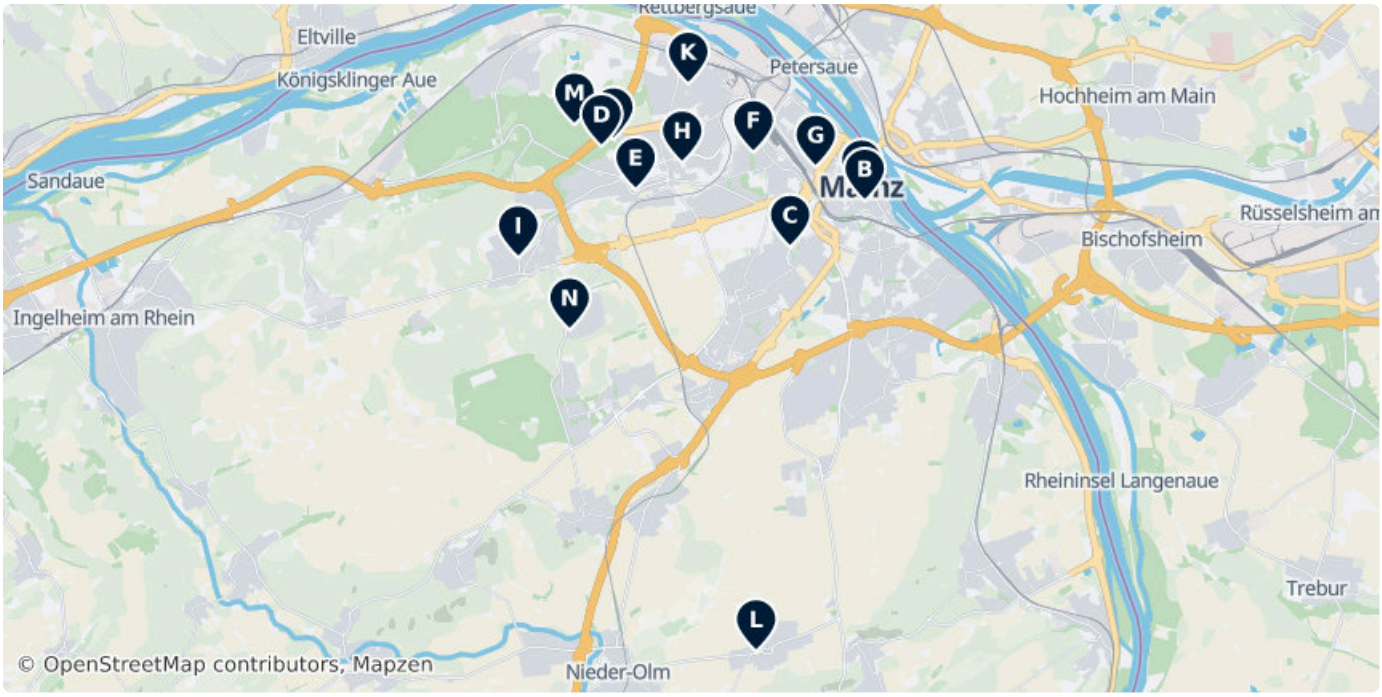
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

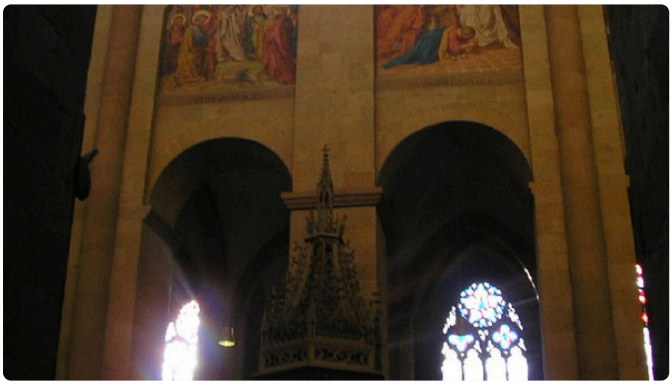
LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Historic Churches

Discover 14 historic churches and chapels across Mainz featuring Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, and Rococo architectural styles. Highlights include the iconic Mainz Cathedral and several heritage sites reflecting the city's rich religious and cultural history from the Napoleonic era to modern times.





A St. Martin's Cathedral

Mainz Cathedral or St. Martin's Cathedral is located near the historical center and pedestrianized market square of the city of Mainz,...

Markt 10, 55116 Mainz, Germany (49.99888, 8.27386)

Sa	09:00–16:00
Su	12:45–15:00, 16:00–17:00

mainz-dom.de, +49 6131 / 253-0



B Augustinerkirche, Mainz

The church of St. Augustin known in German as Augustinerkirche, was the minster of the Augustine friars in the city centre of Mainz.

