

CITY TOUR

through the historic old town

CHAM



THE TOWN CHAM

The name “Cham” derives from the river Chamb, which rises in Bohemia and flows through the Cham-Further-Sink, an ancient peoples and trade route to Cham. The river Chamb flows into the river Regen near the district of Altenstadt.

The name “Chamb” can be led back to the Celtic word “kam-bos”, which can be translated as “curved” or “twisted”.

“Cham” is pronounced with a hard K and a long H: “Kahm”.



1 | HEARTSTONE

This stone is meant to symbolize the energetic center of the old town of Cham.

It is located in the middle of the market square and represents a circle of people with alternately female and male figures. The figures are of the same height and by holding hands, they form a circle of people to show mutual respect and a sense of community.

The elements in the middle are arranged as the four points of the compass and have a symbolic meaning: The water (north) represents the river Regen and the wood (east) symbolizes the Bavarian Forest. The fire (south) stands for the huge amount of city fires and the constant reconstruction, but also for the new opportunities that arose as a result. The metal (west), represented by a coin, symbolizes Cham's history as a trading city. The earth, represented by a square in the middle, brings stability and grounding. Since the symbols are arranged in this order, they create a point of power that serves to establish a natural order and harmony.

The stone forms two circles, which symbolize partnership and stability. The dynamic, which results from these two circles, is highlighted by the three grooves.



2

“MARIEN” PHARMACY

The powerful town house immediately attracts people’s attention with its baroque mansard roof, as this roof shape is not widespread in Cham. In the middle of the 18th century this town house has probably received its present appearance.

Some parts of the building (e.g. the fireplace with “1581” on it) are much older. The paintings on the facade distinguish the house from the others on the market square. In the middle, you can see a fountain that waters the plants, underneath a unicorn has settled. The horn, ground to powder, was said to have healing powers for many diseases. The pharmacies therefore chose the unicorn as their symbol. In art, the unicorn is associated with virginity and was therefore the symbol of the Virgin Mary. The late Gothic stone relief (fable animal) on the corner of the house was intended to protect the inhabitants from demons.



3 | CAFÉ KRONE

The former inn still impresses today with its late medieval 15th century appearance. Above all, the crowning of the roof and the protruding rectangular oriel with little coats of arm on the window frame provide the building a character. Due to its design as well as its history, it is one of the most interesting buildings of the city.

In 1489 noblemen of the Lion League gathered here to revolt against the Bavarian Duke Albrecht IV.

In 1615, Elector Frederick V stayed here with his wife, an English princess, on their way to Prague. His short period of reign earned him the nickname "Winter King".



4

FOUNTAIN ON THE MARKET SQUARE

Since June 1995, the fountain of artist Joseph Michael Neustifter has been on the market square. If you take some time, you can discover many surprising details:

The figure of Count Nikolaus von Luckner looks mischievously at the carillon in the ridge of the town hall and waits for the Marseillaise to be played every day at 12.05 pm. You can also find the forest witch with her children, adorned with feathers, flowers and leaves, which reminds of Mother Nature. Moreover, there is the “Bilmesschneider” – one of the most famous Bavarian legend figures. As a symbol of crop failure and hunger once, he walked across the fields with sickles on his legs to cut off the farmers’ grain. On this fountain, he embodies peace and fertility with peace signs around his neck.



5

CARILLON

The market square has many surprises to offer. One of them has been astonishing visitors since 1994. Every day at 12.05 pm, the carillon on the roof of the town hall plays the melody that is worldwide known as the Marseillaise. But how has the French national anthem come to Cham?

Responsible for that is probably the town's most famous son – Count Nikolaus von Luckner. His modern statue sits just a few meters from the town hall on the market square fountain. The complex consists of 25 bells, which have been located in the tower on the roof of the town hall since December 1993. The carillon was first heard on January 4, 1994 when the Marseillaise was played. Two hundred years earlier, on January 4, 1794, Count von Luckner was executed for alleged conspiracy.

The carillon plays a second melody: At 5.55 pm, the Bavarian anthem, the official anthem of the Free State of Bavaria, can be heard.



6 | CHURCH ST. JAKOB

The history of the parish church St. Jakob can be traced back to the year 1210. Some old elements of the construction time can still be seen there, like 13th century remnants of the wall in the tower and the Gothic choir of the 14th century. In 1558 and 1657 fires damaged the church. In 1701 the tower collapsed. This misfortune led to a complete redesign in the years that followed. In 1749, the interior of the church was rebuilt, and damages caused by the Pandurs were removed. In 1847, almost the entire Baroque interior was removed and replaced by Neo-Romanesque elements. Since 1894, the old Baroque appearance has been gradually restored to the church. In the same year it was also extended to the west with two yokes.

