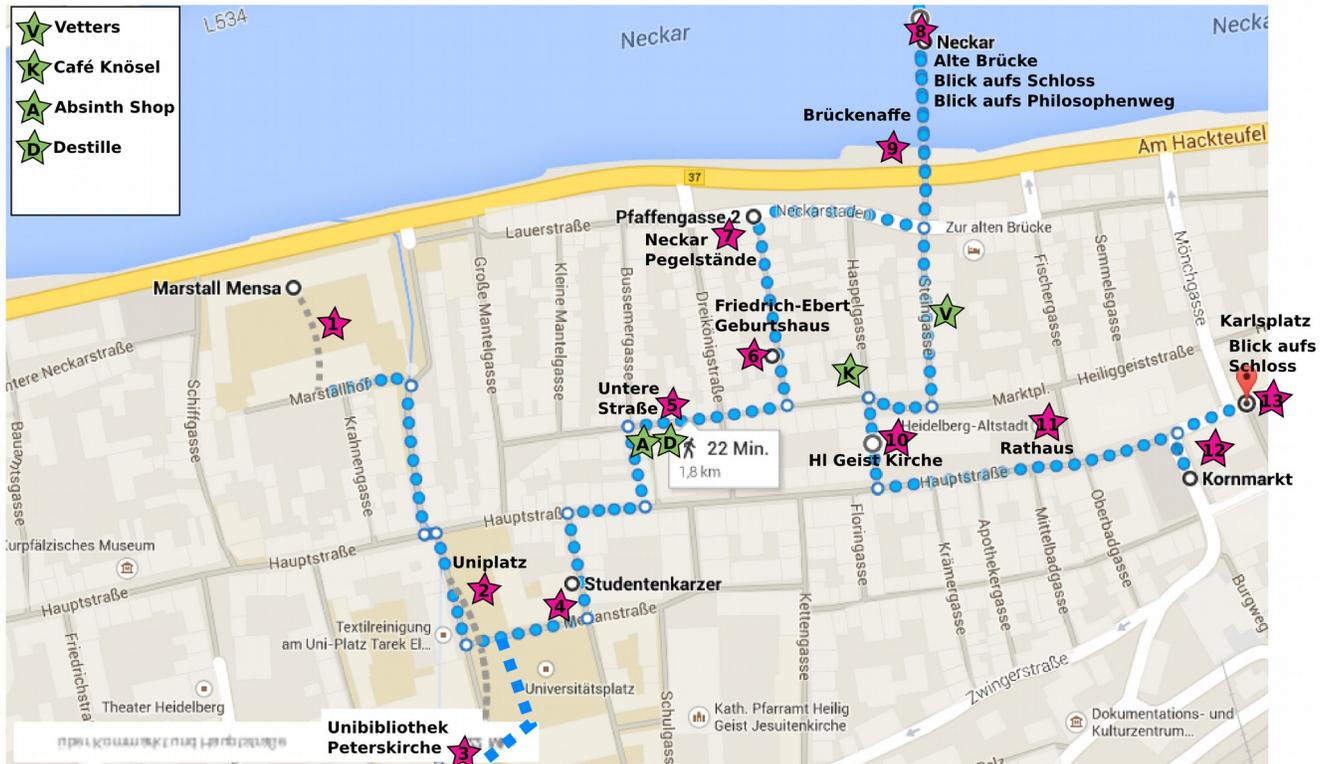


# City tour for international students in Heidelberg

→ Castle not included so far!!

about 1.8 km, 60 – 90 minutes - English

Starting point: Marstall



## Some tips for giving the tour:

1. The quality of the entire tour depends a lot on the guide! It's up to you how you present historic facts and funny stories. We recommend you use your friends or family to practice ;)
2. Everything that's important for any type of oral presentation also holds true for a city tour: Face your audience, speak slowly (many internationals aren't fluent in English/German), speak clearly and speak loud! Try to speak as freely as possible (we know it's hard).
3. Adapt the tour to your audience. Visitors from other cities who only spend a day in Heidelberg don't need as many practical information as local students. They might, however be interested in things to do after the tour.
4. Remember that you know much more than your audience. When speaking about things such as the „Kurfürsten“ make sure to explain what that actually is.
5. You might want to consider asking people if they are actually interested in all the tiny historical details or if they prefer to only learn about the big picture.
6. Try to entertain your audience and make sure they stay with you while you're talking.
7. Most importantly: Don't forget to make sure that your group stays together when moving from one site to the other. That's also the job of other ESNers coming along for the tour.

