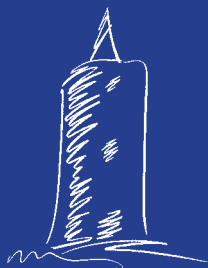


# Historical Tour



# GRÜNBERG



Dear Guests,

Welcome to the  
Luftkurort<sup>1</sup> Grünberg!

To help you find your way around we have prepared this little guidebook of our historic town. But a leisurely stroll around the town will also be rewarding for those less interested in history. The atmosphere of medieval settings enchants visitors and residents alike, again and again.

In addition to this booklet you can also find out more information on the individual stations of the tour via QR codes. All you have to do is scan the QR code on the signs of the historic tour with your phone and you instantly receive detailed information and pictures (Note: the QR code scanner can be downloaded in the app store).



While the local shops with their wide range of goods and traders more than cater for your daily needs, the cafés and restaurants provide the perfect opportunity to relax.

**1)** A Luftkurort is a town that has been awarded the status of “clean-air” town.



Traditional festivities and events like the Gallusmarket (in the middle of October) or the Folk Festival „Grimmich Folk“ (2nd weekend in August) attract thousands of visitors every year. And as well as the attractive town, the surrounding area with its forests, castles and beautiful countryside makes Grünberg an ideal location for an extended stay.

We are pleased to present you the sights of our town and wish you a pleasant and relaxing stay.

Your Tourist Information Grünberg



View from the church spire on the marketplace

# Stops at the historical circuit through the old town of Grünberg

Length about 1,2 km (without “Brunnental” and “Wartturm“)

- 1. Market Square**  
At the Town Hall
- 2. Diebsturm (“Thieve’s Tower”)**  
Renthof
- 3. Discalced Monastery**   
Barfüßergasse 26
- 4. St. Anthony’s Monastery Mansion**  
Rosengasse 2
- 5. University Building / Stammlersches House**  
Rosengasse 8
- 6. Former Luther house**  
Marktplatz/ corner Marktgasse
- 7. Former Castle**  
Burggraben
- 8. Brauhaus / Wasserkunst**  
Winterplatz
- 9. Parish Church / Tränenweibchen**  
An der Stadtkirche
- 10. Alte Kaplanei/ Welckerhouse**  
Brückelchen 1
- 11. Old Forge/ House of Guilds**  
Judengasse 5
- 12. Theo-Koch-House**  
Neustadt 42
- 13. Museum im Spital /  
Convent of the Augustinian Sisters/  
Hospital Church**  
Hintergasse 22 – 24
- 14. Brunnental (“Valley of Wells”)**  
Southwest from the city center
- 15. Dingstühle**  
Bahnhofstr./ corner Londorfer Str.
- 16. Wartturm**  
(on the outskirts of the town, direction Rabenau)

16 to the Wartturm it is about 1,2 km



View from the "Thieve's Tower" over the rooftops of the town

## Grünberg – the half-timbered city

The urban image of Grünberg is characterized by affectionately restored half-timbered buildings and offers numerous examples for all architectural epochs. The oldest existing houses from the time around 1500 can be recognized by strongly



Semi-circular half-timbered pattern and gothic ogee-arch combined in one building

protruding storeys and the semicircular timber framed-patterns (e.g. Market Square 6, Alsfelder Str. 1-3, Marktgasse 6, Rabegasse 2, 8, 12).

With 21 medieval half-timbered houses Grünberg has the most maintained buildings of this time after Limburg and Alsfeld.

The architectural style of the Renaissance is totally different and may be recognized by the many ornaments, for example at the town hall.



"Wild man" on the corner  
of this house in the street  
Meyersgasse

Houses built in the  
gothic epoch between  
1500 and 1525 have a  
typical ogee arch.



Eight St. Andrew's Crosses  
in the gable of the town hall

## Station 1: Market Square

The Market Square was formed directly alongside the old trade route „through the short Hessians“ from Frankfurt to Middle Germany and was considered the civil center of town for a long time. This is also where the Town Hall is located; built by bailiff Hermann Ruediger from Hersfeld. The magnificent renaissance building from the years 1586/87 has been in possession of the town since 1593. The hall in the groundfloor served as market and trade location; an iron ell next to the entrance door is a reminder of this time. The stone portal with its sculptures was probably designed by the count's master mason Eberth Baldwein from Marburg. Particularly striking are the detailed restored renaissance paintings around the windows and the stone sculpture of a man wearing a traditional Spanish costume at the building's corner.