Worth seeing are also the richly decorated pulpit, the “Aloisius” altar on the north wall and the “Prague Jesuskind” on the left side altar.



7 | PILLORY

A pillory usually consisted of a stone base and a neck iron and was placed at a height of about two meters.

The punishment of denunciation was part of the high court. Whoever stood up there would lose his honor. This was also underlined by the fact that only the executioner and his assistants carried out the execution. The condemned person was brought up to the platform via a ladder. Most of the time it wasn't done with that. Depending on the offence, the punishment also included beating with switches in front of the numerous spectators. Finally, the delinquent was informed that from now on, depending on the seriousness of the crime, he would be banished from the city or from the state of Bavaria forever.

Drawing: Georg Schmitt, 1847



8

TOWN HALL FOUNTAIN

During the renovation of the eastern wing of the town hall in 1994, a 13-meter-deep well shaft was discovered. This town hall well was still in operation in the 19th century, but was then abandoned and closed. It is believed that the water hole served as a so-called “Gumpbrunnen” (“Gumpen”: small, deep pond). But there is also the theory that it was a water reserve for fires.

The bronze figure of a small dog was created by the sculptor Joseph Michael Neustifter in 1995 to commemorate the former well. Mr. Neustifter got the idea to instal a bronze dog from the story of the “Chamer Hundling”. The story tells that a man from Cham wanted to get even with another man. Therefore, he went to his house and hung a dog bone on his bell. The following night, the smell attracted all the stray dogs. Since all the dogs pulled at the bone to get it, the opponent could not close an eye that night.



9 | TOWN HALL

The eastern and at the same time oldest part of the town hall was already mentioned in documents in the 14th century and is structurally connected with the Gothic choir of the parish church St. Jakob.

The western extension of the 15th century stands out with its stepped pediment with an angular oriel. Above the entrance there is a memorial stone. It is reminiscent of the year 1430, when the outer city wall was built to protect against the Hussites. Above the oriel window, a Jewish gravestone of the year 1230 was immured. When in 1519 the Jewish inhabitants of Regensburg were expelled and their facilities destroyed, the stone was brought from a cemetery in Regensburg to Cham.



10

CHURCH SQUARE FOUNTAIN

Already in earlier centuries, there has been a well on the church square to supply the population with water. Evidence of this was found during the redesign of the square in 1990, when an old well shaft was discovered that still carried fresh and clear water.

Long since the new well has ceased to have any function for the water supply, but serves purely as an ornament. The artist Sebastian Rosner, who was born in Cham, created it in 1991. The fountain symbolizes the topographical position of the town, which stands on a mountain ledge and dominates the Regental valley. The fountain's surroundings are covered with granite plates, which in their colorfulness show many possibilities of Bayerwald granite deposits. Thus, they appear colorful, like processed fields in the Regenaue. Two lines run through these plates into the cobbles, symbolizing the road and rail route to and through the city.



11 | PARISH GARDEN

When entering the garden, the first thing that stands out is the magnificent entrance gate. It is the last remnant of a once magnificent building, which burned down after the invasion of the Pandurs in 1742 and was not rebuilt. It is also called Reichenberg's gate because Wunibald Reichenberger, who got famous as a linguist in the middle of the 18th century, came from this house.

In 1986, the former parish garden (today: local court garden) was replanted as a baroque garden and the surrounding wall was restored. At the end of the construction work, a fountain was installed in the center of the square. A saying from the Old Testament (Book Amos 5:24) is engraved in this fountain: "Let justice be like a stream that never runs dry."

Today the garden is a "green lung" and offers an opportunity for a contemplative rest in the middle of the town.



12 | “EH-HÄUSL”

This building is the narrowest house in the center. It is only 2.97 m wide, but 29 m long and has three floors. The unusual shape is probably due to the fact that in the 18th century there was a small alley leading to the parallel street instead of the house. The oriel was added around 1926.

According to stories, the name comes from the fact that in the past, couples who wanted to marry had to prove that they had a secure income and a property free of debts. Those who did not, had to come up with something. In this case, the small, inexpensive house represented a solution, and the couple was allowed to marry. No sooner had they moved in than the property changed owner again, because the next couple in love was already waiting.



13

“CORDONHAUS”

When entering the inner courtyard, the attached pergola with its round columns and the adjacent city wall stand out. Originally, the building served as a provostry, service and administrative building of the Benedictine monastery of Reichenbach. However, during its long history, the house fulfilled various purposes.

In the 18th century, mounted troops had their base here. It was during this period that the name “Cordonhaus” came into being. It is derived from French and refers to a chain of military posts that were used to protect the country’s borders.

