



15 OLD CEMETERY

The first funerals took place in 1556. There is a special memorial (stone cross) with Cyrillic inscription next to the main path marking the tomb of the Russian Colonel Bedriaga who was wounded in a battle of the Napoleonic Wars near Kassel in 1813 and died in Melsungen two days later. Fixed to the inside of the cemetery wall there are about 20 tombstones from the Baroque period (1695–1758). A memorial for the people who lost their life in the German-French War of 1870/71 is situated at the cemetery exit leading back into the town.

16 OWL'S TOWER (EULENTURM)

The owl's tower (built in 1387) was part of the town's fortification between two main gates in Fritzlärer Strasse and Rotenburger Straße. It is the only tower which has survived in its original size. Between 1575 and 1690 the tower was used as jail at times, so it is also known locally as thieves' tower with the dungeon still remaining. The upper part of the tower was at times used for accommodating the town crier and his family.

17 COACHING INN

The impressive house at the corner of Fritzlärer Straße and Kirchgasse, built in about 1532, was used by the Hesse postal services as coaching inn from 1798 until 1815 and afterwards by Thurn and Taxis postal services until 1868. Since 1869 it has been used as business premises by various owners.

18 MAIN CHURCH

The church tower (from 1232) and the doorway to the nave (from about 1200) are remains of an earlier church built in the style of the Romanesque period. The doorway is the oldest documented building in town. The church was built in several phases of construction between 1352 and 1425 in the Gothic style.

19 HOUSE BURGSTRASSE 5

This house is well decorated with wood carvings. It was built in 1622 shortly after the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War. Johann Heinrich Käsemann bought the house in 1722 and had the beautiful wide door put in. Two stone figures, one at either side of the first floor, are remarkable. They might represent Adam and Eve.

20 STONE HOUSE "KEMENATE"

In Cyllsgasse you can find an old stone house, known as "Kemenate". Apart from the doorway of the main church it is the oldest documented building in town. It was presumably built in the 14th century as a place of retreat, when there was a fire or in times of military conflict.

21 EISFELD AREA

This part of Melsungen was inhabited mainly by low income people e.g. labourers, farm hands, household helpers and their families. In the 1970s a re-development of the area began which included a

restoration of many of the existing houses with the help of public grants. The tiny timber-framed house is known by the local people as "House of Witches"

22 MELSUNGEN CASTLE

It was built from 1550 – 1557 under orders of Wilhelm IV., father to Moritz, Earl of Hesse, and used mainly as a hunting lodge. Moritz himself lived here from 1627 – 32. From 1733 until 1825 cavalry regiments were stationed in it. Afterwards it became the seat of the Forestry Academy of Hesse and an administration building. At present it houses a county court and the offices of the Inland Revenue. In its long history the castle was also temporarily the home of the imperial General Tilly, General Wrangel of Sweden, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg and Napoleon's brother King Jerome of Westphalia.

23 CASTLE GARDENS AND TOWER

By passing through the little inner courtyard at the western side of the main building of the castle, you enter the castle garden. Looking to the left you can see a part of the original town wall with the remains of a fortification tower (from approx. 1400) There is a 200 year old Californian redwood tree among the trees in the park. During the summer months a beer garden is open in the park and local people and visitors alike enjoy live music there in the evenings.

24 MARSTALL / STABLES

It was built by Wilhelm IV., Earl of Hesse-Kassel in 1577 and had room for up to 60 horses. The front displays the colourful coat of arms of the State of Hesse in 1577. The statue before the building, showing a girl attending to her geese, is a reminder that Melsungen was a small rural community in the past.

SHORT HISTORY OF MELSUNGEN

802 Melsungen is mentioned in historical documents for the first time under the name of "pagus millisunge" meaning administrative area or centre of Melsungen

1189 the town is described as "Burgus Melsungen", a fortified settlement.

1267 the oldest official seal of Melsungen dates from that year.

1825-1974 the town is the seat of the district council of Melsungen.

1970-1973 The surrounding villages of Schwarzenberg, Kirchhof, Kehrenbach, Obermelsungen, Adelshausen, Günsterode and Röhrenfurth are integrated into Melsungen and officially become parts of the local council. Thus the number of inhabitants rises from 10,000 to approx. 14,500.



MELSUNGEN – Welcome indeed!

