

KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY HISTORIC TRAIL



FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Kaiserslautern Historic Trail, designed by Bryson A. Weir of Troop 12, Ramstein, as his Eagle Scout Service Project. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit Kaiserslautern in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides, when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to Admin@tac-bsa.org or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: 23er Denkmal



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GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.



WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

This Historic Trail is a walking tour through the city of Kaiserslautern where you will learn about the history of buildings and churches and the significance of the monuments along the trail.

Kaiserslautern is a city in southwestern Germany located in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate. The city's name is derived from the words "kaisers" which means Emperor's and "Lauter" which is a local stream. Kaiser Friedrich Barbarossa built a palace in the 12th century that became an Imperial City in 1276 and was under control of the counts palatine by 1375. Kaiserslautern was the focal point of the Palatinate democratic revolution in 1848-1849. By the 20th century the city had become one of the largest industrial centers in the Palatinate.

You will want to take some extra Euros to pay for admission if you plan on entering the various museums or attractions. You may also want to stop for a snack or even get a souvenir along the way.

Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Scouting uniforms, and act according to Scouting principals in the Scout Oath and Law. It is not necessary to visit all 17 checkpoints in order to complete the trail. Unit leaders can determine the number of checkpoints appropriate for the youth in their unit.

This Field Guide contains everything you need to complete the hike. Read it thoroughly, walk the Trail, and...

Enjoy yourself - Viel Spaß!



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Where and How to Start

The Trail starts at the Elf-Freunde-Kreisel or Eleven Friends Roundabout.

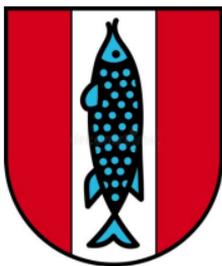
The trail starts and ends at the Hauptbahnhof for units arriving by train and at the Parkhaus Hauptbahnhof for units arriving by vehicle.

The Parkhaus Hauptbahnhof is the nearest available parking, but there are other options located nearby.

Distance and Time

The entire hike is about 6 kilometers from the first to last stop and will take about 2 hours of walking if you do not stop to see the sites. It will take about 4 hours of walking if you stop in the churches and outdoor places of interest and look for the history behind them. Finally, it will take about 6 hours to complete the trail and go into the museums as well.

There is no set “break time” during the hike. You decide when you want to stop and take a short break for drinks or food. There are numerous restaurants and cafes along the route. The best time to start on the hike is around ten in the morning as most shops along the route will be open (except on Sundays) at those times. Just remember, the goal is the trail, not the finish.



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Start Point - Elf-Freunde-Kreisel

The **Elf-Freunde-Kreisel** or **Eleven Friends Roundabout** was made in 2004 by Christel Lechner in preparation for the World Cup to be hosted by Germany in 2006. In August of 2019 the statues were vandalized; they were covered in blue paint and two were beheaded. They were sent to Christel Lechner's studio for repairs that amounted to thirteen thousand euros. The statues returned to the roundabout six weeks later after being restored. To the southeast of the roundabout, you can find the Fritz-Walter-Stadium which is home to Kaiserslautern's football club, FCK.

49°26'10.7"N 7°46'21.5"E - Bremerstraße 1, 67633 Kaiserslautern

Head north on Eisenbahnstraße for 850m. Your next stop is located at the southern corner of the Marktstraße & Eisenbahnstraße intersection.

Checkpoint #2 - Brezel Adam Statue

The **Brezel Adam (Pretzel Adam)** statue in Kaiserslautern is a statue of a man named Adam (1892-1969). In the 1950's Adam became known for selling huge pretzels out of a basket on the corner of Marktstraße and Eisenbahnstraße; the same corner that his statue is on today.

49°26'37.1"N 7°46'11.4"E - Marktstraße & Eisenbahnstraße, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Head northeast on Marktstraße for 90m and your next stop is located on the right.

