

7. The Town Hall Well

A reproduction of one of the wells from the water supply in *Frankenberg* which was dismantled in 1902. From 1502 to 1899 the water of the river *Eder* was pumped from the *Niedermühle* (a mill) through wooden pipes, later replaced by iron pipes, into this or other tanks. Furthermore there were also other wells.

In 1900 a new central water supply system was installed by which water could be supplied to every house, and so, the tanks and the wells became superfluous.

8. The former Brewery

In 1538 this brewery was built within a line of half-timbered houses. Beer was brewed there between 1588 and 1892. From 1843 it was also used as a fire station by the fire brigade. In 1993 it was added to the nearby hotel and renovated, only the original facade being kept.

9. The Stone House

Oldest house of the town. It was built as the seat and the office of the mayors, the civil servants and the town council in 1240. It survived the great fire (9th May, 1476) and was temporarily used as the town hall. The kitchen house with a fireplace and a coat of arms in the ground floor (around 1485) was built by *Heinrich Schwalm*. The „Stone House“ was extensively renovated between 1975 and 1977.

10. Obermarkt 2 (The Upper Market) - The Patricians` House

One of the most important half-timbered houses in Frankenberg, built in 1531. It is a house with very delicate brick masonry of different patterns. It has very fine ornamentation and a symmetrical row of windows on all the floors which are of equal size and half-timbered constructions. Its peculiarity is the fact that the upper floor sticks out from above the ground floor by as much as 40 centimetres, sometimes there is a difference of 40 centimetres.

11. The Witches Tower

This 13th century tower is the last one of the 20 watchtowers and the five gates of the fortification that once protected the old town. Its walls have a thickness of three metres and a height of 10 metres so that it was also used as the town prison. First it was called the „Hainstock“ but during the time of the witch hunts the name was changed, at least in the vernacular, into the name it still has today: „The Witches Tower“.

12. Pferdemarkt 10-16 (The Horse Market)

These half-timbered houses were perfectly restored between 1979 and 1986.

13. Geismarer Street 3 (house of the clubs and the town archives)

Half-timbered edifice of the 16th century with a stone tower on the south side. One also has a good view of very well restored half-timbered houses standing in the street „Auf der Heide“.

14. Untermarkt 2-12 (The Lower Market)

Well preserved half-timbered buildings with a peculiarity of Frankenberg: the house numbers 2, 12 and „Marktplatz“3 (Marketplace) have two or three-storey corner oriels.

15. Untermarkt 14

Number 14 is a building of the 16th century with delicate brick masonry (Part of the Hotel “Die Sonne Frankenberg”)

16. Steingasse 17 (Stone Lane)

This building is one of the oldest half-timbered houses in Frankenberg. It was erected around 1500. Today it is known for its interesting construction. The house was restored in 1983.

17. The Herbold`s House (Steingasse 1)

One of the most beautiful half-timbered buildings with brick masonry and a three-storey oriel. On the three door frames of the house you find late Gothic inscriptions with high relief letters of extraordinary size. On the main entrance there are carved coats of arms and seals of Frankenberg and of *Sebastian Herbold*, the architect of this edifice. The house was erected in 1564 and it was restored between 1975-77.

18. Neue Gasse (New Lane)

One of the oldest residential buildings. It was erected around 1500 and it was restored in 1978/79. The house is interesting because of its rack construction that is to be seen on the north side.

19. Ritterstraße 6-8 (Knights` Lane)

Magnificent residential and office building with very broad beams, similar to the town hall. It was erected in 1520.

20. Neustädter Straße 49 (The Pedestrian Precinct)

A very attractive building with windows that still have their original size. It was restored in 1978.

21. Neustädter Straße 35 (The Pedestrian Precinct)

A three-storey half-timbered house with a two-storey oriel of the 17th century. It was restored in 1977. It is said that this house stands on the ground where the town hall of the new town could once be found.

22. Iller and Mones- Figures

At the Illerplatz (a square), 1978. *Iller and Mones* are nicknames for the two typical citizens of Frankenberg. Inscription (in): „Iller, is Mones at home? No, he is on the Goßberg (a hill) watering the plants“

23. Monument

...in memory of the last town crier of Frankenberg. Nearby: a Frankenberg coat of arms let in to the paved surface of the street.

24. The Convent St. Georgenberg

The building was erected from 1245 to 1248 and it was a convent of the Cistercian nuns. After the Reformation it was used by the administration of the Counts of Hesse, afterwards it became the seat of the district administration and the home of the museum of local history.

