



# Historical tour of Bietigheim



# Welcome to Bietigheim's old town centre



The reason Bietigheim came to exist where it does today is due originally to its favourable location at a ford across the river Enz. All the cultures came: Celts, Romans, Alemanni. Many of them stayed. The archaeological findings in today's urban area indicate settlements dating back to the New Stone Age.

In 789 the site Budincheim is mentioned for the first time, in 1364 the status of the village is raised to that of a town. From that moment Bietigheim develops at astonishing pace – thanks largely to the patronage of Antonia Visconti, spouse of Count Eberhard III, member of a wealthy family from Milan. The familiar town silhouette of today begins to emerge.

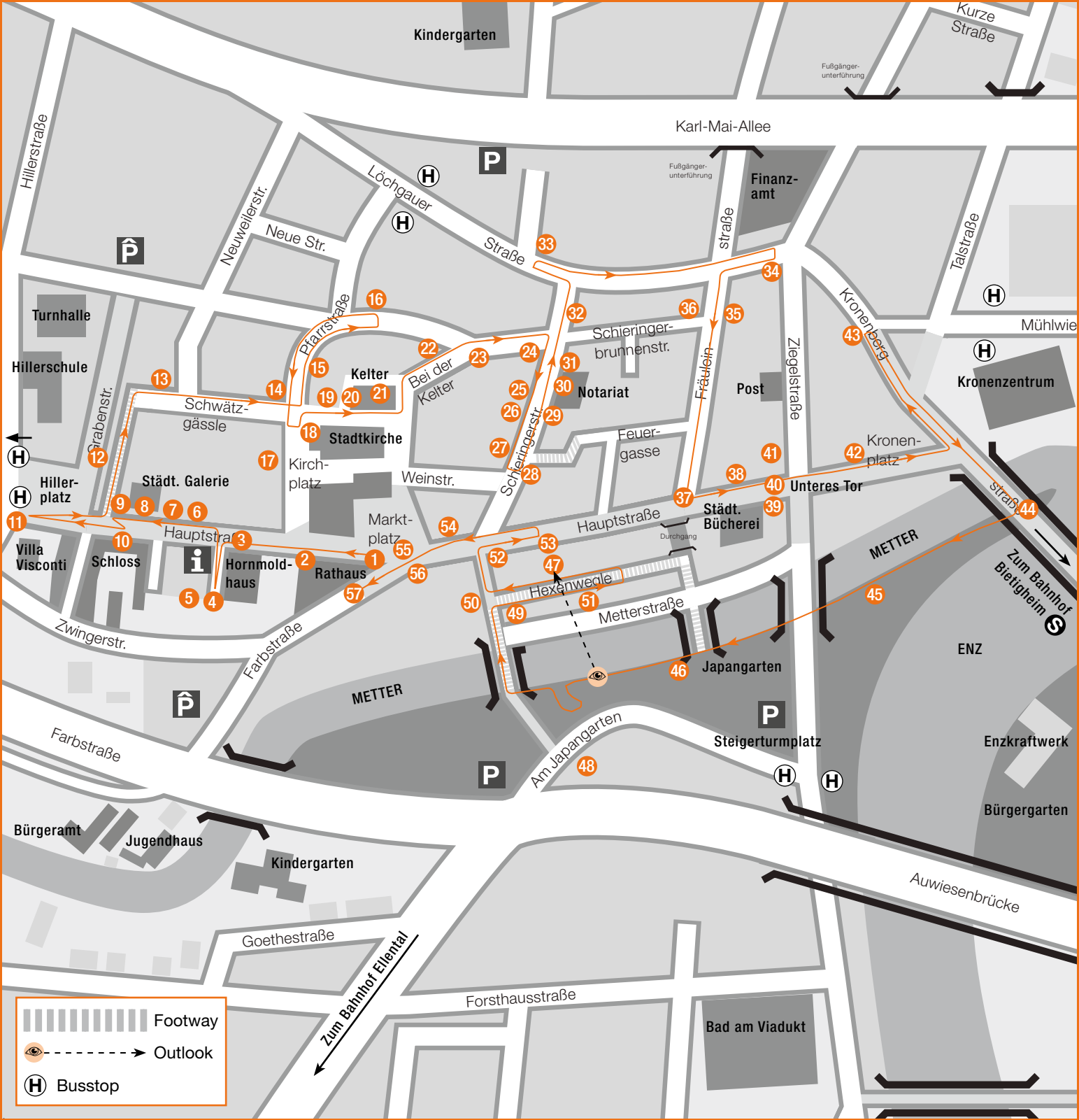


## Furthermore

The tour of the town lasts about 1.5 to 2 hours. Guided walking tours through the old town centre are offered every Sunday at 10:30 am from Easter until October.