## Some general information about Heidelberg

- Before starting the tour: interact with your audience and ask them about what they knew about Heidelberg before coming here.
- Heidelberg is considered a typical German university town with almost one third of the population being students at one of the local universities
- Heidelberg is most known for its castle ruin
- **Around 3.5 Mio tourists every year** in Heidelberg
- **Homo Heidelbergensis:** prehistoric men (200,000 – 600,000 year old) found in the small city of Mauer located about 20 km south-east of Heidelberg.
- Famous person from Heidelberg is the queen of Sweden: **Silvia Sommerlatt (Queen Silvia of Sweden)**
  - She visits Heidelberg from time to time to see her grandparents. One time she and her husband, the Swedish king, tried to eat at a restaurant in Ladenburg but since hardly anyone here knew her they were rejected at the door because all tables were occupied.
- **Historic development of Heidelberg**
  - **500 BC** First Celtic settlement on the top of the 'Heiligenberg' (Hill on the northern side of the Neckar with Philosophenweg, Thingstätte and Michaelskloster)
  - **200 AD** Romans: more buildings in 'Neuenheim', also a bridge crossing the Neckar
  - **1196** a castle already existed on the 'Königsstuhl' at the place where you can find the 'Molkenkur' today
  - many of the different city parts of Heidelberg such as Neuenheim or Rohrbach used to be villages with mostly areas way older than the ancient Heidelberg itself which consisted mainly of the castle and some small parts of Altstadt.
  - Around 1200, the rulers of the area around Heidelberg were appointed to be Kurfürsten.
    - Kurfürsten: local rulers who were entitled to elect the German emperor.
  - Around 1300 First castle at the place where the current castle resides
  - Around 1400 Heidelberg covered the area which is today known as Altstadt.
- **Inhabitants in Heidelberg:** for a long time a pretty small city
  - 1439: 5000 inhabitants, 500 students
  - 1588 no increase 5000 – 6000 inhabitants
  - For comparison: London at the time of Elisabeth Stuart: 300.000 inhabitants (early 1600s)
  - 1800: 10.000 inhabitants
  - 1900: ~1500 students
  - 1946: 100.000 inhabitants
  - **Today: 150.000, 25 % International inhabitants, (+20.000 americans), ~40.000 university students**

## Marstall

- 135m long, built up in 1510
- A remaining part of the old city wall
- built to serve as armory in the middle ages
- Zeughaus: Place where weapons were stored
- Today: You can find one mensa as well as offices of the Studentenwerk
- In Marstall cafe events organized by the Studentenwerk take place: such as Marstall parties, Marstall cinema, knitting nights (hello knitty) and much more

# Uniplatz



## Infos zu Uni Heidelberg

- **Oldest German University (founded in 1386)**
- **2/3 oldest University** of all regions where German used to be spoken. Prag: first german-speaking University and Vienna (first still existing German-speaking University). French, English, Italien Universities are however older (Paris, Oxford, Bologna)
- Official name of the University: German: **Ruprecht-Karls Universität (Ruperto Carola)**. This name originates from
  - a) Founder: prince elector (Kurfürst) **Ruprecht I.** – 7 prince electors / (Kurfürsten) in Germany used to elect the Roman-German king.
  - b) Grand Duke Karl Friedrich von Baden (~1800) who supported the University a lot when Heidelberg belonged to Baden.
- **At the beginning:** 4 faculties: Theology, Law, medicine, philosophy
  - Sciences since 1891 as 5<sup>th</sup> faculty
- First lecture: topic: logic, already 500 students
- **Why did Heidelberg so fast gained success and got famous for its university although it is such a small city?**
  - Western Schism: 2 Popes, one in Rome, one in Avignon. German emperor supported the Roman pope. The French Pope was not amused and as a consequence all German professors employed at French universities such as the Sorbonne which was already quiet famous at that time had to leave France. The supporters of Heidelberg University made them all coming to Heidelberg and so Heidelberg got popular professors.
- In 17<sup>th</sup> century, university got closed several times (during 30-years war, 1618-1648).
- **1693** conquered by Ludwig XIV (Louis 14, famous french king)
- **1869** first woman allowed to study in Heidelberg
- Famous and smart people from Heidelberg: Hegel (philosopher), Jaspers (philosopher) Bunsen (chemist)
  
