

Kehl

3 City Tours

Tracing the changeable and eventful history of the city of Kehl

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1 Memorial Monument and “Mother” Kinzig

This monument was erected to honour the fallen soldiers of the German-French war of 1870/1871. In the year 1905 it stood in front of the former town hall of the city of Kehl, then situated between the two bistros on the current market place. The cast iron statue of mother Kinzig, a work of the sculptor Franz Xaver Reich from Hüfingen, was originally located along with the statue of father Rhine in a niche housed within the railway bridge. The railway bridge was inaugurated in 1861, and the statue of mother Kinzig fell into the Rhine when in 1870 the bridge was partially destroyed by detonation. Years later the statue was recovered and is now part of the war memorial. In both world wars the metal statue of mother Kinzig narrowly escaped the fate of being used as a donation for war purposes.

2 Town Hall

The town hall of the city of Kehl was built as a two-storey barracks in 1817 according to the plans of architect Friedrich Brenner from Baden, a pupil of Weinbrenner. A third storey was added in the same year, serving as rooms for the commander. Shortly before the outbreak of the German-French war in 1869, the third story was removed for reasons of defense, since it stood in the way of a military observation post designed to observe the railway bridge. After the annexation of the Alsace with Strasbourg by Germany and the changing border the barracks lost their military significance; in 1872 a medical doctor and school classes moved into the building. After the union of the communities of Kehl city and Kehl village, which had formerly been independent, the administration of the new community moved into the former barracks, making it their town hall. Since the building was soon too small for a growing administration, the third storey was once again added by architect and Weinbrenner biographer Arthur Valendaire. Between 1921 and 1923 the now enlarged third storey was built in the neo-classical style. This included a four column portico and a side wing. In 1999 the building received its current optics in old fashioned pink, while the pediment was adorned with emblazonry. Five coat of arms show a range of the numerous sovereigns in possession of the city of Kehl such as (from left to right) the House of Nassau, the coat of arms of the “Unser Frauen Werk” of the city of Strasbourg, followed by the house of Baden, the coat of arms of the Bourbons and the crest of the sovereigns Böcklin von Böcklinsau. Between the four half columns of the main façade is the coat of arms of the village of Kehl, in the middle the crest of the union of village and city, which has been replaced in 1934 by the current coat of arms on the right side.

3 Christuskirche – Church of Christ

The Christuskirche was built in the years 1822 to 1824 in the classicist style by the Weinbrenner pupil Johann Heinrich Voss, a son of the well-known German poet Johann Heinrich Voss. Thought to be the fourth church on this particular site, the church serves the protestant community.

4 Ehrenfriedhof – Cemetery in honour of fallen soldiers

Counting 2.144 victims, the cemetery is now the last resting place for German soldiers from the Second World War, whose remains had been found in various places such as the Alsace, the Vosges mountains, in the Upper Rhine plain or in the civil cemetery in Kehl. The cemetery to honour the fallen soldiers was given to the public on October 5th, 1958; the gardens were designed by Robert Tischler from Munich.

