Welcome to Philipp-Soldan-Stadt Frankenberg (Eder)!

Take a tour of the most beautiful places in the town:

**Burgberg (Castle Hill)**, the place where it all began. In 520, the Franks built a fortress here called Frankenberg. Frankenberg was first mentioned as a city in 1244 and flourished as a trading centre. Walk across the Burgberg and take in the beautiful sight looking over the town. Do you see the small, red window on the black base? From here, you can see the Eder. Moving past the old girl’s school (2), which was built in 1769 and today serves as a residential building, you come to the Liebfrauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) (3), which was constructed in 1286. In 1380, the Marienkapelle was built as a place of pilgrimage; its impressive 6.5-metre tall altar was designed by Tyle von Frankenberg. It’s worth a look inside! Taking a small detour will lead you to the Hospitalkirche (4), built in 1515 by Augustinians, it’s a single-nave late Gothic church with a crypt below the choir. Now behold the old timber-frame town hall (5, Rathaus) (4) built in 1509, the pearl of Frankenberg’s historic town centre. Above the entrances, you can see carvings of piggyback figures (braces) in the form of musicians and jolly characters, which point to the earlier use of the hall for various festivities. These carvings and the Christophorus figure on the west side are from the sculptor and model carver Philipp Soldan (ca. 1500–1570), native of Frankenberg, whose fame stretches well beyond the borders of his home town. Now you come to the town’s oldest building, the Steinhaus (6, stone house) (5), built around 1240. On the right at Obermarkt 2, you can see a patrician’s house (7), one of the most important half-timbered houses in Frankenberg, dating back to 1531. The intricate design of timbers with clinker brick infill arranged in different patterns makes it stand out. Take a close look: the upper floor construction projects an entire 40 cm out beyond the ground floor at the widest point. Now take a short detour down the Gadengasse. Of the once 20 defensive towers and 5 gates, the 13th century Hexenturm (Witch Tower) (8) is the only surviving tower from the old town’s fortifications. With 3-m-thick and 10-m-high walls, it has also served as a town jail.

May 9, 1476, was a tragic day in the history of Frankenberg: nearly all the buildings in the historic town centre and the new town were lost in a fire. The fire broke out at a house on Untermarkt 7 as the result of a little girl playing with fire. You can see a number of well-preserved half-timbered houses at Pferdemarkt (9) 10–16, the Haus am Geismarer Tor (10) and the entire Untermarkt. Pay close attention to the multi-storey corner oriel on the buildings in Untermarkt 2 and 12 and Markt Platz 3 (11), which are typical of Frankenberg. The former brewery (12) was built in 1538, which later served as the fire engine house of the fire department, and later still it was acquired and used by the hotel beside it. On your way down to the pedestrian zone, you will see more noteworthy half-timbered houses (13), (15), (16), (18) dating from 1590–1520. Another impressive half-timbered house is Herbold’s house (14) with its beautiful brick infill and three-storey corner oriel. On the middle supporting beams there are late Gothic inscriptions carved in unusually large bold relief lettering. At the entrance to the pedestrian zone, you are welcomed by the Town Crier (Ausrapper) (17) in remembrance of Frankenberg’s last town crier. In the middle of the shopping promenade, you will meet Frankenberg’s two most famous citizens: Iller & Mones (19). Written in a dialect, the inscription translates roughly as: ‘Iller, is Mones home? No, he’s on the Goldberg hill watering the flowers.’ Looking past Iller and Mones, you will see the former town hall of the new town (20), a three-storey half-timbered house with a two-storey corner oriel built in the 17th century. Take in the spectacular view of the Eder, or if the season is right, enjoy a little break at the water park. Incidentally, at the red window on the black base, you can look right back to Castle Hill at this point. After leaving the pedestrian zone, it is worth visiting the former monastery of St. Georgenberg (21). Visit the serene and contemplative courtyard that has a beautiful little herb garden. The museum at the Frankenberg monastery (21) (21) includes an exhibition of unique stove plates by Philipp Soldan and numerous works by the stonemason Tyle von Frankenberg, who was also responsible for the formerly rich figurative decoration of the Liebfrauenkirche and Marienkapelle.

