

FRANKFURT SIGHTS

Römerberg

The Römerberg is Frankfurt's old central square. Ornately gabled half-timbered buildings, reconstructed after WWII, give an idea of how beautiful the city's medieval core once was. In the square's centre is the Gerechtigkeitsbrunnen.



Historic Building Römer: The photogenic Römer (old town hall) consists of three step-gabled 15th-century houses. In the time of the Holy Roman Empire, it was the site of celebrations during the election and coronation of emperors. Today it houses the office of Frankfurt's mayor and serves as the registry office. The barrel-vaulted Kaisersaal is accessed from Limpurgergasse via a courtyard and carved red-sandstone spiral staircase.

Städel Museum

Founded in 1815, this world-renowned art gallery has an outstanding collection of European art from masters including Dürer, Rembrandt, Rubens, Renoir, Picasso and Cézanne, dating from the Middle Ages to today. More contemporary works by artists including Francis Bacon and Gerhard Richter are showcased in a subterranean extension lit by circular skylights. Admission prices can vary according to temporary exhibitions. Queues can be lengthy, so save time by pre-booking tickets online.



Main Tower

Frankfurt's skyline wouldn't be the same without the Main Tower, one of the tallest and most distinctive high-rises in town. A great place to get a feel for 'Mainhattan' is 200m above street level, on the tower's observation platform, reached by lift in a mere 45 seconds. Pre-booking tickets online saves time queuing, but be prepared for airport-type security. It closes during adverse weather.

Kaiser Dom

Frankfurt's red-sandstone cathedral is dominated by a 95m-high Gothic tower, which can be climbed via 328 steps. Construction began in the 13th century; from 1356 to 1792, the Holy Roman Emperors were elected (and, after 1562, consecrated and crowned) in the Wahlkapelle at the end of the right aisle (look for the 'skull' altar). The cathedral was rebuilt both after an 1867 fire and after the bombings of 1944, which left it a burnt-out shell.

