

Strolling through the *City* of Aalen



Herzlich
willkommen

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1. Reichsstädter Brunnen (Fountain)

The fountain was created in 1977 by the sculptor Professor Fritz Nuss from Aalen, in memory of the “Free Imperial Town”, the period from 1360 - 1803. The bronze figures surrounding the fountain reflect scenes from Aalen’s history.

2. Market Place

Only a few meters from the “Reichsstädter Brunnen”, the coat of arms of Aalen and its twin towns are planted into the ground as mosaics. On market days (since 1809 Wednesday and Saturday mornings) the marketplace has always been a popular meeting-point of Aalen’s inhabitants.

3. The Protestant Town Church

The Protestant Town Church “St. Nikolaus” appeared for the first time in chronicles in 1340. After burning down in 1634, it was rebuilt provisionally but after the tower crashed it was completely renovated in 1765/67. Following an idea of J. A. Groß, the architect of Württemberg’s Court, the master builder J. M. Keller placed the altar at the longer side of the nave. The cemetery, originally situated around the church, was moved to St. John’s Church in 1500.



4. Schubart’s House

A resident’s house built in the 17th Century and former home of the poet’s family. Schubart (1739 - 1791) who also worked as a journalist and composer spent his youth here.

5. Spritzenhausplatz (Fire brigade square)



This square was developed after an extensive fire in 1865. The “Zehntstadel” (tithe storehouse) which burnt down was replaced in 1866 by a building which was used by the fire brigade until 1981 and the upper floor was Aalen’s Festival Hall until 1957. Contemporarily constructed facades and plenty of plants contribute to the cosy and unique atmosphere of this square.



Nördlicher Stadtgraben

Beinstr.

Bürger-spital

Spritzenhausplatz

Spitalstr.

Stadelgasse

Mittelbachstraße

Westlicher Stadtgraben

Storchenstr.

Radegasse

Korbstraße

Urwelt-Museum

Reichstädter Str.

Altes Rathaus

Stadtkirche

An der Stadtkirche

Marktplatz

Helfferstraße

Torhaus VHS Stadtbibliothek

Südlicher Stadtgraben

Rathaus



6. Bürgerspital (Citizen's Hospital)

This building, constructed in 1702, was a municipal hospital until 1873 and was later converted into an old peoples' home.

Since 1980

it has served

successfully as a center for senior citizens.



7. Exterior painting

On the right side "of Café Schieber" a small passage opens towards the Bahnhofstrasse. At the front of a row of houses a painting directs the spectator's eyes into the distance. This special effect is achieved by means of narrow steel tapes and transparent colour.



8. Regenbaumallee (Rain Tree Avenue)

This somehow enchanted avenue lined by trees, starts with an arabesque spring. From its center, surrounded by Venetian glass mosaics, the brook finds its way easily and finally ends in elegant bends at the "Rain Tree."

9. Spitalstrasse (Hospital Street)

This area with its lovingly restored timber-framed houses (17th century) has only recently been redeveloped.

10. Stadtturm (Town Tower)

Called "Schwörturm" and used with eight other towers to protect Aalen from enemy attacks during its period as an "Imperial Town". Aalen was surrounded by a town wall and two massive ditches. The nine towers were pulled down in 1800, due to their dilapidated state.

11. Haus Aißlinger (Aißlinger House)

At the Storchengasse/corner Stadelgasse, it is supposed to be the oldest house in town. In its original shape it was a typical citizen's house. Partly destroyed by fire in 1949, it has since been restored to its original condition with its old paintings.



12. Radgasse

Here are the oldest houses of Aalen, restored in the eighties, nowadays with quite a number of pubs and restaurants. In the olden days a pond was found here, whereas the guesthouse “Rad” (wheel) was situated in building No 15. All these houses were constructed between 1659 and 1662 and they are typical examples of

Aalen’s citizens houses.

13. Market Place 2

17th century citizen’s house with a fine “Rokkoko” staircase. The Schubart Museum was accommodated here from 1979 to 1992. The Touristik-Service Aalen has its office in here since 1994.



14. Old Town Hall with “Spy Tower”

Built in the 14th century, this building served until 1907 as the town hall of Aalen (Imperial Town from 1360 to 1803). After the great fire in 1634 it was rebuilt. The Imperial Town of Nuremberg presented a clock which was partly destroyed by another fire in 1884. Only the head of the “Spy from Aalen” was saved. The Prehistorical Museum has been based here since 1977.



History of the Spy from Aalen

“Good Day, Gentlemen, I am the spy from Aalen!”. With this voluntary confession the carefully chosen and most intelligent citizen marched into the Emperor’s war camp, saving Aalen from an attack because of his simple mindedness. This clever spy is commemorated by its bust installed in the tower of the old town hall, watching over Aalen and smoking a pipe.

15. Market Fountain

Built in 1979 in Barock-Style, only the statue of Emperor Joseph I. is a copy of the original which can be seen in the town hall. The cast-iron fountain plates (coat of arms of Württemberg from 1718, coat of arms of Aalen and its suburbs) are clearly visible.



16. Old Town Hall

This used to be the “Golden Crown” coaching inn and appeared in chronicles for the first time in 1575. It was a Thurn and Taxis coaching house until 1851 and Aalen’s town hall from 1907 to 1975. By accommodating famous guests it has found a place in local history. The “Napoleon Window” still reminds us of Napoleon’s stay in 1805. At the outer wall you can look at Aalen’s oldest known coat of arms dating back to 1664. Today it houses a stage of the Town Theatre, an Art Gallery, the “Schubart Museum” and a Cabaret Café.



17. Torhaus

This interesting building from the eighties accommodates the Town Library as well as the Adult Education Centre and the Town Theatre. There is ample room for various performances in music, theatre, pantomime and cabaret. The café on the ground floor invites you to relax after all these cultural events.

18. Fountain “Bretzgeblase”

Opposite the “Torhaus” another fountain of the Aalen artist Professor F. Nuss, catches the eye. Dedicated to an old Aalen “original” who, at the



turn of the century, sold pretzels and entertained the inhabitants of Aalen by cracking jokes whilst selling his merchandise.

19. City Wall Passage

Remains of the medieval town fortification and roughly 6 m high and 1.5 to 1.6 m thick. On the top a walk existed along the battlements with a total length of 990 m, protecting Aalen’s surface of 5.3 hectares.

History of the Town

History of the Town Aalen (67 600 inhabitants) has gone down in history as a roman garrison and a Free Imperial Town. Serving as an important military crossroads, the largest roman cavalry fort north of the Alps was constructed in 150 B.C. Its foundation as a town probably took place around 1240 by emperor Frederic II. of the Staufer dynasty. In 1360 emperor Charles IV. made Aalen a Free Imperial Town. During the secularization the town and its mines and foundries, which until then belonged to the royal diocese of Ellwangen, became the property of the Kingdom of Württemberg in 1803. Aalen’s economic strength began with the construction of the railway from Stuttgart to Aalen and Wasseralfingen in 1861, followed almost immediately by industrialisation. This led to increased economic power and employment possibilities. Due to the ideal mixture of already existing industries such as optics, paper and metal industries, textiles and clothing, ceramics and machine tools, Aalen has become an important economic region within the State of Baden-Württemberg. In addition, the town at the foot of the Eastern Swabian Jura is an attractive location for culture and leisure activities.

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