Our tip: To quickly get back to the old town, use the stairs on the Bergstraße, which run parallel to the Neustadtstraße and will lead you back to Castle Hill. There are two more things that we don’t want you to miss out on. The Thonet Museum with showroom and factory outlet (22), world-famous for its bentwood and tubular steel furniture, most notably the Viennese coffee house chair, is home to one of the world’s most famous furniture museums. The furniture manufacturer has been operating in Frankenberg (Eder) since 1889. Just outside the town gates, the Frankenberg Wildlife Park (23, Wildlife Park) (23) is a real natural treasure. Become one with nature and experience different animals up close in their natural habitat. An unforgettable experience for young and old alike!

* For further information, see the back of this page.
Castle Hill (Burgberg) (1)

In 1376, the citizens of the town rebelled against the encroachments of their lords and burned down the castle, which was never rebuilt. In 1798, the ruins of the castle were cleared away, the area was leveled and trees were planted, some of which still stand today. Today, this is a park, where you can enjoy some tranquility in the middle of the town.

Church of Our Lady (Liebfrauenkirche) (3)

Modeled after the St. Elizabeth's Church in Marburg, the Liebfrauenkirche is a national cultural monument and considered one of the oldest Gothic churches in Germany. The Marienkapelle was attached in 1380 as a place of pilgrimage.

Town hall (Rathaus) (5)

This historic half-timbered town hall with 10 towers is one of the most beautiful town halls in all of Germany. The glockenspiel chimes at 11:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. and plays different melodies every month. A wedding chamber is located on the first floor.

Farmer’s Market put on by the local women (5)

Every Saturday the historic half-timbered town hall comes to life when the farmers’ weekly market takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at this indoor market. Local farmers offer cheese, sausages, bread, jams, cake, fresh waffles and much more for a unique atmosphere.

Stone House (Steinhaus) (6)

The oldest house in Frankenberg is 20 m high and has a spacious vaulted cellar. It survived the great fire of 1476, after which it temporarily served as the town hall of the old town. Today, it is home to the town library.

Pedestrian zone (17–20)

After leaving the old town and making your way down the hill, you come to the pedestrian zone. In front of the former town hall of the new town visitors are greeted by the Iller & Mones statues. From the newly designed water park, you can look down at the Eder. Numerous cafes and restaurants invite you to take a break and relax a while.

Museum in the Frankenberg Monastery (21)

The museum is located in the rooms of the former Cistercian monastery St. Georgenberg. Here you can see the largest collection of traditional Hessian women’s headwear and the oldest blueprint in Hesse.

Guided tours can be booked.

Opening hours:
Wed and Sun 2 – 5 p.m.
Bahnhofstraße 14 / +49 5691/625734

Thonet Museum, Showroom and Factory Outlet (22)

Internationally acclaimed manufacturer with company headquarters in Frankenberg. Take a walk back in time to the beginnings of the company’s storied history since 1819. Then, tour the company’s showroom in a special atmosphere and visit the Factory Outlet before you go.
Free admission, and guided tours available.
Opening hours: Mon–Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Michael Thonet-Straße 1 / +49 6451/508-0

Wildlife Park (23)

Outside the town gates with an incredible view. Admission is free and the park is open all day. In addition to wild boar, goats and sheep, the free-roaming animals that you can feed right from your hand makes for a special experience. There is also a playground for some recreational fun.

Info and contact details:
Ederbergland Touristik • Untermarkt 12 • D-35066 Frankenberg (Eder) • Phone: +49 6451/717672 • info@ederbergland-touristik.de • www.ederbergland-touristik.de
Opening hours: April–October Mon–Fri 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sat 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • November–March Mon–Fri 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City tours

From the 1st Saturday in April to the last Saturday in October, we invite you every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. to a free city tour. The tour lasts 1.5 hours and starts at the “Wasserkump” in front of the historic town hall. We are also happy to organize city tours on other dates upon request! Theater city tours organized by Komödie Frankenberg are also very popular.

Cycling

All roads lead through Frankenberg! Whether you’re on the Eder cycling route, the GeoRad-route Ruhr-Eder, the Lahn-Eder or Ohm-Eder cycling route, Frankenberg is ideal for an overnight stay when on a bike tour through the Eder Uplands (Ederbergland). Accommodations, route information, information on e-bike charging and bicycle rental stations are available at www.ederbergland-touristik.de.

Hiking

Just outside the town gates, you will find a hiking paradise. Between Frankenberg (Eder) and Marburg (Lahn), there is a network of hiking trails from the Eder Uplands to Burgwald consisting of 19 official premium circular hiking trails. Taking the Ederhöhlental, you can walk from the Eder Uplands to Frankenberg and even as far as the Urwaldsteig am Edersee. Learn more at www.ederbergland-touristik.de.