

# WILLIAM TURNER ROUTE



## THE TURNER ROUTE AT A GLANCE

A picturesque journey  
through the Upper Middle  
Rhine Valley World  
Heritage site.



Welterbe  
Oberes Mittelrheintal  
Zweckverband



Dear visitors,

the paintings of the British artist William Turner are fascinating. Among the works on display in the world's great museums are those that Turner created during his visits to the Rhine in the 19th century. These impressive pieces reflect special moments in European cultural history. They depict the Middle Rhine as a landscape that profoundly inspired Turner.

The interplay of colour and light in the Middle Rhine Valley is just as captivating today as it was nearly 200 years ago – ethereal and almost impossible to describe in words. It is this unparalleled atmosphere that makes our Middle Rhine Valley so unique. Turner transformed the powerful impressions he absorbed here into fascinating works of art, something for which we can be very grateful today. We are delighted to be able to show you these views and vantage points. On the following pages we would like to introduce 26 selected painting locations. Enjoy these views and prospects of our Middle Rhine Valley and set off in the footsteps of William Turner!

Volker Boch

#### **Volker Boch**

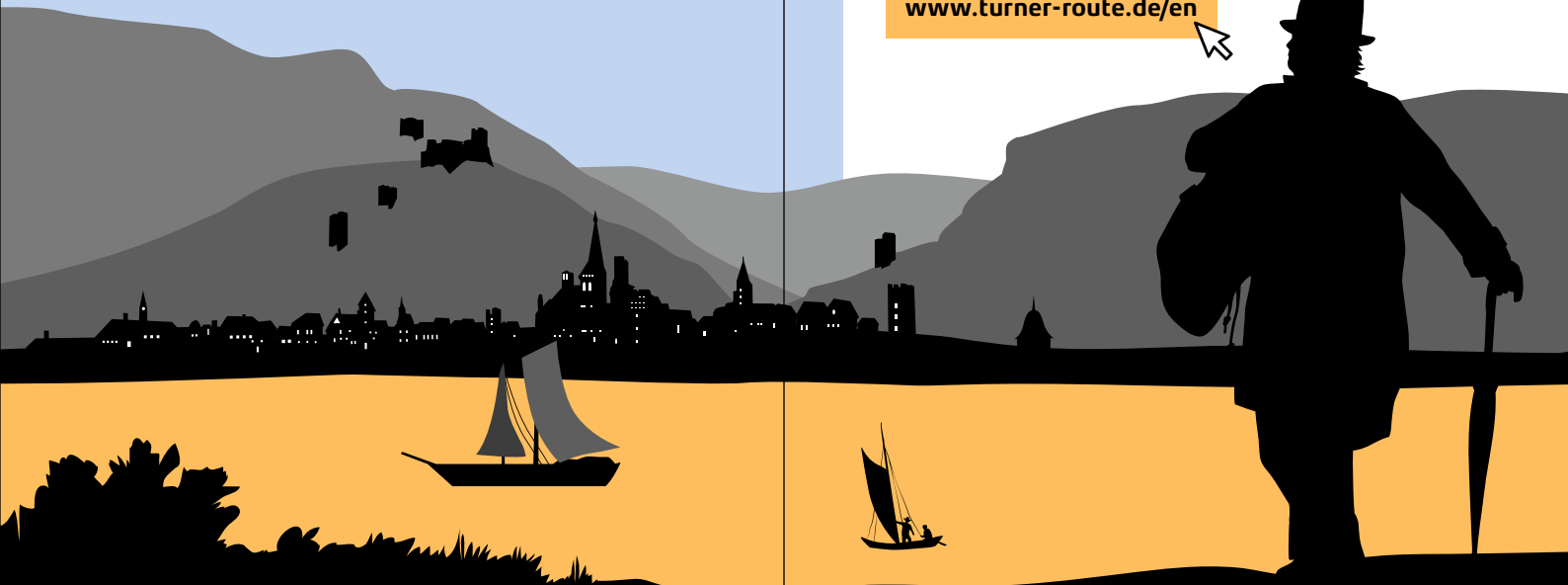
Head of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Association,  
Chief Executive of the Rhine-Hunsrück District Authority

# Experience Turner!

The British painter Joseph Mallord William Turner is considered one of the fathers of Rhine Romanticism. He was fascinated by the majesty of the natural landscape, the ancient ruins and the vine-clad slopes of the Rhine. Turner's keen powers of observation and his extraordinary feeling for movement and the play of light have endowed us with numerous watercolours, based on the countless sketches he made on his first trip to the Rhine in 1817. It was not the mere reproduction of reality he was seeking to convey, but the atmosphere as a whole, the depiction of light and colour. He used exaggerated proportions to dramatize the scene or created collages combining several different perspectives. Now, 200 years later, visitors can experience his painting locations. 26 sites along the 67km stretch of river between Koblenz and Bingen mark important waypoints on Turner's journey through the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. Walk-on info plaques and interactive storytelling via a dedicated website invite the visitor to enter the artist's world.