Situated in front of the town hall is the circular, brick-built market well; a 36 meter deep draw well. Until the time around 1500 ground water was drawn here. In 1820 the well was backfilled and then rediscovered in 1980 in the course of construction work for the “Hessentag”<sup>2</sup>.

The old original post office dates from the year 1668 and is considered an especially beautiful baroque building. The high hall remains a reminder of its original function. The former stables and barns located at the rear of the building have been converted to residential and business premises.

2) an annual festival week that takes place in a different town every year



The town hall



Market fountain with the Brunnengucker

On the corner of Market Square/Marktgasse the so-called Lutherhouse was located until 1891; an impressive gothic building, in which in 1521 Luther is said to have resided.



Old Post Office



Market Square

## Station 2: Diebsturm

The town's landmark is the Diebsturm ("Thieve's Tower"), built around 1300, with its unusual form. It was constructed as part of the town fortifications and later served as a prison for a long time, thus its name. In 1895/96 it was converted to the town's water reservoir tower. Throughout the Second World War the tower was used as an ammunition dump and partly blown up by the allied troops. Since its restoration it has served as viewing tower

from which there is a magnificent view across the landscape of the Taunus and Vogelsberg. Inside the tower a small exhibition explains the history of town fortification.



The front of the Diebsturm

On this photo you can see the unusual form of the Diebsturm as a drop.



The back of the Diebsturm

### Station 3: Discalced Monastery



Right next to the Diebsturm is the gothic building of the franciscan monastery, also called Barfüßerkloster (bare foot monastery). The monastery was founded in the middle of the 13th century.

The oldest existing document dates from the year 1272. After the monastery had been secularised in 1528, the last friars moved to Limburg and Cologne, leaving the some of the monastery buildings to ruin. Today the small park in front of the Diebsturm is on this location.

With the exception of the monks' residence, all buildings were demolished at the end of the 16th century. The outer wall of the residential house is placed directly on the town wall. The restored remaining part of the monastery complex is now used for cultural events. The cellar along with its well provides some of the particular attraction of this building. The stair tower in the north of the building also still exists today.



The court of the monastery from  
the street Barfüßergasse

## Station 4: St. Anthony's Monastery Mansion



St. Anthony's Monastery Mansion

St. Anthony's Monastery, established around 1220, is of significant importance for the history of Grünberg and was promoted by the count of Thüringen. Already in 1222 a monastery in Mecklenburg was subordinate to it.

Until its closure in the year 1526 the monastery had significant power in the area of Middle Germany. The existing monastery complex covers the area between the B 49 road, the Marktgasse and the Rosengasse. Viewed from the car park the monastery's outer walls can be seen arching above the town walls. Windows and a beautiful oriel of the refectory have survived.

In the monastery's patio the friar's building is situated on the northern side. The immured tombstones and free stones of the complex are well worth seeing. Subsequent to its closure in 1526 the monastery was rebuilt by Eberth Baldwein for the widow of the count of Hessen. Characteristic of this are the beautiful renaissance oriels facing the Rosengasse. Since this reconstruction the monastery has been called "the Palace" in the colloquial language of Grünberg



Court



St. Anthony



The leafy castle

## Station 5: University Building/ Stammlersches House

Facing east is a high half-timbered house from the time around 1500, the university building. In 1542 the University of Marburg was evacuated to Grünberg because of an outbreak of the plague. Grünberg's wealth in the middle ages resulted from the fact that the town was located along the trade route called "durch die kurzen Hessen" (through the short Hessen). The route passed through Grünberg's market square.

From the west side, going along what now is the Frankfurter Strasse, it ended on the east side at the point where today the traffic lights on the B 49 are situated. In past times there used to be a small settlement here, outside the town wall, called the "Höfe".



University Building

## Station 6: Former Luther House

Visitors may notice the vacant lot at the corner of Market/Marktgasse. Until 1891 there was the so-called Luther House, an impressive Gothic building. Martin Luther should have stayed here on his return from the Diet of Worms on 29 April to 30 April 1521. In 1891 the building was demolished due to disrepair. On the pilgrimage “Luther 1521” you can recreate the journey of Luther in 1521 from Wittenberg to the Diet of Worms and back to the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach.