This museum is open: Tuesday and Friday from 10 to 12 o`clock, Wednesday from 15 to 17 o`clock and Sunday from 13 to 17 o`clock. Special visits for larger groups can be arranged. Telephone number: +49 6451/743-672

Frankenberg

A town of half-timbered houses

A tour through the Historical town centre

A short guide



1. The castle Hill

Around 520, but around 720 at the latest, the Franks built on this mountain ridge, while fighting against their neighbours the Saxons, a fortress called the „Frankish Castle“ which was not only meant to be a protection for the Franks the battles but also to safeguard the *Weinstraße* (Waggon Road) reaching from Frankfurt to Frankenberg. The fortress lost its significance with the end of the Saxon wars in 804. In 1122 the castle hill became the property of the Counts of Thuringia. As they were struggling against the *Diocese of Mainz* for more power and wanted to enforce their territorial demands, they built a new castle on the hill in 1234 and founded a town named Frankenberg east of this fortress. It is proved by historical documents that Frankenberg was mentioned for the first time as a colony in 1236, in 1244 it appeared as a town. Frankenberg developed into a flourishing trading centre and the citizens gained great prosperity. In 1335 the new town of Frankenberg was founded north of the castle (unification of the old and the new town in 1556). In 1335 the citizens of Frankenberg decided to revolt against the lords in the castle who constantly infringed their rights. They burned down the fortress which was not rebuilt afterwards. On may 9th, 1476 nearly all the houses of the old town and the new town burned to the ground. As trade had moved to other roads that did not pass Frankenberg, the town lost its importance as a trading centre. In 1798 the *Colonel Todenwarth* had the former fortress pulled down completely. He levelled the top of the castle hill and planted trees, some of which can still be seen today. In 1899 a water container for the central water supply was erected on the castle hill. Like in former times one still has an excellent view from this mountain ridge, called the “*Frankenberg*” (Mountain of the Franks): In the south there are the municipal hall and the swimming bath and pools with a park that was built on the ground where once (between 1288 and 1786) the counts` fishing ponds and a part of the *Weinstraße* could be found. In the west you find the former convent of *St. Georgenberg*, the upper *Edertal* (a valley) with the *Rothaargebirge* (a mountain range) and the former *Höhenstraße* (High Road) to Cologne. In the north one can see the hospital, The *Edertal* with the *Sauerland* (Saxon—Westphalia) and the *Weinstraße* that later led to Paderborn.

2. The Former Girls` School

The school was built in 1769 by the parish as a „*Free Protestant-Lutheran Girls` Grammar School*“. Within a redevelopment program for the old town centre in 1978 it was converted into a residential building.

3. The Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady)

The foundations of the church were laid in 1286 and it was built on the model of the *Elisabethkirche* in Marburg. It is a church with a nave and two side aisles of equal height in the Gothic Style. The most valuable part of the *Liebfrauenkirche* is the *Marienkapelle* (Mary Chapel) which can be found on the southern side of the church. In this chapel there is a built-in stone altar 6,50 meters high. The chapel was completed in 1380. Furthermore one should absolutely have a look at the windows in the choir of the church,



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| 2. The Former Girls` School | 13. Geismarer Straße 3 | 24. The Convent St. Georgenberg |
| 3. Church of Our Lady | 14. Untermarkt 2-12 | |
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Gothic glass paintings of the 14th century, the portrayal of the „*Story of Gethsemane*“, the little sacrament store, the stone pulpit of 1554 and the frescoes that were created after the great fire in 1476 and finally uncovered in 1962. The organ is an instrument consisting of the three manuals with 43 Stops and 3000 pipes. As a consequence of the church reform of *Moritz of Hessen-Kassel* in 1606, all the statues and pictures showing Saints were removed or destroyed, thus the church and the chapel were deprived of their most beautiful ornamentation.

4. Old People`s Nursing Home

„*The St. Elisabeth-Foundation*“ The building was erected in 1288 by *Count Henry I of Hesse* in honour of his grandmother, *Saint Elisabeth, a princess of Thuringia*. The present buildings were built between 1975 and 1977

5. The Hospital Church

This is a church with one nave in the late Gothic Style with a crypt under the choir. It was built in 1515 by the Augustian nuns for their

nearby hospital. From 1679 to 1958 it was the church of the Reformed and since then for the protestant (United Lutheran and Reformed) parish.

6. Rathaus (The Town Hall)

The town hall was erected in 1509 as a Gothic half-timbered construction with two floors and ten turrets. On the ground floor there is an impressive hall (Schirm). On the west side you find an octagonal tower with a spiral staircase from the year 1535. On the top floor: conference hall of the town councillors and the restitry office. The „*Huckepack Knaggenfiguren*“ musicians and clowns, above the south and north entry show that the hall was also used for celebrations. These figures and the figures of *St. Christopher* on the west side were created by the artist *Philipp Soldan* (around 1500-1570) who was not only known in Frankenberg but also in the whole region. The half-timbered construction of 1561 has brick-filled compartments with a variety of patterns that show Low German influences in Frankenberg. In the belfry there is a carillon that can be heard every day at 11.45 and 15.45 o`clock.