5 Rehfußvilla – Villa of the Rehfuß family

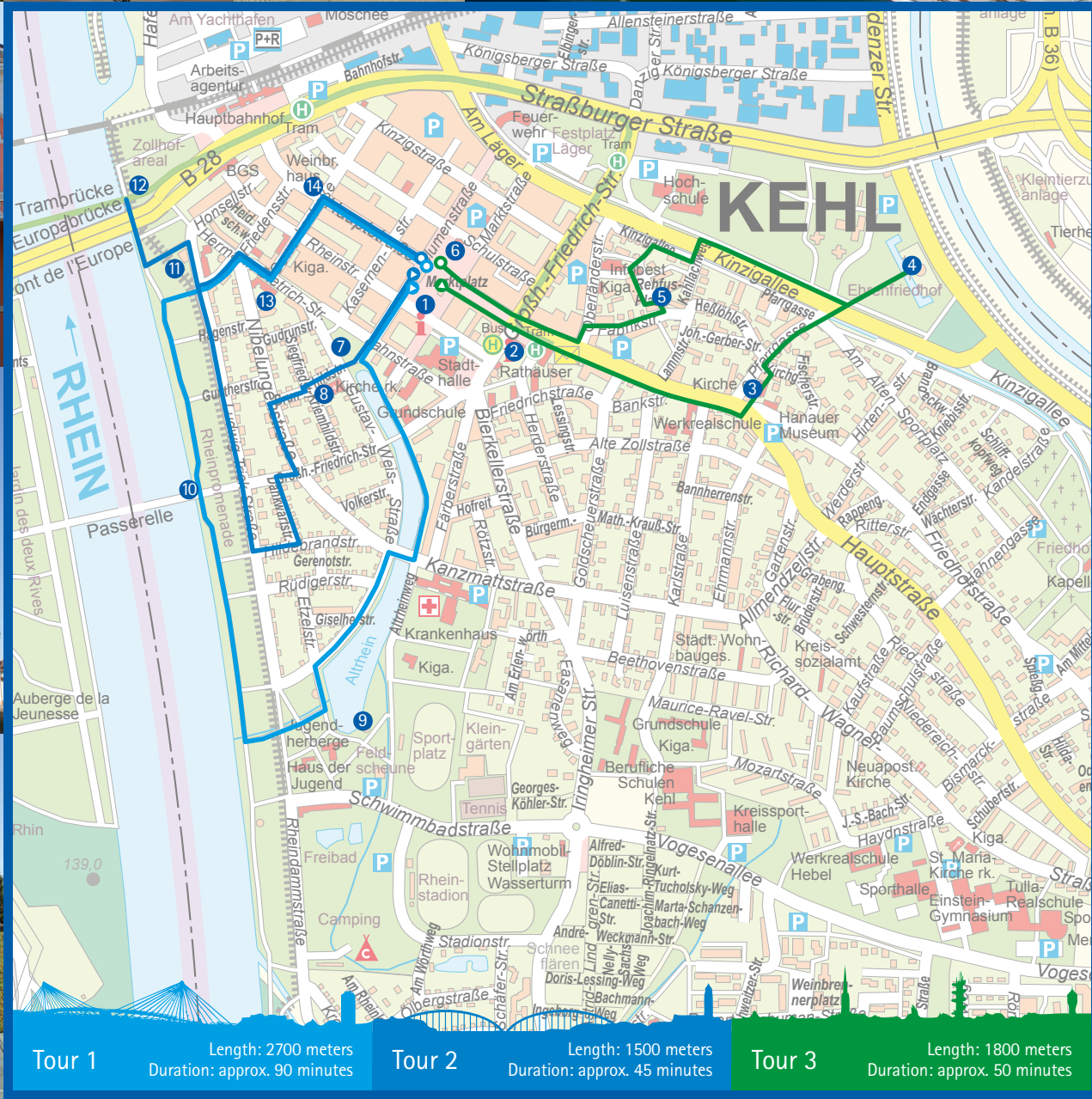
The villa Rehfuß was the main house of the former “Hutfabrik Rehfuß”, a hat factory and merchandising enterprise, which moved from Lahr to Kehl in 1867. The founder Carl Rehfuß and his son Carl Johann Rehfuß Oberländer, who later took over the business, were able to keep up production for almost a century. Since hats were no longer fashionable and chic, the business closed in 1963. When the city area “Kahllach” was restored between 1967 and 1998, the buildings with the workshops were torn down. Intact remained the archway building – today living quarters and Café-Bistro – on the Fabrikstraße and the villa Rehfuß, currently used by a number of cross border German-French institutions.

6 Friedenskirche – Church of Peace

In the year 1817 a so called “Notkirche” (church for a time of need) was erected on the Rheinstraße in the west of the town square. This church built for both the catholic and the protestant congregation in time of distress (“Not”), served to replace the catholic and protestant churches destroyed in 1793 in the fortress of Kehl. When the Notkirche became out of repair, both confessions claimed their own church. But the state government only gave permission for one building. Designed in the new gothic style by Friedrich Theodor Fischer, a pupil of the baden pioneers’ days architect Weinbrenner, building began in 1847 and on the 27th of July the first church service was held in this church, known today as “Friedenskirche”, Church of Peace. The church buildings were used by both Catholics and Protestants until the catholic congregation received their own church building on June 28th, 1914, the church of St. Nepomuk.

7 Pioneer Memorial in the Rose Garden

The pioneer memorial was inaugurated on the current site on August 30th, 1931. Then called “Herrmann Dietrich Park”, the inauguration took place within the festivities of the 41st pioneers’ days, celebrated by several thousand pioneers. Since then, the memorial is central to pioneers’ days held in the area. In 1881 pioneers were stationed for the first time in Kehl, and the pioneers’ society of Hanau first sug-



gested that a statue should be erected in this place. Designed by the artist Schneider, of whom not much is known, the statue is 2,85 m high and stands on a five meter high pedestal. The pioneers’ memorial statue was by decree of the city council the only memorial in Kehl not intended for a metal donation for war purposes.

