

Fortified heritage Mainz

in the fortress landscape
at the Rhine and Main



major fortress
system



Events in the fortress town Mainz

Discover the diverse world of experience of the fortress town Mainz at numerous event highlights.

Summer in the City

Diversely mixed program from international top stars and national newcomers during the summer at different locations in Mainz www.summerinthecity-mainz.de

Mainz Summer Lights

Interesting music program, event area and fireworks on the last weekend of July www.mainzer-sommerlichter.de

Open-Ear Festival

„from early-morning exercise to punk band“ - on Whitsun the citadel becomes an open-air arena for over 10.000 visitors www.openohr.de

Citadel festival

Guided tours, culinary, children's fun and much more always at the beginning of September at the citadel www.zitadelle-mainz.de

Experience the fortress town Mainz

- city tours and round trips
- historic tours in the citadel Mainz
- Underground worlds and fortification architecture
- Nature experience in the citadel trench, and many more

Information about tours and events in Mainz can be found under www.mainz-tourismus.com.

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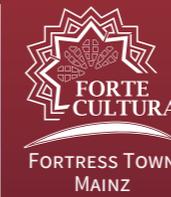
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EUROPEAN CULTURE ROUTE FORTIFIED MONUMENTS



Citadel Mainz
commander's house

Fortress Town Mainz

2000 Years Culture and History
at the Confluence of Rhine and Main



Station
on the European Culture Route
Fortified Monuments
- FORTE CULTURA -

www.forte-cultura.eu



European Culture Route Fortified Monuments



Europe has a rich and diverse fortification architecture. The fascinating „architectura militaris“ represents European history of different epochs.

Fortified cities and citadels, fortified castles and palaces, fortified sacral buildings, major fortification systems and defence lines tell of European history, from empires and dynasties.

Today these monuments are full of life which are conquered peacefully by tourists. Fortresses are culture and tourism centres and offer a beautiful scenery for a number of experience offers.

The European Culture Route **FORTE CULTURA®** takes you to culture events as classic concerts on the Salzburg (AT),

Rock-Pop-Jazz festivals in the citadel Mainz (DE) or children's' birthdays on the fortress Königstein (Saxony, DE). Visit modern museums with interactive exhibitions and multimedia shows in the fortresses of North Italy and experience historic battles in Poland. Cheer when mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, skaters, rowers or climbers compete in France's fortresses.

Learn about the history of World War I and II at authentic locations or discover hidden secrets in the fortified buildings of the Cold War.

FORTE CULTURA® travel recommendations for the culture tourism include visiting tours, study tours, excursions or event trips. Active touristic routes lead to European Fortified monuments with bike, hiking or boat tours.

Enjoy the great experience offers along the European Culture Route **FORTE CULTURA®**.

www.forte-cultura.eu



Fortress Town Mainz

2000 years of culture and fortress history at the confluence of Rhine and Main

Fortress history

Since its founding, Mainz experience a fortification history as almost no other place in Europe. Already 13 B.C. the Romans built the military basis *Mogontiacum* at the confluence of Main and Rhine in order to secure the borders of the empire and to conquer Germania.

From the 3rd century a Roman city wall was developed which was extended to a medieval city fortification from the 9th century. The Drusus Stone, the Roman theatre, but also the Roman-Germanic museum show this impressive epoch until today.

From 1620 Mainz became a *baroque fortress* of the electors. On the Jakobsberg the Schweichhardts castle gun emplacements and redoubts were built. During the Thirty Years' War the Swedish occupiers built more fortifications like the Gustav castle. In 1655 elector Johann Philipp von Schönborn had the citadel built instead of the Schweichhardtsburg and had the bastion ring extended.

Between 1792 and 1814 Mainz was a mostly French border and offensive fortress, which was constantly enforced and extended. Many occupations and changes of government kept the city and country on tenterhooks.

After the transfer to the Germans in 1814 it was extended to the *Fortress of the German Federation* until 1866. In co-operation with other enforced federal fortifications Ulm Rastatt, Landau and Luxembourg a new attack of the French was to be prevented.

From 1870 to 1918 the *imperial fortress* Mainz was developed with another fortification ring from more than 300 bunkers and emplacements including the fortress train for supplies. The citadel was used as a war prison.

The Treaty of Versailles sealed the end of Mainz as fortified city and large demolitions began.

During World War II the citadel was again used as a war prison and underground fortress halls served as air-raid shelters.

From 1945-1955 the French occupation force moved into the citadel and had the destructed building partly rebuilt.