The historical collection of the town is shown at the Municipal Museum "Hornmoldhaus" (3).

Detailed information about the variety of sculptures in public places is provided by the brochure "Skulptour".



	Footway
	Outlook
	Busstop

## 1 Townhall

Three-storey half-timbered building from 1507, with oriel tower and ornamental clock, external staircase (historical entrance), external pulpit for town crier; 1564



archives' tower, modernised in 1602-1608; plastered and painted during 2nd half of 18th century. Ground floor: open market hall, 1st floor: festival hall, 2nd floor: court room and council chamber, today office space for town administration and the Mayor's office. Remains of wooden walls with fresco. Panel with coat of arms of the adjacent fountain gate (1583) next to present day main entrance. Renovated thoroughly in 1926 and 1981.

## 2 Coats of arms of the twin towns

### 3 Hornmoldhaus

Mansion house built in 1536 by governor and Consistory director of Württemberg Sebastian Hornmold (1500-1581). Timber frame construction from the early modern period with curved St. Andrew's crosses as prevailing ornament, three rooms with wooden walls. Remains of the prebend house dating from the late Gothic period in the north-western wall of the ground floor. Large areas of preserved Renaissance paintings, summer chamber (1575) with figural wall paintings and confessional

Modernised in 1625/26

(e.g. kitchen extension, portal). Refurbished in 1979-86. Today Municipal Museum.



## 4 Physician's residence

Built in 1568 for town chroniclers, 1592-1704 private ownerships, 1704-1840 physician's residence ("Physikus"). Thoroughly refurbished in the 18th century. Restored in 1984/86.



## 5 Latin School

Timber frame building from the late Middle Ages with imposing chamber and reconstructed bay window on the 1st floor (today municipal chamber for wedding ceremonies). Head and foot struts fixed with wooden pegs, ornamental consoles. Original half-timbering missing in gable and south façade. Built in 1476 as town residence of the Lords of Nippenburg. Between 1547 and 1953 Grammar School. Restored in 1984/86.

## 6 Nördlinger Haus

## 7 House of Mayor Krauß

## 8 Municipal Gallery

„Town residence“ until the great fire of 1721.

Reconstructed in 1769 by the town's miller Roth on the site where the fire had raged (note decorated keystone at arch gate to the courtyard). Representative three-storey building, plastered, quadratic pattern painted in the corners.

Refurbished in 1987/88, since 1989 Municipal Gallery. Large cellars underneath residential house and barn have been converted into cultural function room (Kleinkunstkeller).



## 9 Beguines' House

For the first time mentioned in 1473 as residential house of the "Grey Beguines". In 1721 destroyed



by the great fire and re-erected on the foundation walls in 1727. In 1787 attached to the town wall, shape of roof altered and plastered. Refurbished in 1983/84.

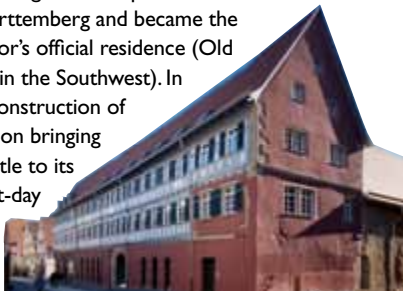
In 1541 the town's coat of arms was probably moved to the Beguines' House from the then demolished Upper Gate.

## 10 Bietigheim Castle

District castle of Württemberg. Erected in 1506 when Bietigheim was proclaimed district town of Württemberg and became the governor's official residence (Old Castle in the Southwest). In

1542 construction of extension bringing the castle to its present-day

size, in 1546 office



of church advocate. Storage building and workspace for manorial winepress and clerical administration. With the exception of the church advocate's office, castle devastated by a fire in 1707. Rebuilt in 1707-



1712 on a smaller scale. From 19th century until 1999 tax office. 2000/03 refurbishment, today house of culture.

