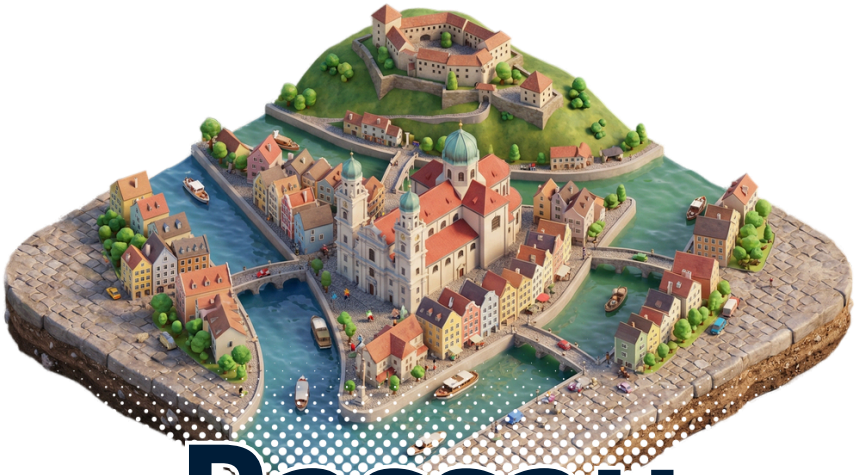
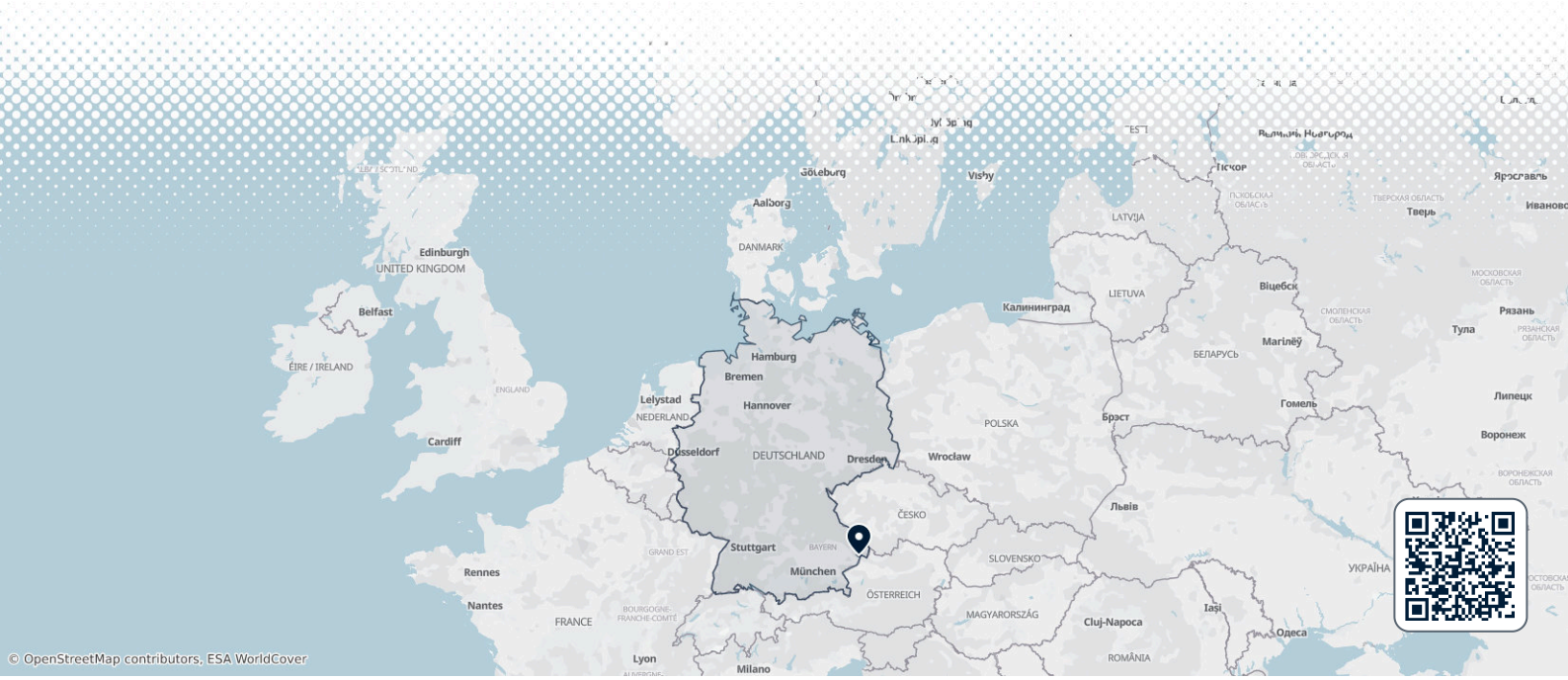


Passau

Bavaria · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Passau sits where the Danube, the Inn and the Ilz meet. The old town fills a narrow peninsula between two of the rivers. Baroque churches and tall town houses line its lanes.