- Leading theme of the university: **Semper Apertues - stets offen**
- Second leading theme included in the statue above the door of the front door of the new university building: **Dem lebendig Geiste (to the living spirit?)**
- **Question: Whom does the statue represent? → Athene, goddess of wisdom**
  - Unfortunately Heidelberg and the University were very much involved and influenced by the German Nazi regime. During this period this theme was replaced by the phrase: To the German spirit. When the sign was replaced, the house keeper of the university who was a smart guy was hoping that the Nazi regime would not last for too long and therefore hit the original sign in the basement of the university. After WWII he was therefore able to put up the original sign again.
- **New University:** 1931-34, the construction of the building was made possible due to donations from Americans who had studied at the University of Heidelberg
- In general: There always used to be quiet a lot Americans in Heidelberg. **Headquarter for the american armed forces in Europe** used to be in Heidelberg until 2012.
- During **WWII Heidelberg** was one of the few German cities not damaged by bombings. It has been suggested that the Americans already had planned to build up their headquarters here and in order to prevent themselves from being hated by the Heidelberg inhabitants they did not destroy the city. One day it nevertheless almost happened, but luckily the British bombers could not find their target due to bad weather conditions.

- University administration in Seminarstraße is one of the oldest university buildings, it has been used as monastery, barracks and psychiatry
- The **botanical garden** of the University, founded 1583 is one of the oldest German botanical gardens, it used to be located in the Old city. Today it can be found in Neuenheimer Feld.

### Old University building

**built: 1712-1735, lecture halls, student jail, administration,** renewed for the 500-year birthday in 1886

- Lion fountain on the west side of the building was an important part of the water supply in earlier times
- While rooms used to be used for lectures, they today serve for concerts and receptions
- In the building there is also the museum of the University
- Opposite of the university library: Peterskirche, oldest church in Heidelberg

### University library



- **Question: How old is the main building of the university library?** → Barely 100 years!
- At first: a **box** with books in the Heiliggeistkirche
- built in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, made to look older than it actually is
- Today: > **3.1 million books**
- Most famous book: **Codex Manesse**, a medieval book with songs from 1300-1400
- The building is made from the **red-colored sandstone** which is typical for this region

### Historic student jail – Studentenkärzer



- Until WWI, universities had their own **jurisdiction** and were held responsible for the actions of their students
- **Between 1778 and 1914 students** were sent to jail even for smaller offenses such as being drunk in public → short term arrest for about 3 days
- **The first student jail** was located in the basement of the old University buildings. Regular flooding from the river Neckar, however, also flooded the Old university buildings including the student jail and several students died → The jail was moved to upper floors of a newer university building which can be visited today.
- In the early 1900s, it became fashionable to be sent to the Kärzer and almost every student had spent at least one night there. The Kärzer also features some of the **oldest graffiti in Heidelberg** which give you a pretty good idea about how life as a student was 100 years ago.
- After WWI, the city took over jurisdiction over the students and the Kärzer was closed.

## Untere Straße (en route to Friedrich Ebert house)

- Street with a lot of (student) bars
- Worth mentioning: Distille, Absinth store which claims to offer one of the largest assortment of absinths world-wide
- Mohr: Ladies night on Thursdays – Free champaign!

## Birth Place of Friedrich Ebert

Directions: From Karzer across Hauptstraße into Untere Straße → Absinth shop at Untere Straße, the house is located in a small side road towards the Neckar.

