





Babelfish Walking Tours:

# THE BIG FIVE



Our straightforward “Big Five” tour takes you to Würzburg’s most renowned sights. Starting at the Residence Palace, take a walk through the city’s old town and visit St. Kilian Cathedral, the Old Bridge with a view of Fortress Marienberg, and the Market Square with church Marienkapelle.

## 1 RESIDENCE PALACE & COURT GARDENS

The Residence Palace (Würzburger Residenz), UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site since 1981, is a definite Würzburg must see. The Prince Bishops’ palace was built 1720-1744 according to plans by architect Balthasar Neumann, its magnificent Baroque interior was designed by different international artists up until 1780. Especially famous is the ceiling fresco adorning the palaces central staircase by Venetian artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1752-53). The Court Gardens (Residenzgarten) where laid out at the end of the 18th century and have been remodelled multiple times ever since. Still preserved are the freestone statues by court sculpture Johann Peter Wagner. During WWII, the palace complex was destroyed almost completely, reconstruction work was completed in 1987. To visit the Residence you can join a guided tour, the entry to the Court Gardens and Court Church (Hofkirche) is free.

Residenzplatz 2, 97070 Würzburg; [www.residenz-wuerzburg.de](http://www.residenz-wuerzburg.de)  
[www.hofkeller.de](http://www.hofkeller.de)

**Our tip:** A visit to the nearby **1 a VINOHEK STAATLICHER HOFKELLER** the wine house of the state court wine cellars, is a great opportunity to get acquainted with Franconia’s famous wine culture.

## 2 ST. KILIAN CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral (Würzburger Dom) is located only a short walk from the Residence Palace. It was built around 1040-1075 during the time of Bishop Bruno and his successor Bishop Adalbero and is one of the largest Romanesque church buildings in Germany. It is dedicated to Irish missionary Bishop St. Kilian, who is the patron saint of the city and bishopric of Würzburg. Over the centuries, the cathedral was redesigned and extended repeatedly. The famous Schönbornkapelle Chapel, burial site of the Prince Bishops of the House of Schönborn, was added according to plans by Balthasar Neumann in the 18th century. During WWII, St. Kilian burned out almost completely. Today the rebuilt cathedral combines Romanesque, Baroque, and Modern elements.

Domstraße 43, 97070 Würzburg; [www.dom-wuerzburg.de](http://www.dom-wuerzburg.de)

**Our tips:** Right next to the Cathedral you’ll find the **2 a LUSAM-GÄRTLEIN** garden, memorial site for famous German minstrel Walther von der Vogelweide. If you’re in for a coffee break consider **2 b CAFÉ AM DOM**, they have a great selection of cakes!

## 3 ALTE MAINBRÜCKE (OLD BRIDGE)

The Old Bridge or Saints’ Bridge (Alte Mainbrücke) connects the old town with the former fishermen’s quarter, today’s Mainviertel, on the left bank of the river Main. From here, you have a great view of Fortress Marienberg and the pilgrimage church Käppele. The original Romanesque bridge from the 1100s was rebuilt to a fortified bridge during the Middle Ages and remained to be the only river crossing up until the 19th century. The twelve iconic statues of the saints lining the bridge (Brückenhellige) were added on behalf of Prince Bishop Christoph Franz von Hutten and his successor Friedrich Karl von Schönborn in the middle of the 18th century. They show Pippin (King of the Franks and father of Charlemagne), St. Totnan (Apostle of the Franks), St. Friedrich (Bishop and namesake of Prince Bishop Friedrich K. of Schönborn), St. Kilian, St. Joseph, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Nepomuk (first martyr of the Seal of Confession), St. Kolonat (Apostle of the Franks), St. Burkard (first Bishop of Würzburg), Emperor Charlemagne, and St. Bruno (master builder of St. Kilian Cathedral).

Alte Mainbrücke, 97070 Würzburg

**Our tip:** The lovely view is best enjoyed with an original Würzburg **BRÜCKENSCHOPPEN**, which you can either get at **3 a ALTEN MAIN-MÜHLE** or at **3 b CAFÉHAUS BRÜCKENBÄCK**.

[www.alte-mainmuehle.de](http://www.alte-mainmuehle.de); [www.brueckenbaeck.de](http://www.brueckenbaeck.de)

## 4 (VIEW OF) FORTRESS MARIENBERG

As early as 1000 B.C., a Celtic palisade castle was located on the “fortress hill” Marienberg. Fast forward to the early 8th century, where a Frankish-Thuringian castle was built at the same site. The castle’s church

was consecrated as church Marienkirche and thereafter became Würzburg’s first bishop’s church in 741. From 1200, the fortifications were built around the church and the castle complex was expanded and remodeled multiple times throughout the Late Middle Ages, the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The outer rampage was added on behalf of Johann Philipp of Schönborn after the Fortress was stormed by the Swedes during Europe’s Thirty Years’ War (1631). Up until 1719 Fortress Marienberg served as the Prince Bishops’ residence. During WWII, the complex was destroyed almost completely, reconstruction work was completed in 1990.

Festung Marienberg, 97082 Würzburg; [www.schloesser.bayern.de](http://www.schloesser.bayern.de)

**Our tip:** If you’d like to visit the Fortress itself or hike up Marienberg to enjoy the **FANTASTIC VIEW OVER THE CITY** from there, the shortest way up is following the **4 a TELLSTEIGE**.

## 5 MARKET SQUARE & CHURCH MARIENKAPELLE

The way back into the city center leads you to the Market Square (Marktplatz), the heart of Würzburg’s old town. Up until the 14th century, the area was a Jewish quarter which was destroyed in the course of a devastating persecution of the Jews after a plague outbreak in 1349. The square has been a marketplace since the Late Middle Ages, today it’s used as a location for various events and city fairs. The church Marienkapelle at the lower market (Unterer Markt) is considered a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture in Lower Franconia. It was built 1377-1480 and is best known for its elaborate ornamentation, especially the figures of Adam and Eve by famous sculptor Tilman Riemenschneider (1439). All of the church but its tower burned down in WWII, the reconstructed church was opened in 1962.

Marktplatz, 97070 Würzburg

**Our tips:** **BRATWURSTSTAND KNÜPFING** has the best “Geknickte” (Franconian bratwurst) in town. For other local and regional specialties, you can go for a stroll around the farmers’ market **GRÜNE MARKT** (Tue, Wed, Fr, Sat).

[www.wuerzburger-markt.de](http://www.wuerzburger-markt.de)

**Back to the hostel:** Walking along Juliuspromenade and Kaiserstraße will bring you back to the Babelfish in no time.



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