Checkpoint #3 - Stiftskirche

The **Stiftskirche St. Martin und St. Maria** or simply referred to as the **Stiftskirche** is the Protestant Collegiate Church located in Kaiserslautern. It is one of the most important Gothic-style churches in the Rhineland-Pfalz and is the oldest hall church between the Saar and the Rhine rivers. This church's history goes back to when Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa had invited the Premonstratensian Monks to a monastery in Kaiserslautern. Between 1250 and 1350, the Premonstratensians started to build a new monastery church.



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Checkpoint #3 - Stiftskirche (cont.)

The old monastery was converted to a secular collegiate monastery sometime around 1510, which was then dissolved during the Reformation. The church has been a Protestant parish church ever since. The church underwent various renovations as time passed until, World War II when it was badly damaged. Over the course of 4 years (1946-1950) the church was restored and rebuilt. In the 1960's the new church administration was set up in this area. This church has played an important role in religious history in that the Lutherans and Calvinists met here to form the United Evangelical Church in 1818 (in the main entryway of the church, there is a large statue of Martin Luther). This church has also seen most of the Kaiserslautern's history come to pass.

Hours:

Monday and Thursday: 9AM - 12PM

Friday: 12PM - 2PM

49°26'40.0"N 7°46'15.7"E - Marktstraße 13, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Continue down Marktstraße for 60m then turn left onto Schillerstraße. Head down Schillerstraße for 35m and the next checkpoint is on your left.

Checkpoint #4 - Gaststätte Spinnräd

The **Gaststätte Spinnräd** or **Spinning Wheel restaurant** is marked in the city's plan book from 1742, but some claim it was built in 1509 because this date is carved in an old stone. The house is the oldest residential building in Kaiserslautern that is still in its half-timbered form. The house was marked for destruction because it was deemed a traffic obstruction, but after they realized it was a half-timbered building that was covered with plaster, the plaster was removed, and the house remained. The builder, Jacob Müller, was a master butcher who ran his business here, but when he passed, his son Heinrich Müller took over the business. After this, the ownership of the house is not known until 1881 when Wilhelm Becker, a master butcher, used the house for his business.



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Checkpoint #4 - Gastst tte Spinnr dl (cont.)

In 1896 the house was given to Phil Spatz where he continued the trade, but also opened a restaurant and a wine bar.

Hours:

Sunday: Closed

Monday - Thursday: 5PM - 1AM

Friday - Saturday: 11AM - 1AM

49°26'41.2"N 7°46'13.3"E - Schillerstra e 1, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Continue down Schillerstra e for 65m then turn right onto Willy-Brandt-Platz for 50m. Cross Fruchthallstra e and the next stop is 5m to the right.

Checkpoint #5 - 23er Denkmal

The **23er Denkmal** or **23rd monument** is a monument for the 23rd Bavarian Infantry Regiment. The 23rd Regiment was officially formed on April 1, 1867. It was a part of the Imperial German Army, headquartered in Dresden, and contained nearly 15,000 troops. The regiment saw combat in the Franco-Prussian war, where it fought multiple engagements. The 23rd Regiment would go on to fight in several battles World War I such as: the first and second battles of the Somme, the German Spring offensive, and the first and second battles of the Marne, but the regiment was shut down in 1919. The monument was created in 1930-1931 and was shown off to the public in 1931. It was to commemorate the deaths of 3963 soldiers killed during the First World War.

49°26'43.8"N 7°46'10.3"E - Fruchthallstra e 10, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Continue down Fruchthallstra e for 70m to the corner of the building and turn left. You have arrived at the front door of your next stop.



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Checkpoint #6 - Fruchthalle Kaiserslautern

The **Fruchthalle Kaiserslautern** or **Kaiserslautern Fruit Hall** was built in the mid-1840s using designs by August von Voit. It is a registered cultural monument. Built in an early-Renaissance style, it was to be used as a weatherproof market and for other public purposes. It was used as a meeting place during the Palatinate Revolution of 1848, therefore deserving the status of a political site in remembrance of the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. During the war, it was used as a hospital and main collection center for recyclables. It was also used as a place for festivals and music. Considered as the most important secular building in the Palatinate, the **Fruchthalle** is now used mainly for concerts and entertainment.