The city suits a short stay of one or two nights. It is also a common start or end point for Danube river cruises and for the Danube cycle path.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time for walking and boat trips. Summers are warm and can bring rain. Winters are cold, and snow is common.

The old town is quiet in winter.

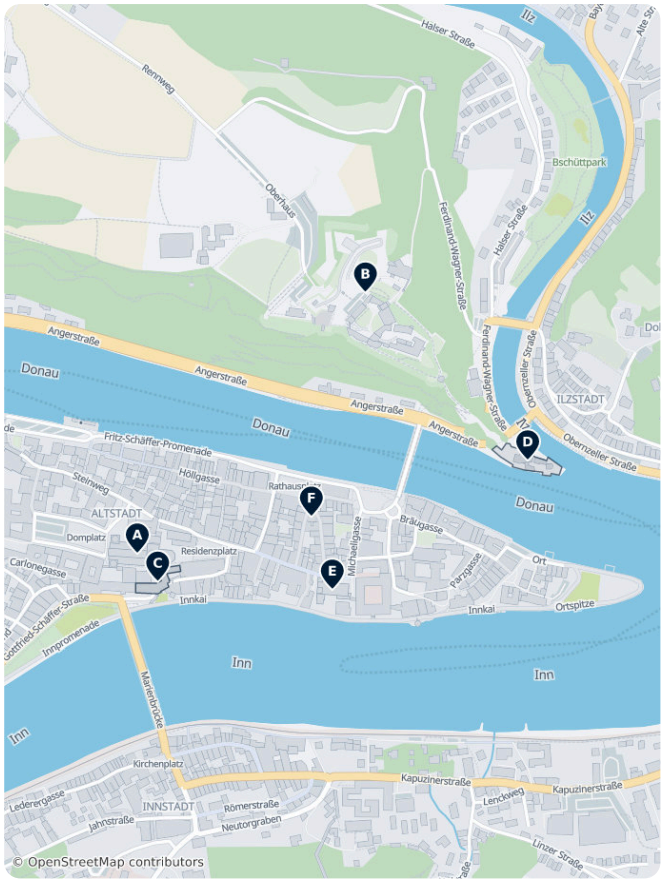
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -3°	-4° / -13°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 0°	-3° / -12°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	10° / 17° Feels like 5°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 12°	4° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 8°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	15° / 10°	18 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 33°	15° / 10°	15 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28°	10° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22°	6° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for cycling	8° / 16° Feels like 5°	2° / -4°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 10° Feels like -1°	-2° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: September

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

Top sights

- A Dom St. Stephan is the main church of the old town. The baroque building was built after a fire in 1662. It is known for its very large organ.
- B Veste Oberhaus is a fortress above the Danube, founded in 1219. It houses a museum, and the view over the three rivers is the main reason to climb up.
- C Alte Residenz was the palace of the prince-bishops. Its oldest surviving part is a Romanesque door jamb from 1180. Parts of it are used by the courts.
- D Veste Niederhaus is a medieval castle on the tip of land where the Ilz meets the Danube. It is private and not open to visitors. See it from across the river or from the Oberhaus.
- E St. Michael is a 17th-century church with baroque additions. It stands in a quiet lane in the old town.
- F Scharfrichterhaus is a medieval house that was once the home of the town executioner. Today it is a jazz and cabaret stage.
- The Dreiflüsseeck is the point where the three rivers join. The Danube, Inn and Ilz run side by side for a short stretch.
- The Passau Glass Museum has a large glass collection.



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What to experience

- Take a river boat trip to see the three rivers meet. Many Danube cruises start in Passau.
- Hear an organ concert in the cathedral in the warmer months.
- Go to a cabaret or jazz evening at Scharfrichterhaus.
- Cycle the Danube path east from the city.