GUIDED TOURS

Group tours
booking
non-seasonal

Our experienced guides will accompany you on your Discovery Tour through the historic parts of Melsungen, showing you the most interesting aspects and providing as much information about the town as you require. Tours for groups with an English speaking guide are available at your request. Please book at least two weeks in advance.



Meeting point and Information:



Kultur- & Tourist-Info

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www.melsungen.de



MELSUNGEN – A walk through the historic part of the town





1 TOWN HALL WITH "BARTENWETZER"

The town hall was built from 1562 – 68, after fire had destroyed its predecessor in 1554. The very impressive half-timbered structure with 5 floors erected on a stone base rises to a considerable height of approx. 29 metres. The "Bartenwetzter"(axe sharpener) – the symbol of the town – can be seen on the top tower at 12 noon and 6 pm. The town hall is seat of the local council and administration.

2 HOUSE FRITZLARER STRASSE 3

This fascinating house was built in 1600. The mighty oak beams are a sign for the wealth of the original owner. The corners are decorated with braid and fishbone patterns typical for such Renaissance and Baroque buildings in the town. There are symbols of wealth and fortune in the shape of rhombuses and St. Andreas crosses. The most outstanding feature of this building is the richly carved and decorated arched doorway.

3 HOUSE IN MARKET SQUARE

This building at the corner of market square and Brückenstraße, erected after the great fire from 1554 is another example of a magnificent Renaissance style house. It presents gorgeous carvings on the beams between the floors. At the corner to Brückenstraße there is a carved figure of a man wearing a traditional 16th century costume. It is common belief that he represents the Master of the Market who took care of the regular functioning of the market in former times.

4 HOUSE BRÜCKENSTRASSE 5

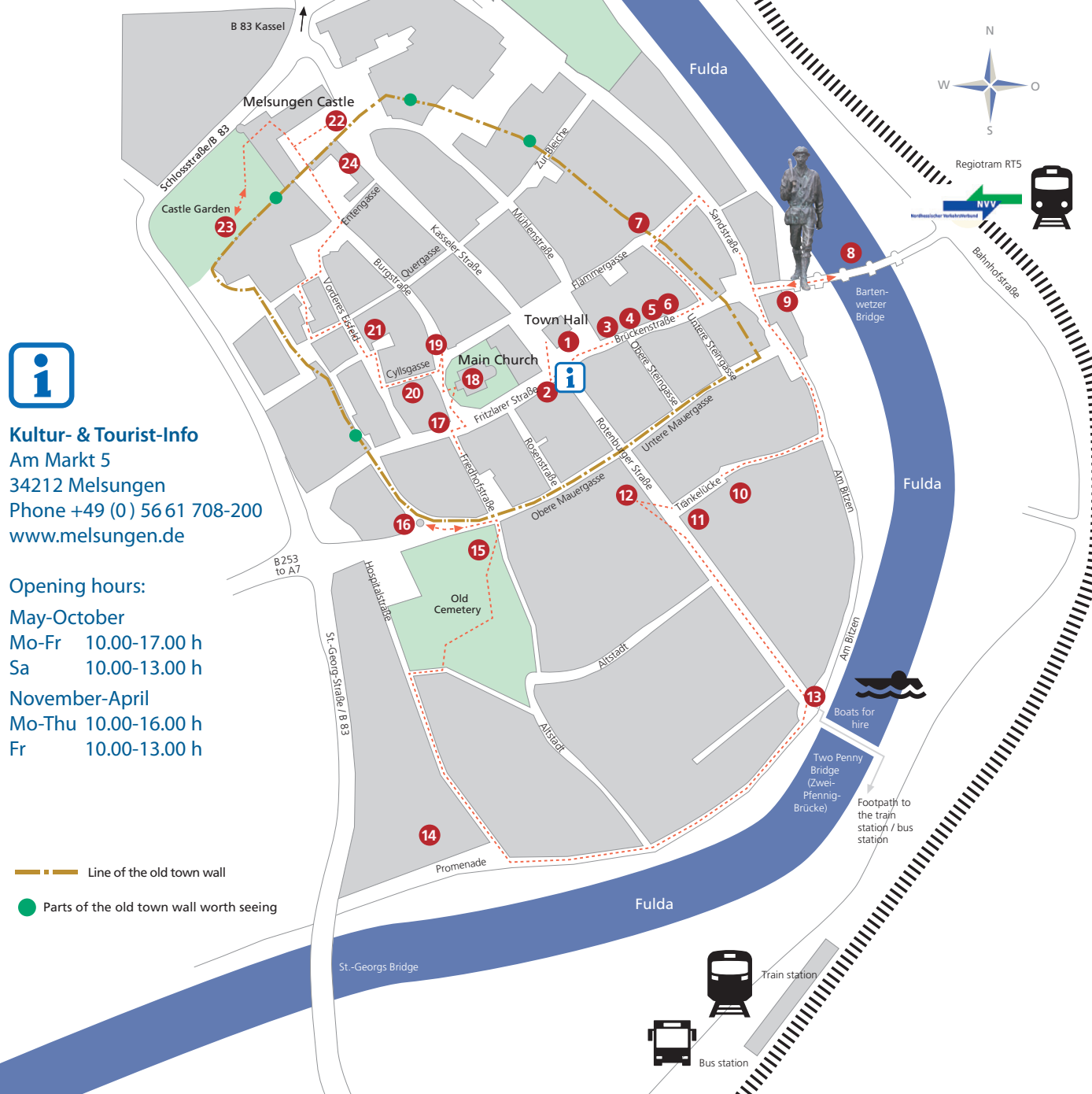
This splendid house was built at the end of the 17th century (approx. 1687). It was erected in two parts. You can see this clearly from the broken edges in the centre of the exterior wall. In 1703 a pharmacy (Rosen-Apotheke) was opened in the building. This was the birth of the pharmaceutical company B. Braun Melsungen AG, which today is operating internationally and world wide.

