



HISTORISCHES FESTSPIEL

**Der Meistertrunk e.V.**

Tradition seit 1881 • Rothenburg ob der Tauber



PENTECOST 2023



meistertrunk.de



# LANDWEHR-BRÄU

*Fränkische Bierkultur erleben*

**MEISTERLICH GEBRAUT**

## LANDWEHR-BRÄU Kellerbier unfiltriert

Eine echte Bierspezialität:  
Weich, würzig und prickelnd  
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unfiltriert, enthält dieses  
Bier viele Mineralien und  
Vitamine.

Im Ausschank am Festplatz  
erhältlich!



## MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT



### Bavaria is home to living tradition and culture!

Rothenburg ob der Tauber with its unique medieval townscape is world famous. Every year, the people of Rothenburg welcome countless visitors from far and near within the walls of their beautiful town. From all over Europe, Asia and America they travel to the Tauber. For all of them, the Franconian town of Rothenburg is a Bavarian treasure and a symbol of a picturesque, traditional

Bavaria. Rothenburg has much to offer. Exciting museums, a historic old town that invites you to linger, stroll through the town and immerse yourself in history!

Since 1881, the absolute highlight of the town's festival calendar has been at Whitsun, when the citizens of Rothenburg perform the „Meistertrunk“. In this historical festival play, everyone joins in to portray what was a crucial hour for the entire town. Citizens become actors of historical roles. Others tailor costumes or get involved in organisation and technology. Together they bring the dramatic moment of that time to life in a colourful play in the present.

Thanks and appreciation for the commitment, all the best and enjoy!

**Dr. Markus Söder**  
Minister-President

# MESSAGE OF THE LORD MAYOR



Ladies and Gentlemen, guests from far and near,

This year we are once again celebrating our Whitsun Festival! Last year's Whitsun Festival is already legendary. Enthusiastic were people everywhere, there was much joy and great interest. Just as the locals, active people and guests would wish. The highlight was the final march into the market square in high spirits with genuine joy - a dream. It

will be hard to top that this year. But: we will try!

Our historical festival play „Der Meistertrunk“ is set in the time of the Thirty Years' War. The conditions at that time were almost unbearable. It is important to remember this, unfortunately, wars are always cruel. Only the passing of the centuries makes the suffering fade, so that today we reflect on these terrible times in a light hearted way. Above all, we remember the miraculous salvation of the city, which found its most beautiful expression in the legend of the „Meistertrunk“ (Master Draught). Celebrate with us, have fun in the here and now!

It remains to thank the hundreds of people involved, those in the foreground and those in the background. They all help to fill this tradition - long since Intangible Cultural Heritage - with life. From the bottom of my heart I wish you all the fun and the „we-feeling“ of it. See you!

Peaceful, joyful and a great  
Whitsun 2023 to us all -  
„Long live Rothenburg!“

**Dr. Markus Naser**  
Lord Mayor of the City of  
Rothenburg ob der Tauber



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# ADMISSION FEES

**Great Festival Ticket (Friday – Monday): 24,- €**  
**Day Ticket Saturday or Sunday: 12,- €**

The Great Festival Ticket entitles the holder to admission to all open-air events of the Historical Festival and the Shepherd's Dance, while the Day Ticket is valid for all open-air events of the respective event day. These include:

- **Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market** *Friday – Monday*
- **Opening ceremony of the Festival Days at the Market Square** *on Friday*
- **"Campfire Night Watch outside the gates",**  
*at the Camp on Saturday evening*
- **Shepherds' Dance performances** *at the Market Square on Sunday*
- **Admission to Old Town (toll)** *on Saturday and Sunday*
- **Historical Parade** *on Sunday*
- **Historical Camp with beergarden and live music** *Saturday – Monday*