Day trips

Passau is close to the Austrian border and to the Bavarian Forest.

- Schärding: a small Austrian town on the Inn with a bright, colourful main square.
- Linz: the Austrian city on the Danube, with museums.
- Bavarian Forest National Park: forest hiking to the north-east. A car makes the trip easier.

Where to explore

Upriver along the Danube:

- Regensburg is a Roman and medieval city with a well-preserved old town.

Getting there

- **By air**: Munich Airport is the main gateway for most visitors. Linz Airport in Austria is a smaller option. Both need a train or road transfer to Passau.
- **By train**: Long-distance trains run to Passau Hauptbahnhof from Regensburg, Nuremberg and Vienna. Deutsche Bahn
- By river: many Danube cruises start or end here.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: city buses are run by Stadtwerke Passau. Buy single, multi-trip and day tickets from the driver. Stadtwerke Passau fares
- On foot: the old town is compact and flat, so walking is the easiest way to get around. The climb to the Oberhaus is steep.
- By bike: the Danube cycle path to Vienna runs east from here. It is flat along the river.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and flat. The climb to the Oberhaus is steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The Danube path is flat. The hills above the old town are steep.

Food & drink

Bavarian dishes are the base of the menu here, with roast pork, dumplings and pretzels. Beer halls and inns serve them in the old town.

For eating, look along the lanes around the Rathausplatz and by the Inn and Danube embankments. Many places have terraces facing the river in summer.

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

Pickpockets can work in busy spots such as the old town squares. Keep bags closed.

The Danube and Inn can rise after heavy rain, and the lower lanes of the old town flood at times.

History

Passau began as a Roman fort called Batavis. Later it became the seat of a bishop. The prince-bishops ruled the city and the land around it for centuries from the Alte Residenz and the Veste Oberhaus.

A fire destroyed most of the old town in 1662. Italian architects and craftsmen rebuilt it in baroque style. Their largest work is the Dom St. Stephan.

The prince-bishops lost their rule in 1803.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



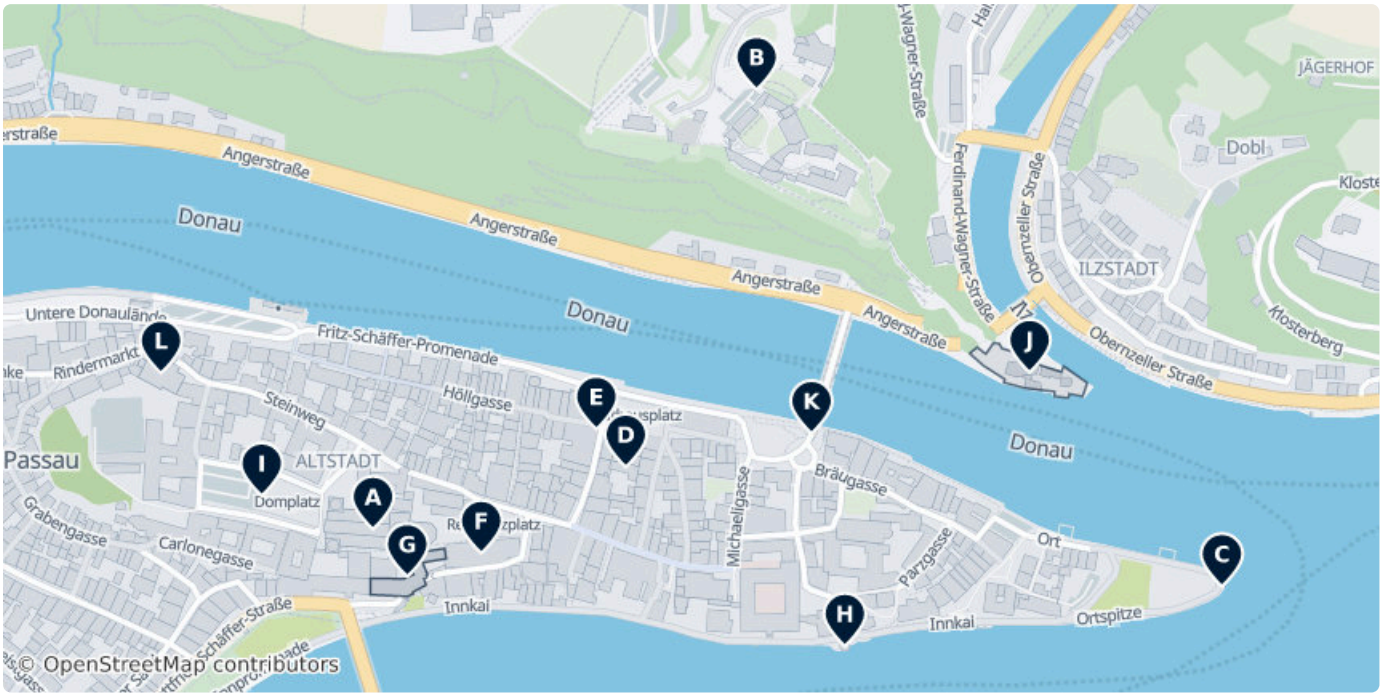
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Passau Essentials

