



18	Bäckerteich (Baker's Pond)	27	Hutberg Stage
19	Pichschuppen	28	Hutberg / Lessing Tower
20	Malzhaus / History of the City	29	Wilhelm Weisse Garden
21	Ponickau House / Museum of West Lusatia	30	Volkspark (Public Park)
22	Krabat Playground	31	Catholic Church
23	Schillerpromenade	i	Kamenz Information
24	Barmherzigkeitsstift	P	Parking
25	Bönisch Mausoleum	H	Bus Stop
26	St. Just Church		Railway Station
			Toilets



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LESSING-TOWN
KAMENZ



CITY TOUR
with map



1	St. Annen Monastery	8	Andreasbrunnen (Andreas Fountain)
2	Lessing House / Lessing Museum	9	Der Mönch (The Monk)
3	Mönchsmauer (Monks' Wall)	10	Feuerhaus (Fire House)
4	Topfhallen (Pot Halls) / Fronfeste (Old Prison)	11	Fleischbänke (Butchers' Stalls)
5	Klostertor (Monastery Gate)	12	Catechism Church
6	Rathaus (Town Hall)	13	St. Marien Church
7	Goldner Hirsch	14	Lessing Memorial
		15	Haus am Anger
		16	The Red Tower
		17	Herrental Memorial

1 ST. ANNEN MONASTERY CHURCH / SACRAL MUSEUM

A Late-Gothic hall church with three naves, which used to be part of the former Kamenz Franciscan monastery. The foundation stone was laid in 1493. Today it is used as both a church and sacral museum. The altars inside are particularly noteworthy.

2 LESSING HOUSE / LESSING MUSEUM

The foundation stone of the Lessing House was laid in 1929 on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. It now houses the Lessing Museum and the City Library.

3 MÖNCHSMAUER (MONKS' WALL)

Part of the former city fortifications, which, in addition to the city wall, included twelve bastion towers and three city gates. Built from granodiorite blocks, it was demolished in 1830 except for a few remnants.

4 TOPFHALLEN (POT HALLS) AND FRONFESTE (OLD PRISON)

The so-called "pot halls", where the five Masters of Kamenz sold their pottery, were constructed after a fire that devastated the city in 1853. Today it houses a restaurant. Opposite is the old prison with its surviving (but disused) prison cells.

5 KLOSTERTOR (MONASTERY GATE)

The Kamenz Franciscan Monastery was located outside of the city. Before 1518, the Order bought a house at the city wall, knocked down a part of the wall and thus established its own private entry to the city.

6 RATHAUS (TOWN HALL)

After the great fire of 1842, the town hall was rebuilt by the Zittau building director Schramm between 1847 and 1848. It is one of the most beautiful town halls built in the first half of the 19th century in Germany. Visitors can admire the atrium inside.

7 GOLDNER HIRSCH

First mentioned in 1550, this is one of the oldest guest houses in the city. It accommodated the Saxon Elector Johann Georg I during the regional parliament in 1621. In 1729, the celebration of the Baptism of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing was held here.

8 ANDREASBRUNNEN (ANDREAS FOUNTAIN)

Donated by Mayor Andreas Günther in 1570, the fountain structure crowns the figure of Justice with sword and scales. It includes the Bohemian coat of arms, the coat of arms of the German Empire and the coat of arms of the city of Kamenz.

**9 DER MÖNCH (THE MONK)**

Before 1797, the gravestone of Hans Wagner, who died in 1504, was attached to the wall of the house, which was popularly known as the "monk". However, the alleged monk's habit of Wagner is merely the robe of a wealthy citizen.

10 FEUERHAUS (FIRE HOUSE)

Town house built in 1708 with an older seat niche portal (around 1680). On the archway at the entrance to the house there is an illustration of the devastating fire that tore through the city in 1707. The citizens of Kamenz briefly referred to the building as the „fire house“.

11 FLEISCHBÄNKE (BUTCHERS' STALLS)

In the Middle Ages, the butchers' consolidated sales counters were called Fleischbänke (butchers' stalls) - according to the original form of the sales counters. The present building was built after the fire of 1842.

12 CATECHISM CHURCH

A chapel was donated in 1358, which was probably the predecessor of today's church. This was then expanded as a bastion. Catechism classes were held here from 1724. Visitors can view valuable decorative painting inside.