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9AM - 12PM

Saturday - Sunday: Closed

49°26'44.3"N 7°46'13.3"E - Fruchthallstraße 10, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Turn around and cross the crosswalk to the right. Turn left and head down the sidewalk 35m to the next crosswalk and cross Burgstraße. After crossing Burgstraße continue straight for 40m to your next stop.

Checkpoint #7 - Sankt Martins Platz

Comprised of houses from the 18th and 19th centuries **Sankt Martins Platz** or **St. Martins Place** is one of the most beautiful places in the city. The plaza received its current name on the city's 700th anniversary in 1976. In the center there is a fountain surrounded by three large chestnut trees. On the northwest side there is an archway with the coat of arms of the Kaiserslautern Rettig family. The coat of arms consists of a radish on the bottom with a deer on the top. The building to the left of the archway used to be the hotel "Zum Donnersberg". Many famous people stayed here such as the poet Victor Hugo and King Ludwig I of Bavaria. It is also said that Napoleon ate breakfast here while switching horses and then he continued on.



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Checkpoint #7 - Sankt Martins Platz (cont.)

The building to the right of the archway is the old town hall, which was used until 1968. The brick building located on the southeast corner is Saint Martin's Church. The church was built in the early 14th century for the Franciscan monastery and was established by King Rudolf of Habsburg.

49°26'45.5"N 7°46'19.0"E - Steinstraße 10, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Retrace for 40m to return to Burgstraße and head to the left for 115m to a crosswalk. After crossing the main street head left for 110m. Turn right and continue for 5m then turn left and the next stop is in 35m.

Checkpoint #8 - Synagogue Memorial

The synagogue was built in 1886 in the Moorish-Byzantine style according to the plans of Ludwig Levy, a German architect and university teacher. The synagogue stood for 52 years and was defined by its 37 meters tall (121 feet) building with a dome. Sadly, it was destroyed in the late summer of 1938 by the National Socialist (Nazi) Party, months before *Kristallnacht* (the night of broken glass) that occurred in November, when Nazis destroyed Jewish shops and synagogues all over Germany and sent many Jews to concentration camps. Since 1980 there has been a memorial stone on the site of the former synagogue. In 2002, when the square was being redesigned, a memorial was created to commemorate the Jewish victims in Kaiserslautern during the National Socialist era. The **synagogue memorial** shows the remains of the entrance on the northern side of the building and seven viewing devices enable a view of a virtual reconstruction of the synagogue.

49°26'39.8"N 7°46'28.0"E - Synagogenplatz, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Turn around and retrace your steps until you exit the memorial and return to the sidewalk. Continue to retrace your steps for 65m then cross the street main to your right. Go left for 5m then turn right and continue along Kanalstraße for 120m. Turn left onto Salzstraße for 75m. Turn right for 10m then turn left onto Scheidstraße and continue for 60m. Finally, turn right and continue along Steinstraße for 150m to your next stop.



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Checkpoint #9 - Theodor Zink Museum

The **Theodor Zink Museum** is Kaiserslautern's history museum that was founded by its namesake in 1934. Theodor Zink was a researcher and conservator for Kaiserslautern and had all his collected works put into a small building in 1925. However, he eventually needed to move everything to a larger building which was formerly a mill. Sadly, he died before it opened. In the second world war, the collections were relocated until the 1970s when everything was moved into the current building which was built in 1817 by Johann Gelbert. The building had formerly acted as a coachman's inn until it was disused and then gutted and renovated for its function as a museum. The museum features a permanent exhibition on the city throughout the centuries and important events, and other various exhibitions change occasionally.

Hours:

Saturday - Sunday: 11AM - 6PM

Monday - Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday - Friday: 10AM - 5PM

49°26'51.6"N 7°46'32.0"E - Steinstraße 48, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Continue down on Steinstraße for 80m to your next stop.