Passau, known as the 'City of Three Rivers,' sits at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz. This collection highlights the city's significant baroque heritage, centered around St. Stephen's Cathedral, which houses the world's largest cathedral organ. The list features the 13th-century Veste Oberhaus fortress, the world's largest collection of Bohemian glass, and the historic Old Town Hall. These sites showcase the architectural evolution of the city from its medieval foundations to its transformation into a late baroque masterpiece under the prince-bishops.





A St. Stephan's Cathedral

St. Stephen's Cathedral is a baroque church from 1688 in Passau, Germany, dedicated to Saint Stephen.

9 Domplatz, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57422, 13.46543)

bistum-passau.de/dom-kultur/dom-st-stephan-passau



B Veste Oberhaus

Veste Oberhaus is a fortress that was founded in 1219 and, for most of its time, was the stronghold of the Bishop of Passau, Germany.

125 Oberhaus, Passau 94034, Germany (48.57812, 13.47057)

C Dreiflüsseeck

A panoramic viewpoint at the tip of the peninsula marking the exact confluence where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers meet.

(48.57371, 13.47681)



D Altes Rathaus

14th-century Gothic town hall featuring a 19th-century tower and ceremonial rooms decorated with large-scale murals depicting local history and legends.

1 Schrottgasse, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57477, 13.46882)

passau.de



E Passau Glass Museum

Located in the historic Wilder Mann building, this museum houses over 30,000 items, forming the world's largest collection of Bohemian glass.

3 Höllgasse, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57511, 13.46842)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

glasmuseum.de



F Neue Residenz

A Viennese Late Baroque palace built between 1712 and 1730 for the prince-bishops, currently housing the Cathedral Treasury and Diocesan Museum.

Residenzplatz, 94032 Passau, Germany (48.57401, 13.46688)



G Alte Residenz

The former 13th-century seat of the prince-bishops located opposite the cathedral, now serving as the district court.

13A Innbrückgasse, 94032, Germany (48.57380, 13.46589)

H Schaiblingsturm

A prominent round medieval tower on the Inn riverbank, originally constructed in the 14th century to protect the city's salt trade harbor.

4 Klosterwinkel, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57318, 13.47175)



I Domplatz

The highest point in the Old Town, this central square is flanked by the cathedral and features a 19th-century monument to King Maximilian I Joseph.

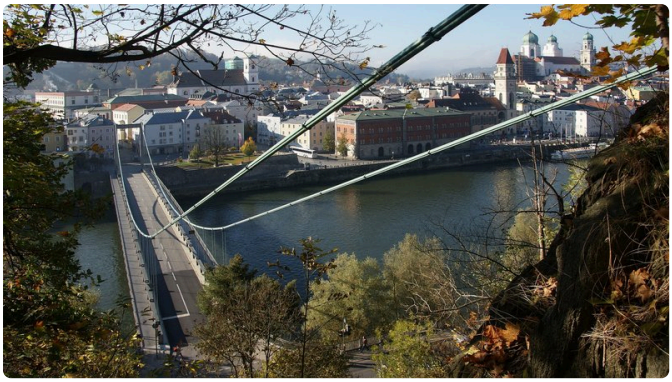
4 Domplatz, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57451, 13.46394)



J Veste Niederhaus

A 13th-century castle situated at the rocky confluence of the Ilz and Danube, originally serving as a lower defensive outpost for Veste Oberhaus.