Today, the “Cordonhaus” houses the municipal gallery and the inner courtyard is used as a venue for events.

Opening hours

municipal gallery Cordonhaus Cham:

Wed – Sun and holidays: 14.00 – 17.00

Thu 14.00 – 19.00



14

BIRTHPLACE OF COUNT LUCKNER

At the end of the Straubinger Street on the left side was the birthplace of Count Nikolaus von Luckner, destroyed by a city fire in 1873. A memorial plaque commemorates the place where he was born in January 1722.

In 1791, King Louis XVI appointed him Marshal of France. The French Revolution was the climax of Luckner's career, but also his downfall. In January 1794, he was executed for treason by the guillotine. Just one year after his death, however, Luckner was rehabilitated. The French National Convention declared that the marshal had been murdered unjustly.



COUNT NIKOLAUS VON LUCKNER

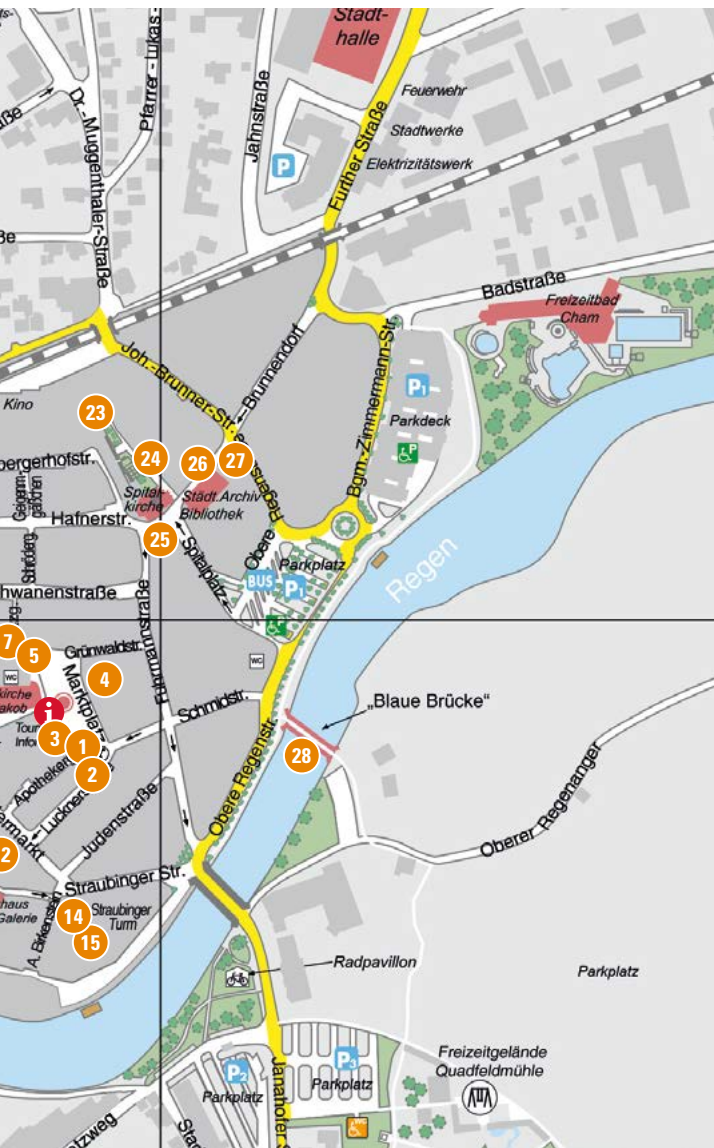
Nikolaus Luckner was born in Cham in 1722. Unlike anyone else, he was able to overcome the class barriers of his time with talent and dedication, but also with the necessary portion of luck. Coming from a simple, middle-class background, he rose to the nobility and in the military from common soldier to Marshal of France.

Ambition, reliability, an impetuous temperament, business acumen and the necessary portion of luck were combined in him with a unique talent for the craft of war. These qualities formed the basis of his success. In addition, he had a simple and open manner with which he won the soldiers. They stood up for him, their “father Luckner”.

The Marseillaise, today’s French national anthem, was dedicated to Luckner. The anthem, composed by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, is played daily at 12.05 pm. on the market square in Cham.



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15

“STRAUBINGER” TOWER

The tower with the stork’s nest has become one of the town’s landmarks. Breeding storks in Cham can be traced back to the 18th century, but have probably been guests on the tower roof already for longer.