Follow the trail of the artist and discover his fascinating view of the Middle Rhine Valley – directly on site or online at:

[www.turner-route.de/en](http://www.turner-route.de/en)



# Step into in the artist's footprints


The on-site installations consist of circular bronze plaques marking Turner's »standpoint« 200 years ago, each indicating the work that originated there. Sunken footprints indicate the line of vision, inviting you to take up the artist's perspective and literally »stand where he stood«. Turner recorded the landscape in detailed sketches, which he used to create magnificent paintings back at his London studio.

Here by the banks of the Rhine, you, too, are invited to pause for a moment to take in this fascinating landscape with its very special atmosphere. At each site, simply scan the QR-code to directly access the website and the painting. There you'll find further information, Turner's sketches as well as background facts related to his visit to the Rhine. Why not try it out?




## How to get to the painting location


1



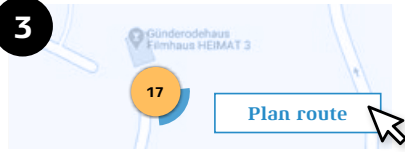
turner-route.de/en/s17

Use the **QR Code** or enter the URL/site number (e. g. .../en/s17) to access the detailed view of the work and further information. The map view  digitally links the real location with Google Maps. You can find more tips on how to get to the individual sites in this brochure.

2



3




Plan route


GPS coordinates (Decimal degrees)

Plus Code (Google Maps)

**Please note:** Not all sites have a ground plaque yet. The colour coding will help you in your search. Over the course of the next few years, further plaques will be installed at the sites.



Installation complete



Installation planned

Site not marked







## 01 EHRENBREITSTEIN, NEAR KOBLENZ



When Turner stays at Koblenz from 21st to 23rd August 1817, he is so fascinated by Ehrenbreitstein Fortress that he makes several sketches of it from various different viewpoints. On subsequent journeys (between 1839 and 1844) he returns to the city at »Deutsches Eck«, never tiring of the subject of the lofty fortress. In this work he gazes across the river from the left bank (in Koblenz) to the opposite bank of the Rhine. The fortress can be faintly made out in the contour of the hillside, the rocks and fortress appearing to form a single entity. In the foreground the painting depicts the pontoon bridge – completed in 1819, it connected both riverbanks until its destruction in 1945. Today Ehrenbreitstein Fortress is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is open to the public.

Watercolour sketch, 1841

Medium: watercolour on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 242 x 302 mm

Collection: Tate Collection; Acquisition accepted

by the nation as part of the Turner Bequest 1856

Reference: D36177;

Turner Bequest CCCLXIV 319

**TIP**  
Take the cable car for a quick and comfortable ride to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress – and enjoy breathtaking views of Deutsches Eck on your way up.



(DG) 50.358270, 7.604654  
9J53+8V2 Koblenz

**Address:** Konrad Adenauer Ufer  
(Rhine riverbank), Koblenz

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the viewing platform upstream of the gauge tower

**Public Transport:** »Koblenz Stadtmitte« railway station: approx. 15 min. walk

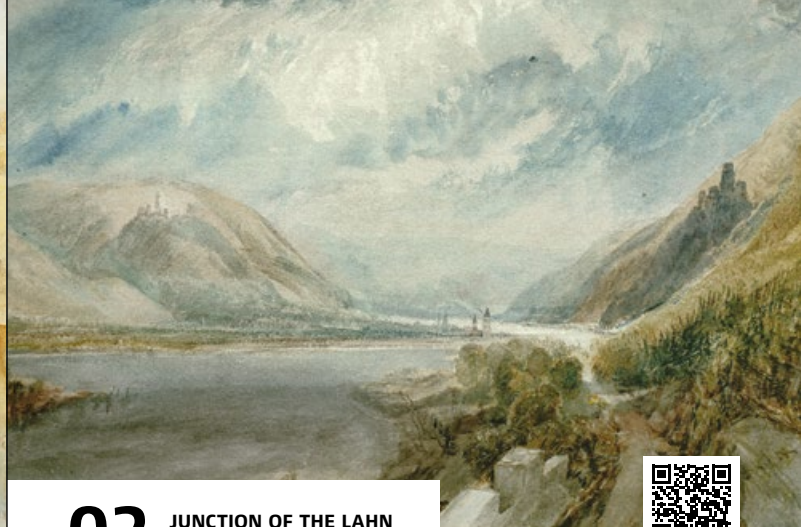
**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available at Görresplatz or at the Schloss

Planned for autumn 2025



01



## 02 JUNCTION OF THE LAHN AND THE RHINE



On 23rd August 1817 Turner leaves Koblenz and walks upstream along the left bank of the Rhine. Shortly before reaching Stolzenfels Castle he stops to make the sketch for this watercolour. The painting shows the town of Lahnstein and Lahneck Castle on the opposite bank of the Rhine. The confluence of the Lahn, located near the center of the scene, can only be vaguely recognized. On the right of the picture the dark silhouette of Stolzenfels Castle rises against the hillside. The branch of the Rhine depicted in the foreground has been drained and is no longer visible today. Only a few hundred metres further on, Turner takes the ferry across to Lahnstein. Today Stolzenfels Castle is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is open to the public.

