

## 5 Reichelsche Schleif

As early as 1275, mills within the town of Lauf were first mentioned in historical records. In the former grinding mill – once connected with the now-demolished Town Wall Mill – traditional craftsmanship can still be experienced today. Using a water-powered grindstone, household tools such as knives, scissors, and saws are sharpened just as they were in centuries past. The family-run business closed in the spring of 1988, but the mill lives on: on special occasions, the Friends of the Old Town Association bring the Schleif back to life, allowing visitors to step directly into this living piece of history

## Sankt-Johannis-Kirche (St. John's Church)

St. John's Church is the town of Lauf's most prominent landmark. Those who climb to the top of its tower are rewarded with breathtaking views over the Franconian Switzerland all the way to Nuremberg.

Originally built around 1275 as a small chapel, the church was expanded in the 14th century and became the main parish church in 1553 after the destruction of Lauf's first parish church, the St. Leonard's Hospital Church. The current structure likely dates from 1350 to 1370, with the church and tower taking on their present appearance between 1680 and 1710.

The altar, baptismal font, and organ date from the second half of the 17th century. The altar, originally featuring seven interchangeable panels (five remain today), is the work of Lauf sculptor Balthasar Götz. In 1550, a new story was added to the tower, creating a home for the town crier. From then into the 20th century, the Lauf town crier served both as a musician and fire watch from this historic perch.

## 7 Felsenkeller (Rock Cellar)

The age of the vaults beneath Laufer Market Square is unknown. The cellar system was dug over many generations, reaching depths of up to 10 meters into the rock. The cellars were used as storage and brewing cellars until the 19th century and also served as a place of refuge during wartime.

Attractions 5–7 can be visited during a guided tour

Informationen unter: [www.altstadtfreunde-lauf.de](http://www.altstadtfreunde-lauf.de)



## Judenturm (Jewish Tower)

The Jewish Tower, part of the city wall, was the strongest corner bastion in the towns of the Pegnitz region. The tower, as it stands today, dates back to 1430. Its name comes from the fact that sections of the city wall were funded by contributions from Jewish citizens of Lauf. Originally built for defense, the tower features six gun slits. Over the centuries, it has served various roles, including a poorhouse, police prison, and hospital.

8

## Industriemuseum (Industrial Museum)

Founded in 1992, the Industrial Museum showcases over a century of industrial history across 14 listed buildings and along the Pegnitz River—a unique ensemble in Bavaria. Highlights include a historic rye mill, a water-powered hammer mill, an original tandem steam engine, and a fully preserved, decommissioned valve-cone factory with belt-driven spindle presses. For demonstration purposes, two historic water wheels and the 1902 steam engine can be set in motion.

The museum emphasizes hands-on exploration and experimentation at every turn. It also offers numerous special events, activities for children, and much more.

Opening Hours:  
April-December, Wednesday-Subday  
11 AM -5:00 PM  
[www.industriemuseum-lauf.de](http://www.industriemuseum-lauf.de)



## 10 Laufer Wenzelburg (Lauf Wenzel Castel)

Lauf Wenceslas Castle was built in the mid-14th century on a Pegnitz island, replacing a destroyed ministerial castle. Shortly before, the town of Lauf had been incorporated into the Bohemian Crown.

The impressive castle complex was once the westernmost imperial residence of Emperor Charles IV on Bohemian soil, just outside the gates of the Free Imperial City of Nuremberg. Unique in Europe is the castle's famous Coat of Arms Chamber, which depicts Charles IV's "ideal court." Over a hundred coats of arms represent the crown lands, cities, bishoprics, and the most prominent families subject to the Bohemian Crown.

Informationen unter:  
Tourist-Info Wenzelburg Lauf  
Schlossinsel 1, 91207 Lauf a.d.Pegnitz  
Di-So 9.30-12 Uhr, 13-17 Uhr  
[www.lauf.de](http://www.lauf.de), [infopunkt@lauf.de](mailto:infopunkt@lauf.de)  
Tel. 09123 184-4000 / -4001



### Impressum

Herausgeber, Konzept & Layout: Stadt Lauf a.d.Pegnitz  
Fachbereich 6 - Kultur, Freizeit,  
Ullasstr. 22, 91207 Lauf a.d.Pegnitz  
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Texte: Stadt Lauf a.d.Pegnitz  
Bilder: Dr. Uwe Dlouhy  
Kartenmaterial: Matthias Bisping  
Stand: Oktober 2024  
Auflage: 5.000 Stück