## Single fees for events (without Great Festival Ticket or Day Ticket)

Toll at the city gates (Saturday and Sunday): 5,- € per day  
Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market (Friday and Monday): 5,- € per day  
Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market (Saturday and Sunday): free  
"Campfire Night Watch outside the gates" (Festival site/Camp: Saturday): 8,- € €  
Historical Camp (Festival site/Camp: Sunday): 10,- € €  
Citizens' Festival/Finale (Festival site/Camp: Monday): 4,- € €

**Free admission for children and teens under 14 to all events except the performances in the Imperial Hall.**

## Dear visitors and guests,

Historical festivals such as „Der Meistertrunk“ involve a considerable financial expense. With your entrance fees, be it toll, day or weekend ticket etc., you make it possible for our association to set up a cheerful, colorful, entertaining and above all safe festival for all participants and guests and to offer our visitors an unforgettable experience. With your contribution you support us, among other things, in the costly maintenance and care of the delicate historical costumes and weapons, the organization and logistics of the Historical Craftsmen's Market, Historical Camp, Festival Site and Historical Parade as well as the „Meistertrunk“ stage play performances in the Imperial Hall. Included are, among other things, the care and maintenance of the Museum with its dungeons and, of course, insurance for the approx. 1000 participants and animals – your own safety is also taken into account, of course. Therefore, we would like to thank you very much for your voluntary contribution and wish you beautiful, entertaining and safe Pentecost Festival Days with the Historical Festival „Der Meistertrunk“ in Rothenburg ob der Tauber 2023.

**Much obliged!**

### Masthead:

Historisches Festspiel „Der Meistertrunk“ e.V.  
Georgengasse 17, 91541 Rothenburg ob der Tauber  
vorstand@meistertrunk.de

Represented by:  
Uwe Weinhardt  
Association Chairman

USt-ID: DE155245490

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Sänger, pretty noise records

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trunk“ e.V.

Printing and typesetting errors, mistakes and changes to the program reserved. The information on the respective event day applies. Please note the information at the box offices. In the event of weather-related restrictions, there is, as it is usual for open-air events, no entitlement to a refund or replacement of the entrance fees.

# THE ASSOCIATION

The association „Historisches Festspiel «Der Meistertrunk» e. V.“ was founded in 1881 as an independent registered and non-profit association. Besides its Managing Board and Organizing Committee it consists of 29 historical groups including two groups of stage actors and actresses, a total of more than 850 members. The association not only organizes the performances of the „Meistertrunk“ stage play, but also a vast program of supporting events during the Pentecost days.

The „Meistertrunk“ in Rothenburg ob der Tauber – this is history come alive with colourful events in the unique scenery of this excellently preserved medieval town in romantic Franconia.

Since 1881, the dramatic events of the year 1631 are brought to stage annually with the exciting and touching stage play „Der Meistertrunk“ written by master glazier and poet Adam Hörber. For the Rothenburgers and their guests, the Festival days during Pentecost are a major event and highlight of the year.



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Fenster

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Türen



# INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE



In 2013, the Federal Republic of Germany joined the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). It complements the acceptance of remarkable cultural and natural sites by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

In October 2015, the Historical Festival „Der Meistertrunk“ was approved as an „Intangible Cultural Heritage“ one of three festivals in Bavaria at that time.

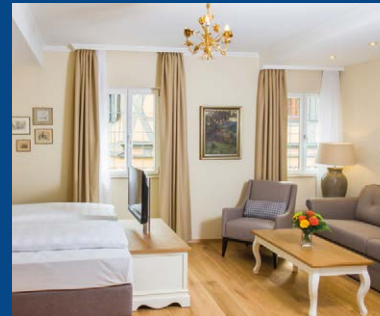
In 2016, „Historisches Festspiel «Der Meistertrunk» e. V.“ in Rothenburg ob der Tauber was inscribed to Germany's national list of Intangible Cultural Heritage where it is registered along with many social practices, traditions, traditional craftsmanship and festive events.



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The museum was founded in 1966 and with its 15 vaulted rooms and dungeons, provides an interesting insight into a lansquenets guardhouse, the fortifications and military readiness of the city, weapons, guns and other military equipment. Visitors can also admire further military artefacts and original flags of the Rothenburg troops.

