



Archaeological Park

Boppard can pride itself on having the finest preserved Roman fortification in Germany. The Bodobrica citadel was built in the second half of the 4th century, in the area of what is now the Old Town. The layout of the citadel wall still determines the street pattern in the old town today.

The Roman military fort consisted of a 308 m-long and 154 m-wide rectangular area with a total of 28 massive fortified towers. We can gain some idea of the impressive size of the fortifications from the Archaeological Park 7 on Angertstraße, where, in 1990/91, a continuous 55 m length of the wall was excavated down to its foundations, exposing two towers of different heights. The wall, which is over 8 metres high, is in excellent original condition and a remarkable testimony to the high degree of manual skill possessed by its builders. In the stratum dating from Late Antiquity – the present-day grass surface – more than 30 Early Christian graves from the second half of the 7th century were unearthed. Three of them are preserved near the eastern tower. The citadel wall formed the end wall of a medieval single-roofed house, the Gothic gateway of which is still extant. The ground floor of the building was used as a warehouse and store and the upper storey for dances.

## Kirchgasse, Oberstraße & Karmeliterstraße

As long ago as 1265, monks of the Carmelite Order established a settlement outside the medieval town wall. After a fire, the monastery buildings were re-built in their present-day Baroque style in 1730 – as the date on the magnificent doorway in the Karmeliterstraße confirms. The buildings are now the municipal administrative headquarters.

Thanks to numerous donations by local nobility and wealthy citizens over a period of centuries, the rich interior decoration of the Carmelite Church 8 is unusually sumptuous and in complete contrast to the building's otherwise unpretentious architecture. The two large altars date from the Baroque period. The main altar shows the founder of the Carmelite Order, Simon Stock, with the Virgin Mary while the main picture on the side altar, restored in 1992, depicts the partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Particularly notable are the elaborately carved choir stalls (1460-70) and the somewhat more recent and artistically outstanding chair with room for three priests. The church also contains many tombs as well as tablets commemorating members of noble families in Boppard (including Schwalbach and Eltz). The mural paintings above the pulpit comprise 14 pictures illustrating the legend of St Alexius, the wealthy Roman who renounced affluence and prestige in order to devote his life to the poor, and in so doing spent 17 years unrecognised beneath the steps of his parental home until his death. Evidence of the veneration of the Virgin Mary, a particularly distinguishing feature of the Carmelite Order, is found in the many representations of the Madonna – the Baroque "Mary with Rosary", for example, hovering above the believers in front of the chancel; the Pieta (1430), the "Standing Madonna with Child" (1480), beneath the gallery; and, on the external stairway, the "Madonna of the Grapes" (1330) to whom, according to age-old custom, the local vintners brought the first of the season's grapes in the hope of an abundant harvest.

Choir Stalls, Carmelite Church



- Street
- Pedestrian Area
- Circuit

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Unesco World Heritage  
 Upper Middle Rhine Valley

Boppard/Bad Salzig

Buchholz · Herschwiesen · Hirzenach · Holzfeld ·  
 Oppenheim · Rheinbay · Udenhausen · Weiler



A journey back in time





## The Market Square

Since time immemorial the Market Square has been the centre of the municipality. Here, as early as Roman days, baths were installed for the soldiers within the walled fort of Bodobrica. When the garrison was disbanded and the soldiers were withdrawn in the 5th century, the baths were converted into a church; its baptismal font still survives. Since then, over a continuous period of more than 1500 years, the church has remained the focal point of the Christian community.

The Church of St Severus **1**, the third to be built on the same site, was completed in 1236. It is a notable example of Late Romanesque architecture in the Rhineland. The various structural elements of the building are clearly distinguishable from the Market Square. Two huge towers separate the main aisle from the three-storeyed chancel. On entering the church through the elaborately designed main doorway on the Kronengasse, visitors obtain a spectacular view of the colourful, triple naved interior; the main nave rises dramatically up to three ribbed vaults, each crowned with 16 ribs.

Two decorative features of particularly fine craftsmanship date back to the time when the church was built: the Late Romanesque triumphal cross surmounting the main altar, showing Christ crowned as the victor over death, and the sculpture of the graceful, subtly smiling Madonna with child and lily sceptre. The mural paintings in the central nave tell the story of St. Severus, the patron saint of the church, and how he, a poor weaver, was chosen to be Bishop of Ravenna. In the right-hand aisle there are ceiling paintings of Christ and saints. The church windows date from the second half of the 19th century, except those in the right hand aisle which were created by a contemporary Boppard crafts-woman. Several Early Christian grave-stones are inset in the rear wall of the church, the oldest being the Armentarius and Besontio stones (5/6th century).



Triumphal cross,  
Church of St Severus



Baptismal font,  
Church of St Severus



Church of St Severus

On the floor near the main doorway can be seen the outlines of the 5th century baptismal font; the font itself was exposed in 1966 and is now preserved in a room below the church floor.

Apart from the church, the most striking building is the former Town Hall (1885). The entire design of the structure, with its external stairway, doorway on a high podium and ornately mullioned windows in the upper storey, is reminiscent of that of an Italian Renaissance palace.