Luther House

## Station 7: Former Castle



Castle house

Built in 1186 by Landgrave Ludwig III, the castle represented the first buildings to the early town history of Grünberg. Destroyed by troops of Mainz, the castle and the first settlements were soon rebuilt. The relatively large castle was like applying a semicircle of about equivalent to the course of today's road moat northwest. Today there are three terrace houses, the space between the southern and middle terrace house is about the position of the former castle house. Along the way below the former castle the old city walls can still be seen in several places.

## Station 8: Brauhaus/Wasserkunst



Brauhaus with Löwenbrunnen

Until the end of the last century the old Lion's Well provided the residents of Grünberg with fresh water from the Brunnental („Valley of Wells“). These days, the original lion is in the building of the old water works on the Winterplatz.



The old market-well's lion

The former brewhouse, a half-timbered building from the 18th century, dominates the Winterplatz. The lion on the well is a replica of the old market-well's lion.



## Station 9: Parish Church/Tränenweibchen

Today´s parish church was built in neo-gothic style from 1846–1852. Before this time, the old gothic church (St. Mary´s Church) was located on this same location. This church dated back to the second half of the 13th century and collapsed in 1816. St. Mary´s Church was built as a small replica of the Elisabethenkirche



Parish Church

in Marburg. The picturesque ruin of St. Mary´s Church survived for years. During this time church services were conducted in the small hospital church. On the southern side of the parish church the replica of the so-called “Tränenweibchen“, a

sepulchral sculpture by Samuel Nahls from the year 1770, can be found. On the corner of the church facing the “Brückelchen“-street is the birthhouse of Friedrich Gottlieb Welcker (1784-1868). Welcker was one of the leading classical archaeologists of his time, professor in Bonn and a friend of Alexander von Humboldt.






Tränenweibchen

## Station 10: Alte Kaplanei/Welckerhouse

On the corner of the church facing the “Brückelchen“-street is the birthhouse of Friedrich Gotlieb Welcker (1784–1868). Welcker was one of the leading classical archaeologists of his time, professor in Bonn and a friend of Alexander von Humboldt.

## Station 11: Old Forge and House of Guilds

An old, fully equipped blacksmith's shop can be found on the Judengasse. Next to it the house of guilds presents numerous trasts of ancient days. It is a collection of old hand workshop tools they used for example as a hair dresser or cobbler. On request these attractions may be visited (phone +49(0) 172 62 95 197). 



Old Forge and House of Guilds

## Station 12: Theo-Koch-House

The birthplace of the prominent South America explorer Theodor Koch-Grünberg (1872–1924) is also situated in the new town and served as Grünberg's second vicarage for a long time. The "Museum im Spital" dedicates an exhibition on an entire floor to him.

## Station 13: Museum im Spital / Convent of the Augustinian Sisters/ Hospital Church

The medieval new town, a settlement from the time around 1300, had its own church: St. Paul's. Next to it, the Augustinian Sisters established a convent in the middle of the 15th century of which a half-timbered building still exists. During this time it served the town as a hospital. Its large hallway with supporting pillars is characteristic for hospital constructions of this time. In september 2007 Grünberg opened a museum here: the „Museum im Spital“.

On the side of the St. Paul's church the baroque hospital church was built from 1723–1740.



Museum im Spital

In the nave some tombstones from the baroque period can be seen. The inscription on the southern window (1747) addresses the visitors:

*„Las uns die Geldene Stunden kauffen/ dieweil des Lebens Uhrwerck geht/ eh die Gewechte schnell ablaufen/dan der gezieckte Zeiger steht“. (about: “Let us buy the golden hours/ while life’s clockwerk runs/ before the weights reaches the bottom/then the jagged clockhand stays“).*



Former convent  
and spital



Hospital church

## Station 14: Brunnental



Ducks and a swan in the valley of wells

Brunntental, which translates as ‘Well Valley’, acquired its name owing to the abundant springs on the south-east slope of the town’s plateau. Because new spring water constantly flows out of the basal clefts into the ponds, even in winter they never freeze over.

The Countryside development association “Verkehrsverein 1896 e.V.” began building foot-paths through the valley in 1901. Nowadays, the area is popular for both relaxing walks and more challenging hikes. On your walk through the Well Valley you will see the old machine houses with the old – but still functional – waterwheels.