You can find out interesting facts about General Tilly and the Catholic League, as well as about King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden and the Protestant Union. The defense situation of Rothenburg in 1631 is also one of the topics shown.



Address:  
Entrance via the Town  
Hall patio (no access to  
the Town Hall tower)

Marktplatz 1  
91541 Rothenburg  
ob der Tauber

# DER MEISTERTRUNK (THE MASTER DRAUGHT)

The year is 1631. The war has been raging in the country for thirteen long years.

In the autumn of 1631, Catholic Generalissimo Johann T'Serclaes Count of Tilly marches up to the walls of the Protestant Imperial City of Rothenburg ob der Tauber with an army of 60,000 men.

On October 30, the resistance is broken, the city being stormed. The mayor and all councillors are sentenced to death. A magnificent tankard, an unusual trade and an incredible deed bring a happy turn of events.

## **Ticket prices and booking of tickets for the performances:**

„Der Meistertrunk“ – Historical Festival Stage Play  
in the Imperial Hall (Kaisersaal):

Category 1 17,00 €

Category 2 12,00 €

Category 3 8,00 €

No admission for children under 6 years.

No return or exchange of tickets.

**Box office at the  
Market square (Marktplatz):**

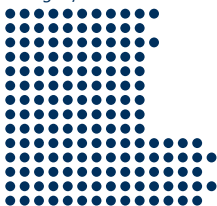
Tickets available from

Friday, May 26th, 2023, 1:00 pm,

phone: +49 1 71 / 7 18 68 11

STAGE

Category 1



Category 2



Category 3



In case of cancellation of the performances in the Imperial Hall, the entitlement to claim their realization is waived. In this case, tickets will be refunded. Please note that mass events, especially the Historical Parade with horses, involve inevitable risks. Parents are kindly requested not to seat their children at the curbside. Attending the events is at your own risk – no liability for personal injury or property damage.



## DER MEISTERTRUNK (THE MASTER DRAUGHT)



Behind the scene of the stage play, the staff consists of two make-up artists, four lighting and sound engineers, a stage manager-in-chief and eleven stage managers. The association engages a professional director to stage the play. Since 1999, Mr. Reiyk Bergemann holds this position.

The maintenance and repair work of the numerous historically correct uniforms and garments employs several costumers throughout the year. The association's dressmakers tailor the uniforms and garments. A shoemaker manufactures the shoes, leather haversacks and leather scabbards. All year long, honorary members of the association care for the maintenance of the historical vehicles.

We welcome you on all four Festival days to our Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market, with over 30 stalls around St. James' Church and at Grüner Markt.

Let us take you back to a time when craftsmen, market criers and traders still shaped the varied image of a marketplace. For example, look over the shoulder of a wood turner or a pewter caster at his work

A scissor sharpener will sharpen the blunt knives and scissors you bring along. Our little guests can look forward to a ride on a historic carousel, pulling candles themselves or a visit to the falconer with his birds of prey.

The best medieval delicacies are served in the taprooms and taverns, while musicians and jugglers provide a wide range of entertainment with songs and short plays.



## Performances at the historical craftsmen's and traders' market

### Saturday


- 13.00 Uhr Pikemen
- 14.00 Uhr Juggler group „Mummenschanz“
- 15.00 Uhr Cutpurses
- 15.30 Uhr „Mummenschanz“
- 16.30 Uhr Quack
- 17.00 Uhr „Mummenschanz“

### Sunday

- 10.30 Uhr Sutlers
- 12.00 Uhr Marching Band
- 13.00 Uhr Quack
- 13.30 Uhr „Mummenschanz“


