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MAINZ – savoir-vivre on the rhine

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MAINZ

SAVOIR-VIVRE ON THE RHINE

Magnificent Mainz

Mainz, the capital of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany boasts historical buildings, monuments and museums which are only too happy to welcome you and enchant you with their historical attributes. If you get near enough and look closely enough, you will learn quite a bit about the 2000-year-old city. Johannes Gutenberg, the Cathedral and Marc Chagall's blue stained-glass window waiting for you!

With its strategically perfect location on the river Rhine, Mainz has been many things to many people: the Roman Castrum Moguntiacum, the Jewish Magenza, the residence and capital of the Prince Electors, an archbishopric, a university town. These are all epochs of "Golden Mainz" as the city has been known since its heyday in the Middle Ages.

By explaining the city of Mainz, one special thing has to be mentioned: The world wouldn't be the same without books. And there wouldn't be books in the well-known form without Johannes Gutenberg who was born in Mainz. Being

elected as Man of the millennium, Gutenberg, inventor of book printing, is probably the most important son of the city.

Johannes Gutenberg – inventor of the printing press



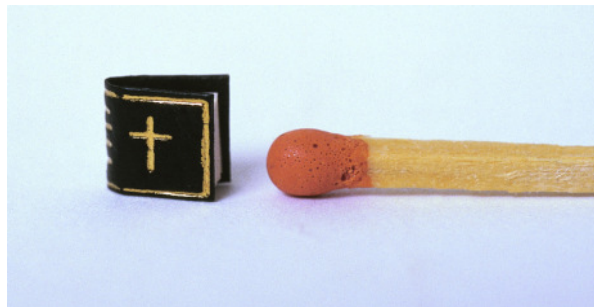
Statues of Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz

Johannes Gutenberg was born in Mainz around 1400 as Henne Gensfleisch zur Laden. The exact year of birth is not known, therefore 1400 is generally accepted as the year of birth. Since Gutenberg was born into a respected Patrician family, he was already schooled in reading, arithmetic, writing and Latin from an early age. A pupil with the name Henne Gensfleisch can be found in the St. Viktor Monastery Grammar School in Weisenau. Apart from that, almost nothing is known about young Gutenberg. It was verified that he lived in Strasbourg for ten years from 1434.

However, there is no proof that he already experimented there with printing, also known as "the dark art", there. In fact, he gave lessons in polishing precious stones and founded an association for making "pilgrim's mirrors" for a relic exhibition in Aachen in 1440. It was believed that these small mirrors would help catch some of the blessed light from the relics and to some extent allow people and their relatives to conserve it at home. They comprised of a larger sheet of lead-tin alloy in addition to the round mirror. Knowledge of casting techniques was imperative for their manufacture; therefore you can see the technical level in Gutenberg's experience in the serial production of several thousand mirrors culminating in letter casting for the printer.

Gutenberg was traced back to his birthplace of Mainz in 1448. As tradition tells us, he set up his first printing house at his birthplace "Zum Gutenberg". With two loans of 800 guilder respectively provided by the Mainz businessman, Johannes

Fust, Gutenberg extended his printing house. Fust became a partner. He then went on to make the famous 42-line Gutenberg Bible, which was finished in 1455. Fust and Gutenberg were divided by an argument about money, and in the meantime, Fust continued together with Peter Schöffer in a printing house located at "Hof zum Humbrecht". The Fust-Schöfferschen printing house produced the "Mainz Psalter" in 1457 - the first book to feature a printer's sign. This first logo is still the insignia of the printer. Gutenberg continued to run a printing workshop. There he produced the "Turkish Calendar" and the "Turkish Bull".



Gutenberg Bible and the world's smallest bible

After the Mainz Diocesan Feud, a very fiercely dealt with dispute about the successor to the archbishop's seat, Gutenberg had to leave his hometown in 1462, but soon found a patron in the new Mainz archbishop, Adolph von Nassau. He appointed him as a courtier "in recognition of his services" in 1465. And so, Gutenberg returned to Mainz and lived there at "Algesheimer Hof" with free board and lodging until his death in 1468. The heritage of Johannes Gutenberg is conserved at the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz. It is the oldest museum about books, printing and writing in the world.





Gutenberg Museum and type case with letters

Experiencing Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz:

- + Type Monument
- + St. Martin Cathedral's Cloister
- + Haus zum Aschaffenberg
- + Gutenberg Monument at Gutenbergplatz
- + Old University - Gutenberg's Burial Site
- + Hof zum Gutenberg - Gutenberg's Birthplace
- + St. Christoph Memorial - Gutenberg Statue - Algesheimer Hof
- + Hof zum Humbrecht – Printing House – Haus zum Korb
- + Gutenberg Museum
- + University of Mainz – Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität
- + City walk: In the footsteps of Gutenberg



Top attractions to see in Mainz

St. Martin's Cathedral



"This cathedral above the Rhine Valley with all of its might and glory would have remained in my memory even if I had never seen it again", wrote author Anna Seghers. This tremendous cathedral is a key feature of the cityscape even today-- more a thousand years after its construction.

