

... DISCOVERING AACHEN

We start our short tour around the historical centre of Aachen with the **Elisenbrunnen** (Elisa Fountain), **1** whose columnar structure was designed in 1822 by Friedrich Schinkel. It contains two fountains with thermal drinking-water. On the opposite side of the Ursulinerstraße there is a modern bronze sculpture with three young people each raising the little fingers – a traditional salutation in Aachen called **Klenkes** **2**.

Walking up the Buchkremerstraße we reach the old spa area of the town. Going on we pass a hotel which has the old name of the town: **Aquis Grana** **3**. The **Bahkauvbrunnen** **4** can be seen on the cobble-stoned square opposite. According to the legend this monster, the Bahkauv, used to jump on the shoulders of men returning home from the pubs late at night and forced them to carry him right to their front door.

Just opposite of the "Bahkauv" fountain there is the new **Kaiserbad** **5**. Beneath this building: the famous "Kaiserquelle" (a source that springs here). In direct vicinity to this thermal-mineral source Charlemagne erected his palace with a chapel, today's Cathedral. In the course of the centuries public baths have been built on this source again and again. Nowadays, you can see a special architectural work. However, it is impossible to take a bath here – just have a closer look!

Now follow the Büchel street. The **Alt Aachener Kaffeestuben – Leo van den Daele** (Café) **6** is situated at the corner of Büchel/ Körbergasse. The bronze figure outside shows a girl with a large piece of gingerbread – a delicacy typical of Aachen. Since 1745 the name "Körbergasse" has been a reference to the basketmakers who had traditionally settled here.

Following this street we reach a triangular place – the "Hof". The Roman **Portikus** **7** is a replica based on fragments of a Roman columnar hall discovered during excavations.

Now our tour takes us from the Romaney lane to another triangular place – the "Hühnermarkt" (chicken market) on which we can see a fountain called **Hühnerdieb** **8**.

Near the "Hühnerdieb" fountain there is the "Couven Museum", named after the most important Aachen municipal architect of the 18th century, Johann Josef Couven. Here you can see examples of interior decoration from the 18th century.

Ascending the hill again we stand right in front of the **Granusturm** (Granus Tower) **9** of the town hall. Next to it on the right there is the traditional restaurant "Postwagen" (Mail Coach), a baroque half-timbered house with rich carvings.

Overlooking the **market place** **10** you can see the "Karlsbrunnen". The statue represents Charlemagne. If you want to see the original statue cast in 1620 you have to visit the Coronation Hall within the Aachen town hall. The Gothic town hall was erected on the foundation of the old Carolingian Palace in the 14th century. Later in the 17th and 18th century it was converted into a baroque palace. Replicas of the Reichskleinodien (Imperial Jewels) are exhibited in the Coronation Hall which is almost 1.000 square metres large.

Now turn right and walk around the town hall. And you'll see the **Kitchen Garden of Charlemagne** **11**. Its history can be traced back to the year 812. At the opposite of the town hall you can see the impressive scenery of the Cathedral of Aachen.

The foundation of the Cathedral was laid after 768. Pope Leo III consecrated the palace chapel in 805. Every seven years the relics of the Shrine of our Lady are put on display for crowds of pilgrims.

Passing the "Ritter-Chorus" street and the Klostergasse (monastery lane) we now reach the **Domschatzkammer** (Cathedral Treasury) **12**, in which – among other treasures – the "Persephone sarcophagus", the "Cross of Lothair" and the "Bust of Charlemagne" are exhibited.

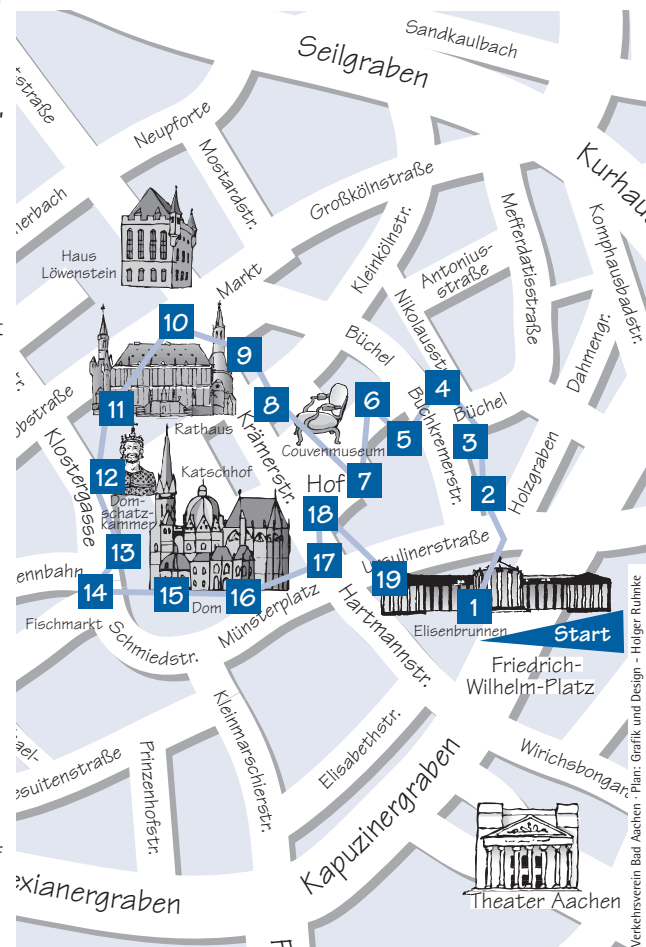
We leave the Cathedral Treasury and go to the **Fischpüddelchen** **13**. Opposite of this fountain you see the first town hall of Aachen built in 1267 in which the **Stadtarchiv** (city's archives) **14** have been stored. We enter the **Domhof** (Cathedral Courtyard) **15** by going past the baroque baptistry.

In front of us we can see the western, Carolingian part of the Cathedral with its great bronze portal. According to the legend, you can still feel the devil's thumb in the right lion's mouth which lends the portal its name: "Wolfstür" (wolf's door). The "Oktogon" (octagon) forms the centre of the Cathedral. The marble throne of Charlemagne is located in the west loggia of the Cathedral. The Gothic choir hall built from 1355 – 1414 forms the eastern part of the Aachen Cathedral. The bones of Charlemagne were transferred to the "Karlschrein" (Shrine of Charlemagne) in 1215.

Two special fountains are located on the **Münsterplatz** (minster square) **16**: the "Spatzenbrunnen" (sparrow fountain) and the "Vinzenz" fountain. **St. Foillan** **17**, the church located on our left, was erected in 1482 – in the same place as its predecessor from the 12th century.

In Aachen's oldest commercial street, the "Krämerstraße", you can see another interesting fountain, the **Puppenbrunnen** **18**, with its movable bronze marionettes. The nearby fountain called **Geldbrunnen** **19** represents the circulation of money in today's society. Passing the park we return to our start-

ing point, the **Elisenbrunnen**. The information office of the aachen tourist service is located in the left wing of this building. In all museums and public institutions guided tours are conducted at fixed times. The aachen tourist service offers professional guided tours of the town (page 4+5).



SOUVENIRS FROM AACHEN

In our Information Office we offer a range of souvenirs.

For example:

- T-Shirts
- city bags
- caps
- books
- mugs
- guides

and much more ...

For more details please ask at
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