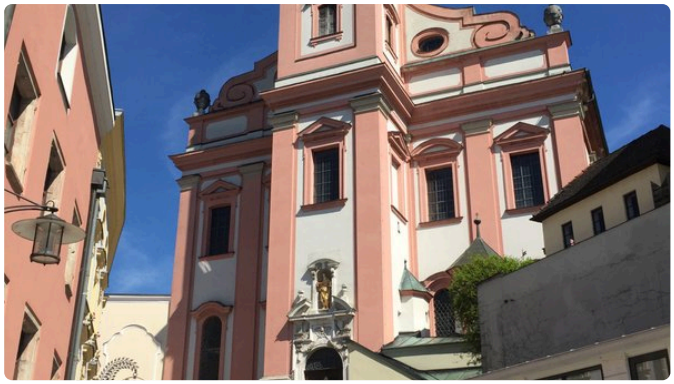
1 Ferdinand-Wagner-Straße, 94034, Germany (48.57561, 13.47423)



K Prinzregent-Luitpold-Brücke

A 208-meter-long suspension bridge completed in 1910, providing a key transport link across the Danube between the Old Town and the northern districts.

8 Bräugasse, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57507, 13.47131)



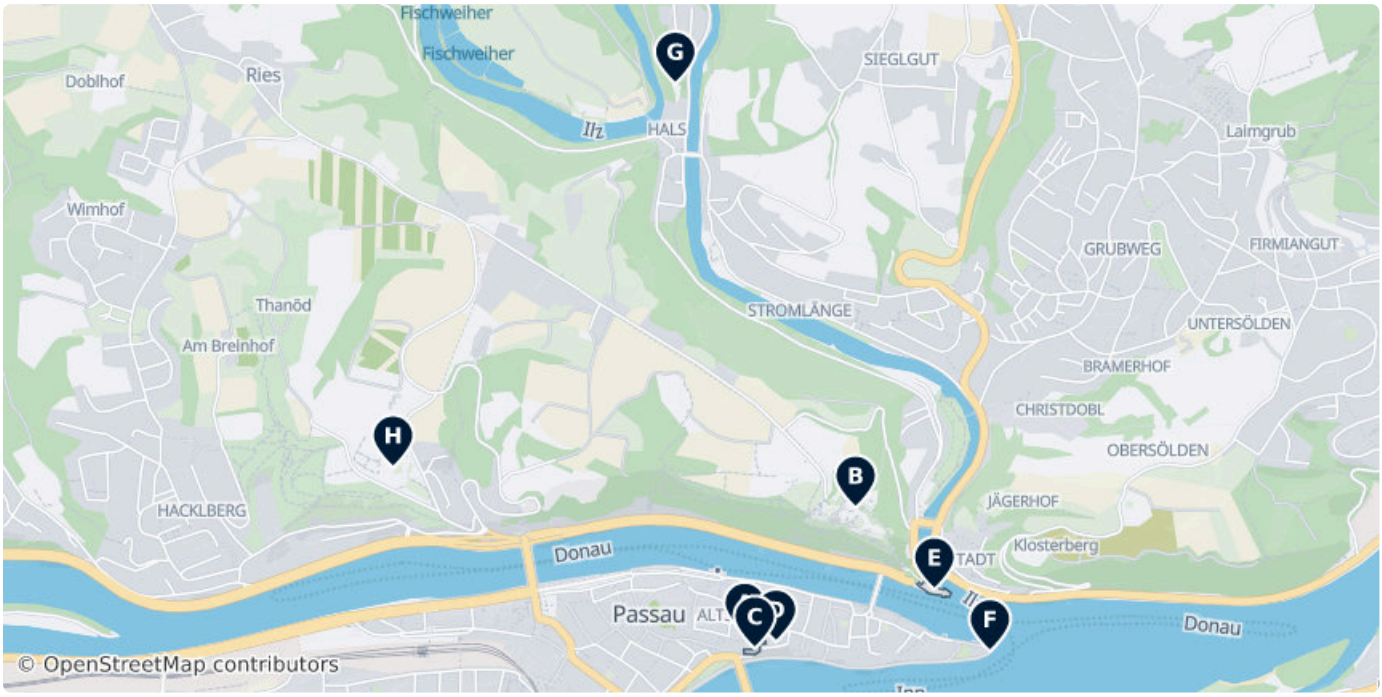
L Pfarrkirche Sankt Paul

The city's oldest parish church, featuring a striking pink baroque exterior and a high altar dating back to 1700.

