

DRUSUSBRÜCKE



STEFAN-GEORGE-MUSEUM



KLOSTER-VISUALISIERUNG



HILDEGARD-GEDÄCHTNISKIRCHE



MUSEUM AM STROM

SIGHTS

GERMANY'S OLDEST STONE BRIDGE

The seven-arched bridge with its striking ice breakers on the piers was probably constructed around the year 1000 on behalf of the Archbishop of Mainz, Willigis (975–1011). It opened up access from Bingen to the forested Hunsrück region.

Not only is the Drususbrücke (Drusus Bridge) probably **Germany's oldest stone bridge**, it is also one of the few with an intact **bridge chapel**.

Located in the first pier on the east side is an early Romanesque chapel. In the Middle Ages, this was where anyone exposed to the perils of a journey could ask for divine assistance.

As a crossing over the Nahe river, the mediaeval Drususbrücke (Drusus Bridge) remained vitally important in the system of the Rhenish travel and trading routes until the 19th century.

After it was deliberately blown up by German troops in March 1945, it was reconstructed in its original form by 1952, with a widened roadway. It is especially mystical in the morning mist, and uniquely beautiful and sculptural when illuminated at night.

TIP

At the tourist information centre, we are happy to provide you with the key to the bridge chapel. In addition, take a look at the "Bingen – A Bridge Through Two Millennia" exhibition in the Museum am Strom (Museum on the River).

ONE OF GERMANY'S MOST DAZZLING POETS WAS BORN IN BINGEN

Stefan George was born in Bingen-Büdesheim on 12th July 1868, the son of a wine merchant and inn keeper. Even as a child, he gravitated towards ritual, religion and national ideas. After completing his secondary education, George travelled throughout Europe and was in contact with major authors and artists of his time. Right from his early works, there is evidence of a **renunciation of everyday reality**. Followers and admirers of the young poet very soon formed the elitist **"George group"**.

He received his first official award as a lyricist in 1927 from the city of Frankfurt am Main. Bingen renamed the Nahekai (Nahe quay) **Stefan-George-Straße** (Stefan George Street). Discouraged by the exploitation of his work for propaganda by the Nazis, George left Germany and moved to neutral Switzerland, where he died at Muralto hospital near Locarno on 4th December 1933. The wake was arranged by Claus von Stauffenberg, who explicitly referred to his teacher, Stefan George, at his attempted assassination of Hitler.

TIP

Go in search of clues in the "Haferkasten", a stately half-timbered building from the 17th century that once served as a department store. Here you will find the Stefan George Museum and exciting insights into the life and work of this extraordinary poet.

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN ON RUPERTSBERG MONASTERY VISUALISATION

Hildegard of Bingen left her home abbey on Disibodenberg between 1147 and 1151 and founded her own **abbey on Rupertsberg** (Rupert's Hill), on the Nahe river.

"This abbey was founded not by an emperor or bishop, a powerful or rich person of this world, but from a poor and weak woman who moved here. Within a short time, after 27 years, it has grown both in monastic spirit and in outward appearance, that it is well appointed in all aspects, not with ostentatious but rather with imposing and spacious buildings – as is appropriate for nuns – and with a water pipe having been installed in all work areas." (*Guibert of Gembloux, 1177*)

She wrote her **principal works** during her almost 30 years on Rupertsberg. The abbey was destroyed during the Thirty Years' War. Only six pillars of the abbey church survived from the south wall of the nave. These can now be viewed. Almost four decades later, visitors can now immerse themselves in the age of this famous woman – in the original location.

TIP

Step into the "Elevator to the Past" – the perfect illusion as if you are actually entering the monastery. As part of a visit to the Museum am Strom (Museum on the River), admission is even free.

ST RUPERT AND ST HILDEGARD WITH THE HILDEGARD CENTRE

Not far from the former abbey of St Hildegard on Rupertsberg in Bingerbrück is the Catholic Hildegard Memorial Church. This church, which was constructed at the end of the 19th century, is dedicated to St Hildegard and St Rupert. In the style of the abbey church at St Rupert's abbey, the church was completed with **Romanesque structures**. In the church is a small shrine with **relics of St Hildegard and St Rupert**. The impressive windows in the church transept depict the life and works of St Hildegard.

Since 2019 the church has been a Hildegard centre. The interior of the church serves as a venue for **concerts and cultural events**. It is a **spiritual centre** for pilgrims and people who are searching for peace and quiet. One special feature is the **"Mediale Kirchensystem (MediaKi)"** (church media system): on a touchscreen terminal, visitors can choose short devotions, Psalms and songs. The choir room and side altars are also illuminated appropriately in colour.