## 11 Villa Jäger

## 12 Town wall with defensive gallery

Since 1364 town fortification with defensive gallery, corner towers and gate towers, with moat at front. Beginning of 19th century disturbing parts of fortification demolished. Wall and defensive gallery restored in 1984.



### 13 Late Gothic archway

### 14 Deacon's residence

1687-1814 home of the second parish priest (deacon). After great fire re-erected 1721-1729. Medieval shop window facing towards the alley originating from previous building. Extended in 1787. Baroque basket arch with keystone. Wooden gate with knocker from 18th century. Converted into a closed complex yard in the 19th century.



### 15 Small house

### 15<sup>a</sup> Panel wall in the south gable of the barn in Pfarrstr. 8

Spaces between the structural members of the timber frame construction were filled with wattle and daub.



### 16 Oldest surviving town house

### 17 The Vicarage

Manor of the governor Balthas Renner (1556-1633), built around 1625. Intricate masonry work with Renaissance ornaments and chimeras to ward off evil spirits. Large vaulted cellar built of rough-hewn stones. Since 1686 vicarage of the first vicar, the so-called "Spezialat". Burnt down in 1721, re-erected as only two-storey building. Baroque gateway containing the initials of the Duke.



### 18 Protestant Church

Erected around 1400 on the site of the castle chapel alter. Donated by the nobility, amongst others by Antonia Visconti, spouse of the Count of Württemberg. The adjoining keep to the northern side of the castle was used as bell tower. Replaced Peter's Church (today's cemetery church) as parish church in 1496. Partly destroyed by the collapse of

the keep in 1542 (see inscription on vestry pillar), in the course of reconstruction the nave was enlarged. Tower dating from 1544/47. In 1972/74 removal of neo-Gothic decoration and fittings (initiated by Heinrich Dolmetsch in 1891/92). Interior:

existence of early organ verified; in the choir bust possibly of Antonia Visconti, late Gothic-style pulpit base (1507), various epitaphs created by the secular artists Conrad Rotenburger and Jeremias Schwarz.



### 19 Hetzelhaus

## 20 The Castle of medieval Bietigheim

Built in the 12th century possibly by lords of Bietigheim on a natural hill in order to protect the ford of the river Enz. Liege lords were Margraves of Baden and Counts of Vaihingen. Castle and village were under the rule of a community of joint heirs ("Ganerbiat"). Castle destroyed in 1291 by Counts of Württemberg. Chapel was converted to parish church (around 1400), base of original keep and additional upper stories used as belfry and watch tower until its collapse in 1542. Archaeological investigation undertaken in 1983/84.



## 21 Winery

Central manor winery belonging to the castle. Destroyed by the collapse of the keep in 1542 it was reconstructed and enlarged to its present-day size. In 1762 struck by lightning and subsequently re-erected: interior free of pillars, hipped roof with



## 22 Burghof

### 23 Wine grower's House

Typical wine grower's house, gable with decorative timber frame from the 16th century and large cellar arch showing out to the alley, signed J[acob] G[aab] 1609. Half-timbering altered on 1st floor (living space), colours not authentic. Stone console with chimera to ward off evil. Renovated on private initiative in 1978/79, winner of Peter-Haag-Prize in 1979 for outstanding refurbishment.



king post truss providing for 4 wine presses ("Kelterbäume"). Renovated in 1983/84 and extended to cultural function room.

## 24 Manor of Stefan Ruof

### 25 Ecclesiastical direction

Imposing three-storey residence, built in 1681 by the wealthy tailor and council member Nikolaus Lindenmaier (1617-1688). Timber framing with decorated panels in Baroque style, carved corner posts and knee brace with rope shaped ornaments and volutes, partly chopped off when house was plastered at the beginning of the 19th century. Profiled hipped gable roof. The surrounding oriels on the 1st and 2nd floor represent (the owner's) wealth. Baroque door jamb with initials and coat of arms of Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg: 1721-1807 official residence of the Consistory director, the Duke's clerk in charge of the church's local property. Reconstructed in 1785.



