

## SECRET TIP: 'Gehlens Kull'

From 1894 to 1954 limestone was mined in the former quarry. Today the old town park is a wonderful local recreation area.

Take a walk through the old town park 'Gehlens Kull'. Follow the signs from the place 'Faches-Thumesnil-Platz'



below the castle towards the street 'Katzhecke'.

Alternatively you can continue your tour of the old town as follows:

### 10. Burg

The castle, which dates from the 15th century, is now used as a museum & event location. The castle gallery is used for art exhibitions, the knight's hall as a venue for concerts, celebrations, etc. The former vaulted cellar today offers cultivated hospitality in a romantic ambience. The castle, originally dating from the 12th century, was destroyed in 1375 and replaced by a late medieval complex around 1450. The historicist reconstruction of 1888-1909 by the industrialist Moritz Kraus and the redesign in 1950-1956 changed the character of the castle considerably.

All in all, it has a remarkable mixture of medieval, historicist and Renaissance elements. The 1909 'Torburg' houses the 'Museum in der Torburg' with exhibits from the history of craftsmanship and industry.

Through the archway at the lower courtyard of the castle you can straight ahead reach the church of 'St. Lucia'.

### 11. Church of 'St. Lucia'

The immediate vicinity of the castle already suggests that this church developed from the original castle chapel, which was built in the 16th century.

The lords of the castle illegally used this chapel as a parish church, but it was finally recognised as such in



1745. An extensive expansion in late classicist style gave the church its present form in the middle of the 19th century. The neo-baroque tower helmet refers to the original, small baroque church.

It wears the Capuchin cross, as this order was based here in the 18th century.

Follow the 'Luciaweg', past the castle and descend the stairs until you reach 'Klatterstraße'.

### 12. Oldest residential house

In the street 'Klatterstraße' below the path 'Luciaweg' is the oldest residential building in the copper town. The building on the place 'Moritz-Kraus-Platz' is architecturally reminiscent of the Renaissance of the 16th century and suggests the original buildings in the Old Town.

### 13. Castle tunnels

Myths have grown up around the visible entrances and invisible passages under the castle, which are said to lead to distant places, sometimes for miles.

Apart from these questionable legends, it can be assumed

that since the early modern times only one tunnel was built as a beer cellar. They were certainly not escape tunnels for the lords of the castle or similar. The only 'lord of the castle' who built tunnels was Moritz Kraus. All visible entrances to the castle grounds date back to his extensive building programme around 1900.



They were intended to provide an impressive experience of the building and its surroundings.

### 14. Old mill 'Arnoldsmühle'

As a seigneurial or banning mill of the Stolberg ruling class, this grain mill has a special place in history. The restored quarry stone building from 1445 is probably the oldest house in the town centre. No other grain mill was allowed to exist within the banned mile and all farmers of the lower lordship were forced to have their grain ground here for a fee.

This also is the origin of the name of the institution, which probably from the very beginning, with the foundation of the castle, brought in income to the respective lords of the castle, who leased the mill. For almost 500 years a mill had been located here without interruption. The Arnolds family acquired the mill in 1872 and were the last owners. They ran the mill until 1983. In 1898 the preserved extension was built and a new water wheel was also installed. The steel mill wheel is the only one preserved from a Stolberg mill.

Continuing through the 'Klatterstraße', past the 'Arnoldsmühle', you will come to a fork in the road which leads left to the copper yard 'Enkerei'.

### 15. Copper Yard 'Enkerei'

At the northern end of the old town lies the copper yard 'Enkerei', an area that must have originally been



the site of the execution of the Stolberg sub-rulers. Historical documents clearly prove a spelling with 'H'. The execution site must be understood primarily as the place where physical punishment was carried out. It is unknown how the change from execution to a copper yard took place.

The first mention of the 'Enkerei' as a copper yard is in 1607, when it became the property of the Becks family, a family of copper masters from Aachen. Peter Beck is the grandson of a mint master of Aachen and thus comes from a wealthy and respected patrician family who invested in Stolberg.

This is where the old town tour ends. If you follow the path straight ahead over the bridge, you will reach a square named 'Kaiserplatz', which invites you to linger.

### Did you know?

In the 18th century, the Stolberg copper masters exported their brass goods as far as Africa.



### Did you know?

Stolberg Castle is a late-medieval hilltop castle and a regional rarity of special monumental value. Its defiant appearance results from the combination of the original castle building and a reconstruction at the end of the 19th century.

We look forward to your visit!

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For all questions concerning your visit to Stolberg we will be pleased to advise you. Please contact us!