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9



# kleiner Stadtführer

Lauf erleben  
Tourismus **Lauf** 

## The History of Lauf an der Pegnitz

From the middle Ages to the Age of Industrie

Just a few kilometers east of Nuremberg lies the charming little town of Lauf an der Pegnitz, today home to around 27,000 residents. As early as 1275, four mills along the Pegnitz were recorded here – likely in operation since the 11th century. Lauf experienced its true medieval heyday under Emperor Charles IV (1316–1378), who expanded this town on the historic “Golden Road” into an important stronghold of his Bohemian realm.

In 1504, Lauf became an administrative seat of Nuremberg and, together with the imperial city, embraced the Reformation. Since 1806 part of the Kingdom of Bavaria, the Pegnitz town grew into a regional center of administration and justice during the 19th century. Its flourishing industries were boosted early on by connections to two railway lines.

Today, Lauf’s many preserved historic buildings still tell the story of its rich and eventful past. Highlights of a city walk include the lively marketplace with the Old Town Hall at its center, the Hersbruck and Nuremberg gates, St. John’s Church, the “Jewish Tower,” the Glockengießerspital, and the atmospheric rock cellars. Another must-see is the Industrial Museum, spread across 14 former production sites along the Pegnitz, where visitors can explore the history of industrialization and everyday working life.

Hospitality in Lauf can be enjoyed in the many cafés, restaurants, and traditional inns in the old town, where hearty Franconian cuisine and warm local charm await.

Join a guided tour of Lauf every Saturday at 2:00 PM

Informationen unter: [www.stadtuehrer-lauf.de](http://www.stadtuehrer-lauf.de)



## Hörspaziergang durch Lauf für die ganze Familie



### Kostenloser Audio Guide für Smartphones

1. Gratis „Hearonymus-App“ laden
2. Stichwort „Kaiser Karl IV.“ suchen und Guide herunterladen.

Die Texte entstammen dem gleichnamigen Buch „Was machte Kaiser Karl IV. in Lauf“ aus dem Fahner-Verlag, Lauf a.d.Pegnitz ISBN: 978-3-942251-23-5

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### 1 Altes Rathaus (The old Town Hall)

The town hall was probably built in the 14th century. As a result of the Second Margrave War in 1553, it burned down completely and was rebuilt. Since then, it has undergone several extensions and alterations. With the last restoration in 1937, it was remodeled by the National Socialists in an imaginary “Franconian style.”

In earlier times, the ground floor housed shops, particularly bread and meat stalls, while the upper floor contained the council’s Great Assembly Hall. This hall was used not only for council meetings but also for festivities such as baptisms and weddings. The attic served the municipal treasury as storage for taxes paid in kind.

The mayor’s and administration offices, which at first occupied only a small room, had expanded to the entire town hall by the second half of the 19th century, but due to lack of space, they moved out in 1976. After that, the centuries-old town hall was converted into an inn.

Weitere Informationen über die Stadt Lauf a.d.Pegnitz:

[www.lauf.de](http://www.lauf.de)



### Hersbrucker Tor und Nürnberger Tor

When Emperor Charles IV finally confirmed the town charter in 1355, the impressive town wall with the Hersbruck Gate and the Nuremberg Gate was most likely built as well. The Nuremberg Gate was renewed in 1526, while the Hersbruck Gate was rebuilt around 1476. A preserved section of the wall, though not open to the public, can still be discovered adjoining the historic Spitalhof – a hidden reminder of the town’s medieval fortifications.

### 4 Glockengießerspital und Spitalkirche

Founded in 1374 along the historic “Golden Road” by the childless Nuremberg citizen and bell founder Hermann Kessler and his wife, the hospital was lovingly rebuilt after being destroyed in the war of 1553. For centuries – right up until 2014 – it continued to serve its purpose as a place of care and support for those in need and for elderly people living alone. The adjoining St. Leonard’s Church, preserved as an evocative ruin, still tells the story of this long tradition today.

The former administrator’s house of the hospital now houses the City Archive along with the municipal collections, offering fascinating insights into the town’s rich history. [www.stadtarchiv-lauf.de](http://www.stadtarchiv-lauf.de)



2  
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3