St. Stephan - Chagall Window



A total of 200,000 visitors a year prove that St. Stephan is a major attraction! Tourists from around the world make the hike up the Stephansberg to see Marc Chagall's sparkling blue windows. If you are lucky you have the chance to meet monsignore Mayer – the priest who convinced Chagall to create the windows in the heavily destroyed church as a symbol for reconciliation after the second world war.

The Old Town



Attractive squares, beautifully-restored half-timbered houses and magnificent Baroque churches give the Old Town its charming character. Inside fine Baroque houses with Rococo facades you will find elegant boutiques, cafés and wine taverns.

Magenza - Jewish Mainz



Mainz has been a leading centre for the Jewish faith in Germany since the middle ages. It is one of the three German cities known collectively as SchUM and is among the oldest Jewish communities in central Europe. A thousand eventful years of Jewish history have left behind cultural and architectural legacies in 'Magenza': the old Jewish Judensand cemetery, for example, is one of the oldest burial sites in Europe. The new synagogue, built in 2010 on the site where the main synagogue once stood, provides an architectural contrast to the changeful history.

Mogontiacum - The Mainz of Roman Times



Mogontiacum, the Mainz of Roman times, was an important place in antiquity. After hosting up to 40,000 soldiers in Roman times, many relics of this period can still be found in Mainz, such as an Isis temple, Roman ships, which were found on the banks of the river Rhine or the remains of a Roman theatre.

Mainz State Museum



The origins of the State Museum can be traced back to a donation made by Napoleon in 1803, making this one of the oldest museums in Germany. It is home to the most important art collection in Rhineland-Palatinate. The museum is structured according to epochs and shows a broad variety of paintings, sculptures and arts and crafts. The permanent collection contains e.g. Roman stone monuments, relics from the Middle Ages, Dutch paintings and art from the present such as a Picasso. The museum is big enough to host as well alternating exhibitions – such as the current exhibition on expressionism.

Kunsthalle art gallery



The Kunsthalle art gallery at Mainz's former customs port is a contemporary art venue that mounted its first exhibition in 2008. Positions reflecting the modern art scene are presented in installations, solo exhibitions and group exhibitions on specific themes.

Sunset on the river bank

The river Rhine is one of the most important elements of the city. It influences the climate within the city, its banks are a perfect place for festivals and it gives a lot of recreational space alongside its river banks for those who want to relax and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. From the other side of the river, one has a perfect view on the skyline of the city. With a glass of wine a perfect spot to enjoy the sunset.



Zitadelle Mainz



The Mainz Zitadelle (citadel) is one of the most significant monuments in Mainz. Here you get a lot of information about the heritage building and its history. In Addition they offer different, exciting guided tours, also in the underground. The citadel as well is a popular location for various events: Open Air Theatre, concerts, a wine tour, the citadel-festival or a christmas market.

Tours throughout Mainz

Why not enjoy Mainz from some totally different perspectives. Immerse yourself in the art, culture and history of the city and let yourself be enchanted by the beauty of by-gone eras. The Mainz walking tours lead to the sites of famous monument builders, follow the footsteps of well-known figures and will fascinate you with unusual views of the city. The Mainz Tourist Information Centre will organise your own personal walking tour of the city, or you can select something from among the following Mainz tours.

Golden Mainz and its sights



A tour through the city's history from its beginnings until today: the Roman period, the Cathedral, the Old Town and the modern Mainz city centre.

Includes:

- + Dates: every Saturday, year round
- + Meeting point: Mainz Tourist Service Center at 2:00 p.m.
- + Price: 10.00 € per Person
- + Language: English

Segway Tour



Glide along the banks of the Rhine to the picturesque squares and alleyways of the old quarter. Even long-term residents of the city can make unexpected discoveries along these hidden routes. But for those visiting Mainz for the first time, a Segway tour is doubly fascinating.

Includes:

- + Collision cover with € 250,- excess
- + Audio guide with live commentary on all places of interest
- + Introduction, Segway training and free photo service
- + Duration: 2 hours
- + Prices: up to 3 persons: € 64.80 per person; 4 or more: € 59.80 per person
- + Dates: Available Monday to Friday on request

Vineyard Tour



Learn all about the fine wines of the region and the art of wine cultivation on a tractor-drawn carriage ride along the rhine Hill route, which offers magnificent views of the rhineland Plain. Afterwards tuck into Mainz's signature dish of 'Weck, Worscht und Woi' (bread, sausage and wine).

Includes:

- + tractor-drawn carriage ride from Nierstein or Nackenheim (20 km south of Mainz)
- + snack and wine
- + Duration: 2,5 - 3 hours
- + Price: 21,- € per person

+ Minimum group size: 10