



monschau touristik

1001 Steps Monschau for mountain goats

2.1 km hike

For this hike you will have to follow the marking "25". It shows Monschau from an unfamiliar side. The slope trails on both sides of the Rur are the ideal complement to the stroll through the old town with its winding alleys and promise an extraordinary experience. There are many lookouts from which you can admire the old town with the river winding through it and the protestant church in its centre (cover picture).

From the parking you first follow the street down the Rur. After crossing the river, you will go up to the Rahmenberg (frame hill). The terraces that were fixated with quarry stones are remainders from the time when Monschau used to be an international centre of the clothier industry. The frames that were used to dry the clothes used to stand here on this hill.

The Haller ruin (2) is one of the prominent buildings of Monschau and is at the same time also the oldest. The residence and defence tower, built before 1130, is the predecessor of the castle.

The walk through Stehlings and Kirchstraße with its historic buildings is very romantic. Many details are waiting to be discovered. The Red House is the biggest and most splendid of the patrician houses. The old city hall with its onion domes, which you could already see from the Haller, cannot be missed (3).

The castle is the highlight of this tour. The majestic Eselsturm (donkey tower) conveys the former strengths of the fortification.

(4) The castle first mentioned in 1198 has been expanded many times by the dukes of Limburg. Its downfall started in 1698 with the conquest by French troupes. The castle became private property in 1805 and deteriorated into a ruin during the 19th century. It became city property in 1899. Thanks to many renovations the castle has regained most of its former majesty and offers the perfect setting for the yearly "Monschau Klassik", an open air classic festival.

The modern nursing home "Maria-Hilf-Stift" hearkens back to a hospital that was opened in 1857 in the outer bailey. The castle is especially liked by the younger guests. Its youth hostel is one of the most frequented ones in all of Germany.

Right behind the castle chapel you will start the descent. The old catholic parish church surprises with its magnificent baroque altar and numerous art treasures. The "Haus im Turm" (house in the tower) at the end of the street "Stadtstraße" is the only building that has survived the destruction of Monschau in 1543 undamaged. After crossing the Rur river you will reach the city park with the Antoniuskapelle (Antonius chapel). From here you will hike up a steep path passing impressive nature sceneries with a wild mountain creek and majestic rocks.

(5) Walking one of the most beautiful panoramic paths of the old town you will reach the "Eifel-Blick" (Eifel lookout) on the Kierberg. The lookout offers a splendid view of the castle and the slate roofs of the old town. (6) An information board points to the most important buildings and their histories. Following the path of the "Eifelsteig" you will descent to the market place. It is one of the most idyllic places in Monschau with its splendid half-timbered houses, the Rur bridge and the clothier fountain.

The historic buildings at the street "Unterer Mühlenberg" are smaller but still spruce. The ordinary people used to live here in the olden days. The descent to the parking offers a last view onto the Rahmenberg (frame hill) and the Haller ruin. The narrow point of the valley is dominated by the majestic building of the Aukloster (monastery). (7)