Checkpoint #10 - Kaiserbrunnen

Kaiserbrunnen or **Emperor's Fountain** has been a popular attraction in Kaiserslautern since 1987, when it was built. The fountain, made of bronze and sandstone, stands 5 meters (16 feet) tall with a base diameter of 12 meters (39 feet). It was designed by the German sculptor Gernot Rumpfand and his wife Barbara Rumpf. It portrays the history and story of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa and King Rudolf von Habsburg in a humorous and engaging three-dimensional 'storybook'. The fountain is filled with historical sculptures that each have a symbolic meaning such as: Napoleon's hat, horse armor from the knights of Rittersberg, the emigrant ship, and the popular Kaiserslautern fish. At the site, there is a sign explaining the meaning of these and the many other sculptures that decorate the fountain.



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Checkpoint #10 - Kaiserbrunnen (cont.)

Apart from the small mouse at the base of the fountain, the sculptor's personal signature, each sculpture holds historical significance for the town of Kaiserslautern.

49°26'53.2"N 7°46'35.5"E - Mainzer Tor, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Head north and cross Ludwigstraße at the crosswalk on the corner. After crossing head west along Ludwigstraße for 65m. Turn right onto Haspelstraße for 150m. Then turn left onto Benzingoring and continue for 420m. At the crosswalk, head north for 30m to the next stop.

Checkpoint #11 - Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern

The building was built between 1875 and 1880 according to the plans of Karl Spatz. While a building trade school occupied the ground floor of the building, the second floor was used for the Palatinate Trade Museum. The building trade school moved out in 1897 due to lack of space and therefore left the entire building to the museum. Today, the Palatinate Trade Museum is used as an art museum that has a focus on contemporary art and art from the 19th and 20th centuries, however, on the second floor, the museum shows historically important exhibits such as: paintings, sculptures, handicrafts, glass, porcelain, and goldsmith work from the 15th century to present day.

Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 11AM - 8PM.

Wednesday - Sunday, Public Holidays: 10AM - 5PM

49°26'57.6"N 7°46'09.1"E - Museumspl. 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Turn around, retrace your steps, cross the crosswalk, and head to the right for 125m. Cross the street and continue to the right for 115m. Next, turn left and head south on Am Abendsberg for 70m to the next stop.



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Checkpoint #12 - Japanesicher Garten

The site of the **Japanese Garden** was originally a quarry used to mine buntsandstein (colored sandstone) until 1870. Ten years after the quarry was shut down the "Am Abendsberg" (on the evening mountain) villa park was built. A decade later, a banker by the name of Karl Karcher arranged for Franz Heinrich Siesmayer, a German garden architect, to create an English-style landscape park. In 1933/1934 the land was taken from the Karcher family by the National Socialists and given to a worsted yarn spinning mill. The villas and most of the park were destroyed by an Allied bombing in 1943. When the mill went bankrupt in 1980 the city of Kaiserslautern received the site and renamed it a public park. The site remained unused until 1996 when it was chosen to become the **Japanese Garden**. After opening on April 19, 2000, the **Japanese Garden** was expanded in 2001 and 2004-2005 at a cost of over three million Euros for the entire garden. The only thing to survive from the original landscape garden is the more than 100-year-old trees that were laid out by Franz Heinrich Siesmayer.

Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Sunday: 10AM - 7PM

49°26'52.0"N 7°45'58.1"E - Am Abendsberg 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Continue down Am Abendsberg for 50m then head east on Lauterstraße for 120m. Use the crosswalk to the south to cross Lauterstraße then continue for 75m. Turn right and the next stop is in 75m.

Checkpoint #13 - Bürgercenter Kaiserslautern

The **Bürgercenter Kaiserslautern** or **Kaiserslautern Citizen Center** is the city's town hall and civic center. The building was built from 1964-1968 and stands at 84 meters (275 feet) tall making it one of the city's most prominent landmarks. There are two basement levels and twenty-five stories above ground, but the top three are used only for storage and operational devices. On the building's 21st floor there is a restaurant and an observation deck.



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Checkpoint #13 - Bürgercenter Kaiserslautern (cont.)