8 Nepomukkirche – St. Nepomuk’s Church

The church dedicated to St. Nepomuk, the Nepomukkirche, was designed by Johannes Schroth and built in the years 1911 to 1914. The building is the first Catholic Church in the city of Kehl and was built after both Protestants and Catholics had shared the use of the “Friedenskirche” on the market square as a common place of prayer until 1914.

9 Weißtannenturm – Silver Fir Tower

The majestic towers of the “Weißtannenturm” have been standing at the edge of the southern arm of the old Rhine ever since the state garden show of 2003. The monument was given to the public in a year when the silver fir was the “tree of the year”. From the 44 m high tower with its 210 steps leading up to the platform you can enjoy an impressive view in all directions including the Black Forest and the Vosges mountains. The tower was initiated by the workgroup of Lahr and three trunks from the Nordrach forest, donated by the state forest administration and the “Weißtannenforum” (silver fir forum), form the fundamental pillar of the tower. These take the shape of a triangle, stabilized by filigree steel nets. As an additional architectural element there is a group of slender trunks situated between the three carrying beams symbolizing a view of the forest.

10 Passerelle

In the year 2004 the German city of Kehl and the French city of Strasbourg were host to the state garden show. The Passerelle was built to connect the German and the French banks of the Rhine. The two platforms made for pedestrians and bike riders meet in the middle of the Rhine within an area of 100 square meters. The Parisian architect Marc Mimram designed the Passerelle with the intention to give all strollers the opportunity to enjoy the scenery and to discover ties between man and nature.

11 Villa Schmidt

The Villa Schmidt has been protected by an act of parliament as a perfect example of a painstakingly preserved mansion of the higher bourgeoisie at the beginning of the 20th century. The villa was built in 1914 after a design of Mahr and Markwort on the pedestal being part of the former fortifications of the railway bridge. Until 1944 it was used as living quarters for the family of Ludwig and Agnes Schmidt née Trick. Agnes’ father, Ludwig Trick, was one of three managing directors of the cellulose factory Trick. From 1945 to 1992 Villa Schmidt was seat of the French military administration. Today the villa houses a restaurant.

12 Tram Bridge

The tram line D has been connecting Strasbourg and Kehl since April 2017. The tram stops at three stations: The first one is located in front of the train station and the second is between the University of Administration and the car park area “Am Lager”. The terminus is next to Kehl city council. The Beatus-Rhenanus-bridge, which was built especially for the tram, can be used not only by tramcars but also by pedestrians and cyclists. The impressive construction is 290 meters long; the two double archs, which are 20 meters high, are a special eye-catcher.

13 District Court

By decree of the government of Baden the city of Kehl became a municipality in 1881. As a consequence, Kehl became seat to the local boards of government such as the district court of justice, the district board and the demesne office, which had been located in Kork. The district court and the district board were housed in the former main customs office in the new three story high building of the Kehl railway station. Erected by the city, the district court moved to this building in the Hermann-Dietrich-Straße in August 1915. The plan for the building was designed by the architects Otto Warth and Otto Ammann from Karlsruhe. The prison located behind the district court building was completed at the same time, and was ready for use in 1914. Between the years 1882 and 1914 prisoners were kept in the southern battery, which had been transformed into a prison when the district board moved from Kork to Kehl. After moving into buildings in the Nibelungenstraße, the old prison was torn down; on the pedestal remaining from the southern battery the Villa Schmidt was erected in the same year. The demesne office, which had the task of administrating the grand ducal properties in the district board, moved from Kork to Kehl in 1882 and took possession of their domicile in Rheinstraße close to the Rheinstraßenbrücke (Rhine bridge). The Office moved to Offenburg in 1924, the district board kept its premises in an adjunct building of the railway station until the evacuation of Kehl in November 1944.

14 Weinbrennerhaus

The Weinbrennerhaus was built in 1816 and is considered to be one of the oldest houses in the inner city. The house is designed by the renowned builder and architect from Baden, Friedrich Weinbrenner and his student Friedrich Frin. The building is one of the few jewels kept intact in spite of the eventful and changeable history of the city. From 1886 to 1916 the Weinbrennerhaus was the seat of the American Consulate, today it accommodates city offices.