

The stations on the historical and cultural route at Arnsberg



KURFÜRSTLICHER
THIERGARTEN
ARNSBERG

Introduction remarks on the historical and cultural route

First of all, it would be worthwhile to provide yourself with the “Erlebnis-Wanderführer” (guide to the historical walking tour), as it supplies many maps and pictures containing further information and explanations.

Watching the film on the topic you can get an idea of what you can expect on the hike.

All the various media (film, maps, pictures) are available at the bookshops and the tourist office.

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| Station 1 | Jägerhaus und Jägerbrücke (hunters' lodge and hunters' bridge) At electoral times already you would get access to the “Thiergarten” (deer park) across “Jägerbrücke” with its chequered history. Jägerhaus, built as a portal, was the main entrance to the deergarden. Traces of the portal can still be seen on the facade. Next to the house there used to be Arnsberg's 2 nd railway station about 70 years ago. |
| Station 2 | Tiergartenstraße Today's “Thiergartenstraße” was originally the main road from Jägerhaus into the electoral deergarden initially ending at the “Obereimer” manor. The land –mostly private property of Arnsberg's citizens- was bought from the owners, although some opposed and simply continued operating their gardens. When the deergarden was given up, the plots could be bought back. |
| Station 3 | Viaduct The railway viaduct spanning the Ruhr valley was a target of British bombs during the 2 nd world war. It was destroyed by a ten-ton “Grand Slam” bomb. The restored arches differ clearly from the original ones thus allowing you to gain an idea as to the extent of the destruction. |
| Station 4 | „Pulvermühle“ und „Pulverhaus“ (powder mill and powder mill house) In place of the houses on the left at the beginning of the road to Wennigloh there was a mill until 1870. The elector had it built about 350 years ago. It used to grind the ingredients of black gunpowder: salpeter, sulfur and the charcoal of “Faulbaum” (Frangula alnus, Alder Buckthorn, a kind of bush). In the adjacent powderhouse –far enough outside the town- the powder was produced and stored. |
| Station 5 | A long-vanished bridge There used to be a vanished bridge across the Ruhr between Schlossberg (castle hill) and the Obereimer manor. It offered the elector and his hunting party a direct route from the castle to the deergarden. A small wooden structure on the banks of the Ruhr still shows the location of the long-gone bridge. |
| Station 6 | “Thiergartenweg”, “Hammergraben” and watergarden Fed by the Ruhr a ditch dug through the meadows supplied water for the moat of the manor and the gardens. A bit further down it drove a hammer mill processing iron. |
| Station 7 | The Obereimer Manor In 1650 Elector Maximilian Heinrich acquired the manor from the electoral treasurer Düker. He extended it using it as a stud farm, hunting lodge and pleasure garden. Later it served as a farm. The remaining parts today house the “Arnsberger Wald” forestry comission and research department. |
| Station 8 | Former barn and indoor riding area Only one building of the once stately electoral stud and the extensive perimeter can still be seen. The ivy-clad walls used to be the foundations of the former riding area. Another remaining building “Haus Obereimer” (to be seen in the background) used to be the staff lodgings. |