5 6 HOUSES BRÜCKENSTRASSE 7 and 9

These two houses, built in 1423 and 1426 respectively, are the oldest timber-framed houses in town. By looking at their side walls through the gap between the houses you can see how builders in the Middle Ages constructed the floors and frames of buildings.

7 REMAINS OF THE TOWN WALL

The ancient centre of the town was once protected by an approx 8 metre high wall. There were fortified towers, gates and a walk along the battlements. Some remains of that wall can still be seen e.g. in Flämmgasse, along Hinteres Eisfeld, behind Mühlenstraße and next to the garden of the Castle. The wall was also partly included in some buildings.



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Opening hours:

May-October
 Mo-Fr 10.00-17.00 h
 Sa 10.00-13.00 h
November-April
 Mo-Thu 10.00-16.00 h
 Fr 10.00-13.00 h

--- Line of the old town wall
 ● Parts of the old town wall worth seeing

8 BARTENWETZER BRIDGE

The bridge was built in 1595/96 during the reign of Moritz, Earl of Hesse. It is one of the most beautiful and impressive stone bridges in the country. The massive pillars rest on foundations made up of thick oak piles. Upstream there are wave- and icebreakers for protection against surges of floodwater or drifting wood or ice. Two bronze statues, representing the symbol of Melsungen, the "Bartenwetzter", are situated at one side of the bridge.

9 MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY

The local history museum was opened in 1986 in a building which was originally used for producing electricity. The history and development of the town are on display here.

10 CHRIST'S CHURCH

This timber-framed church was built in neo-gothic style in 1882 as home of the local Independent Lutheran Church.

11 SYNAGOGUE

The synagogue was built in 1841 and in use until 1939. The building survived the "Pogromnacht" (November 8th, 1938), but its interior was almost completely demolished.

12 CIVIC CENTRE / CASINO

It was built in the Kassel style of classic architecture in 1837/38 by the local "Abendgesellschaft" (Citizens Evening Club) as a venue for cultural and social events. The original building was renovated and expanded in 1976/77. Today there is a restaurant and the Great Hall is used for plays, concerts, balls, and lectures.

13 TWO PENNY BRIDGE (ZWEI-PFENNIG-BRÜCKE)

This pedestrian bridge was financed and built in 1890 by a group of local citizens in order to provide quicker access to the train station. The toll for people crossing the bridge was 2 pennies and was collected at the little toll house on the southern side of the bridge. The toll had to be paid until 1920.

14 HOSPITAL AND ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL

This large building from 1788/89, situated in a spacious garden, hides its timber-framed structure behind shingles. Today it is no longer used as hospital but provides affordable accommodation for its inhabitants. St. George's Chapel, first mentioned in a historical document in 1332, was presumably part of a small village outside of Melsungen.