



7 Opposite you can see the **Juleum** auditorium. The assembly hall of the former university was erected as a palatial Renaissance building between 1592 and 1597. Large windows harmoniously divide up the expanses of wall, and the gables are richly decorated with sculptures, with the four faculties at the top: theology, jurisprudence, medicine and philosophy. The tower with its spiral staircase and angled windows is adorned with the 11-part coat of arms of the Duke. The main entrance nearby bears the university's „Samson and the lion“ coat of arms, and the surrounding figures represent (from left to right) music, grammar, astronomy, arithmetic and geometry – five of the seven liberal arts. Inside, there is an **auditorium** located on the ground floor. The library hall on the upper floor with a beautiful cantilever ceiling contains around 35,000 academic titles. In the cellar you will find the noteworthy **district and university museum** with a large Renaissance fireplace, the former drinking place of the students. The courtyard is flanked by the college buildings. The earlier stair towers, one of which served as a campus prison, bear coats of arms.

8 The route back leads through **Collegienstraße**. House number 7, a farmer's town house with a still recognisable gateway, carries a memorial plaque for Giordano Bruno. The newly built house number 5 offers a good example of a new addition to the old town that is true to its original style.

9 Walking through Georgienstraße takes you to one of the oldest houses inscribed with a date in the old town, **5 Schuhstraße**. The late-Gothic building bears the inscription „Anno 1514, on Monday following Cantate, this house was prepared by Master Claus Lindenberch.“



10 Arriving back at the market square, you will first encounter the somewhat stripped-back **house of the Mayor Cörner**, whose gateway dates to the year 1681. It carries the Latin

inscription (translated): „Nothing inspires temperance in all matters as does the thought of how short life is and how uncertain.“ Our tour concludes with the oldest extant residential and commercial building in our town, located at **7 Markt**. It was constructed in 1491 as a three-storey half-timbered house, above the cellar of a previous building, in which a roof beam dating back to around 1250 was found. The marks on the beams indicate that this house is the last remaining from a terrace of seven on Markt. In 1560, it clearly became too narrow and was extended in the direction of Markt by around two metres. Initially an arcade entrance was developed, which was artfully decorated, in keeping with the spirit of the Renaissance. Around seventy years after the first extension to the house, a further addition was made, and the back of the building was extended another 2.2 metres. Since the original house remained, however, a house within a house emerged.



Beyond the tour

11 In Kybitzstraße you will find another building of particular significance to Helmstedt's old town, **house number 23**. Late medieval structures from the previous building dating back to the 15th century – or perhaps even earlier – can be made out in the cellar area and presumably in the rising, enclosing walls of the bower-type stone building too. In 1576, the year in which Helmstedt's university was founded, there were extensive renovations to and restructuring of the building complex, and the half-timbered structure on the upper storey became the key component of the front building. Of particular importance to the history of this building was undoubtedly the establishment of a philosophy seminary some 200 years later, in which Heinrich Hoffman, born in Fallersleben, was a pupil.



12 In the vicinity of the Juleum is located the **professor's house at 7 Ziegenmarkt**. It was constructed as a stone house in the Renaissance style in around 1630 and underwent extensive renovation in 1977. At its core, the converted late-Go-

thic **St Walpurgis Church** dates back to around 1250; the Chapel of Walpurgis was referred to as early as 1160. The tower and the lower part of the nave remain of this. The route leads via Langer Steinweg to Langer Wall or Schützenwall. The green **ramparts** surround the entire old town, forming part of its old fortifications and serving as a promenade today.

13 Right along Braunschweiger Straße are **St Marienberg's Church and Abbey**. The latter was founded in 1176 as an Augustinian nunnery and then as an evangelical convent. The Romanesque basilica was built from simple hewn stone and was provided with a round arch frieze at its gison. The chancel is Gothic. Only the west entrance is richly decorated with artfully convoluted leafwork and figures, with Christ depicted as a grapevine. The church tower's foundations were designed for two towers, but only a single baroque canopy was added to the frame in the 18th century. To the right and left of the entrance are chapels with frescos from the second half of the 13th century. From the abbey garden, you can access the cloister, the abbey and the **parament workshop**. Here, using old, churchly artistic techniques, fabrics are woven, embroidered and restored. In the **treasury**, the abbey preserves valuable medieval paraments and wall hangings. Opposite the gate to the church you can see the „porter's lodge“ with reused wood from the previous building and inscriptions from 1498.



14 The **Lübbensteine** are the oldest prehistoric memorials in the region and were placed there between 3500 and 3000 BC. The megalithic tombs are located along the B1 in the direction of Braunschweig, west of Helmstedt on St Annenberg. They were places of burial and worship, in which several generations interred their dead.



Tourist Information Office at the City Office

Bürgerbüro • Markt 1 (Holzberg entrance) • 38350 Helmstedt
Tel. 05351 171717 • tourismus@stadt-helmstedt.de

Opening Hours

Mon+Wed+Fri 8.00 AM-Midday
Tue 8.00-Midday + 3.00-6.00 PM
Thur 8.00 AM-4.00 PM
Sat 10.00 AM-12.30 PM



www.stadt-helmstedt.de



HELMSTEDT
Stadt der Einheit

A TOUR OF Helmstedt's Old Town

Town and Lappwald lake tours

Information on regularly occurring town and Lappwald lake tours: www.stadt-helmstedt.de

Helmstedt's watchman

Every first Saturday at midday (April-October) the watchman blows his historical instruments to announce the news of the week from the watch tower.