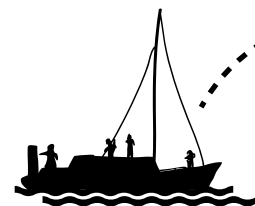
Watercolour, 1817

Medium: graphite, watercolour on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 196 x 314 mm

Collection: private collection

Reference: TW1870; Wilton 655



**TIP**  
Stolzenfels Castle features a truly magical palace garden.



(DG) 50.322422, 7.587062  
8HCP+XR7 Koblenz

**Address:** An der Königsbach, Koblenz

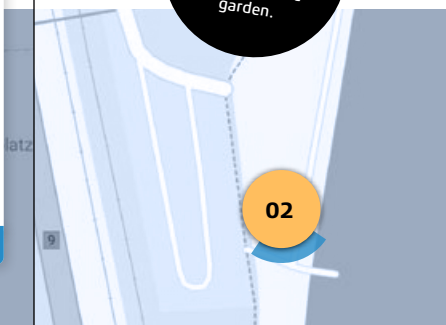
**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the Rhine riverbank, near the former pontoon landing just upstream of the beer garden

**Public Transport:** »Koblenz Königsbach« bus stop: approx. 5 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available in the immediate vicinity

Planned for autumn 2025



02



## 03 LAHNSTEIN



Once Turner has crossed the Rhine to Lahnstein from the left bank he makes another sketch of Stolzenfels Castle looking upstream. The foreground shows a tranquil scene offering the viewer a glimpse of life on the river. Apart from natural landscapes, Turner was also particularly fascinated by scenes from everyday life. The middle ground is dominated by the Martinsburg, built in around 1300, with its imposing hexagonal tower and ornate decorative »Lombard band« with pointed arches. Stolzenfels Castle is visible in the background, along with the parish church of St. Martin. This is one of the few paintings with rich architectural content and numerous details, which served as a finished template for engravers. Today the Martinsburg is privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Stolzenfels Castle is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is open to the public.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on white paper

Dimensions: 198 x 316 mm

Collection: The British Museum, Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0408; Wilton 654

**TIP**  
At Lahnstein  
you mustn't miss  
Lahneck Castle, the  
Martinschloss or the  
old Rathaus.



(DG) 50.296872, 7.605962  
7JW4+P9W Lahnstein

**Address:** Schlosspark Martinsburg,  
Lahnstein

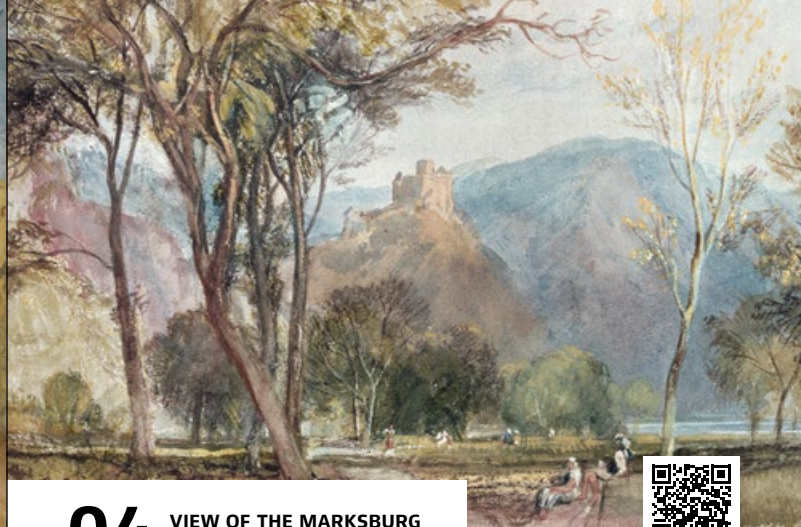
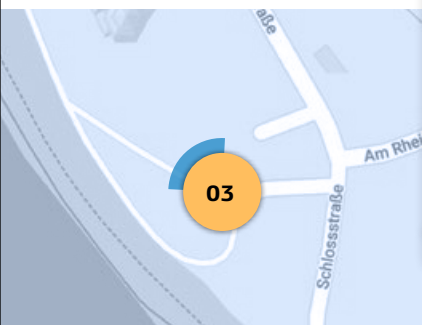
**Site:** The Turner plaque is  
located within the gardens of  
Martinsburg Castle

**Public Transport:** »Oberlahnstein«  
railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route –  
slight detour of approx. 1 min.

