

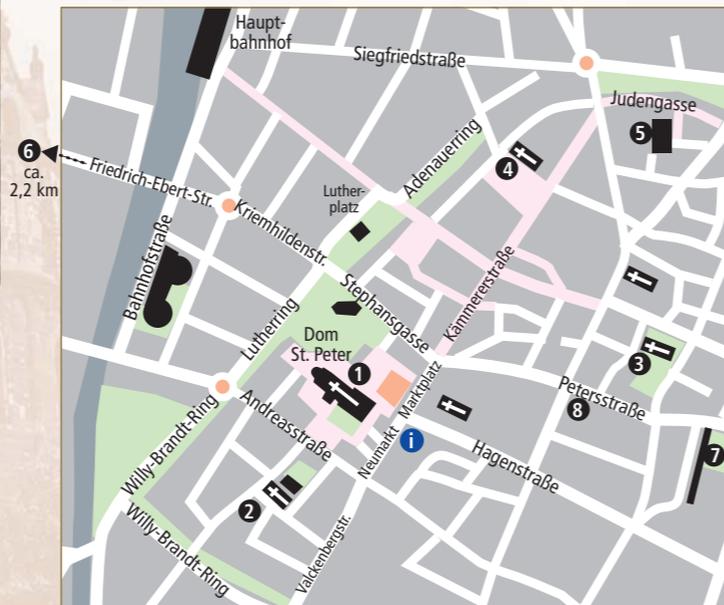


powerfully implements their own ideas. The theological theme of all the ornamentation of the portal, which is often referred to as a stone bible, is the triumph of the Christian church over the Old Covenant. This message culminates in the sculpture in the gable which is unique in medieval imagery: the church (Ecclesia) is presented riding on a beast that comprises the symbols of the four evangelists.

Anyone who walks round the cathedral and puts their head right back discovers many more strange beasts up above, as well as the so-called master builder, on whose shoulder a monkey is sitting, the legendary cathedral dachshund and a rat that was added at the time of the plague. Inside, Balthasar Neumann's high altar in its baroque opulence stands opposite the grand Romanesque west choir. The other sights in the cathedral include the sumptuously carved choir stalls, the five stone reliefs from the late Gothic period in the eastern aisle, which reproduce the most important scenes from the history



1 cm \triangle ca. 100 m



- 1 St. Peter's Cathedral
- 2 Weckerlingplatz, St. Andrew's Collegiate Church, St. Magnus' Church
- 3 St. Paul's Collegiate Church
- 4 St. Martin's Collegiate Church
- 5 Synagogue
- 6 Mountain church in Hochheim
- 7 Torturmplatz with Nibelungen Museum
- 8 Romanesque house wall
- i Tourist Information



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worms: city of religions



Dom & Romanik

The cathedral and the Romanesque period



The cathedral in Worms (1) is the smallest but also the finest of the three Romanesque imperial cathedrals on the Rhine. Its four slender, round towers, the beautiful rose window of the west choir and its rich architectural structure give it a distinctive appearance. Parts of the imposing building that stands at the highest point of the city centre still date from the time of Bishop Burchard who was bishop of Worms from 1000 until 1025 and had a first large cathedral built.

The current building was begun under the Hohenstaufen rulers and consecrated in 1181. When the Gothic style came into fashion, Worms wanted to keep up and they changed the whole south side, extended St Nicholas' Chapel and added the Chapel of St. Anne and St. George. The new eye-catching feature was now the south portal (beginning 1300), an excellent piece of work by the Worms cathedral builders' lodge, which, although it is based on models in Strasbourg Cathedral,





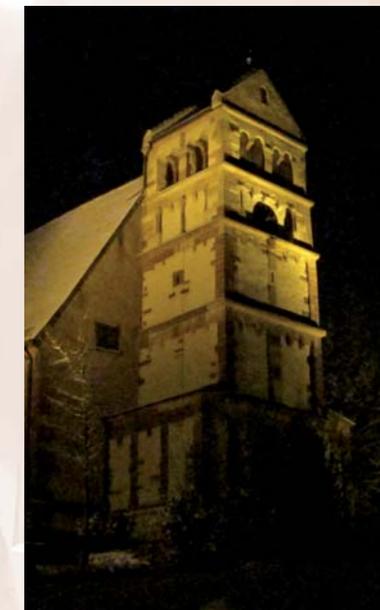
of salvation, St. Nicholas' Chapel with the lion font, the history window and, last but not least, the Salian crypt, in which the forefathers of the Salians, including Conrad the Red, are buried. The cathedral is the crown of the city, but far from being the only Romanesque religious building. Within Germany, it is only in Cologne that there are more Romanesque churches than in Worms. One of the most attractive ensembles in the city is **St. Andrew's Collegiate Church in Weckerlingplatz (2)** with a view to the cathedral, which now houses the City Museum with a large exhibition on the early period, the Romans, the Franks and the Middle Ages, as well as the Luther Room. Bishop Burchard had St. Andrew's Collegiate Church built. The highlight is the picturesque cloister, a popular place for cultural events and atmospheric celebrations, the southern part of which comes from

the Romanesque period with its powerful arcades and richly decorated capitals. St. Andrew's Church is also unable to deny its relationship with the cathedral. The small nearby **St. Magnus' Church (2)** also has Romanesque characteristics; it has even older foundations than all the other churches in Worms.

It was the aforementioned Bishop Burchard who started a real building boom in Worms during his period in office. He had St. Paul's Collegiate Church with its towers with an oriental appearance built on the foundation walls of the former Salian castle - today, **St. Paul's Collegiate Church (3)** belongs to the Dominican monastery, which frequently opens the late medieval cloister and the romantic monastery gardens for spiritual events and concerts -, and he probably also arranged for the construction of **St. Martin's Church (4)**, which is surrounded by a number of legends. There is not only the legend that the saint himself languished in prison here

because he refused to fight for the emperor; there is also the legend of the magic goose, which is told in connection with the medieval plague pogrom. Of course, we should not imagine that the construction of the **synagogue (5)** can be traced back to the building-loving bishop, but it is clear that the same master builders were at work as in the cathedral and the other Romanesque churches. This is revealed by the design of the pillars and much more. It is reasonably certain, however, that Burchard was involved in the construction of the **mountain church (6)** in the Hochheim district. The small Romanesque crypt is one of the main treasures of the region. The altar table, which was only rediscovered a few years ago, comes from the Burchard period.

By some miracle, not only the aforementioned churches have survived the repeated destruction of the city, but so too have large sections of the city wall, which had been magnificently extended in the Hohenstaufen period. Anyone who comes from the Rhine into the city has the feeling in **Torturmplatz (7)**, with the two excellently preserved city towers (now the Nibelungen Museum), that they are looking directly into the Middle Ages. Anyone who would like to can follow the city wall in the east and north, and in the south-west and west, through narrow streets or flourishing parks. All that remains of a s, or more accurately a single wall, can still be seen in Peterstraße.



TIP

When you visit the cathedral in Worms, pay particular attention to the figurative stained glass windows in the Gothic chapels. Thus, the "history window" in St. Joseph's Chapel is like a historical kaleidoscope and is related to the "bible in pictures" of the south portal. Particularly popular: daily guided tours of the cathedral for individual visitors from April to October at 14:00 (except for Sundays and bank holidays). Further information: www.worms.de