District and University Museum

Collegienplatz 1 • Tel. 05351 5239723 or 1211132
Tue-Fri 10.00 AM-Midday + 3.00-5.00 PM
Sat+Sun 3.00-5.00 PM
Tours by arrangement: www.helmstedt.de

Helmstedt Zonal Border Museum

Südertor 6 • Tel. 05351 1211133
Tue+Fri 3.00-5.00 PM
Wed 10.00 AM-Midday + 3.00-5.00 PM
Thur 3.00-6.30 PM
Sat+Sun 10.00 AM-5.00 PM
Tours by arrangement: www.helmstedt.de

St Marienberg's Abbey

Klosterstraße 14 • Tel. 05351 6769
Tours with viewings of the church, treasury and parament workshop are possible by arrangement via telephone: www.kloster-marienberg.de

St Ludger's Abbey

Am Ludgerihof 1 • Tel. 05351 58740
Viewing tours by arrangement via telephone: Tel. 05351 171717
www.klosterludgerus.de

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HELMSTEDT

Stadt der Einheit

A Tour of Helmstedt's Old Town

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1 On **Marktplatz** (market square), the old junction, stands the **Town Hall**. This was built between 1904 and 1906 in place of the former town house, in a neo-Gothic style. The fountain on the market square is built from local quartzite. Opposite the fountain is the gateway to the old university church (in use until 1810), now an office building. Above the passage you can see the university's coat of arms „Samson and the lion“. Around the market square you will find town houses with inhabitable gables. On the right-hand side at 2 Papenberg, next to the Ratsapotheke pharmacy, lies the magnificent **court residence** of Duke Julius, built in 1567. It served the Duke's court as a place to stay during visits. In the upper fields of the richly carved facades, you can make out symbols representing the seven liberal arts: rhetoric, geometry, dialectics, arithmetic, music, astronomy and grammar, the subjects of the philosophical faculty. To the right and left of these can be seen the coats of arms of councillors. Between the windows, female forms embody the virtues and vices. Located in the bottom row are the coats of arms of the presiding dukes at the time of construction and senior figures from the church and state, as well as Latin text taken from bible verses. It is the most beautiful half-timbered house in Helmstedt.



2 Via Papenberg and Magdeburger Straße you cross the wall and reach the reconstructed **Turks' Gate**, previously the entrance to **St Ludger's Abbey**, on the other side of the crossroads. On the old Ludgerihof we see the splendid **dovecote**. The monastery building, now a Catholic meeting place, is bedecked with magnificent coats of arms on the outside. Inside lies the „Emperor's Hall“, fitted with superb stucco decorations from the Rococo period. On the right you pass the church, which was restored following a fire during the Second World War. To the left of the gateway are the stairs to the former abbey courtyard



with the famous **double chapel**, which was built in around 1050. It was constructed on Carolingian foundations as a mission chapel with entrances on four sides, three of which can still be seen in the masonry. Below is located the Romanesque St Peter's Chapel, while above is the stuccoed St John's Chapel from 1710. The baroque canopy dates back to the year 1666. The reconstructed abbey buildings were erected after the 30 Years' War. From the abbey courtyard you can access the Romanesque St Felicitas Crypt (11th century) with its massive pillars with diagonal bases and columns with palmette capitals offset to one another. In the vestibule are the remains of a Romanesque gypsum floor with red and black depictions of the seven sages of Greece who are bearing banners. The frame of the sexton's house is filled and augmented with old bricks.

3 Via Ostendorf, the former „serf settlement“, you head back in the direction of the town and past the „Ständerhaus“ or a special half-timbered construction, left up Papenberg, along the town wall to the **St Stephani** church district. Situated high up, this used to function as a „Kaufmannswik“ – a place for trade. On the left-hand side next to the parish hall is the old school, which was founded as a town school as early as 1248. The current structure with Braunschweig's lion was erected in 1681 as a poorhouse. The church, built before 1300 and partially renovated at the beginning of the 15th century, is a late Gothic, three-aisled hall church with an imposing westwork. The planned tower was never built. The church contains a valuable Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance interior as well as important epitaphs from the university period. Opposite stands the Beguinenhaus from 1580 with a carved, fan-shaped frieze in the gable, beneath which is a representation of St Stephen, and council and citizens' coats of arms.



4 Walking along Beguinenstraße takes you to **Holzberg**, a former copse with pools for supplying the town with water. Today it hosts a weekly market and serves as a parking area. Beautiful half-timbered houses can be found here, in particular the semi-detached house at number 17 with a fan-shaped frieze and elaborate carvings on the beams and windows, built between 1561 and 1648. Well-preserved or renovated buildings can be seen on the same side of the street.



5 Through Tiefetal you arrive at **Neumärker Straße**, the town's main shopping street. Number 29 is a splendid half-timbered house with brick infill, bearing numerous Latin inscriptions and a Greek translation between the display windows on the right. Of particular note here are further professors' houses in the area, identified through metal plaques with the names, faculties and terms of office of their residents. The **watchman's tower** marks the western edge of the town. It was first mentioned in writing in 1286 and is the only extant town gate, forming part of the town walls. In it lived Helmstedt's watchman. He was both watchman and town musician. Two journeymen and an apprentice boy were at his side. Now you turn into Bötticherstraße. The dark paving in the middle of the street marks the former „Breiter Stein“, previously the only paved section of street between the gutters. Turning left into Bindegasse it can



6 The **professor's house** at 51 Bötticherstraße features a passageway for coaches or sedan chairs. Inside on the right-hand side is the entrance to the former lecture room. The professors gave lectures in their houses. Next to the exit into the courtyard, a stone spiral staircase leads to the living quarters. The students often lived in the houses of their professors. In front of the local court stands the „**Column of Justice**“ from 1985.