13 ST. MARIEN CHURCH

The four-nave St. Marien church is one of the most significant Late-Gothic hall churches in Saxony. Construction of the church began in 1400 and was completed in 1480. The interior boasts rich furnishings with beautiful artwork from the Kamenz painter Andreas Dressler, including the Marien altar (1519), the Michaelis altar (1498) and the pulpit (1564).

14 LESSING MEMORIAL

It was here that the birthplace of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781) burned down in the great fire of 1842. A small memorial was erected in 1863.

15 HAUS AM ANGER

A small passage with an exhibition on Gotthold Ephraim Lessing.

16 THE RED TOWER

A tower of the Pulsnitz gate system (16th century) and formerly part of the city fortification. The three city gates up to the Red Tower were demolished in 1835.

**17 HERRENTAL MEMORIAL**

On 1 November 1944, a subcamp of the Gross-Rosen concentration camp was established in the disused textile mill Gebr. Noske & Co. Within four months it held a total of 1,000 prisoners, many of whom died of exhaustion, were murdered and burned. The memorial opened on 7 July 2011.

18 BÄCKERTEICH (BAKER'S POND)

The pond remained under the ownership of the Baker's Guild until around 1861. It was a popular destination of the citizens of Kamenz. A Cherry Festival with target shooting used to take place here until the 20th century. Opposite is the Schlossberg, on which the Kamenz Palace stood.

19 PICHSCHUPPEN

Numerous fortified towers shaped the appearance of the medieval city fortification, one of which was the so-called Pichschuppen. The building was used by breweries in the late 19th century in order to caulk beer barrels, i.e. to provide the inside of the barrels with pitch.

20 MALZHAUS / HISTORY OF THE CITY

This building was used for the production of malt and is the oldest secular building in the city. Today it hosts an exhibition on the history of the city. Access is via the Museum der Westlausitz/Elementarium.

21 PONICKAU HOUSE / MUSEUM OF WEST LUSATIA

For centuries these buildings were under the ownership of noble families. The last completely preserved facade of a Baroque town house in Kamenz. Since 1961 these buildings have housed the Museum of West Lusatia / Elementarium.

22 KRABAT PLAYGROUND

Adventure playground with wooden figures that depict legends about the Sorbian magician Krabat. The playground was the result of a citizens' initiative and opened in 2006.

23 SCHILLERPROMENADE

The embankment promenade was redesigned and renamed for the 100th anniversary of F. Schiller in 1905. It was donated by "Wasserbassin nebst Fontäne".

24 BARMHERZIGKEITSSTIFT

Built between 1824-1828 as one of the first hospitals in Saxony. From 1950 to 2000 it was used as a district hospital.

**25 BÖNISCH MAUSOLEUM**

Burial place of Johann Gottfried Bönisch (1777-1831), physician and founder of the Barmherzigkeitsstift. He organised the first tribute to Lessing in Kamenz in 1829.

26 ST. JUST CHURCH

This church was first mentioned in 1377 and probably emerged from a small chapel on the via regia. The murals and frescoes inside the church are among the most important works of the visual arts of the 14th and 15th centuries in the Lausitz region.

27 HUTBERG STAGE

An outdoor theatre that was completed in 1936. Today it is an open-air theatre for up to 10,000 visitors and during the summer is a magnet for fans of rock, pop and classical music.

28 HUTBERG WITH LESSING TOWER

Because of the excellent view from the 300-metre-high Hutberg, the Lessing tower was constructed here in 1864. Soon thereafter a small park was established, which attracts many visitors to Hutberg in May/June due to the rhododendron and azalea blossoms. Catering for excursions is available at the summit.

29 WILHELM WEISSE GARDEN

In 1873, Wilhelm Weisse (1846-1916), who in the 19th century was one of the most important conifer growers in Germany, founded a plant nursery and tree nursery on both sides of Poststrasse. These developed into today's Wilhelm Weisse Garden. In 1989, the adjoining residential house (now a hotel), the fountain house, garden and summer house were renovated.

30 VOLKSPARK (PUBLIC PARK)

As with the Wilhelm Weisse Garden, the Volkspark emerged from the ornamental and commercial nursery of Wilhelm Weisse. It was made accessible to the public in 1954 and borders the grounds of the Lessing Museum with its mythical sculptures.

31 CATHOLIC CHURCH

The church is located in the Spittel district of the city, which was suburbanised in 1903. It probably emerged from the chapel of a medieval hospital. The current structure of the church was built after the fire in 1842.