The most recently created feature in the Market Square is the Thonet Fountain (1992). It is dedicated to the cabinet-maker and later furniture manufacturer Michael Thonet (1796 - 1871), the town's most famous son. His obsession with the turning and shaping of wood made him bankrupt in his native town, but in Vienna, his coffee-house furniture brought him success and prestige. There, thanks to his inventive genius and his commercial skill, he became the greatest furniture-maker of his day.

## Kronengasse, Rheinallee & Burgplatz

The buildings of the Electors' Castle **2**, directly adjoining the Rhine, form a rectangle enclosing an inner courtyard and surmounted by a five-storeyed keep. For a long time, its founding was credited to Archbishop Baldwin of Trier. Recent studies show that the medieval stronghold on the banks of the Rhine was founded by Richard of Cornwall as early as 1265. He laid the foundations for the impressive keep. After Boppard was pledged to Archbishop Baldwin of Trier in 1312, the building work was briefly suspended. The keep was only extended following the military occupation of 1327. The building initially served as a fortress for controlling the city, then as a customs post on the Rhine. The castle's structure was repeatedly altered, depending on its use. It currently houses the municipal museum, which includes a substantial collection of Thonet furniture.

## Rheinallee & Ordensritterstraße

The Federal German Academy of Public Administration, located in Boppard since 1987, occupies two historic old buildings. One is the former Franciscan monastery which was built in the mid-17th century. In 1765 the monks opened Boppard's first grammar school. After secularisation in 1802, the monastery and its church fell into disrepair until, the mid-19th century, when a teachers' training college was established there. The second building occupied by the Academy is one of the oldest dwelling-houses in Boppard, the Ritter-Schwalbachhaus **3**. During the Middle Ages, the late-Gothic building dating back to the 15th century was the home of an influential noble family. It was renovated in 1985-1987 and restored to its original 15th century design. Upstream are remains of the medieval Sandtor Gate, from which a wall led down to the Rhine; this was intended to protect the town from the dreaded drift ice on the river. At the end of the wall was an octagonal look-out turret which was later relocated to the Sandtor Gate.

Ritter-Schwalbach-Haus



## Oberstraße, Pützgasse & Balz

The Balz is a small triangular-shaped town plaza which, by virtue of its secluded and intimate atmosphere, personifies a fragment of "Old Boppard". Into it runs the Bingergasse, formerly inhabited mainly by vintners and farmers; its Old Town character with a rural ambiance has been preserved to a large extent by the nature of the buildings in it.

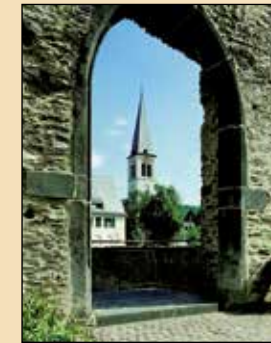
At the end of the street is the medieval Bingen Gate **4**, of which only the archway on the town side survives; on both sides, however, the town wall can still be seen at its original height.

## Balz & Peter-Laux-Eck

One of Boppard's landmarks is the former Benedictine Abbey of Marienberg **5**, overlooking the Old Town. It dates back to a charitable institution established by the townspeople of Boppard in the 12th century which soon developed into a highly respected Imperial convent. In 1738 the convent buildings were gutted by fire. Restoration in Baroque style was completed 15 years later. After its dissolution in 1802, the convent had a chequered career. For a time it was a hydropathic institute, which established Boppard's reputation as a spa. During the 20th century the premises were used mainly for scholastic purposes.

## Angertstraße

Immediately adjoining the B9 road is the Protestant Christ Church **6**, a neo-Romanesque building which underwent complete restoration between 1993 and 1995. The interior was re-decorated in its original style. Soon after the building had been consecrated in the presence of the King of Prussia in 1852, it turned out to be too small and an extension was added in 1887. In 1972, due to the reconstruction of the B9, the south wing of the portico was re-sited, thus ruining the original design of the building.



Protestant Christ Church

## Chronological Table

c. 50 BC.	Roman troops on the Rhine
Mid-4th cent.	Roman military camp enlarged to form a walled fort with thermal baths
5th cent.	After the withdrawal of the Romans, settlement by Frankish tribes; construction of a Christian church with baptismal font
10-12th cent.	Periods of residence by Saxon and Hohenstaufen kings and emperors
1123	Foundation of the Benedictine convent of Marienberg
1216	First municipal seal
1236	Completion of the Church of St Severus; second seal of the town of Boppard, Laying of the foundation stone for the keep by Richard of Cornwall
1265	The town is pledged to the Elector Balduin of Trier
1312	Building development of the electoral castle as a toll castle and fortress
1327	Final submission of the town in the so called „Boppard War“ to rule by the Electors of Trier
1497	During the Thirty Years' War, occupation at various times by Spanish, Swedish, French, Imperial and Bavarian troops
1618-1648	Occupation by French revolutionary troops
1794	Incorporation into the Kingdom of Prussia
1815	Completion of the Koblenz-Bingen railway line
1859	Completion of the Hunsrück railway between Boppard and Simmern
1908	Establishment of the Buchenau settlement
1952	Amalgamation of ten local communities to form the independent municipality of Boppard
1975	Preparation of the Roman citadel wall with an Archaeological Park
1996	Upper Middle Rhine Valley becomes UNESCO World Heritage Site
2002	