

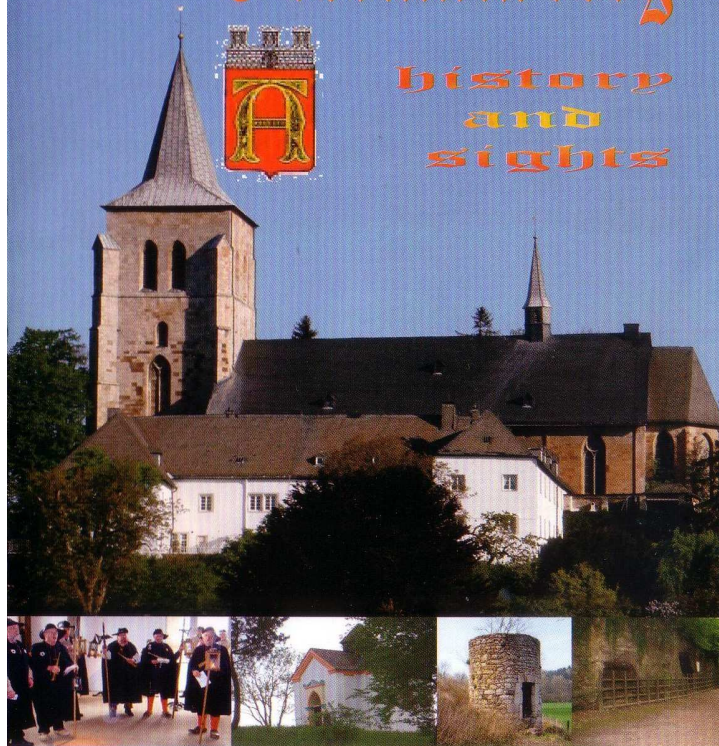
Überraschend vielseitig!

Marsberg

[KOMM & ERLEBE]

Obermarsberg

history
and
sights



Sauerland



Dear visitors

Welcome in the old town on the hill!

This flyer wants to give you a short survey of some aspects of the history of our former town and informs you about some sights, which might make you aware of the historical importance of this place.

At the same time we would like to motivate you to take a tour through this town which might make you learn more about its history and sights.

Whatever part of Obermarsberg you are at the old collegiate church can nearly always be seen as it is situated on the top of the hill, called Eresberg. The town is situated on a plateau, 400 metres above sea level and has about 1826 inhabitants. Since 1975 it has been part of Marsberg and is no longer an independent town.

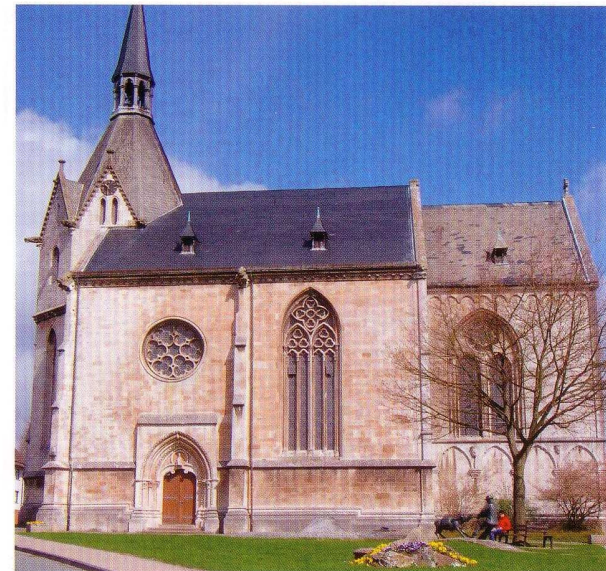
A tour through Obermarsberg can start at the so-called '**Kettenbrunnen**', a well which is about 26 metres deep. In former times it was called 'Windenbrunnen' as you had to use a hoist gear to lower or lift the buckets.



From here you can directly see one of the two churches, the Nicolaikirche and one of the road signs reads: Kaiser Karl Platz. And you can see a statue of a man with a donkey. All this alludes to the history of this place.

In former times the location on the hill helped the people to have a feeling of protection and enabled them to have a perfect view of the surrounding countryside. Water for everybody could be taken from various wells. Thus it is no wonder that the first traces of a settlement go back as far as the 4th millenium before Christ.

When you take a closer look at the **Nicolaikirche** you can see that this Gothic building has a lot of precious details to find.



It was built between 1229 and 1247 and except for the tower and the staircase everything can still be found in its original form. It is a jewel of the early Gothic period with some Romanesque details.

The southern part is more decorated than the northern part as it could be seen more easily. The southern porch shows the elements of Gothic and Romanesque style and in the tympanum you can see St Nicholas, the patron saint of the the citizens and the merchants. Lots of elements give evidence of the belief in God in former times and were intended to glorify God in every way possible.

When you walk along Eresburgstraße you pass a former school, **St Sturmius-School**. It was unfortunately closed in summer 2007 as there were no longer a sufficient number of pupils in this part of Marsberg.

From here you can go to the **former town hall** of Obermarsberg with the **pillory** in front of it. The pillory shows that the town had an independent jurisdiction in the past. The people convicted of certain crimes were chained to it so that the public could scoff at them. The town hall was much bigger in the Middle Ages, but in the course of the Thirty Years War the town was conquered by Swedish troops and the town hall was destroyed in 1646. However in 1650 the town council decided to reconstruct it and till 1827 it was used as courthouse; nowadays it is privately owned.



On the top of the hill you find the oldest church, the **Stiftskirche** (collegiate church). The king of the Franks, Charles I, later to be known as Charlemagne, conquered the castle of Eresburg, now the present-day Obermarsberg and destroyed the Irminsul, a national monument sacred to the heathen Saxons, who had settled in the region. The first church was erected here by Benedictine monks, one of them Sturmius, the former abbot of Fulda. The church was destroyed several times over the ensuing years. The monastery was dissolved in 1803, at the time of secularization.

A stone arch, **the Benediktusbogen**, forms the entrance to the former monastery. After the destruction of the monastery and the church during the Thirty Years War the then provost Kaspar von Reusche proposed to erect the arch in 1759.

On the cap stone you still find the inscription which refers to his activity to reconstruct the arch:

**CASPARVS DE REUSCHE PRAEPOSITVS
MARSBERGENSIS
EXTRAUXXIT ET ORNATV RESTAVRAVIT.**

Also the year **1759** can still be detected here:
M D CC XX VVVVVVV IIII.

On your way to the church you can see an old weathered statue made of limestone dating back to the time of renaissance (about 1600). It is called **Rolandstatue**. It shows an armoured knight with a helmet, a long cloak coat, a sword and a model of a church. Statues like this were often erected and indicated that Charlemagne was at this place and bestowed special rights on this town, e.g. the right of immunity: whoever took refuge in the monastery or the church could no longer be prosecuted.



The **Stiftskirche**, dedicated to the Apostles Peter and Paul, was extended in 1250. In the Thirty Years War the Gothic and probably also part of the Romansque interior decoration were destroyed.

The sculptors Heinrich and Christophel Papen created a new interior decoration at the end of the 17th century, with new benches, new altars, confessionals, a pulpit as well as a splendid organ front.



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