### 26 House of goldsmith Josef Ade →



### 27 Post station

Postmaster Ludwig Fischer (1680-1741) operating the profitable „Frankfurt coach“ had the house converted into the post station in 1736. Family coat of arms including name of builder and date inscribed in the keystone of originally detached arch. Due to reconstruction in 1857 eaves facing the street: arch integrated in building and gable turned to the other side.

### 28 Birthplace of Friedrich Schofer

### 29 Town house with thistle

### 30 The Kachel House

Prestigious three-storey town house of the wealthy Kachel family. Presumably built in 1536/37 by Michel



Kachel (1490/97-1540/41), owner of the inn “Zum Schwarzen Adler“ in front of the lower town gate. Chamber with wooden walls on 1st and 2nd floor. Windows reconstructed. Half-timbering of gable wall not complete. Rear extension with summer chamber constructed in the same year as the Hornoldhaus' summer chamber (1557), and further extended in 1689. Remains of interior Renaissance paintings. From 1689 residence of the cooper's family Mayer. (Renewed) door lintel with cooper's guild mark and inscription G[ottfried] B[eissert], C[hristina] S[ibylla] B[eissert] (Mayer's widow) 1746. Renovated in 1988/89, today notary's office.

### 31 House of brickmaker Keller

Fine three-storey residence built in 1687 by brickmaker Urban Keller. Previous building destroyed, or demolished, during Thirty Years' War. Decorative timber frame typical of the Baroque period. Posts of 1st and 2nd storey walls show remnants of carved oriel consoles coloured in grey after original finding. Access to one of the town's larger cellars. Renovated in 1982.





### 32 Washhouse by the Schieringer gate

The only remaining example of formerly three municipal washhouses. Mentioned for the first time in 1564. Situated on the north side of town next to the old Schieringer Gate. Since end of 18th century covered drain. In the 20th century used as municipal abattoir for the slaughter of sick or injured cattle. Water supply through the adjacent Schieringer fountain, also mentioned first in 1564. Panel on the inside of the town wall with Württemberg coat of arms dating from 1472. Peculiar is the reversed position of the elements of the insignia which presumably originates from the outside of the adjoining Schieringer gate and proves Bietigheim's affiliation with the Urach part of the country at the time of



the division of Württemberg 1442-1482.

### 33 Neo-classical Villa

Bourgeois mansion in the classicist style with a projection and flat pediment in the middle, structured by ionic capitals and surrounding cornices. Portal framed by two massive Doric columns on high bases, lion heads over the adjoining windows. Construction started in 1814 by master carpenter Johann Joachim Bälz (1776-1839) on the grounds of the former vicarage's garden alongside the avenue leading to Löchgau/Freudental. Insolvency delayed its completion until 1820. Restored in 1988.



### 34 The former brickyard

Existence of the municipal brickyard documented since 1447. Built outside the town of fear of fire. Destroyed during Thirty Years' War. From 1679-1897 in possession of the brickmaker family Keller. Residential house (Löchgauer Str. 1) in 1770, adjacent brickyard, kiln and drying chamber (Löch-



gauer Str. 3). Timber frame with K-shaped bracing, typical of late 18th century ornamental style. Red colouring after original finding. Both buildings renovated in 1988.

### 35 Arsenal tower with defensive gallery

Tower at north-eastern corner of town fortification. Side facing the town open in the 15th century to prevent its being used as a fortress against the town in case of its capture by enemies. Tower sold in 1821 for demolition to the baker next door, Johann Christof Müller. Repurchased in 1950 from the baker's descendants. The town wall was opened only in 1830 to connect the streets Fräuleinstraße and Löchgauer-/Besigheimerstraße.



### 36 Bakehouse by the upper town wall



Built in 1830 in the so-called “cameral-style” beside the new opening of the town wall. Original stone slabs and stone gutters underneath more recent tiled roof. The bakehouse today still is in use by the Bietigheim countrywomen’s association. The small tin box on the left side of the door was the night watchman’s time clock.