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The Copper Vein  
Walking Tour of the Old Town



Kupferstadt  
Stolberg



# Alleys, churches Castle romance – Stolberg and its old town

A journey through the historical Stolberg

The Stolberg old town around the castle has a large number of buildings from the 16th to the 20th century. Every generation added or took something away, but nevertheless the visitor is presented with a picturesque and homogeneous architectural ensemble.

operations in 1985. From 2008 to 2017 the 'Ketsch', as the Stolberger says, was brewed and offered on a small scale by private initiative according to the original recipe. The brewery's architectural ensemble of the first half of the 19th century has been preserved.

Follow the street 'Hammerberg', turn left at the fork and immediately turn left again.

## 4. The cemetery of the Copper Master – 'Kupfermeisterfriedhof'

After a few metres in altitude, you reach the copper masters' cemetery, located beside the church 'Finken-

## 6. Oldest Copper Yard & former Pharmacy 'Adler Apotheke'

The former pharmacy 'Adler Apotheke' is the former manor house of the first and oldest copper yard in Stolberg, which was built by Leonhard Schleicher in 1575. In 1790 a pharmacy was established in the

## 8. Protestant Church 'Vogelsangkirche'

The comparatively modest building is considered one of the oldest Protestant places of worship west of the Lower Rhine. It was built in the years 1646-48 by the Lutheran congregation and has retained its simple but very attractive appearance to this day.

Look out for the floor tiles with the emblem of the copper vein, which point out the sights along the old town tour.



You can see simple, renaissance half-timbered houses, quarry stone houses influenced by the Baroque, plastered buildings of Classicism, historicist ornamental facades in Neo-Baroque, Art Nouveau architecture or simple designs of the 19th and 20th centuries – a panopticon of architectural history with highlights of magnificent copper and clothier's yards with a museum character as well as cheerful liveliness.

## 1. 'Ketschenburg' Brewery & Fountain 'Galminusbrunnen'

In Stolberg there was an above average number of breweries in the early modern period. The reason for this can be found in the many copper mills, where workers were employed at their hot ovens who had an extreme need for fluids and nutrients. The 'Ketschenburg' brewery laid its foundation stone in the old town. From 1807 Elisabeth Graff played a special role in the construction of the brewery. As the last Stolberg brewery, which supplied regionally different types of beer, it had to cease

**Fountain 'Galminusbrunnen':** Created by the famous Aachen artist Bonifatius Stirnberg, the fountain refers to the history of the city as well as to Stolberg's special features. Among many other things, the dwarf figure of Galminus is part of the fountain composition.

## 2. The square 'Offermannplatz'

The 'Offermannplatz' was severely damaged in the 2021 flood disaster. It is currently not possible to visit.

Cross the road (pedestrian crossing) and follow it to the right until the next corner. Turn left here.

## 3. Copper Yard 'Schart'

It was built around 1600 as a double courtyard complex, in the context of which copper yard means a plant for the production and processing of brass. The present appearance of this courtyard dates back to a classicist reconstruction carried out around 1800. Originally, the courtyard had a completely different appearance. The copper yards built at that time were usually designed as defensible structures with few window openings.

bergkirche', with a large number of impressive tombstones of the copper masters' families, hewn from bluestone and decorated with coats of arms. Not only the sheer size of the gravestones, but also their design and especially the coats of arms bear witness to the self-esteem and social status of the copper masters.

## 5. Protestant church 'Finkenberglkirche'

From the church forecourt located above the old town, visitors can enjoy the most famous view of Stolberg's old town with its castle and the catholic church of 'St. Lucia'. This reformed or protestant church was built in the years 1688 (completion of the tower) to 1725 (consecration of the nave) in place of its preceding building, a small wooden church from 1618.

You will reach the street 'Burgstraße' via the stairs. Make a small detour to the left to the historic pharmacy 'Adler Apotheke' before continuing the route in the opposite direction.

mansion of this copper yard, which existed until 1971.

On the way up to the historic marketplace 'Alter Markt' you will pass the smallest house in town on the left side.

## 7. Historic market place 'Alter Markt' & Copper Yard 'Rose'

At the northeast corner of the old historic market place 'Alter Markt' the former copper yard 'Rose', built around 1600, is located. Today the exterior of the complex is characterised by a plaster and stucco facade added in the 1870s. Two hundred years ago, the plant had six melting furnaces. Today it serves as a so-called 'arts and crafts yard' and houses the studios of several artists.

Follow the street straight ahead on the street 'Vogelsangstraße' and take the stairs on the left.

The parsonage adjoins the church building without any transition; as there is also no tower, the actual function of the building complex is not easily recognizable. Only the apse at the eastern side and the form of the church windows indicate a sacral building.

## 9. Castle Cemetery

The park-like grounds were the first catholic cemetery in Stolberg since 1554 and was closed in 1878. The elevated location allows a charming view of the nestled old town. To the right of the path towards the castle there is a massive cross carved out of blue stone, which is popularly called the 'plague cross'. Until the 17th century, the cemetery also served the Protestant communities, and until the 19th century it was even used as a burial place by the Jewish community.

Look out for these sign posts:

