

NÜRNBERG

TOYS AND TRAINS / ALBRECHT DÜRER / LEBKUCHEN / CHRISTKINDLSMARKT / ROSTBRATWURST

Imperial History on the Hill

The Pegnitz River meanders through the old town of Nuremberg, largely surrounded by the medieval city wall, built between the 12th and 16th centuries. Seventy-one towers along the wall remain standing, many of them used today by organizations, clubs and private individuals as museums, meeting rooms, and even student housing!



The medieval Kaiserburg is the emblem of the city of Nuremberg.



Partial view of the Kaiserburg with Himmelsstallungen (Imperial Mews) and Sinwellturm (castle keep).



The Schöner Brunnen (Beautiful Fountain) presents a world-view of the 14th century in 40 allegorical figures.



Nuremberg at dusk: the old town with St. Sebalduskirche (Church of St. Sebaldus) in the foreground and the Kaiserburg behind.

Atop the hill at Nuremberg's historic center is the Kaiserburg, or Imperial Castle, embodying the political importance of the medieval city. From 1050 to 1571, all emperors of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation resided here for at least part of the time, leading to Nuremberg being dubbed the empire's unofficial capital. During a period of economic and cultural flourishing in the late 15th and early 16th century, Nuremberg was one of the three largest cities of the empire, along with Prague and Cologne. Visitors to the Kaiserburg can get a sense of this storied past as they view the large collection of weapons and armor, explore the extensive labyrinth of underground passages, and take in the magnificent panorama view over the red rooftops and steeples of the old town from the so-called Sinwellturm, the castle's defensive tower constructed in the 13th century.