The tower was built in the middle of the 13th century from quarry stones on a mighty granite rock and is a reminder of the former strong medieval fortifications of the city of Cham. It belongs to the inner city wall and thus to the oldest fortification. The tower was primarily used as a defense and watchtower. However, it has probably also served as a punishment tower (wall scribbles on interior walls on the top floor as evidence), in which citizens were imprisoned for a few days.

The name “Straubinger Tower” is derived from the family name of the owners – “Straubinger”.

Insider tip: Use the path along the Birkenstein to get to the river Regen. The tranquil alley leads along the old city wall to Untere Regenstraße.



16

“BIERTOR”

The history of the “Biertor” probably dates back to the 14th century. It is the only one of four city gates that has been preserved. Originally, it served as a castle gate, since the castle of Cham was on the terrain of the old building next to it.

However, after it had lost its former function, an electoral brewery for wheat beer was established here in 1642. This tradition continued until the first third of the 20th century by the Höchstetter brewery. In the course of time, the vernacular turned the castle gate into the “beer gate”.

On the right bank of the river Regen is the “Rossschwemme”, which invites you to linger with its green terraces.

Insider tip: Via the Meranweg, an idyllic path along the river starting from the beer gate, you can reach the monastery church “Maria Hilf”.



17 | MUSEUM "SPUR"

The former poorhouse is one of the oldest secular buildings in the city. Over the centuries it fulfilled various functions for the population. It was a hospital for the sick and soldiers, as well as a shelter for impoverished inhabitants of the town.

The late Gothic building has housed the museum "SPUR" since 1991. In January 1958, a group of young artists, mainly graduates of the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, gave their association the name "SPUR" after a first joint exhibition.

Among the founding members of "SPUR" were Heimrad Prem from Roding and Helmut Sturm from Furth im Wald. Until 1965 Heimrad Prem (1934 - 1978), Helmut Sturm (1932 - 2008), Lothar Fischer (1933 - 2004) and HP Zimmer (1936 - 1992) worked together as the group "SPUR", which made an important artistic and, with its manifesto, also theoretical contribution to the art of the Federal Republic after 1945.

Opening hours

museum "SPUR":

Easter – Epiphany (January 6):

Wed, Sat, Sun and holidays: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



18 | “FLORIAN-GEYER”-BRIDGE

Originally, there was only a wooden bridge for pedestrians at this point, which had to be built up and removed regularly to prevent damage from ice floes in winter. Carts and cattle had to cross the river at a shallow place, a ford. The wooden bridge was replaced by a paved bridge in 1925.

This bridge gained special attention in 1959 as the setting for the award-winning anti-war film “Die Brücke” (= “The Bridge”) from director Bernhard Wicki. The film won more than 40 national and international awards, including a Golden Globe Award, and was also nominated for an Oscar. Up to today it has been one of the most important anti-war films.

To commemorate the shooting of the film, the Lions Club Bayerwald had a metal ribbon with scenes from the film placed in the immediate vicinity of the bridge.

Since 1995, the new “Florian Geyer”-Bridge has been at this site.



19 | FRANCISCAN CHURCH CLOSED

Between 1631 and 1802 there was a Franciscan monastery here. After the abolition of the monastery in 1802 (secularization), the Franciscan church was turned into the municipal Baustadel (warehouse for building materials). It was not until 1867 that it was converted back into a place of worship. Since the city fire of 1877 also damaged the church severely, tie rods were installed to stabilize it. The old Franciscan church did not have a tower. The Franciscans were mendicants. The mendicant's houses of worship were rather plain and therefore had only a small ridge turret with a bell. The present tower was built between 1878 and 1879.

Additional info: Franciscan orders are different primarily Roman Catholic religious communities that follow the religious rule written by Francis of Assisi for the mendicant order he founded.



20 | MELTING FURNANCE

In 2014 – due to construction measures – archaeological investigations were carried out under the “Graf-Luckner-Place”. For inner-city conditions, archaeological substance was preserved on an exceptionally large area of 12 x 12 meters.

More than 11 ovens dug into the ground were revealed, some of which intersected. They were mainly earth ovens of different sizes and two stone ovens. Worth mentioning is one stone oven which was completely preserved in its layout. Numerous amorphous copper lumps were found in the ash above its bottom - an indication of its function as a smelting furnace for non-ferrous metal.

Some of the pottery from the furnances can be dated back to the second half of the 13th century, some to the 14th-15th century. Thus, there are first indications of intensive use of the town area from the second half of the 13th century. At this time, clearly separated areas for commerce and street were created, which is an indicator for urban planning.