Located in the plaza of the town hall there is a bronze-steel sculpture called Balance.

49°26'47.4"N 7°46'05.6"E - Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Head east for 120m to the next stop.

Checkpoint #14 - Pfalztheater

The **Pfalztheater**, located in the heart of Kaiserslautern, was built by the German sculptor Gunther Schilling and was inaugurated on September 30, 1995. It is the second largest theater in the state, and the only one that plays all three genres: dance, music, and drama. Its history goes back to when the town's first theater was built in 1862, financed by Andreas Müller, and then destroyed by fire a few years later until it was rebuilt by Müller. In 1874, it became a public limited company. In 1897, Kaiserslautern made the building its municipal theater. The theater was used often until it was ruined by bombing in 1944 during World War II. Performances resumed in 1945 at a local cinema until funds were raised to build a new theater. The Film Palast cinema was converted to create the Pfalztheater which opened in September of 1950. It is a stately sandstone building framed by two marble Carrara masks: one is the face of an African king and the other a face of a fallen angel.

Hours:

Sunday - Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Friday: 11AM - 2PM; 4:30PM - 6:30 PM

Saturday: 10AM - 1PM

49°26'47.2"N 7°46'10.0"E - Willy-Brandt-Platz 4-5, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Head west for 30m to Willy-Brandt-Platz. Continue south on Willy-Brandt-Platz for 70m. Turn right and head west on Burgstraße for 100m to the next stop.



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Checkpoint #15 - Die Kaiserpfalz

All that is left of the formerly grand **Kaiserpfalz** or **Imperial Palace** lies here in the city of Kaiserslautern. Built by Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa I between 1152 and 1158, this was an administrative and military royal palace. It was one of the finer palaces in the Holy Roman Empire and was regularly visited by many royals for years after it was built. The complex was passed along the generations until finally given to the Electoral Palatinate in 1357. Construction to expand the castle began sometime around 1367. The palace was badly damaged in the Thirty Years' War and the Palatinate War of Succession and was burned down in 1792 during the French Revolution. It was poorly rebuilt and auctioned off by the French, only to be partially demolished and then the remains remodeled. In 1820, the northwest corner became the Palatinate's central prison for the royal Bavarian government. It was broadly excavated and restored between 1959 and 1964. However, during the construction of the Kaiserslautern town hall, parts of the castle were irreversibly destroyed. In 2010 and 2011, excavations for exploration took place at this site. The remains of the castle are now open freely to the public. You can explore the ruins, and the hall and underground passages are accessible by guided tours.

49°26'44.1"N 7°46'03.8"E - Willy-Brandt-Platz 2, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Continue west on Burgstraße for 60m to the crosswalk. Use the crosswalk on the right to cross Maxstraße then take a left and cross again. Continue down Maxstraße for 240m then take the crosswalk on the left to cross Maxstraße. Head down Humboldtstraße for 100m then take a right onto Königstraße for 220m.

Checkpoint #16 - Marienkirche

The **Marienkirche** or **Church of St. Maria** is a Roman Catholic church in Kaiserslautern. With its 92.5 meter (303 feet) high tower, it is the tallest building in downtown Kaiserslautern. The only Catholic church in the city (Martinskirche) could not handle the rising number of Catholics in the area, therefore, **St. Maria** was built in the late 1800s by the Church Building Association. This church, designed by Heinrich von Schmidt, has the floorplan in the shape of a cross.



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Checkpoint #16 - Marienkirche (cont.)

The church was built between 1897 and 1892, however, the interior was finished in the early 1900s. While the church was damaged during both world wars, it managed to remain mostly unscathed. The **St. Maria** was renovated in the 1970s to stabilize the floors. The best time to view the interior is in the spring due to the lighting filtering through the beautiful stained-glass windows.