### Monday

- 10.30 Uhr Sappers
- 11.00 Uhr Cutpurses
- 11.30 Uhr Quack
- 12.00 Uhr Pikemen

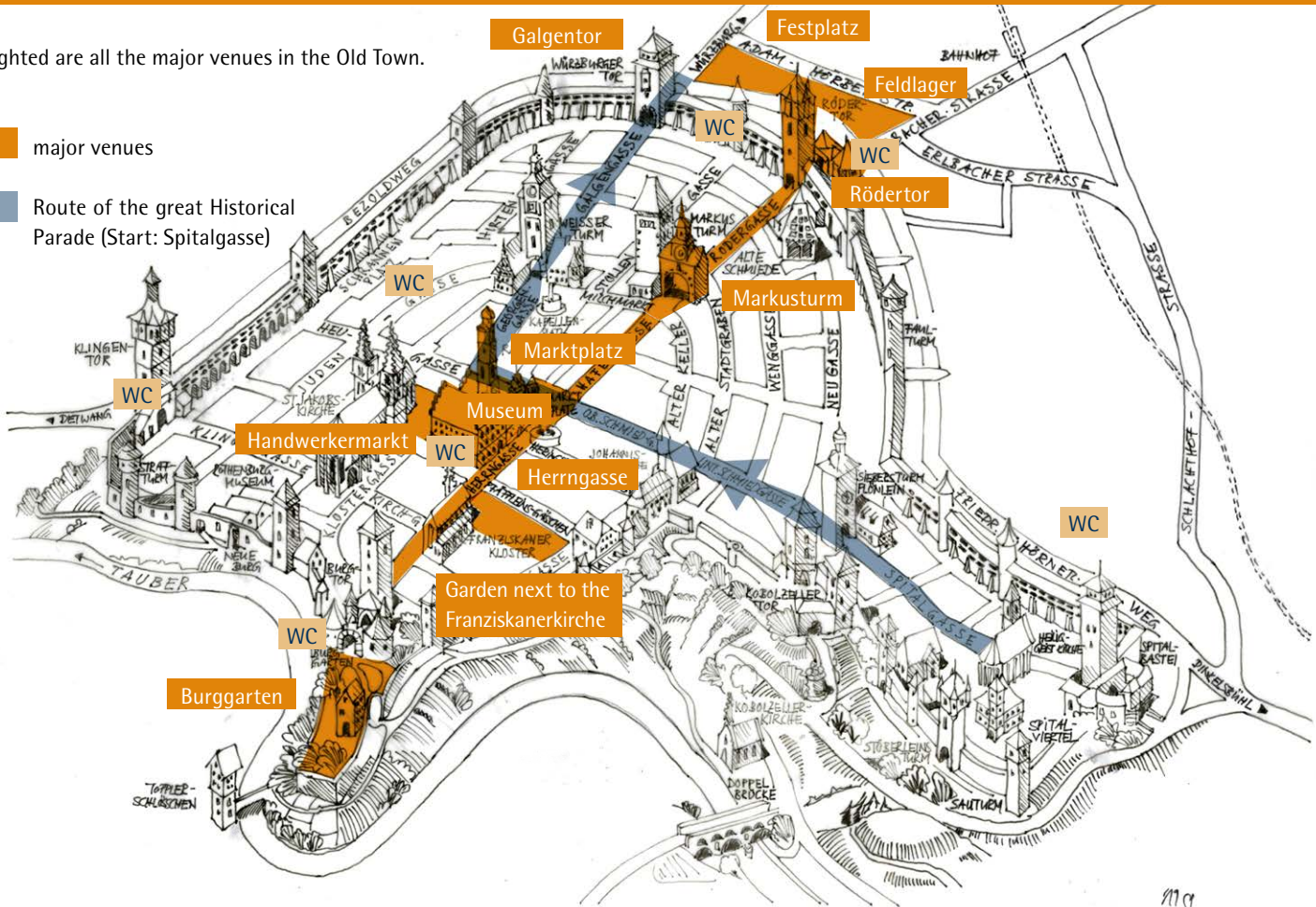
 Map of the market stalls, taprooms and taverns

## CITY MAP

Highlighted are all the major venues in the Old Town.

 major venues

Route of the great Historical Parade (Start: Spitalgasse)





### Princes in rags and loden

For over 25 years, this formation has been shaping the music of the medieval scene like hardly any other. The band captivates with its rousing performance and their imaginative arrangements. Traditional medieval folk music is performed in historical garb. The lyrics range from the heretical to the romantic, from the licentious to the humorous – or are last but not least simply about drinking.

