

Chronology of Sinzig

- BC** Current archeological excavations show traces of first settlers during Roman times.
- 40 AD** A Roman brick yard was established below the street Grenzstraße near the Rhine.
- 5th c.** Roman state land is confiscated by the Frankish King after the "Frankish land seizure".
- 8th c.** The Frankish kings establish a palace, a Königspfalz, right beside a previously deserted Roman villa on the hill Sinzigberg.
- 762** July 10, 762: First official recognition of Sinzig and its Königspfalz as "sentiaco palatio" in a record of Frankish King Pippin III
- From 8th c. on** A direct route to the palace in Aachen, the road "Aachen-Frankfurter-Heerstraße" (AFH), is completed. AFH is part of the "Via Regia" which leads across Eastern Europe all the way to Kiev.
- 855** January 16, 855: Emperor Lothar I presents the "capella" in Sinzig, which is sanctified to St. Peter, as a gift to the monastery "Marienstift" in Aachen.
- 1152** March 6, 1152: Frederick I Barbarossa visits Sinzig on the way to his coronation ceremony.
- 1158** Frederick I Barbarossa has three official certificates issued in Sinzig: the charter of protection for Nonnenwerth, a mining privilege for the arch bishop of Trier, and the transfer of assets in Rore (Salzburg).
- From 12th c. on** By 1256, 39 kings and emperors had spent time in the Sinzig palace. It is an important stop between the cities of Frankfurt and Aachen.
- Around 1225** Construction starts on the late-Romanesque basilica St. Peter. The church is sanctified on August 15, 1241.
- 1255** Sinzig becomes a member of the Rhenish League of Towns.
- 1267** Kurköln, the electorate of Cologne, conquers Sinzig. The arch bishop announces that the people of Sinzig, the "oppidanos de Sinzeche", are keeping their rights. They are addressed as townspeople in the official record which marks the recognition of Sinzig as a town.
- 1300** Construction of the town wall
- 1858** Sinzig is connected to the railroad system on the left side of the Rhine. Castle Sinzig, the summer residence of railroad pioneer and business man Gustav Bunge, is completed.

A walk through Sinzig



- ① Historic tithe estate "Zehnthof"
- ② Historic road "Aachen-Frankfurter-Heerstraße"
- ③ Street "Barbarossastraße"
- ④ Sinzig castle
- ⑤ Barbarossa monument
- ⑥ St. Peter Parish Church
- ⑦ Town hall

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A walk through Sinzig



On the trails of Barbarossa



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Frederick I Barbarossa was elected King on March 4, 1152 in Frankfurt. Two days later he boarded a ship that took him downstream on the rivers Main and Rhine until he got off in Sinzig. Barbarossa spent the night at the palace, also referred to as Königspfalz, in Sinzig and continued via horse towards the city of Aachen where he was crowned on March 9, 1152. Barbarossa visited Sinzig four times: In 1152 on his way to the coronation ceremony and later as the Roman Emperor in 1158, 1174 and 1180. He selected lodging in the Palatine area for overnight-stays approximately 16 more times.

Tithe estate "Zehnthof" – former palace "Königspfalz"



The tithe estate "Zehnthof" used to be a Carolingian palace. Because there were no official capitals in medieval time, palaces called Königspfalz served as military bases and residences for the kings and emperors. The kings and emperors traveled from palace to palace. The Sinzig palace was first documented in 762 as "sentiacopalatio" – the first of all Frankish palaces to be officially recognized. By 1256, 39 kings and emperors had spent time in the Sinzig palace. Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa initiated a reconstruction of the palace in Sinzig in 1152. The functions of the palace gradually moved to the new castle Landskrone after 1206. The Königspfalz in Sinzig was then used as a tithe estate.

Road "Aachen-Frankfurter-Heerstraße"

The "Aachen-Frankfurter-Heerstraße" (AFH) is part of the long distance trade route "Via Regia". "Via Regia" connected the North Sea with the Black Sea in the Middle Ages. It is assumed that the road connecting the cities of Aachen, Dueren, and Sinzig was already finished in the 8th Century by Frankish King Pippin III (714-768) and first documented in 973. King Pippin III most likely constructed this road using already existing Roman streets. Kings in the Middle Ages were elected in Frankfurt, but crowned in Aachen. Their travel route between these cities led them across the "Aachen-Frankfurter-Heerstraße". Accordingly, it is also called the Coronation Street, "Krönungsstraße". Frederick I Barbarossa also used this way to travel to his coronation.

Barbarossastraße

The street "Eisenbahn-Straße" (Railroad-street) was renamed to Barbarossastraße on February 12, 1914 – a big step towards acknowledging the historic roots of the town Sinzig.

Castle Sinzig

The couple Gustav Otto Bunge (1821-1891) and Adele Bunge (1828-1899) had the castle built from 1854-1858 for their own use. It was built in neo-Gothic style on the remnants of a medieval water castle that had been destroyed by the French.

The romantic period in Germany and its propensity for big castles and important figures had a strong influence on the choice of the castle location. The Bunges believed that Barbarossa's visits to Sinzig gave the town more importance. Vinzenz Statz, predominantly a church builder, was the architect of the castle. The interior painting of the castle was done by Vinzenz Statz's brother-in-law, Carl Christian Andreae, who painted in the romanticism style referred to as the "Nazarene School". Josef August Lenné designed the castle gardens.



Barbarossa Monument



Family Bunge-Koenig, who were well aware of the bond between Barbarossa and Sinzig, had Cologne sculptor Wilhelm Albermann build a statue of Barbarossa at their summer residence in 1875. Else von Wedderkop, granddaughter of the Bunge couple, willed the monument to Sinzig in 1951 – with the requirement that the town preserve it. A large ceremony took place later that year, with many honored guests, and the Barbarossa statue was moved from its original location besides the castle to Luna Park where it stands today.

St. Peter Parish Church



St. Peter Parish Church was built during the Staufer era. It is one of the most meaningful sacred late Romanesque buildings in the Rhineland. Churches built during the Staufer era share one prominent characteristic; the tower has an octagonal shape. This octagonal feature of all the Staufer churches is a very

helpful one: travelers knew at first sight who was in power. The Pfalz chapel in the Aachen cathedral had integrated the octagonal design in its floorplan and was role model for the churches to follow. However, Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa never visited St. Peter Parish Church in Sinzig. According to historians, construction of this church started in 1125. The church was sanctified on August 15, 1241.

Town hall

This neo-classical building was erected between 1834 and 1837 and used as the mayor's office, district court and school. Records can be found in the council chamber that document the high importance of the "Reichsgut Sinzig" and show the depth of the town's history. Around 140 photographs of Sinzig's most important records are kept in the archives of the museum of local history – they are a valuable addition to the documents in the town hall.