## Station 15: Dingstühle

A cenotaph is located on the spot where in former days the Court of Grünberg (Dingstühle) used to be. It is to commemorate the belligerents of the french-german war in 1870/71.



Memorial

## Station 16: Wartturm

On the outskirts of the town, on the rise north of the town wall, the “Wartturm” is situated. The Wartturm was an advanced point of defence for the town and was itself protected by a ring trench around it. The tower is within easy walking distance.



Wartturm

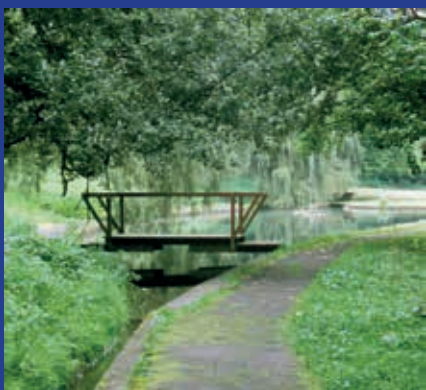
## History of Grünberg in Summary

- 1186** Foundation of Grünberg castle by the count (Landgraf) Ludwig III of Thüringen for the purpose of establishing peace in his area of reign during acts of war with the archbishops of Mainz.
- 1195** Destruction of Grünberg's castle and settlements by the troops of Mainz. Subsequent reconstruction.
- 1222** First mention of the town and court of Grünberg in an official document.
- around 1230** Grünberg receives the right to mint and issue coins
- before 1250** First mention of the Franciscan Monastery (Disalced).
- 1255** Accession of Grünberg to the „Rheinischen Städtebund“ (Rheinish Association of Cities and Towns).
- 1261** First mention of the new town located on the western outskirts. Building of a new town wall which unites the old and new town.
- 1272** Conferment of a Freiheitsbrief (freedom epistle) to the citizens of Grünberg by count Heinrich I. Grünberg receives its town charter.
- around 13.<sup>th</sup>** Start of construction of the gothic St. Mary's Church.
- 1353** Foundation of the first town school.
- 1370 + 1391** Devastating fires from which the town barely recovered.

- 1419** Construction of a central water supply, the „Brunnenkunst“ (“Art of Wells”).
- 1481** Conferment of market privilege for Gallus-Day (October 16) by Emperor Friedrich III.
- End of 15<sup>th</sup>** In the middle of the 15th century foundation of the Convent of the Augustinian Sisters.
- 1524–1527** Reformation and secularization of the monasteries; St. Anthony’s Monastery becomes the site of the count’s widow, its landholdings became possession of Marburg and later of the university town of Giessen.
- ab 1542** Due to an epidemic the university of Marburg is evacuated to Grünberg.
- 1586–1589** Construction of the „Alsfelder Brücke“ which significantly simplifies and shortens the trade route from Frankfurt to Middle Germany.
- 1593** The town finished building the magnificent renaissance building on the market square. To this day it is Grünberg’s town hall. 432 citizens lived in Grünberg; subsequent to the Thirty Years’ War (1618–1648) there were no more than 220 citizens and their families in Grünberg. 140 vacant houses had to be demolished.
- 1723–1740** Construction of the Hospital Church.
- 1816** Collapse of the gothic St. Mary’s Church.
- 1832–1874** Grünberg obtains the status of a county town.
- 1848–1852** Reconstruction of the Parish Church on location of the collapsed St. Mary’s Church.
- 1869** First railway connection between Grünberg and Giessen.

- 1891** Demolition of the Luther House on the market square
- 1932** The open air swimming pool was built
- 1945** Bombing with 150 death.
- 1953** Laying of the foundation stone of the sport school Grünberg
- 1969** Demolition of the castle and commencement of the restoration of the old town
- 1971–1973** Formation of the parish Grünberg
- 1972** City partnership with the french town Condom
- 1980** “Day of Hessen” in Grünberg.
- 1983** Certificate for Grünberg as a “Luftkurort”
- 1992** City partnership with the polish town Mragowo.
- 2005** Opening of the house of guilds
- 2007** Opening of the “Museum im Spital”
- 2015** Englischer Text fehlt





**Office for Tourism  
Town Administration of Gruenberg**

**Town Hall, Rabegasse 1**

**Monday to Wednesday 8.00 – 16.00 hours**

**Thursday until 18.00 hours**

**Friday until 12.00 hours**

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