### Joining in the party is explicitly welcome!

Thus „Die Streuner“ not only inspire the audience with their CDs – seven by now – but also tour with their live performances mainly through German-speaking Europe and are guarantors for an extremely exuberant party mood of the audience. With their catchy melodies that invite you to clap and sing along and an entertaining stage show, the performance becomes an experience.

#### Here you can watch „Die Streuner“ live:

- Sunday:
  - Open-air-concerts
  - 10.00 pm to 12.00 pm on the stage at the fairground
- monday:
  - Open-air-concerts

Latest information see Instagram and Facebook  
[@meistertrunk\\_rothenburg](#)





„Eeny, meeny, miny, mo and out you go ...“ For thousands of years, counting rhymes, board games as well as competitions and tournaments have been for old and young not only a display of skill and practice but in addition a pastime – just ...KURZWEYL.

But singing, dancing, ball games and games of skill were also part of everyday life in the 17th century. Even in castle times, tournaments were one of the social highlights of the year; chess shows the prevailing social hierarchy of the time and the value of the individual class! Card and dice games were also very widespread and found broad approval and enjoyment in all classes. The grouping KURZWEYL ANNO 1631 deals with the topic of entertainment and games at the time of the Thirty Years' War.

If you want to know

- what the „Meistertrunk“ is all about
- how children played in 1631
- why people in historical costumes parade through the streets singing ...

then visit us, the group „Kurzweyl anno 1631“ in the garden of Montessori School next to Franziskanerkirche (Herrngasse 15) and have a good time there with games and fun. Experience them and other participating groups up close on a tour of the town. Become part of the history of 1631 and „save“ Rothenburg!

Saturday: from 12:00 noon – approx. 5:30 pm

Sunday: from 9:00 am – approx. 12:30 pm



# FESTIVAL PROGRAM PENTECOST DAYS

## Friday – the beseeaged town

- 1:00 pm Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market  
*Grüner Markt and Kirchplatz*
- 5:00 pm Historical groups in the Old Town
- 6:00 pm Opening ceremony of the  
Festival Days at the Market Square (Marktplatz)
- 7:30 pm Premiere of the play  
**"Der Meistertrunk" („The Master Draught")**  
*at the Imperial Hall (in the Town Hall)*



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## MEISTERTRUNK NICHT NUR AN PFINGSTEN ERLEBEN



Freuen Sie sich im Rahmen eines 3-Gänge Menüs  
auf eine der vielen Truppen des Meistertrunk Festspiels.

1 Übernachtung im Doppelzimmer  
inkl. reichhaltigem Frühstücksbuffet und  
Teilnahme am Meistertrunk Festival Dinner am Freitagabend  
Preis ab 119,- pro Person/Nacht

Termine im Herbst:

08. September / 15. September / 22. September / 29. September 2023

Das Meistertrunk Festival Dinner ist auch ohne Übernachtung buchbar:  
49,-€ pro Person zzgl. Getränke



Tischreservierung unter 09861 705-0  
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## FESTIVAL PROGRAM PENTECOST DAYS

### Saturday – the occupied town

- 10:30 am Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market
- 12:00 noon Historical groups at various sites in the Old Town  
„Kurzweyl anno 1631“ – medieval games for children and adults  
*in the garden of Montessori School next to Franziskanerkirche*
- 1:30 pm Ecumenical devotions for Festival participants and guests  
*at St. James' Church, Kirchplatz*
- 3:00 pm & 5:30 pm** **Historical play "Der Meistertrunk"**  
**at the Imperial Hall (Town Hall)**
- 7:30 pm Parade of the Festival groups *from Market Square  
to the Camp between Galgentor and Röderbastei*
- 8:00 pm "Campfire Night Watch outside the gates", at the  
Camp, live music at the Festival site, *Galgentor/Röderbastei*
- 9:30 pm Fireshow with the group "Mummenschanz" *at the  
Main Guard (Hauptwache)/  
Quack's Camp, Galgentor/Röderbastei*