TIP

In the summer you can visit the church up to 6 pm. It lies on the Hildegard of Bingen pilgrim trail (Idar-Oberstein to Bingen) and on the Ausonius trail / Hunsrück trail (Trier to Bingen).

EXPERIENCE BINGEN'S HISTORY

In the listed former power station from 1889, the Museum am Strom (Museum on the River) invites you to a fascinating encounter with 2000 years of culture and history.

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN ~ The ruins of the abbeys of St Hildegard take shape once again in models. Spectacular artworks, valuable originals and a large "Hildegarten" (garden with Hildegard herbs) offer thrilling insights into the natural science, life and works of the saint.

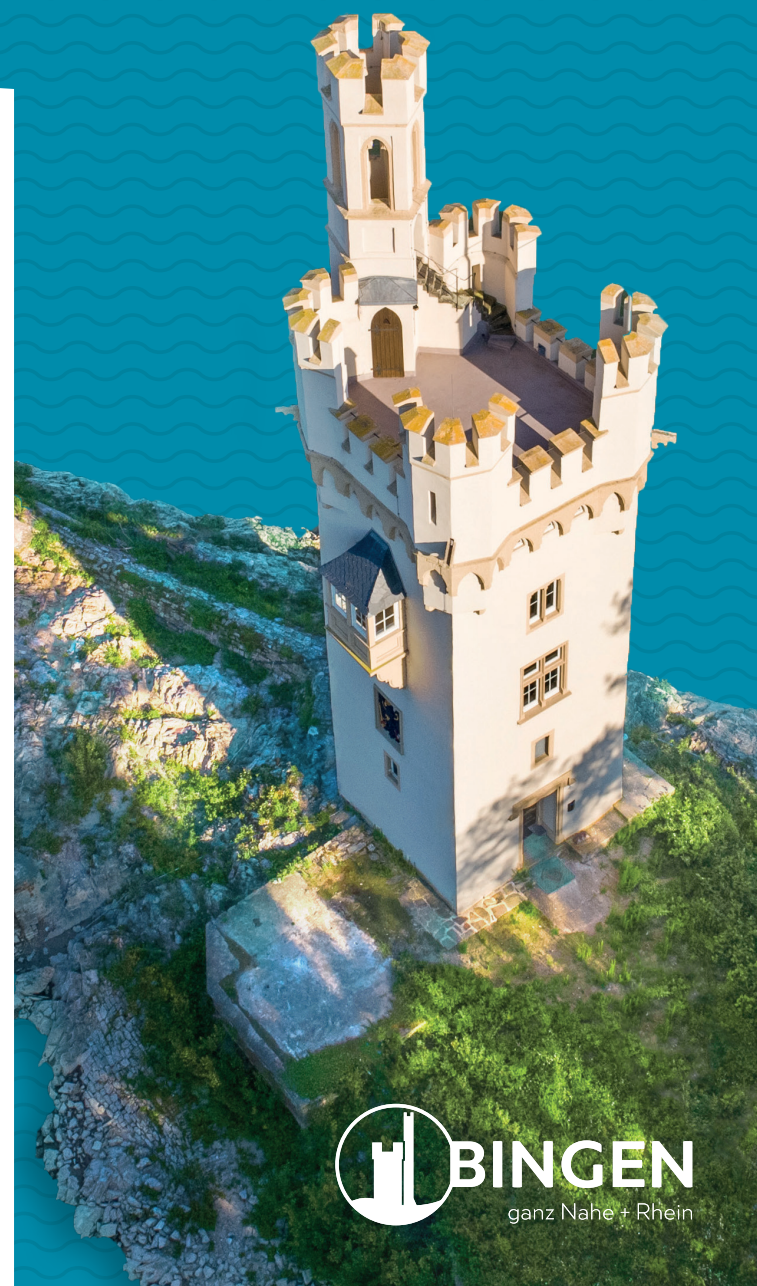
RHINE ROMANTICISM ~ Taking centre stage is the **unique, complete collection** of printed graphics: pictures of Bingen vividly convey the complete history of Rhine Romanticism. The gallery is complemented by splendid rooms with original, **19th century furnishings**.