1 Rindermarkt, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57560, 13.46259)

Passau's Must-See Landmarks

Passau’s architectural landscape is defined by its strategic position at the confluence of the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers. This selection features St. Stephen’s Cathedral, home to one of the world’s largest cathedral organs, alongside the Late Baroque Neue Residenz. The city’s defensive history is preserved in the Veste Oberhaus and Veste Niederhaus fortresses, while the ruins of Burgruine Hals provide a glimpse into medieval fortifications. These landmarks represent Passau's evolution from a medieval stronghold to a grand baroque episcopal seat.





A St. Stephan's Cathedral

St. Stephen's Cathedral is a baroque church from 1688 in Passau, Germany, dedicated to Saint Stephen.

9 Domplatz, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57422, 13.46543)

bistum-passau.de/dom-kultur/dom-st-stephan-passau



B Veste Oberhaus

Veste Oberhaus is a fortress that was founded in 1219 and, for most of its time, was the stronghold of the Bishop of Passau, Germany.

125 Oberhaus, Passau 94034, Germany (48.57812, 13.47057)



C Alte Residenz

Located in the old town across from the cathedral, this former episcopal palace dates back to the 13th century. It currently houses the diocesan archive and library.

13A Innbrückgasse, 94032, Germany (48.57380, 13.46589)



D Neue Residenz

Built between 1712 and 1730 in the Viennese Late Baroque style, this former palace of the prince-bishops features a grand ceremonial staircase and houses the Cathedral Treasury and Diocesan Museum.

Residenzplatz, 94032 Passau, Germany (48.57401, 13.46688)



E Veste Niederhaus

A medieval castle situated on the rocky tip of a peninsula at the confluence of the Danube and Ilz rivers. It is historically connected to the larger Veste Oberhaus by a fortified wall.

1 Ferdinand-Wagner-Straße, 94034, Germany (48.57561, 13.47423)

F Dreiflüsseeck

The geographic point where the Danube, Inn, and Ilz rivers meet. The site is notable for the visible color differences between the three merging water sources.

(48.57371, 13.47681)



G Burgruine Hals

Medieval castle ruins located on a narrow ridge surrounded by a loop of the Ilz river. The site includes a 14th-century keep and remains of the original curtain walls.

15 Burgweg, Ilzstadt 94034, Germany (48.59112, 13.46221)



H Schloss Freudenhain

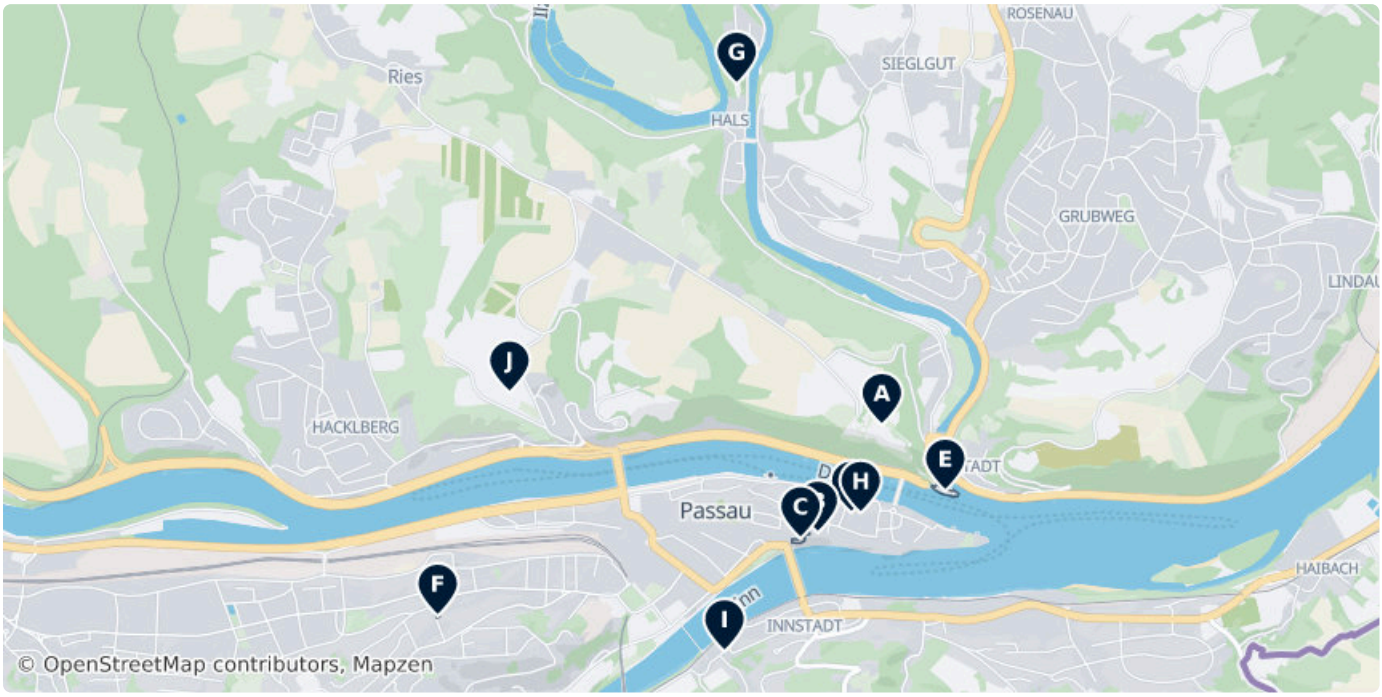
A late 18th-century neoclassical palace built for Prince-Bishop Joseph Franz Anton von Auersperg. It is set within a landscaped park on the north bank of the Danube and currently functions as a school.

