

Landau -- A Rendezvous With Medieval History

Nestled in the shadows of the Palatinate Mountains, Landau has intoxicating scenic beauty that makes visiting this town in the [Rhineland-Palatinate](#) region a visual treat.

This medieval fortress town has plenty more in store to enchant the visitor. You are in **wine country**, surrounded by the **largest wine producing area** of Germany!

The *Galeerenturm* in Landau has quite a remarkable story attached. The residents decided to pull down what was a castle and build a town wall using the stones.

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There's no point trying to figure out the whys and wherefores. Suffice it to say, only the galley tower was left standing and that's what you see today.

The Vauban fortress is a part of the 17th century initiative to turn Landau into an impregnable fortress by the Marquis de Vauban. You can see the German and French gates that are part of the fortification.

St. Katharine's Chapel is yet another landmark with a colorful history. It had served as a prison, an ammunitions store, a grain store, and a wine cellar during various periods in history. It is well worth a visit not only for the interesting tales that surround it, but also for its artistic interiors.

The gothic structure of the Town Arts Center in Landau has had an amazing career. It began as the *Altes Kaufhaus* or the Market Hall in the Middle Ages, and later on this erstwhile commercial hub was turned into a theater with a basement tavern.

It's a great place to stroll along and get a feel of the depth of history that surrounds it.