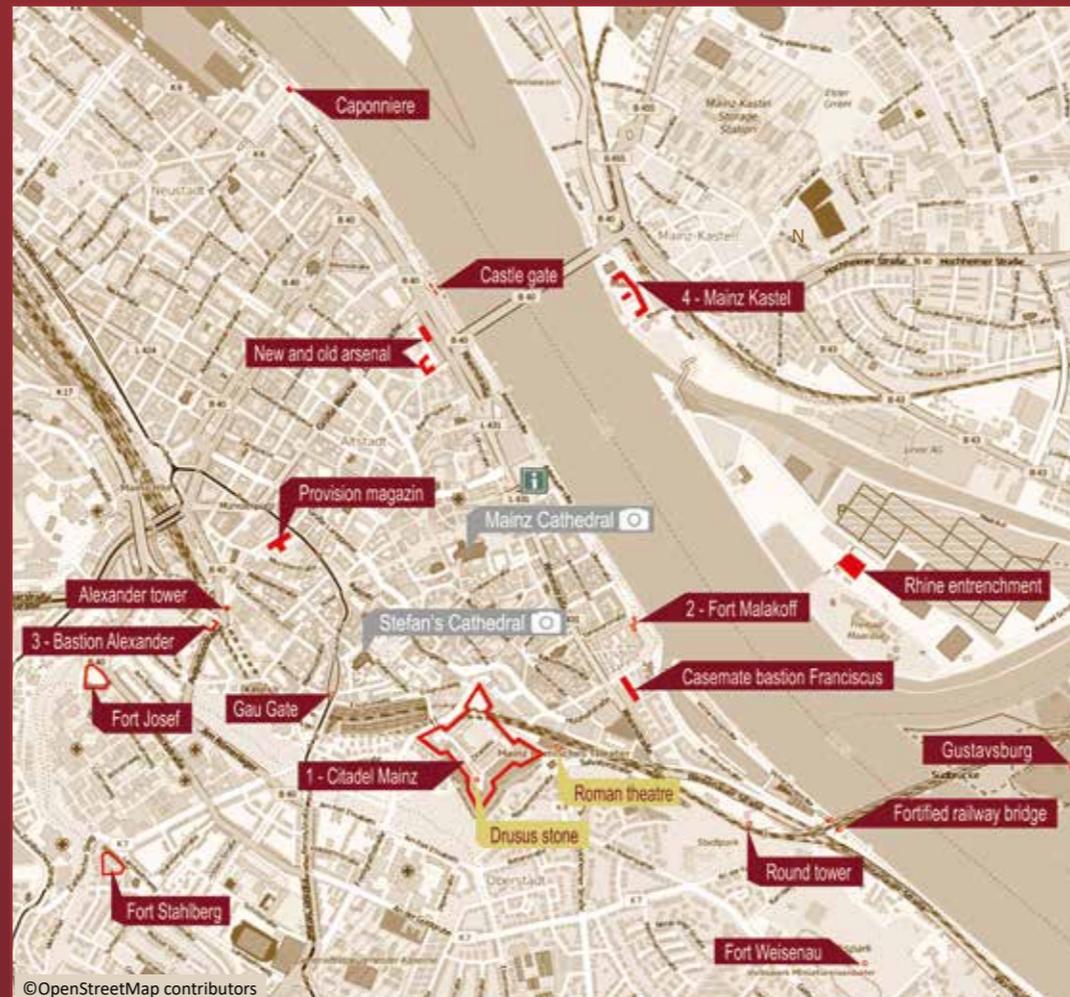
Roman Drusus stone (9 B.C.)



Oldest gate to citadel (1629)



Details from the plan of the German Federal Fortification (1814-1866)



©OpenStreetMap contributors



Present

Walking through Mainz today, shows you its military history in many places. Here a bastion, there a wall and of course the magnificent citadel on the Jakobsberg.

Many of these fortress parts do not only have an interesting history, but also offer tourists as very own world of experience. Whether concerts and theatres, romantic dinners, interesting underworlds or museum or even a gym and spa, there is something for everybody.

The citadel with its four bastions and the baroque architecture is the fortress highlight of Mainz. Interested visitors can expect a diverse experience offer, which shows all epochs of fortress history.

During numerous guided tours of the [Initiative Citadel Mainz e.V.](#), the [Mainz Undergrounds e.V.](#) and the [mainz-plus CITYMARKETING GmbH](#), or individually, fascinating details about the history of the citadel and its personell can be experienced up close.

Did you know that Napoleon was in Mainz nine times and that the legendary robber Schinderhannes had some illegal activities here?

The visitor program on the citadel includes the **Roman Drusus Stone**, the **Garrison Museum** with the imposing model of the fortress Mainz, the **city historic museum**, **citadel trench** and the **underground maze** (only on guided tours).

Concerts and events, the citadel festival, creative Christmas markets, the [café "Citadelle"](#) and the city panorama delights many visitors every year.



Discover the fortress town Mainz with [FORTE CULTURA®](#) and experience the city and fortification history of more than 2000 years.