21

“STEINMARKT”

The “Steinmarkt” (= Stone Market) is a secondary market and the second largest town square in Cham. Its name derives from the trade with millstones and grinding stones. Here you can see a traditional town house of the 16th century with a Gothic angular oriel (Steinmarkt 9). Since the late Gothic and Renaissance periods, the oriel has served to expand the living space of the house, to improve the lighting of the rooms and as an artistic structuring motif of the facade.

Across the street, a round 16th century tower from the electoral salt and grain storehouse can still be seen. The sufficient supply of the cities with food was essential for survival. In addition to the granaries in which the city stored grain, the preservation of food was more important at that time than it is today because most food was only available seasonally.



22

MONASTERY CHURCH "MARIA HILF"

On a terraced hill, above Ludwigstraße, there is the monastery church "Maria Hilf". The order of the Redemptorists built its Cham branch with a monastery, church and retreat house between 1900 and 1909. At that time, up to 271 workers were employed on the construction site.

In September 1909, the consecration took place by Bishop Antonius von Henle. The complex was built in the neo-Romanesque style. The church interior was painted in the Nazarene style.

In 1993, the district music school found a home in the dissolved monastery.



23

“GRASSL” TOWER

The “Grassl” tower is a still preserved defense tower of the 15th century. In order to defend the city wall more effectively, semicircular defense towers were built at certain intervals. It is told that there were a total of 24 towers.

The towers of the outer city wall were shell towers, which were not closed at the back. If attackers captured the tower, it did not offer them any protection. The tower was named after the owners of the tower.



24 | “SPITAL” GARDEN

The “Spital” garden is a romantic place in the very center of the city.

North of it was once the old town moat as additional protection. At the edge of the moat, remains of the outer city wall can still be seen today. The acute threat from the Hussites led to the construction of a second, outer city wall around 1430. The construction section along the bank of the river Regen to the Spital was completed in only 41 weeks. The new defense line was lower than the inner one. At the “Spital” church, the wall still has a height of about 10 meters today.



25

"SPITAL" CHURCH

Fires and wars repeatedly changed the appearance of the "Spital" church. Even today, an inscription on the choir commemorates the reconstruction of 1514. After the last destruction by the Pandures in 1742, it was refurnished.

Worth seeing is, among other things, the Gothic south portal with its 14 spheres. Inside, besides the delicate pulpit of the late 18th century, the high altar with the Pentecostal event, as well as the figures of Bishop Nicholas and the church father Augustine deserve our attention. On the ceiling fresco above the popular altar seven female figures represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You should not overlook the figure of St. Michael at the organ gallery.



26

“SPITAL” BUILDING

This house was destroyed after the city fire in 1873 and rebuilt in its present form around 1877/78. On the western gable end there is a stone inset with a crucifixion group (1447). Today the former hospital houses the town library and the town archives.

Opposite the building is a plaque commemorating the “Spital” gate, which once secured the eastern entrance to the city.



27

PLACE OF HUMANITY

From the high Middle Ages until the last century, the ensemble of the “Spital” building and the “Spital” church was a place of mercy to care for the poor, the elderly and the sick.

In the summer of 2010, the “Spital” yard was transformed into a place of humanity. Children, young people and adults are inspired to reflect on virtues, human rights and duties as they walk across this place.



28

BLUE BRIDGE

In 2000, the bridge was completed for cyclists and pedestrians. The striking structure has a span of 67 meters. It provides a better connection between the city center and the “Quadfeldmühle”, which was created as part of the garden fair in 2001 and is a recreational area.

In the meantime, the landmark has become a “love bridge”, which is visible through the hundreds of colorful padlocks. Many couples attached these to express their love.

DISCOVER CHAM

Embark on an exciting journey through the old town of Cham and learn interesting and curious facts. Why, for example, the Marseillaise (French national anthem) sounds from the town hall or why Cham is the setting of the most important anti-war film of all time. What Trenck the Pundit has to do with Cham, what the marketplace fountain means and how the beer gate got its name.

On this tour you will really get to know Cham.

DATES	on request
TIME	on request
MEETING POINT	Fountain, Market Square, 93413 Cham

COAT OF ARMS

Towers and walls symbolize the fortification – a central prerogative of a city. They were already depicted on the oldest seals (13th/14th century). You can also see a ridge (in German “Kamm”), which establishes the connection to the place name.

In recognition of the merits of the “Chamer Landwehr” (a territorial army), the coat of arms was supplemented with Bavarian diamonds and crossed swords in 1809.





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May – September

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IMPRINT

Editor:

Tourist-Info Cham | Kirchplatz 1 | 93413 Cham

References for the images and graphics:

Archiv der Tourist-Info Cham, Elias Kostner, Gerald Richter –
Dr. Morsbach Verlag, Stadtarchiv Cham, Stefan Gruber