Hours:

Monday and Thursday 9AM - 12PM; 2PM - 5PM

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9AM - 12PM

Saturday - Sunday: Closed

49°26'29.7"N 7°45'40.3"E - St.-Marien-Platz 1, 67655 Kaiserslautern

Follow the sidewalk on the left side of the church to the intersection. Use the crosswalk on the left then crosswalk on the right. After crossing the second street go right and head down Rudolf-Breitscheid-Straße for 275m then cross the street and go to the right for 70m. Cross the street, enter the park and follow the path for 80m then go right and follow the path for 130m to the fountain.

Checkpoint #17 - Stadtpark

First completed in 1876, the **stadtpark** or **city park** was used for many events and various other uses in its past, and evidence is still visible today. Various things are left over from its past, including some structures that survived the wear of history. During World War 2 the grounds were not maintained due to Germany's wartime economy. In the 1970s the park was in bad condition and was therefore entirely redesigned except for a few small elements from the original design. It was again refurbished in 2005 with new flower beds, an enlarged playground and fountain, and public toilets. This park is not just a destination for a walk surrounded by nature, but its Sunday brunch time concerts also provide a further counterpoint to the city's cultural diversity.



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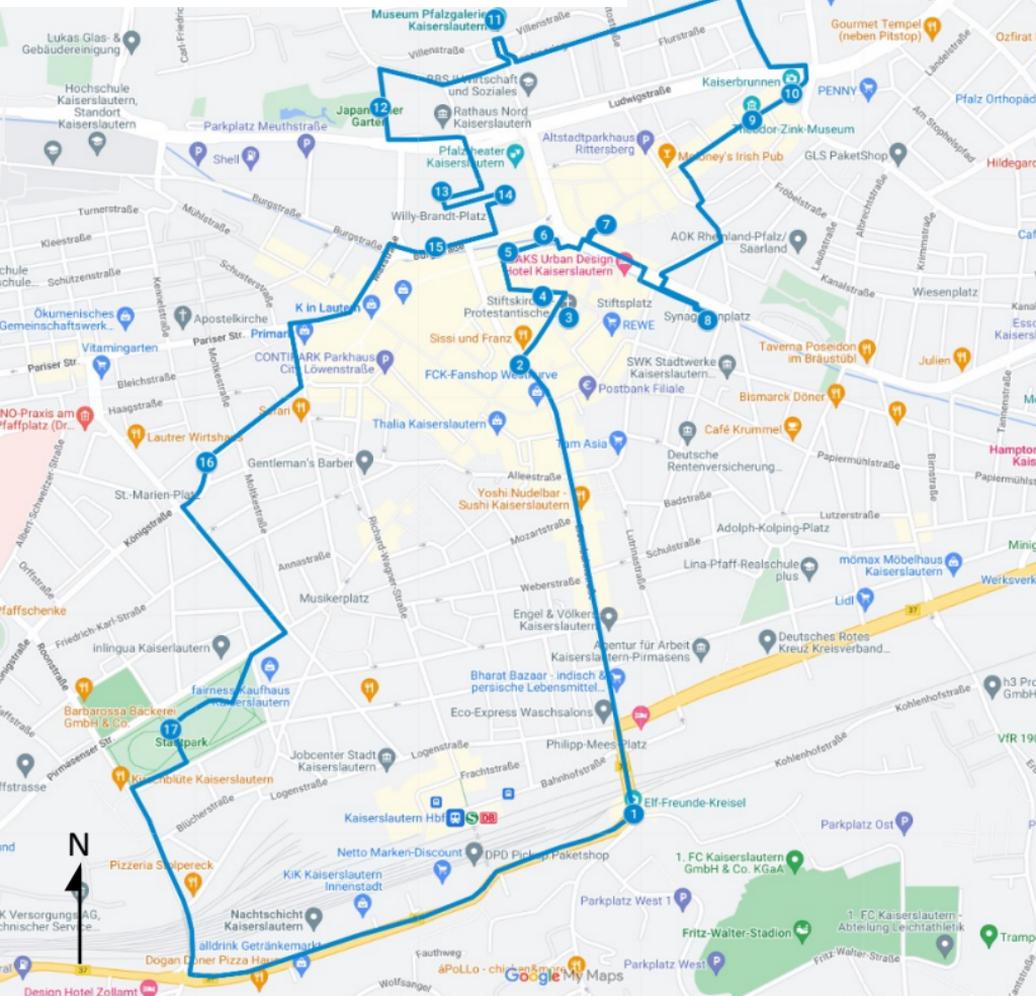
Checkpoint #17 – Stadtpark (cont.)