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| Station 9 | <p>The Herbreme Ponds You can still see the remains of ponds layed out in the 18th century. They served to supply the electoral palace with fresh fish. The elector employed 23 staff to operate the ponds, so called "Teichstecher"</p> |
| Station 10 | <p>Drainage channels and water distribution Remains of a drainage system fed by 4 springs can still be detected in the grounds. They used to be part of a comprehensive water distribution system.</p> |
| Station 11 | <p>Hollow paths The deergarden was criss-crossed by paths linking the surroundings villages with each other. They served to transport agricultural equipment and products; especially charcoal produced in the nearby woods as well as firewood needed for the processing of ironat the time. These transports on unsurfaced tracks in animal-drawn carts and carriages left deeply-cut hollows on the land that can partly still be seen.</p> |
| Station 12 | <p>Ravine to Arnsberg hammer mill Particularly heavy loads were transported to the hammer mill through the woods. The path there can still today be detected as a sunken lane. After the establishment of the deer-park the road was moved to the other side of the river where it still is today.</p> |
| Station 13 | <p>Untouched forest In this enclosed area the development of the forest is entirely left to nature. Therefore you should not leave the paths and leave animals and plants as well as dead material untouched. Dead wood particularly provides additional habitat.</p> |
| Station 14 | <p>Sunken paths Here again you can see the system of the formerly unpaved roads and imagine the hardship of any kind of transportation in those days.</p> |
| Station 15 | <p>"Thiergarten"-boundaries The deerpark was an enclosed hunting preserve. At this station you can make out the straight boundary line of 1653. Such straight lines were quite common in parks at that time. The boundary was protected by a fence.</p> |
| Station 16 | <p>„Thiergarten“-Oak The 400 years old and 33-meter high tree of 153 cm in diameter is a witness to the time of the foundation of the electoral deer-park. The scars of former branches tell the story of the tree: for a long time it used to grow as a solitary plant, which shows that it was meant for producing animal feed –a so called "Hutebaum".</p> |
| Station 17 | <p>Boundary stone The roughly 300-year-old stone marked the border between the manors of "Wicheln" and "Obereimer". It also testifies to the settlement of a 140-year-long border dispute between the neighbouring estates.</p> |
| Station 18 | <p>"Schwedenschanze" (Entrenchment of the Swedes) Here you can clearly see curved earth works. A mound that is said to have served as defensive work by the Swedish besiegers of Arnsberg led by Captain Beckermann in 1634. It was meant to block the road and be an advance protective wall. Today's archeological site is evidence of significant events in Arnsberg during the 30-years war.</p> |
| Station 19 | <p>Gockel Pond About 100 years ago head forester Josef E. Goebel had 18 ponds laid out, here in "Teufelssiepen" (devil's brook) and elsewhere. He had little waterfalls built and footbridges to cross the rivulet. The stocking of fish has meticulously been documented.</p> |
| Station 20 | <p>Devil's Pond This pond, too, was laid out by forester Goebel. In addition to his penchant for watergames, they were meant for fish farming and also his family to enjoy the pleasures of bathing and swimming.</p> |

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| Station 21 | <p>Wolves in the Herbreme</p> <p>Wolves breaking into the stud caused severe damage to the elector killing valuable horses. He acquired wolfhounds and employed wolfhunters; but it was not until 1812 that the last wolf was killed in the Sauerland. In 2011 a wolf was seen again in "Teufelsiepen" (devil's brook) and welcomed this time.</p> |
| Station 22 | <p>Tuckhammer</p> <p>In this place water from the brook was pumped to a little settlement located higher and called "Kapune". This was achieved with the help of a so called "Tuckhammer" or "water-ram" (a pressure vessel with two valves) without any further driving force. It worked in the following way: water rushes from the reservoir (height of fall 5m) into the water ram. The lower valve closes abruptly and the upper one opens. In this way part of the water is forced into a pressure vessel and the delivery pipe (riser) until equalizing forces cause the upper valve to close again. 80% of the water are needed as driving force whereas 20% can be transported to a height of up to 100 meters.</p> |
| Station 23 | <p>Place of former charcoal kiln</p> <p>About 150 years ago a charcoal kiln was in operation here. The surface of such a kiln had to be absolutely horizontal because one had to avoid that (rain)water gathered under the pile. The heat of the kiln could quickly cause the water to evaporate and the explosive force of the steam would lift off the covering of the kiln and cause the wood to burn instead of carbonizing.</p> |
| Station 24 | <p>Military shelters near Kapune</p> <p>The noticeable depressions of the surface surrounded by earthbanks result from excavations. Initially they were thought to be the result of middle-age mining activities. According to recent scientific investigation they turned out to be military shelters from the last days of World War II. Thus they can be considered as witnesses of our recent past.</p> |
| Station 25 | <p>Kapune: hunting lodge and charcoal burner's house</p> <p>The property has a long history of deer feeding. But it also served as carriage shed of the elector, charcoal burner's house, forest farm and more recently as popular destination for family outings. The history goes back to the days of Elector Clemens August.</p> |
| Station 26 | <p>Electoral "Tempelberg" (temple mount)</p> <p>The Elector Maximilian Heinrich had this highest, plateau-shaped hill in his deer park piled up artificially. From here he and his hunting parties were able to watch and shoot the game in the park comfortably. The plateau is now protected as an archeological site.</p> |
| Station 27 | <p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Here we stand on a forest track that was paved about a hundred years ago. You can clearly see the stones set by hand in particular those set at the edge of the road. All this was carried out by hard manual work in order to facilitate heavy transports from the forest with horse-drawn vehicles.</p> |
| Station 28 | <p>Agricultural terraces</p> <p>The forest here shows terraced terrain, which testifies to the fact that there used to be agricultural land here for centuries. It was shaped in this way by the particular ploughing practices of the time. After giving up this land the forest has reclaimed the land and the former terraces can now only be identified with difficulty.</p> |
| Station 29 | <p>Charcoal kiln and charcoal burners hut</p> <p>On the one hand the reconstruction here shows the layered structure of the logs and the coverings of the kiln for the production of charcoal. On the other hand the charcoal burner's hut next to the kiln gives you an idea of the working and living conditions of the charcoal burners and their families.</p> |
| Station 30 | <p>Boundary wall of the deer park</p> <p>The electoral deer park was completely fenced in with a wall and fences. At this point the border has been reconstructed by putting a picket fence on the top of the wall or wickerwork respectively, which will sprout again and form a dense hedge. As a listed monument the wall here is protected by law.</p> |