- One of the founders of the political idea of a **social democracy**
- **First president of the Weimarer Republic (1919-1925)**
- Grew up in a poor household, his father was a tailor
- In earlier times, Heidelberg was separated into the **lower- and the upper city** → Uniplatz was border between both. The nearer a house was to the Neckar, the poorer were its inhabitants → Danger of floodings
- Was active in politically rough times where the Social Democrats were constantly under pressure from left wing communists and right wing monarchists. Interestingly, the social democrats constituted the largest party in the Reichstag though!
- Ebert was diagnosed appendicitis which he didn't want to be treated in a hospital because he was afraid his political enemies might kill him during his stay in the hospital → he then died due to the appendicitis.

## House with water levels

**The highest water level for the Neckar ever recorded was in 1784:** The winter 1783/84 was especially cold due to a **volcanic eruption** in Iceland and as a consequence huge amounts of melting water flooded Heidelberg in the spring. The flooding together with some remaining ice sheets destroyed the Old bridge which was built from wood back then. Parts of the bridge with street lights still burning were said to have floated down the river and even through Mannheim → A new **stone bridge** was constructed in the following years

→ Head for the old bridge

## Old bridge

- From **200 – 1200 AD actually no bridge** across the river in Heidelberg!
- The present bridge is actually the **9<sup>th</sup> bridge at this place!**
- In earlier times, the northern shore of the Neckar including Neuenheim which wasn't a part of Heidelberg yet belonged to the catholic church in Mainz → the bridge was also a toll station. **The toll sign of Heidelberg was a Monkey** → Relief with the Monkey on it on the bridge, the backside of the monkey was facing towards the north side → Heidelbergers and the people from Mainz didn't like each other too much. The original relief has been lost!
- The old **bridge we know it today was finished in 1786**. It was one of the most expensive buildings in the entire area back then, only the castle in Mannheim was more expensive!
- **Brückenaaffe:** New symbol of Heidelberg, erected in 1979 → people say that if you touch the mirror the ape is holding, you will return to Heidelberg sometime in your life.
- Statues on the bridge represent ancient river gods in the region: Rhine, Danube, Isar, Mosel

- **in 1945 the bridge was almost destroyed by the Germans** who tried to keep the approaching American army from crossing the river → failed!
- **The bridge tower** is actually much older than the bridge, it used to be part of the city wall. Today the city rents it to artists who can stay there at no charge.

→ From the bridge you have a great view of Philosophenweg and Heiligenberg!

- **The name “philosophenweg”**: Most university professors used to live in Neuenheim, the university was in the old city → professors would walk back home via the philosophenweg. Today, the area around philosophenweg is way to pricey for professors to live there :)
- The area around Philosophenweg is the **warmest part of Heidelberg** making it a region well suited for growing wine. You can even find bananas and palm trees up on the hill!

→ On the other side of the river, you can see the castle!

- The main **attraction of Heidelberg today is the castle**, which is actually just the remainders of a castle! → Due to the complex maintenance works it is definitely the most expensive and most visited ruin in Germany! → French destroyed the castle during the nine years' war in 1689+1693
- 
- Before the castle was destroyed, the **huge wine barrel** which is standing inside the remainders of the castle until today was the main tourist attraction for people visiting Heidelberg.
- The used to be a big challenge between the electors in Dresden and Heidelberg who could build and maintain the biggest wine barrel → bigger and bigger barrels were built → Dresden won, but their barrels was lost 100s of years ago → **Biggest wine barrel in the world** is now in Heidelberg :)
- The barrel was actually filled at least once (capacity: 200.000 liters!) since all inhabitants of Heidelberg had to pay taxes which did not have to be paid with money but could also be paid with goods. → wine was a mixture of wine from many different origins → quite disgusting → spices were added to make the wine drinkable
- **Perkeo** → care taker for barrel, jester from Italy. Once asked whether he could drink the entire contents of the barrel, he answered: **Perché no?** → **Hence his name!** When he was given pure water to drink one day, he immediately died from it!

## Brückenaaffe

- New symbol of Heidelberg, erected in 1979 → people say that if you touch the mirror the ape is holding, you will return to Heidelberg somewhen in your life.

## Heiliggeistkirche

**On the way we will pass**

- **Brauhaus Vettters**, There are a couple of smaller breweries such as Vettters, we will visit the one in Ziegelhausen next weekend!
- **Studentenkuss** by Café Knösel, small and sweet pastry students used to show their affection to a girl by buying one of these.