Augustinerstraße, 55116 Mainz, Germany (49.99718, 8.27479)

Mo–Sa	09:00–17:00



C St. Achatius

Constructed during the Napoleonic era, this church is Mainz's only surviving building from that period.

4 Backhaushohl, Mainz 55128, Germany (49.98862, 8.25322)



D 14-Nothelfer-Kapelle

A chapel located on the edge of Lenneberg Forest in Mainz-Gonsenheim, dedicated to the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

(50.00732, 8.19863)

bistummainz.de/pfarreien/dekanat-mainz-stadt/gonsenh...



E Sankt Stephan

Catholic parish church first documented in 1401, located in Mainz-Gonsenheim.

9 Pfarrstraße, Mainz 55124, Germany (49.99926, 8.20850)

st-stephan.net



F St. Rabanus Maurus

Catholic church dedicated to Archbishop Rabanus Maurus in the Hartenberg district of Mainz.

(50.00621, 8.24262)

bistummainz.de/pfarreien/dekanat-mainz-stadt/pvpg/pg...



G St. Bonifaz

Parish church in Mainz Neustadt known for the Bonifazius Towers at its base.

(50.00352, 8.26063)

dominikaner-mainz.de/pfarrei/pfarrei.html



H St. Petrus Canisius

Roman Catholic church situated in the Mainz-Gonsenheim district.

64 Alfred-Delp-Straße, Mainz 55122, Germany
(50.00429, 8.22198)

I St. Martin

(49.98666, 8.17456)

J Friedhofskapelle

Chapel serving as a place of worship with wheelchair accessibility.

109 Kirchstraße, Mainz 55124, Germany
(50.00859, 8.20206)



K Friedenskirche

Protestant church located at Pestalozziplatz in Mainz-Mombach.

4 Pestalozziplatz, Mainz 55120, Germany
(50.01892, 8.22376)

L Sankt Laurentius

(49.91339, 8.24340)



Ⓜ Wendelinuskapelle

Two chapels situated in the Lenneberg Forest near Budenheim in Mainz-Bingen district.