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| Station 31 | <p>Goethe-Oak and Schiller-Beech</p> <p>The two 360 – 380-years-old trees are monuments of nature: Goethe-Oak and Schiller-Beech. They inspired people to call the little valley „Valley of Poets“ (“Dichtertal”). Hurricane Kyrill flattened the Schiller-Beech in 2007. Still lying on the ground it impresses by its giant dimensions.</p> |
| Station 32 | <p>Max-Heinrich-Beech</p> <p>Another giant of a tree stands closeby here. Its namesake elector Maximilian Heinrich would be riding past under its branches 350 years ago.</p> |
| Station 33 | <p>Deer park wall</p> <p>The enclosing wall of the deer park is clearly visible here, even in a twofold way.</p> |
| Station 34 | <p>Plague victims in „Seufzertal“ („Valley of sighs“)</p> <p>The natural scenic beauty of this valley contrasts sharply with the misery of the plague victims from Arnsberg, who were isolated here with certain death before their eyes roughly 400 years ago.</p> |
| Station 35 | <p>Mining industries on „Eisenberg“ (iron ore hill)</p> <p>As its name suggests iron ore was mined here centuries ago. Excavations and middle-age galleries are waiting to be explored and secured for the future.</p> |
| Station 36 | <p>Ironworks path</p> <p>We are facing a narrow path here. The ore mined on the ironore-mount was transported down this passage to the ironworks down by the Ruhr. Due to the heavy loads and subsequent natural disasters the passage has been deeply cut into the ground.</p> |
| Station 37 | <p>Rüdenburg</p> <p>The remains of walls at „Adlerberg“ (“Eagle Mountain”) witness the existence of a castle (Rüdenburg) built in 1060. It is also called “Old Castle”. Twelfth century travellers up the Ruhr valley would have been impressed by the sight of two castles on either side of the river. You can walk round the whole complex on the foundation of the “Rüdenburg”, which was probably given up early in the 14th century and has beenn falling to ruins since then.</p> |
| Station 38 | <p>The legend of the „leather bridge“</p> <p>Legend has it that once – with the help of the devil – a leather bridge spanned the valley to enable the inhabitants of the castle to flee across the valley to the other castle. It is said, that there is still a scrap of leather and al long hand-forged nail in the wineryard over on the other side below the castle walls.</p> |
| Station 39 | <p>Access to „Rüdenburg“</p> <p>Descending from the castle down the faintly visible access you can imagine the problems of this kind of road: A steep hill provides protection from attackers, but also means difficulties for yourself wanting to go up or down.</p> |
| Station 40 | <p>Kreuzberg Chapel</p> <p>From here you have another spectacular view of Arnsberg. The church, built in the style of gothic revival, was consecrated in 1868. Generous donations from Arnsberg’s inhabitants made the construction of the church possible.</p> |
| Station 41 | <p>Processional route; Stations of the Cross</p> <p>Below the chapel, next to the field where the Easter bonfire takes place you reach the last stage of the “deergarden walk”: The “Stations of the Cross”. You walk back down to the Ruhr and “Jägerbrücke” past the 14 representations of stages in Christ’s way to Calvary. On the backside of some of the monuments you can find the engraved names of the donators.</p> |