

## Marcus's Heidelberg Guide

The main attractions, as shown on the picture are the castle, the old bridge and the downtown.

### Main attractions:

Coming from the Kettengasse, make a right on the Hauptstrasse. After 150m you see the Hotel zum Ritter on your right side. The hotel has a nice sand stone front. If you can afford it, you can have dinner there. They have really good German food but is really expensive. On your left you can see the big Heiliggeist Kirche (church). The entrance is right across



from the Hotel zum Ritter. You can enter and check if the tower is open. It should cost about 2 Euro and you have a great view (\*1).

Continue to the Marktplatz (Market place). The building facing the fountain is the town hall. I only had bad luck with the restaurants at this place so far!



Continue walking down the Hauptstrasse. On your right side you can see the Kornmarkt, If you would go up there you reach the castle. But keep going straight down the Hauptstrasse. After about three houses you see the Gundel bakery on your right. In my opinion it is the best bakery in town. Next to it is an ok Italian restaurant. The next place on your right is the Karlsplatz. It has a nice fountain and you have a good look at the Carstle.

Across from the entrance of the subterranean garage there is the "Zum roten Ochsen" (\*2). This is a students' fraternity bar. It is worth having a look inside.

Continue walking down the Hauptstrasse and make a left on the Layergasse. On the way down to the Neckar you see the "Kultur Brauerei" on your left. This might be a nice place to have a beer in the evening. The Layergasse ends at the Necker and there is the Neckermuenzplatz. On the right there is the House of the 100 Schnitzel. I've never been there, but Mimi likes it.

Go back up the Layergasse and turn into the Obere Neckarstrasse. This leads you straight to the Karl Theodor Bridge. However, every body in Heidelberg calls it "Alte Bruecke", what means Old Bridge. Go on the bride and enjoy the hopefully nice weather.





The road you enter when leave the bridge is called Steingasse. Here is the Restaurant Hackteufel. They make really good German food. You should definitely try it (\*3). The owners are really good friends of our family so please say greetings from me.

Right next to the Hackteufel is the entrance to a nice back yard. Just have a look. Next to this entrance is a brewery called Vetter. It is a touristy place, but they have good self brewed beer.

Continue towards the church and make a right at the small square. At the end of the block you enter the Untere Strasse. The first house on the right is the Kafe Knoesel. They make the best cake in town. And they sell the world famous Studentenkuss (Student Kiss).

Continue walking through the Untere Strasse. This is the place to find a bar in the evening. This street runs parallel to Haupt Strasse. Usually all streets running parallel to the Neckr are called Strasse and the streets perpendicular to the Neckr are called Gasse (German word for small street). Walk through the Untere Strasse to the end. Make a right at the end and walk towards the Neckar. The old sand stone building on your left is on one of the University buildings. Here are parts of economy faculty located.

If you make a left here and continue walking along the Neckar you will hit the Stadthalle after 5 min. I think the conference is held there.

Walk around the old sand stone building towards the Hauptstrasse. You are in the Marstallstrasse. I was living in number 5 before I moved to Santa Cruz. Please check if my name is still on the mailbox. This big fort like thing on the right side of the Marstallstrasse is the Marstall Hof. Here the Mensa (kind of dining hall, but worse) is located. In the evening you can sit there and drink a beer outside.

If you walk up the Marstallstrasse and cross the Hauptstrasse, you hit the Uniplatz (University square). Here are a lot of buildings of the University located. Try to enter the white big building you see on the right side of the picture. The backyard is really worth having a look at (\*4).

Continue walking up the Marstallstrasse. Make a right before the church. Now you see the nice front of the University library.

That is it for the center of Heidelberg.



### **The Scloss (castle) (\*5)**

From the Hotel: Walk towards the Hauptstrasse and turn right into the Ingrim Strasse. Walk the street towards the end until you have the Kornmarkt (a small square with a Madonna statue) on your left. Make a right here. You see the building of the Bergbahn. This is a kind of train, which gets pulled up the hill by a rope. This thing can take you all the way up to the top of the Koeingstuhl (the hill / mountain the castle is standing on). The smaller dark street left of the Bergbahn building leads you to the castle. You have the choice between 300 stairs and a walk way.

You need a ticket to enter the center square of the castle. When I was in Heidelberg at Christmas I took a guided tour. I think it was quite interesting. In the center square of the castle there is the German Pharmacy museum located. Nice old stuff from the Allichemists (\*6).

## **Philosophenweg (\*7)**

A nice round walk would be to go to the Philosophenweg. This walk takes about 1h40. Walk over the Alte Bruecke (Old Bridge). Cross the big street and go about two houses to the left. There is a small corridor (Schlangenberg). This walkway (a lot of stairs) brings you up to the Philosophenweg. You are there no more stairs! Make a left here. You get a nice view over Heidelberg.

Continue walking down. After some hundred meters there are some buildings on the left side. Philosophenweg 16 is the institute for Theoretical Physics. Further down is Philosophenweg 12. I made my Diploma theses there. The institute moved to a university complex outside of the center of Heidelberg (Neuenheimer Feld). I'm wondering, what is inside this building now.

Continue walking down the Philosophenweg until you hit a wider road where a road train is running. Turn left towards the bridge. On the right side is a good Chinese fast food.

If you are on the Theodor Heuss Bridge and look Neckar down stream, you see the Neckarwiese (Neckar Meadow). On a nice day it gets really crowded there. The first part of the meadow is usually occupied by yelling high school kids. Then there are the Volleyball playing and BBQ-ing students. Then further back are the football players and then the single students.

After you crossed the bridge you hit the Bismarkplatz. You can return through the Hauptstrasse, which is the main shopping street.

## **Where to Eat**

- As already mentioned, there is the Hackteufel with good traditional German food.
- If you come down the Kettengasse you almost run straight into the Palmbräugasse. You can have a beer here and they serve food as well. I never tried it, but it looked good. This place is a kind of walk through to the Untere Strasse as well.
- Across from the Hotel Ritter (the building with the sand stone front) is the Le Palme. A good Italian restaurant.
- Walk down the Kettengasse and make a left on the Hauptstrasse. After 70m there is a Thai place on the right. I like it.
- Walk down the Kettengasse and make a left on the Hauptstrasse. Walk the next street down towards the Neckar (Dreikoenigstrasse). At the end of the street, there is a Spanish(?) restaurant on the left. Don't even think of going in there! Make a left in front of the gas station. After some houses there is the "Sterne" a Greek restaurant on the left side. You won't leave this place hungry.
- Walk down the Kettengasse and make a left on the Hauptstrasse. After some houses there is the Café Journal on the left side. I would go there to have breakfast.
- Now a nice breakfast alternative, if you are short on time and money. Go to the Uniplatz (University square) and behind the bus stop is a branch of my favorite Bakery (Gundel). They have good rolls with sausage and the chocolate croissants are totally awesome. You can stand inside and eat the stuff together with a cafe.
- My favored fast food in Germany is a doener. The tastiest ones are made at Ginos. Make a left on Hauptstrasse and walk past the Uniplatz. Ginos is right before the next square across from the movie Theatre.

## **Where to drink**

There are a lot of bars in the Untere Strasse. Just have a look at all the places. A special place might be the Cave 54 (\*8). This is Germany's oldest student Jazz club. Walk down the Kettengasse make a right on the Hauptstrasse. Make a right on the second street into the Kraemergasse. You can see the Cave 54 sign. You might have to knock at the door to get in. I think they don't have a cover charge unless there is a concert. If you are claustrophobic don't go there.