49°26'15.7"N 7°45'40.3"E - Pirmasenser Str. 74, 67655 Kaiserslautern

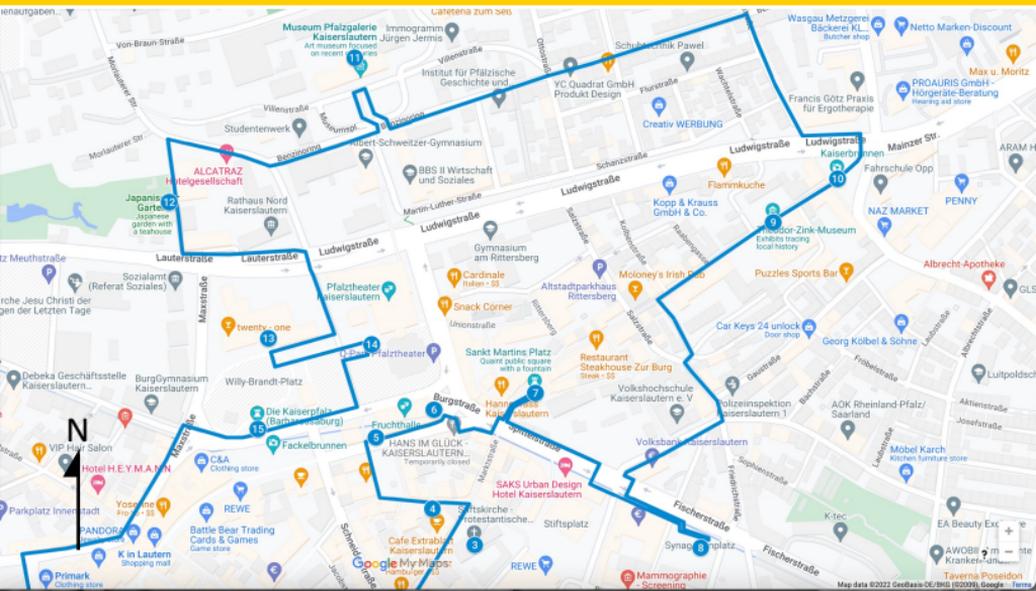
To return to Parkhaus Hauptbahnhof exit the southwest corner of the park and head south on Karcherstraße for 350m then head east on Zollamtstraße for 500m.



KAISERSLAUTERN HIKE



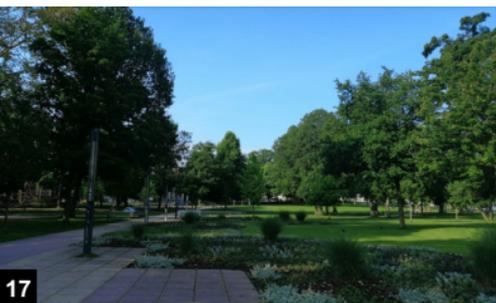
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BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Wiesbaden Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:

Cub Scouts:

Tiger:

My Tiger Jungle	Req 1
Tigers in the Wild	Req 1, 2, 4
Tiger Tales	Req 7

Wolf:

Paws on the Path	Req 1-5
Finding Your Way	Req 4

Bear:

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns	Req 1
Paws for Action	Req 2B

Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout	Req 1-6
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Scouts BSA:

Tenderfoot:	Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c
Second Class:	Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c
First Class:	Req 4a, 4b



*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



This Historic Trail was put together by Bryson A. Weir of Troop 12 as his Eagle Scout Service Project. Thank you to the following Scouts for helping conduct the research for the trail: Brady Calame, Connor Prue, Colton Travis, Dylan Matthews, Kade Weir, Kaden Sampley, and Sage Raymond.



Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code.

