

Karden is located 40 km away from Koblenz at the lower course of the Moselle. Without any doubt Karden deserves its reputation as the most important site between Koblenz and Trier with regard to culture and history.

At first glance the visitor is struck by the view of the imposing building of St. Castor, the ancient collegiate church which is still dominating the village centre.

The museum building itself represents a historical monument. It was built in 1238 as a part of the collegiate district. In former times it was mainly used as a tithe barn. This was the place to store the goods which the collegiate received as contributions from their parishes.

The windows of the upper floors are particularly remarkable. Arch windows alternate with clover and round arches that have been restored to their original state of splendid colours.



Stiftsmuseum, Kernstraße; Entrance via St. Castor-Str.

The collegiate museum displays items illustrating the importance of Karden going back thousands of years. In the past Karden used to be the religious centre of the archdiocese of Trier.

Celtic-Roman Division

In the first century before Christ, in the Celtic time, there was a sanctuary on the Martberg situated between Pommern and Karden, where the Celtic tribe of the Treverer worshipped their main god Lenus. In Roman times a large temple district was established there. A great number of pilgrims flocked to the Martberg in the hope of being relieved from their illnesses. At the site of the present village of Karden the Romans had established the street village Cardena. In a large pottery district goods were manufactured which the believers, according to their religious faith, dedicated to their god as votive offerings.

The Collegiate Church St. Castor

The religious importance and function of Karden even survived the transition to Christianity and the changes involved with the new religious ideas. In the 4th century Saint Castor lived and worked there. He contributed largely to the establishment of this pilgrimage place.

Since the late 9th century Karden has been the seat of one of five administration districts belonging to the archdiocese of Trier. The collegiate church of Karden had been existing for almost 1000 years when it was abolished by Napoleon in 1802. The head of the collegiate at Karden was simultaneously the canonical bishop of a district that stretched from Andernach to Bacharach in the east and from Wittlich to Traben-Trarbach in the west. At the end of the 18th century 10 courts and 53 towns and villages had to pay the tithe to the collegiate.

Sacral art in Karden

The sacral room with its solemn atmosphere on the second floor forms an attractive background to the presentation of sacral art objects from the areas surrounding the collegiate of Karden.

Liturgical vestments and equipment as well as precious medieval manuscripts are exposed there.

Gallo roman temple on Martberg

collegiate district with collegiate museum



Entrance fees:

Adults € 3.00; seniors € 2.00
 Children (6-17 years), pupils and students € 1.50
 Family ticket (2 adults and at least 1 child) € 6.50
 School classes € 25.00 (flat rate)
 Adults in parties of at least 10 people € 2.00

Guided tours (all-year round by appointment):

Collegiate museum: € 31.00 (in add. to the entrance fee)

Collegiate museum and the collegiate church St. Castor: € 36.00 (in add. to the entrance fee)

Information and booking of a guided tour:

Tourist-Information Treis-Karden
 St. Castor-Str. 87, 56253 Treis-Karden, OT Karden
 Tel. 0 26 72 - 915 77 00, Fax 0 26 72 - 915 76 96
touristinfo@vgcochem.de, www.treis-karden.de

Collegiate museum Treis-Karden



Opening hours

May - end of October
 Friday, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
 3.00 pm - 17.30 pm

For parties outside opening hours and guided tours
 By appointment.



Martberg hill, about 180 metres above the river Moselle between Pommern and Karden, was the location of a fortified town-like Celtic settlement. The centre of the settlement, known as an *oppidum* by the Romans, became the site of a Gallo-Roman temple, a visible reminder of the tumultuous history of the Celts and the Romans in the Moselle region. This temple was a shrine to Lenus Mars, the Roman god after whom Martberg hill was named.

In its heyday, around 200 AD, this ritual site was home to numerous temples. Thanks to many years of excavation, parts of the temple complex have now been restored. Guided tours of the complex and the main temple with its wall paintings are available throughout the year.

Archaeological finds – including weapons, jewellery and thousands of Celtic and Roman coins – provide an insight into the ritual activities that took place some 2,000 years ago. Individual items are on display in the Museum of Religious History in Karden.

Numerous information boards are found in the temple complex and along the Lenus-Mars-Trail. They tell you all about the reconstructions and archaeological research of the Celtic oppidum and the fortifications.

You can learn all about the excavation site and the archaeological finds in an exhibition in the Bürgerhaus 'Am Spilles' and on the Internet on www.martberg-pommern.de.

Entrance fees:

Visit to the main temple with interior painting during opening hours with visitor info.

2 € per person (children up to 12 years free)

Guided tours (all year round by appointment):

Gallo-Roman temple Martberg: € 31.00 (price up to 25 persons, plus € 1.00 per additional person)

Gallo-Roman temple Martberg and the collegiate

museum: € 60.00 (price for up to 25 persons) plus € 1.00 each other person, plus € 2.00 entrance fee per person for the museum

Information and booking of a guided tour:

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Martberg-Café

The Martberg-Café offers (during the opening hours of the main temple) delicious coffee, homemade cakes and regional wine.

Arrival

Starting from Pommern there is a road leading to the Martberg. When you follow the signs you will easily find the parking area next to the top.

Hiking tip: Hike via the Moselsteig / Lenus-Mars Weg to the temple complex!

Via the Lenus Mars Trail, part of the Moselsteig stage from Cochem to Treis-Karden, you will need 45 minutes from Pommern and 1 hour from Karden.

Text: Dr. Morgenroth, D. Rumpfenhorst, TI Treis-Karden
Fotos: TI Treis-Karden

Gallo-Roman temple on Martberg Pommern/Mosel



**The temple complex Martberg is open
to the public all day**

Opening hours main temple

May - end of Oktober

Saturday, Sunday & public holidays: 11.00 am - 05.00 pm.

Guided tours all year round by appointment.