### 37 Mermaid’s fountain

Fountain fed with water piped from two springs located in the „Staigbrunnen“ area on the other side of the Enz. Erected in 1557 on the site of an older fountain (“Gall fountain”) on a square-like crossroads. On an octagonal trough, completely renovated in the 20th century, rise four gargoyles

as well as a baluster with Württemberg’s and the town’s coat of arms. Fountain named after the “mermaid” posing on top of the baluster, popular motive of the Renaissance period related to water. Today closed circuit water supply, no drinking water!



### 38 House of the Hammer family

### 39 Fountain by the lower gate

Fountain in the classicist style with relief ornaments (1782), replacing old fountain first mentioned in 1564. Elegant column with Corinthian-like capital and vase. Originally located outside the town gate where it served as a drinking trough for horses when the carters would stop



off at hostels and inns (“carters’ fountain”) in the lower suburb of town. It had to give way to the increasing traffic in 1966 and was re-erected in 1977 at its present place. Fountain trough relief with names of the responsible officials. Hiob 12:8: Also the fish in the sea tell of God’s wisdom and reason. Today closed circuit water supply, no drinking water!

#### 40 Lower gate

The only remaining example of four original town gates, end of 14th century, built with irregular square stones coming from the partly demolished castle. Around 1500 the open part of the tower facing the town was closed up with a half-timbering wall, and a timber frame extension was added. Lantern sitting on top of the roof with a little bell to announce the closing of the gate (16th century). Grooves of the portcullis. Above the recess of the portcullis Württemberg coat of arms with antlers. Historicising presentation of lansquenets (1890). Pedestrian arches on either side dating only from the early 1930s.



#### 41 Frieze with women churning butter

Frieze was removed in 1950 from the demolished house of baker Johann Martin Böhringer, Holzgar-

tenstraße 9, to here. Relief stands for the psalms inscribed: "He hath given meat unto them that fear him." (ps 111) and "A good man sheweth favour...he hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor:" (ps 112)



#### 42 Craftman's house

#### 43 Baroque-style framework house

Two-storey timber frame house (1686) with



abundant half-timbered ornamentation typical of the Baroque period: lozenges in balustrade panels and between windows a network of curved and straight St. Andrew's crosses; curved diamonds whose square arrangements produce circles; K-shaped bracing. Its representative eave on the eastern side

and the lavish gable on the northern side bear reference to a different traffic hierarchy from the infrastructure of today.

#### 44 Old bridge across the river Enz

Built in 1463-67 by a cooperation (socage) of Bietigheim residents under the direction of (church) master builder Aberlin Jörg from Stuttgart. First stone bridge in the region helped increase the accessibility and thus the attractiveness of the prospering town. The tremendous costs for construction and maintenance were covered by a compulsory "bridge toll". The bridge withstood all floods. It was blown up in 1945 by German troops on the retreat. The only remains of the old bridge are the arch across the Metter.



**45 Memorial stone in the Metter gardens**



The town's lower part and suburbs were permanently threatened by floodwaters from the rivers Enz and Metter.

The worst flooding registered was that of 30th October 1824 which even claimed several lives. A memorial stone showing a number of recorded flood levels was donated by master stonemason Heinz Lenuzza on the occasion of the Baden-Württemberg Garden Festival in 1989.

**46 Japanese Garden and Bälz memorial**

**47 Painted tower**

Rectangular tower base of the main wall including superstructure, decorated with illusionist Renaissance painting dating from 1587. Preserved painted fortification structures are rarely found in Württemberg.



**48 Erwin Bälz' and Gustav Schönleber's birthplace**



The „Japanese doctor“ Dr. Erwin Bälz was born in this house in 1849. Bälz was Professor at the then newly established Medical University

of Tokyo as well as the Japanese Emperor's personal physician. He died in Stuttgart in 1913. It was only two years later when the painter Gustav Schönleber was born in the same place (1851-1918).