# FESTIVAL PROGRAM PENTECOST DAYS

## Sunday – the rescued town

- 9:00 am Plundering historical groups in the Old Town  
„Kurzweyl anno 1631“ – medieval games  
for children and adults *in the garden of Montessori  
School next to Franziskanerkirche*
- 10:00 am & 12.30 pm** **Historical play “Der Meistertrunk”  
at the Imperial Hall (Town Hall)**
- 10:30 am Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market
- at noon time “Historical Sheperd's Dance” at the Market Square
- 3:00 pm Great Historical Parade *to the Camp  
between Galgentor and Röderbastei*
- 4:00 pm Beergarden with live music at the Festival site,  
*Galgentor/Röderbastei*
- 10.00 pm „Die Streuner“ live  
*stage at the Camp Galgentor*

## Monday – the happy town

- 10:30 am Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market
- 10:30 am** **Historical play “The Master Draught”  
at the Imperial Hall (Town Hall)**
- 11:00 am Historical Camp & Citizens' Festival  
Beergarden at the Festival site  
*between Galgentor and Rödertor*
- 12:15 pm Parade of all Festival groups  
*from Market Square to the Camp  
and beergarden between Galgentor and Röderbastei*
- 7:30 pm March of the Festival groups  
*from Galgentor to Market Square*
- 8:00 pm Count Tilly's farewell  
Closing event *at Market Square*





# MUSICAL SATURDAY

Various Festival groups will play throughout the Old Town on Saturday and show their musical skills.

## **Burggarten (Swedish Cavalry)**

- 1:00 pm Main Guard
- 2:00 pm Musketry
- 2:30 pm Pandurs
- 3:00 pm Swedisch Cavalry

## **Herrngasse (Camp followers)**

- 1:00 pm Forlorn Hope
- 2:30 pm Main Guard
- 3:00 pm Pandurs
- 3:30 pm Armoured Horsemen/  
Camp followers
- 4:00 pm Lansquenets

## **Markusturm (Forlorn Hope)**

- 12:15 pm Croatian Cavalry
- 12:30 pm Forlorn Hope
- 2:30 pm Forlorn Hope
- 3:30 pm Forlorn Hope
- 4:45 pm Young Squad
- 5:00 pm Sutlers

## **Rödergasse/Rosengasse**

- 1:00 pm Cutpurses
- 2:00 pm Cutpurses
- 4:00 pm Forlorn Hope

## **Historical Craftsmen's and Traders' Market**

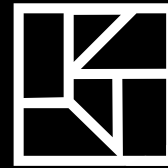
- 1:00 pm Pikemen
- 2:00 pm Juggler group  
„Mummenschanz“
- 3:00 pm Cutpurses
- 3:30 pm Juggler group  
„Mummenschanz“
- 4:30 pm Quack
- 5:00 pm Juggler group  
„Mummenschanz“

## **Market Square (Marktplatz)**

- 1:00 pm Townswomen
- 2:00 pm Forlorn Hope
- 2:30 pm Townswomen & „Meister-  
trunk“ stage play actors
- 5:00 pm Townswomen & „Meister-  
trunk“ stage play actors
- 7:00 pm all groups

## **Rödergasse – Fountain**

- 12:30 pm Croatian Cavalry
- 1:30 pm Marching Band
- 2:30 pm Cutpurses
- 4:15 pm Forlorn Hope



# ARTEFAKT

## FLIESEN MEISTERBETRIEB



## WIR LEGEN VISIONEN.

[www.artefakt-fliesen.de](http://www.artefakt-fliesen.de)  