2000 YEARS OF HISTORY AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RHINE AND NAHE RIVERS ~ Life in Roman and mediaeval Bingen is presented with stunning archaeological highlights. The 67-piece set of **"Roman medical instruments"** from the 2nd century AD represents a real sensation, displaying the world's most important find for ancient medicine.



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WORLD-FAMOUS & CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY

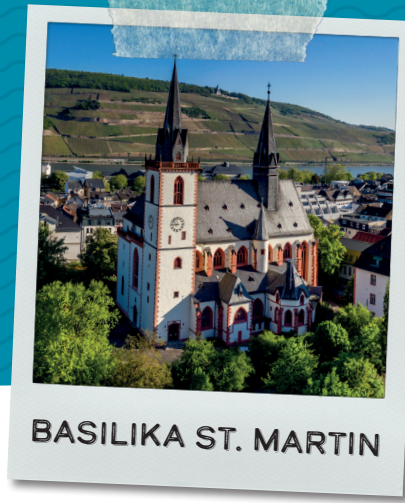
Historical traditions and legends abound around the tower on the island in the middle of the Rhine. In fact, the Romans probably built a small fort here. During the period of Frankish rule, it became increasingly derelict. The tower re-emerged from its slumber only when Bingen's harsh ruler Hatto II took over as Archbishop of Mainz in 968.

The name "Mäuseturm" (Mouse Tower) was first recorded in 1516 and is derived from the function as a **watchtower** (Middle High German "musen" = "to lurk" or "to keep watch"). Nonetheless, in the 16th century, the tower was associated with the legend of Bishop Hatto: in punishment for his ruthlessness, it is said that he was eaten alive by mice.

In 1298 the tower was incorporated into the customs block protection system of Ehrenfels Castle. The building was destroyed by French troops in 1689, and its significance was recalled only in 1855. The Prussians built a **signal tower on the island for shipping**, which can still be seen in this form today.

TIP

Ready for the island? We're happy to let you know when the next boat trip to the "Mäuseturm" (Mouse Tower) takes place. Get ready for an adventure and discover this landmark up close!



ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF A ROMAN TEMPLE

In St Martin's Basilica in particular, you can gain a sense of the **great history of Bingen**. The Romans probably built a temple to the gods on this very site before the birth of Christ. The first indications of a Christian community date from the 5th and 6th centuries, for example on the gravestone of the priest Aetherius, which can be seen in the Basilica.

The list of Lorsch Abbey donations for 793 provides the first documentary mention of St Martin's. Since 1006 the Romanesque building has served as a **collegiate church**, with twelve priests under the leadership of a provost. When a fire broke out in the city on 14th August 1403, the church was almost entirely destroyed. Thirteen years later, a new St Martin's Church was completed in the **gothic style**. The crypt below the choir and the southwest tower still bear witness to the **Romanesque building**. On 1st April 1930 Pope Pius XI granted St Martin's the title of **Papal Basilica**. As well as the enthroned Madonna from 1320 in the St Barbara building, the very special artworks include the rare, early 15th century, clay sculptures of Saints Barbara and Catharine, the Dutch altar of Our Lady, the Baroque high altar, and the pulpit.

TIP

Listen to the bells of the basilica! The harmonious chimes are so impressive that SWR (the regional broadcasting station for Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate) often chooses them for its Christmas bell-ringing broadcast.



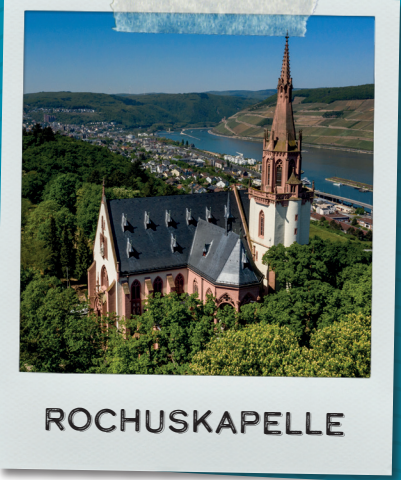
HIGH ABOVE THE CITY – A DREAM DESTINATION OF THE ROMANTIC PERIOD

Alongside the Mäuseturm (Mouse Tower), Burg Klopp (Klopp Castle) is the emblem of the city. As a picturesque castle ruin, the castle, which was destroyed in the Palatine War of Succession, was a popular destination at the time of Rhine Romanticism. The **panoramic view** of the Bingen Loch (Bingen Hole) has captivated many writers and artists (incl. Victor Hugo and Richard Wagner). Since 1854 the castle has undergone historicising construction work by private owners.

Today, Bingen town council offices are located in the castle but the inner courtyard is freely accessible at any time. In the **tower**, a small **exhibition** is dedicated to its illustrious guests. Between 1826 and 1915, 100,000 visitors signed the visitors' books in one room of the tower. Follow the example of Victor Hugo, Karl Marx, Friedrich Jahn, the father of gymnastics, and Richard Wagner: add your name in the visitors' book and enjoy the magnificent vista from the viewing platform over the Middle Rhine Valley, Rheingau, the Rhine-Hessian hills and the Nahe region.

TIP

Find out more about the history of the castle on one of our exciting guided tours. Afterwards you can enjoy the excellent cuisine in the castle restaurant – with a marvellous view over the landscape!



PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF ST ROCH

After the Black Death had claimed many lives in 1666, members of the municipal administration of the town of Bingen vowed to found a chapel to St Roch, patron saint of plague victims, to which a procession was to be held every year. After the church had gone up in flames in 1795 during fights between French revolutionary troops and German soldiers, it was rebuilt in 1814.

The consecration celebrations were described by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who was among the guests. From this time, the Chapel of St Roch also became a place of veneration of Hildegard of Bingen: after the dissolution of Eibingen Abbey, the interior furnishings and relic treasures from the former abbey church came to Rochusberg.

The present church in the **neo-gothic style** was constructed at the end of the 19th century. In eight sculptural reliefs, the altar of St Hildegard shows scenes from the life of the saint. The base contains relics of St Hildegard.

TIP

The Rochusberg offers beautiful walking trails that you can explore using the "WeinWanderApp" (WineHikingApp). In May, a special highlight awaits you at the "Nussbaum" (Walnut Tree): the festival "Nacht der Verführung" (Nights among the vines).

Here you can download the „WeinWanderApp“



THE OLDEST DATABLE RHINE CRANE BETWEEN MAINZ AND COLOGNE

In 2007 the foundation inscription was discovered in the base of the crane, and it is therefore clear: Bingen's crane was constructed in 1487 – verifiably the **first land crane on the Rhine** between Mainz and Cologne. Chargeable use of the crane was mandatory from the Middle Ages for loading and unloading all vessels, and it was accordingly very significant as a source of finance for the rulers of Bingen, Mainz cathedral chapter. First and foremost, the items loaded here included **wine, salt and grain**. Bingen had staple rights for the latter two; every vessel transporting salt or grain had to offer the goods for sale to the local dealers on the market.

To this day, the crane is driven by manpower via two large running wheels. The upper part of the dome can be turned by means of a large lever. As the system was subject to heavy wear, it was regularly repaired. It is known that a full reconstruction took place in the 17th century. Until the bank of the Rhine was backfilled in 1890, the old crane was located directly on the riverbank and also remained operational.

TIP

The Binger Denkmalgesellschaft (Bingen Monument Society) offers demonstrations of the Alte Kran (old crane)! These take place on Welterbetag (World Heritage Day), during the Kulturfest (Cultural festival), on the Tage der Industriekultur (Days of Industrial Culture), and on Tag des offenen Denkmals (Open Monument Day). You can also visit the crane on other Sundays throughout the year.



HISTORY AND NATURE ON THE MIDDLE RHINE

Built in 1859, Bingerbrück railway station was once an important **railway junction**. The station area includes around 30 lines and runs particularly close to the shipping traffic. On the site of the former goods station is now the **Mäuseturmpark** (park by the Mouse Tower) – the perfect park for all generations. In the former Bingerbrück East signal box, you can find out all about the history of the region, nature, and the **interaction between man, nature and technology** in the Binger Loch (Bingen Hole). You can also enjoy the perfect view of the Middle Rhine Valley UNESCO World Heritage site, one of Europe's most historic and spectacular landscapes.

With the Rhine Valley relief, you can experience an exceptional **multimedia journey** from the Stone Age to the 21st century. Discover that Bingen once lay in the tropics and find out how the Mäuseturmwächter (Mouse Tower watchman) lived. **Steer your own course** across the Rhine. Attend a lecture, visit a special exhibition or take a guided tour. At the nature stations in the park, you will also find interesting facts about the flora and fauna.

TIP

After your visit, you can relax in the lounge chair and enjoy the view of the Rhine, the Bingen forest, and the vineyards of the Rheingau – a perfect blend of history and nature!



All information, current opening times and further attractions can be found at dein-bingen.de/en