99 Kapellenstraße, 55124, Germany (50.01134, 8.19083)

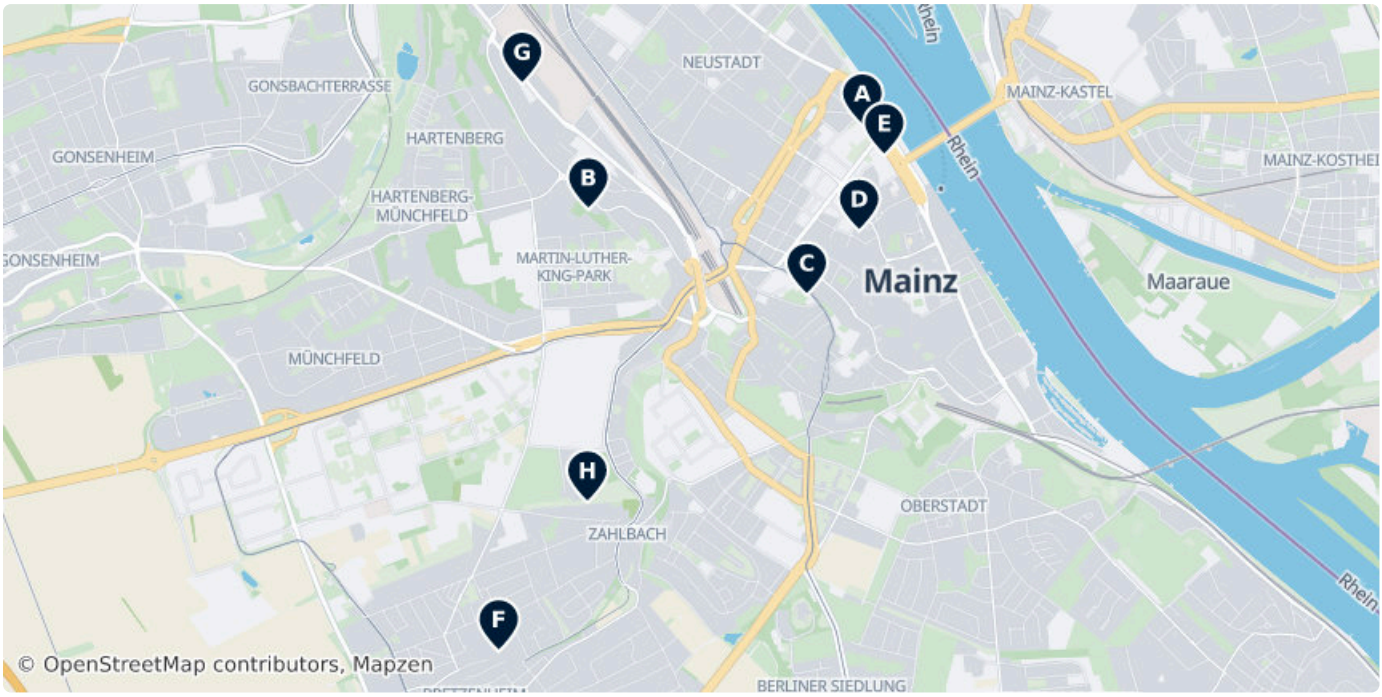
Ⓝ Maria-Hilf-Kapelle

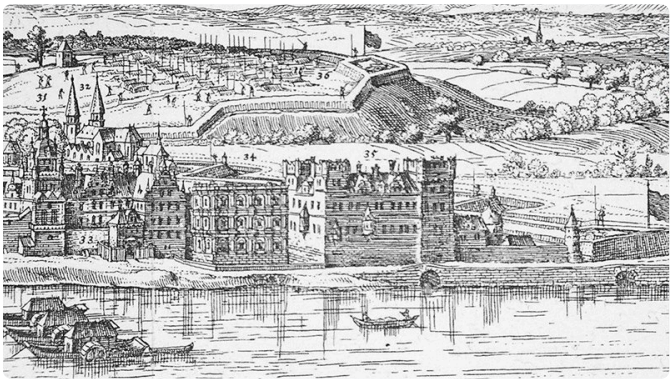
A Catholic chapel dedicated to Maria Hilf.

(49.97323, 8.18945)

Castles & Heritage

Explore Mainz's rich heritage through its iconic castles, palaces, and historic buildings, including the Electoral Palace and Schönborner Hof, alongside notable heritage sites and memorials that reflect the city's cultural and architectural legacy.





A Electoral Palace, Mainz

The Electoral Palace in Mainz is the former city Residenz of the Archbishop of Mainz, who was also Prince-Elector of his electoral state...

9 Peter-Altmeier-Allee, Mainz 55116, Germany
(50.00682, 8.27019)

ccmainz.de/index.php

B Prince Holstein Cavalier

Baroque castle structure located in Mainz.

46 Wallstraße, Mainz 55122, Germany
(50.00292, 8.25039)



C Schönborner Hof

Noble residence in Mainz significant post-Thirty Years' War.

Schillerstraße, 55116 Mainz, Germany (49.99895, 8.26618)

D Jüngerer Dalberger Hof

1718 manor house built for the Dalberg barons.

34B Emmeransstraße, Mainz 55116, Germany (50.00192, 8.26996)



E Deutschhaus Mainz

The Deutschhaus or Deutschordenskommende is a historical building in Mainz, western Germany, which is the seat of the Rhineland-Palatinate...

Peter-Altmeier-Allee, 55116 Mainz, Germany (50.00544, 8.27178)

F Rathaus Bretzenheim

Historic municipal building in the Bretzenheim district.

(49.98240, 8.24391)



G Denkmalzone Königliche Conserven-Fabrik

Former military canning factory linked to Mainz fortress.

89 Mombacher Straße, Mainz 55122, Germany
(50.00875, 8.24560)



H Römersteine

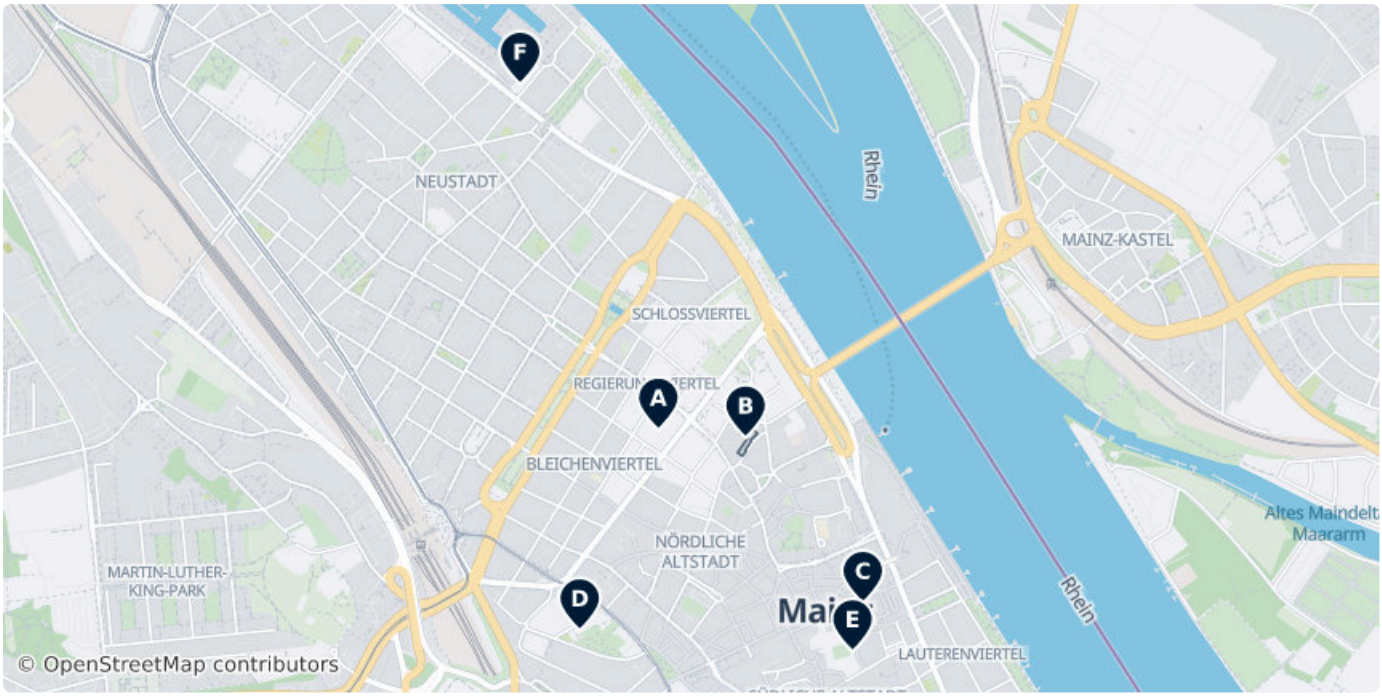
Remains of a Roman aqueduct near Bretzenheim.