(48.57935, 13.44911)

freudenhain.de

Historical Heritage of Passau

Passau's architectural landscape reflects its long history as a powerful Prince-Bishopric. This selection features the 13th-century Veste Oberhaus fortress and the late Baroque Neue Residenz, showcasing the evolution of ecclesiastical power. The list also includes medieval defensive structures like the Severinstor and Veste Niederhaus, situated at the confluence of the Ilz and Danube. From the Gothic-era Altes Rathaus to the unique mosaic-clad Glasscherbenvilla, these landmarks represent the city's transition from a fortified stronghold to an elegant Baroque center.





A Veste Oberhaus

Veste Oberhaus is a fortress that was founded in 1219 and, for most of its time, was the stronghold of the Bishop of Passau, Germany.

125 Oberhaus, Passau 94034, Germany
(48.57812, 13.47057)



B Neue Residenz

Built between 1712 and 1730 in the Viennese late Baroque style, this palace served as the seat of Passau's Prince-Bishops. It features a grand ceremonial staircase and houses the Cathedral Treasury Museum.

Residenzplatz, 94032 Passau, Germany
(48.57401, 13.46688)



C Alte Residenz

Located opposite the cathedral, this former bishop's palace dates back to the Middle Ages, with substantial renovations in the Renaissance and Baroque eras. It now serves as the district court.

13A Innbrückgasse, 94032, Germany (48.57380, 13.46589)



D Altes Rathaus

A complex of buildings dating to the 14th century, featuring a Gothic tower and a facade decorated with murals. The Great Council Hall contains large-scale paintings depicting scenes from the Nibelungenlied.

1 Schrottgasse, Passau 94032, Germany (48.57477, 13.46882)

passau.de



E Veste Niederhaus

A medieval castle situated at the tip of the rocky peninsula where the Ilz and Danube rivers meet. Originally connected to Veste Oberhaus, it served as a defensive outpost and later as a prison.

1 Ferdinand-Wagner-Straße, 94034, Germany (48.57561, 13.47423)



F Broken Glass Villa

Also known as the Ostuzzi Villa, this unique residence is decorated with colorful glass shards and mosaics. Built in 1902, it represents a distinct and eccentric example of local architectural design.

Ostuzzistraße, 94032 Passau, Germany (48.57084, 13.44497)



G Burgruine Hals

Remnants of a 12th-century castle located on a narrow ridge above the Ilz River. The ruins include the keep and sections of the curtain wall, offering views over the surrounding nature reserve.

15 Burgweg, Ilzstadt 94034, Germany (48.59112, 13.46221)



H Scharfrichterhaus

The Scharfrichterhaus in Passau, Germany, is designated as a national historical treasure and was built circa 1200.

Marktgasse, 94032 Passau, Germany (48.57477, 13.46935)



I Severinstor

A historic city gate, also known as the Peichtertor, that formed part of Passau's medieval fortifications. It provided access to the city from the south and is located near the St. Severin cemetery.

1 Am Severinstor, Innstadt 94032, Germany (48.56949, 13.46150)



J Schloss Freudenhain

A Neoclassical palace built in 1785–1792 by Prince-Bishop Joseph Franz Anton von Auersperg. Set within a large park on the Danube's northern bank, it now houses a secondary school.

(48.57935, 13.44911)

freudenhain.de

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