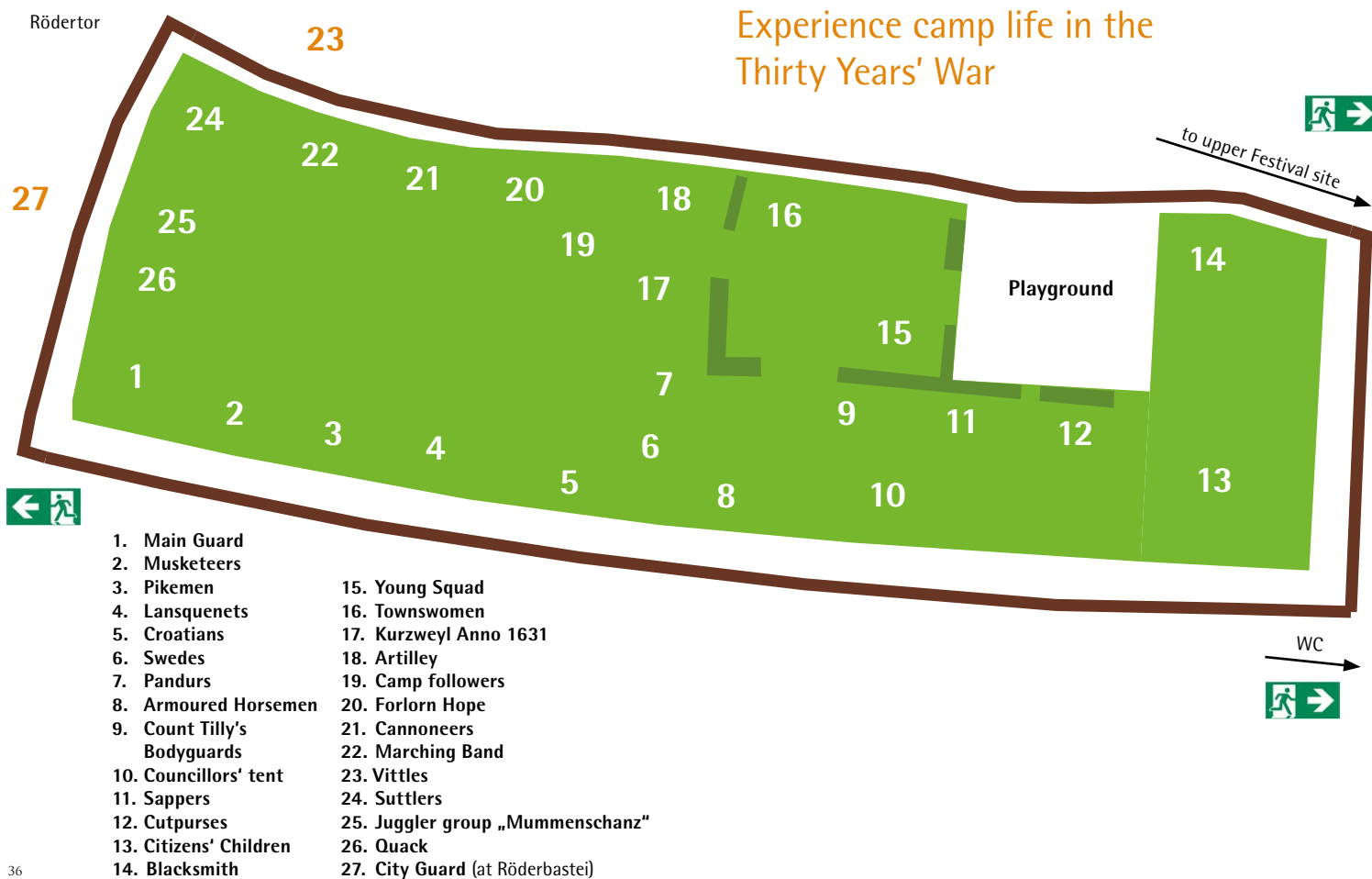
# HISTORICAL PARADE

On Sunday at 3:00 pm, the great Historical Parade will start through the alleys of the Old Town. It heads from Spitalgasse up to the Market Square and via Galgengasse to the Camp outside Galgentor. The order of the participating groups is as follows\*:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. „Meistertrunk“ Association vice Chair- | 23. with Field Captain             |
| man Martin Wegele with Lord Mayor Dr.     | 24. Artillery Captain              |
| Markus Naser and Magdalenas' children     | 25. Mounted artillery              |
| 2. City and Youth Brass Band              | 26. Foot soldiers of the artillery |
| 3. Citizens' Children                     | 26. Culverin                       |
| 4. The Imperial City's Herald             | 27. Kartouwe (siege gun)           |
| 5. Friedrich Scheiblein,                  | 28. Cannoneers                     |
| Armsmaster of Rothenburg                  | 29. Cannon ball carriage           |
| 6. Konrad von Rinkenberg,                 | 30. Gunpowder carriage             |
| Captain of the Swedish Guard              | 31. Sappers' carriage              |
| 7. Young Squad with its                   | 32. Sappers                        |
| leader Hans Staudt jr.                    | 33. Captain of the Camp followers  |
| 8. Anna with the keys of the city's gates | 34. Camp followers on foot         |
| 9. The Council of the City with           | 35. Marching Band                  |
| Lord Mayor Johann Bezold                  | 36. Musketeers                     |
| 10. Travel carriage with                  | 37. Pikemen                        |
| Magdalena Hirsching and her children      | 38. Lansquenets                    |
| 11. Balthasar Reimer, Cellarmaster        | 39. Croatian Cavalry               |
| 12. Townswomens' carriage                 | 40. Croatian Infantry / Pandurs    |
| 13. Townswomen of Rothenburg              | 41. Provision carriage             |
| 14. Swedish Cavalry                       | 42. Main Guard                     |
| 15. Fanfars cavalry                       | 43. Kurzweyl anno 1631             |
| 16. Herald of the Imperial troops         | (Pastyme in the year 1631)         |