20 Backhaushohl, Mainz 55128, Germany
(49.98931, 8.25032)

mainz.de/WGAPublisher/online/html/default/hthn-5ttjfg....

Top Museums of Mainz

Discover Mainz's diverse museums highlighting art, history, natural science, and regional culture. The list features the Landesmuseum Mainz with its extensive art and historical collections, the Naturhistorisches Museum showcasing natural history of Rhineland-Palatinate, and the Gutenberg Museum, one of the oldest printing museums worldwide.





A Mainz State Museum

The Landesmuseum Mainz, or Mainz State Museum, is a museum of art and history in Mainz, Germany.

Große Bleiche 49 - 51, 55116 Mainz, Germany (50.00385, 8.26748)

Tu–Su	10:00–20:00, 10:00–17:00

landesmuseum-mainz.de, +49 6131 28 57 225



B Naturhistorisches Museum

The largest natural history museum in Rhineland-Palatinate, focusing on regional flora, fauna, and geology.

Reichklarastraße 1, 55116 Mainz (50.00367, 8.27071)

Mo–We	09:00–18:00
Th	09:00–20:00
Fr–Su	09:00–18:00



C Gutenberg Museum

The Gutenberg Museum is one of the oldest museums of printing in the world, located opposite the cathedral in the old part of Mainz,...

Liebfrauenplatz 5, 55116 Mainz, Germany (49.99975, 8.27503)

Tu–Sa	09:00–17:00
Su	11:00–17:00

gutenberg-museum.de, +49 6131 122640



D Fastnachtsmuseum

Exhibits the history of Mainz's carnival tradition since 1837 across 350 m².

Neue Universitätsstraße 2, 55116 (49.99909, 8.26459)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Su	11:00–17:00

mainzer-fastnachtsmuseum.de, +49 6131 1444071



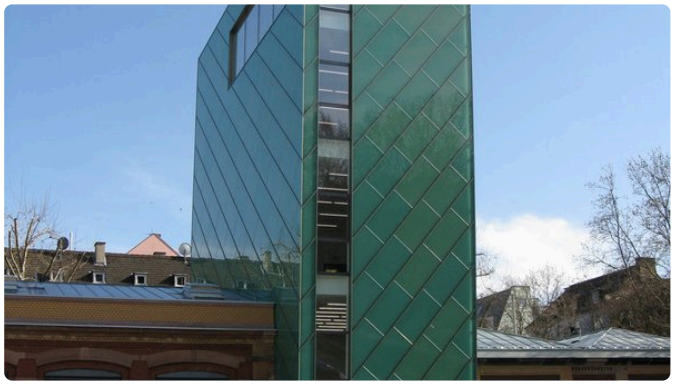
E Bischöfliches Dom- und Diözesanmuseum

Established in 1925, housed in historic Staufer vaulted halls showcasing diocesan art and artifacts.

Domstraße 3, 55116 Mainz (49.99860, 8.27466)

Mo–Su	Closed

dommuseum-mainz.de, +49 6131 253-344



F Kunsthalle Mainz

Exhibition center dedicated to contemporary art in Mainz.

Am Zollhafen 3-5, 55118 Mainz, DE (50.01205, 8.26239)

Tu	10:00–18:00
We	10:00–21:00
Th–Fr	10:00–18:00
Sa–Su	11:00–18:00

kunsthalle-mainz.de, +49 6131 126936

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