## Heiliggeistkirche

- Opposite of the entrance: **Haus Ritter**, one of the few old houses which actually survived a huge fire. Has always been a hostel except for a couple of years in the 17<sup>th</sup> century where it actually was the town hall.
- HG Kirche: **Heidelbergs biggest and most well known church** → used to house the university **library** → Church is as old as the university (~625 years)
- Surrounded by small shops on the outside: At one place, there is a prezel carved into the wall → you could check whether the prezel that you bought had the correct size!
- Used to be home to the **Bibliotheka Palatina**, which was stolen and taken to Rome during the 30 years war
- After the 9 years war, the church was **separated into a catholic and protestant part** by a wall inside the church and remained like that until 1936!
- **You can climb the tower which actually gives you a great view of the castle and the old city!**

## Town hall



- **The old town** was destroyed during a fire including the town hall → Hotel Ritter
- Since most people were poor, they reconstructed their houses on top of the basements of their old and destroyed houses using bricks from the destroyed castle but in the baroque style, modern at that time. This explains why there are **a lot of small streets** which is very untypical for baroque-style cities.
- **A lot of weddings take place** here during week days, one of the most popular places to get married in Germany. It is not allowed to throw rice at the to wish them a fertile marriage with many children since too many brides slipped on injured themselves.

## Kornmarkt



- **Marienstatue**: after the 9 years war, Heidelberg remained protestant. Catholic monks from the Jesuit order built this statue to advertise for people to become catholic. Maria symbolizes catholicism. The dragon represent protestantism.
- Every Sunday there was a public church service and to make more people attend, the Jesuits gave away **free beer**.
- From the Kornmarkt you can take the “**Kurzer Buckel**” to reach the castle → 310 steps
- **The Bergbahn**
- **Bergbahn**: Germanys oldest cable car which takes you all the way up to Königsstuhl.

## Karlsplatz



- Named after Karl-Friedrich, Duke of Baden and great supporter of the University (→ Name)
- **Heidelberg Academy of Sciences**: Basic research in the humanities
- **Palais Boissérée**: Political and social meeting point of the region, e.g. Goethe used to live here whenever visiting Heidelberg. Today: part of the University
- Two historic student restaurants: **Zum Seppl, Roter Ochse**

## View up to the castle

Why did such a small city get a big castle?

- First Castle build up in 1200, since 1300 two castles (2. one at the position of Molkenkur)
- → Outward appearance of this castle are not known
- Since ~1400 the existing castle at the position of today's castle ruin was enlarged to serve as residence for the prince elector (Kurfürst)
- Since ~1600 the castle was further enlarged to improve the representative factor
- One of the 7 prince electors, who are allowed to elect the king of the holy roman empire of German nations
- 1612 Wedding of Friedrich V. and Elisabeth Stuart (grand child of Maria Stuart) were living in Heidelberg after their wedding which took place in London
- **London** was already quite large at that time while Heidelberg in comparison was rather a small village and Maria Stuart got home sick and missed London a lot
- Since Friedrich loved his wife (which was not always the case in these days) he started to build the **Castle Garden** similar to a typical English garden.
- Friedrich tried to conquer additional territories but failed and **was sent to exile** in the Netherlands. His wife always followed him and they finally spent only a couple of years in Heidelberg.

## Heidelberg Castle

- The main **attraction of Heidelberg today is the castle**, which is actually just the remainders of a castle! → Due to the complex maintenance works it is definitely the most expensive and most visited ruin in Germany! → French destroyed the castle twice during the nine years' war in 1689+1693
- How come the french destroyed the castle? Prince-electors Karl Ludwig married his daughter to a brother of Ludwig XIV for political reasons. His son, however died without having any children and no successor from the family of Karl Ludwig existed. The new successor refused to cooperate with the French under Louis XIV → war.
- After having been temporarily rebuilt in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, lightning struck the castle twice which caused the Kurfürsten to finally move to Mannheim. And Heidelberg lost its role as capital of the palatine area.
- Before the castle was destroyed, the **huge wine barrel** which is standing inside the remainders of the castle until today was the main tourist attraction for people visiting Heidelberg.
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