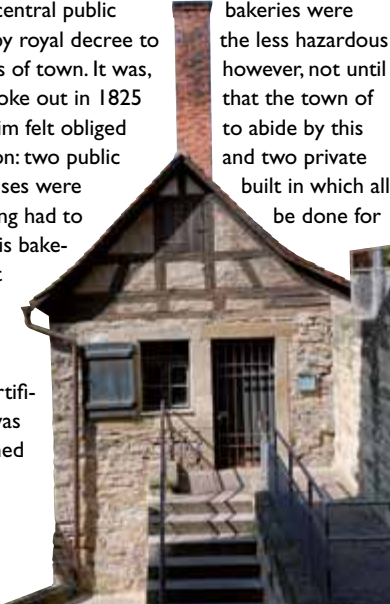
**49 The town's old hospital**

Oldest hospital in the town. Built in 1841 to replace the dilapidated former almshouse as new almshouse and hospital. It was in operation until 1914 when the new hospital on the Gaishälde was completed, thereafter old people's home. Until 1477 the „Curlinsbad“ was also situated here: a public bath with supposedly curative waters which even people from far away visited.



## 50 Bakehouse by the „Betteltörle” (Beggars’ gate)

In order to reduce the risk of fire and to save energy, central public bakeries were moved by royal decree to outskirts of town. It was, a fire broke out in 1825 Bietigheim felt obliged regulation: two public bakerhouses were the baking had to a fee. This bakehouse at the wall in front of the town fortification was established in 1828.



bakeries were the less hazardous however, not until that the town of to abide by this and two private built in which all be done for

## 51 Flood bridges

In order to be able to enter their own houses also at times of flooding, the residents of the Metter suburb built small bridges across the flood-resistant ward to the upper floors of their houses. In the little house next to the town’s old hospital, Metterstr. 32, Regina Rosina Ahles (1799-1854) was born. She later married opera composer Albert Lortzing in 1823.



## 52 Town pharmacy

In 1559, Bietigheim along with the towns of Calw, Göppingen and Stuttgart was able to boast having a medical doctor, academically trained, and a pharmacy. Since 1705 this pharmacy has been situated in this building. Monumental three-storey

timber frame building from the 16th century, half-timbering typical of that time, plastered in the 18th century. A decorated hipped gable roof with shell and a Putto’s head at the top of the gable. On the north-west corner of the stone ground

floor there is a name-plate with two coats of arms containing the initials of merchant H(ans) H(artmann), a Mercury’s wing (symbol of trade) and the dates 1581 and 1584. The figure 4 evident on the name-plate represents the trademen’s mark.



### **53** House of the painter Conrad Rotenburger

Two-storey timber frame building dating from 1537/38 with ornamental half-timbering, typical of the time, a chamber with wooden walls partly preserved and a hipped gable roof. Unusual timber frame without any painting. At the beginning of the 17th century residence of painter and etcher Conrad Rotenburger (1570/80-1633).

### **54** The „New building“ („Neue Bau“)

### **55** Market fountain

Once the town's main fountain. Fed with spring water from the „Essigberg“ on the other side of the Metter via wooden and lead pipes and only connected to the municipal water main in the last century (1949). Today recirculation system, no drinking water! Baroque octagonal trough (1743), Baroque base with four gargoyles (17th century), Renaissance baluster-like pillar showing a Duke's figure and the town's coat of arms dated 1549. Refurbished in 1950/51, pillar turned northward by 45° for reasons of "urban development". The heraldic figure in his

armour and with the ruler's attributes demonstrates the Duke of Württemberg's sovereignty over the town.



### **56** House of the Duke's tax official Merker

### **57** Fountain gate

## **OPENING HOURS**

### **Tourist information**

Hauptstraße 65

**Mo – Fr** 9 am – 6 pm

**Sa** 9 am – 2 pm

### **Municipal Museum „Hornmoldhaus“**

Hauptstraße 57

**Tu, We, Fr** 1.45 pm – 5.45 pm

**Th** 1.45 pm – 7.45 pm

**Sa, Su** 10.45 am – 5.45 pm

### **Municipal Gallery**

Hauptstraße 62-64

**Tu, We, Fr** 2 pm – 6 pm

**Th** 2 pm – 8 pm

**Sa, Su** 11 am – 6 pm

Opening hours on bank holidays and during summer exhibitions of the Municipal Gallery are given in the local newspapers and on the homepage of the town [www.bietigheim-bissingen.de](http://www.bietigheim-bissingen.de)

Deutsche  
Fachwerk  
Straße



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