

11 Mitteltor gate and church on the market square

First erected when Hirschhorn was founded in 1391 (and extended in the 15th century), the city defenses have been preserved almost in their entirety. After the outer city gates were torn down in the 19th century, the tower over the Mitteltor ("Middle Gate") was repurposed to serve as the church tower of the Marktkirche. Originally built by Friedrich von Hirschhorn from 1628-30 as a Protestant church for the city, the baroque Marktkirche is now a Catholic church.



12 Former district courthouse

Hirschhorn's medieval city hall once stood here, on the spot where the former district courthouse is presently located (itself housed in the remodeled and expanded city hall building from 1786).

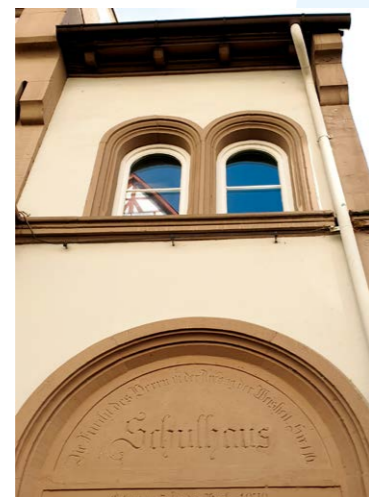
13 Provincial superior's headquarters and infirmary

Large tracts of the old-town north of the Mitteltor gate were destroyed by a fire in 1556. A half-timbered house from c. 1500 survived. It was acquired by the Carmelite monastery in 1659. It then served as the provincial superior's headquarters (administrative and storage building). The neighboring house came into the monastery's possession in 1710 and was converted into an infirmary. In 1860, Hirschhorn's first modern medical facility was set up here, as well as the first kindergarten.



14 Almshouse and schoolhouse

First mentioned in writing in 1491, the almshouse and schoolhouse provided care for citizens who could no longer take care of themselves, as well as for needy travelers and homeless people passing through the area.



15 Groß Claus (the 'Great Hermitage')

The first Carmelite monks probably resided here until their monastery building was completed. After that, the house was converted into a storage building by its owners, the Lords of Hirschhorn.



16 Carmelite church and monastery

Around the year 1400, the Knights of Hirschhorn began building the Carmelite monastery and its monastery church, which were handed over to the Order in 1406. As the place of interment for members of the dynasty, the church was lavishly furnished. Around 1509, the interior walls of the monastery's chapter house were decorated with magnificent frescoes. Driven out during the Reformation, the Carmelites came back to stay in 1635. It was they who set the tone for religious life in Hirschhorn right up until the monastery was dissolved in 1803. After that, the monastery church was abandoned to decay for a century but then painstakingly restored and finally reconsecrated in 1912.



17 Hirschhorn Castle

The construction of Hirschhorn Castle began c. 1250. The Romanesque core of the castle was built first. In the mid-14th century, the Romanesque bergfried tower was replaced by the Hexenturm ("Witch's Tower"). Then the lower sections of the castle were added, from 1400 onward. Starting in 1583, this defensive fortress was converted into a renaissance castle. The castle complex offers breathtaking views of the Neckar valley.



18 Barrage dam

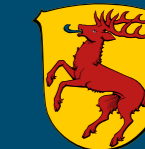
The barrage was completed in 1933; it dams up the water of the Neckar to a height of 5.3 meters (17 feet) on average. A pair of locks by the left bank makes it possible for boats to navigate this federal waterway.

19 Ersheim Chapel

The cemetery church of St. Nazarius and Celsus, or Ersheim Chapel, was a parish church before and during the Reformation era. The oldest part, the central nave (built c. 1355) is decorated with magnificent frescoes. In and around the church, there are grave markers of the Knights of Hirschhorn and a late Gothic depiction of Gethsemane. In the cemetery stands a "lantern of the dead" from 1412.



(The cemetery is approx. a 700-yard walk from the locks; from the tourist info office, about one mile.)



Hirschhorn
am Neckar

Self-guided
walking tour

through the history of Hirschhorn



Tourist-Information Hirschhorn

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Self-guided walking tour

through the history of Hirschhorn



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1 Tourist info office and Langbein Museum

Housed in the former Grand Ducal Forestry Headquarters from 1806 are Hirschhorn's tourist info office and the Langbein Museum, with original exhibits from the extraordinary collections of local innkeeper and naturalist Carl Langbein.



2 Böcklestor city gate

The Böcklestor (or 'Stag Gate') once served as the lower gateway through the city wall and was emblazoned with Hirschhorn's coat of arms. To see exactly where this city gate was located, take a close look at the cobblestones. In 1830, after the Böcklestor had been torn down, the stones were used to build the guardhouse across the street.

3 House of the richest fisherman

This half-timbered house located at No. 16 Hirschgasse was built around 1610.



4 Half-timbered houses

Built right on top of the city wall for lack of space, for example at the "Blue Tower" (a battery tower from the 15th century).



5 Baroque burgher's house

Located at No. 5 Weidgasse, Hirschhorn's only ostentatious baroque burgher's house was built for Mayor Stickel in 1728.

6 Exquisite half-timbered houses

From the 15th - 17th centuries, with decorative timber framing, gable carvings, and the trade logos of fishermen and raftsmen, are found primarily on Hauptstrasse street.



7 Old city hall

Built in the 17th century, this building was first used as a hunting lodge for nobility and then served as the city hall from 1860 until 1955.



8 Former synagogue

Jewish synagogue from 1830 - 1938.

9 Jewish cemetery

Established in 1700, this Jewish cemetery contains gravestones dating as far back as 1729. The cemetery is closed to the public.



10 Fischertor gate and high-water marks

The Fischertor ('Fisherman's Gate') was torn down in 1875/76. The high-water marks on the city wall bear witness to the unpredictability of the Neckar river. The Kleines Neckartor ('Little Neckar Gate') boasts the oldest high-water mark in all of southern and western Germany.