| 17. Bodyguards of Imperial Count Tilly    | 44. Forlorn Hope                   |
| 18. Field Marshal Joh.                    | 45. Sutlers' carriage              |
| T'Serclaes Count of Tilly with Generals   | 46. Sutlers                        |
| 19. Christoph Meder,                      | 47. Field blacksmith               |
| Executioner, with assistants              | 48. Cutpurses                      |
| 20. Field Musicians                       | 49. Quack                          |
| 21. Light Cavalry                         | 50. Juggler group „Mummenschanz“   |
| 22. Luggage carriage / Bags               |                                    |

Please note that mass events, especially the Historical Parade with horses, involve inevitable risks. Parents are kindly requested not to seat their children at the curblaine. Attending the events is at your own risk - no liability for personal injury or property damage.





## MORE EVENTS

### Imperial City Festival & Autumn performances 2023

**Friday, September 2nd**

**Imperial City Festival 2022**

Long Night of the Historical Festival  
*in the Town Hall's patio*

**Saturday, September 3rd**

Historical play "Der Meistertrunk"  
*at the Imperial Hall (Town Hall)*

3:30 pm &  
6:00 pm

**Saturday, Oktober 1st**

**Autumn performances 2022**

Historical play "Der Meistertrunk"  
*at the Imperial Hall (Town Hall)*

3:00 pm &  
5:30 pm

On 15 May 1274, Rothenburg's unstoppable rise began with its elevation to the status of „Free Imperial City“ by King Rudolf of Habsburg. In order not to let the glorious times since then be forgotten, the citizens of Rothenburg decided to celebrate the Imperial City Festival every year on the first weekend in September.

In addition to many historical groups from different historical periods, numerous Festival groups enrich the townscape from Friday to Sunday. After the „Meistertrunk“ stage play performance, experience a large fireworks display over the Tauber valley to remember the „burning city“ in 1631.







**Damals –  
wie heute.**

**Morgen  
kann kommen.**

**Wir machen den Weg frei.**

**Damals – wie heute:**

**Ihr zuverlässiger Partner in der Region**

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