**Parking:** Parking available in the  
immediate vicinity

Installation complete



## 04 VIEW OF THE MARKSBURG



Approaching Braubach from Lahnstein, Turner is greeted by this wonderful view of the Marksburg shortly before reaching the town. Turner looked up from the riverbank to the hilltop and captured the view in several sketches. The watercolour itself wasn't painted until 1820 – three years after his visit. In the centre of the painting we see the Marksburg, framed by mighty rocks and verdant trees. The foreground shows people resting, whilst the river is only vaguely perceptible. Today Marksburg Castle is owned by the Deutsche Burgenvereinigung (German Castles Association) and is open to the public.

Watercolour, 1820

Medium: watercolour on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 291 x 458 mm

Collection: The British Museum, Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0416; Wilton 692

**HIKING**  
The Rheinsteig  
hiking trail is approx.  
10 min. away.

**TIP**  
Discover the Marksburg  
– the only medieval hilltop  
castle in the Middle Rhine  
Valley to have survived  
intact.



(DG) 50.274071, 7.639999  
7JFQ+JXH Braubach

**Address:** Am Campingplatz, Braubach

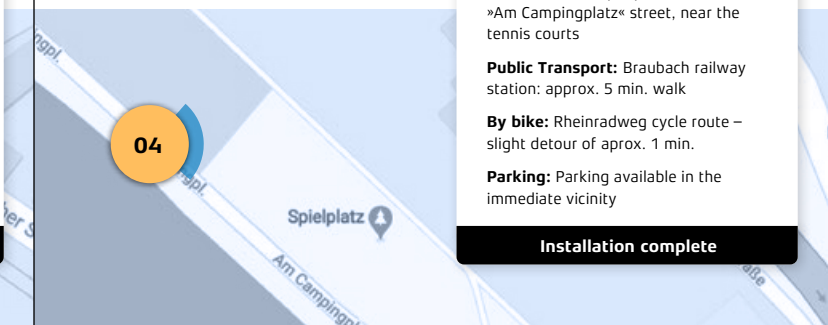
**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on  
»Am Campingplatz« street, near the  
tennis courts

**Public Transport:** Braubach railway  
station: approx. 5 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route –  
slight detour of approx. 1 min.

**Parking:** Parking available in the  
immediate vicinity

Installation complete







## 05 LOOKING TOWARDS OSTERSPAI AND FILSEN



On this day, Turner takes the ferry back across the Rhine and walks as far as St. Goar. Just before he reaches the town of Boppard he looks back at the sweeping bend in the Rhine. The play of light with the rainbow makes this watercolour one of the most charming depictions amongst his series of Middle Rhine views. This watercolour (along with 35 other views) was originally intended for the publisher W.B. Cooke, who subsequently decided against the project. This did not prevent Turner from working up the sketches into watercolours nonetheless.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on paper

Dimensions: 217 x 327 mm

Collection: Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University; 1972.59, Purchased with funds given by Josephine Grant McCreery in memory of her parents, Joseph and Edith Grant; Turner Worldwide Reference: TW1310; Wilton 674

**TIP**  
Bopparder Hamm Riesling. They have been growing wine here on the Rhine's largest horseshoe bend since the 7th century.



(DG) 50.251176, 7.591839  
7H2R+FP6 Boppard

**Address:** Petermacher Weg, Boppard

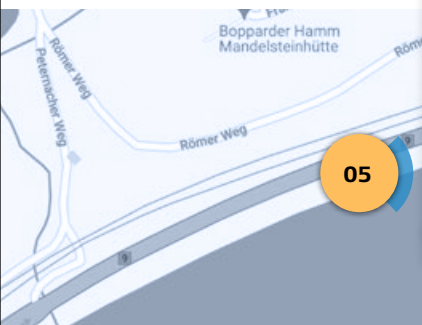
**Site:** The Turner plaque is located in a small bulge of the Rheinradweg cycle route – downstream from the bus stop

**Public Transport:** »Bopparder Hamm« bus stop: approx. 1 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available in the Petermacher Tal

Installation complete



05



## 06 BOPPARD



From the riverbank at Boppard Turner produces quick sketches of the day-to-day work of people on the river. With great enthusiasm the artist captures characteristic features of the town wall and records his impressions of the picturesque buildings. In this watercolour, a sturdy town tower and the adjacent wall provide the backdrop for the bustling activity around a boat that is anchored there. In the background we see the »twin towers« of the Church of St. Severus. This painting is an impressive example of how Turner combines different perspectives (river scene and town view).

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour and gouache with pencil

Dimensions: 200 x 318 mm

Collection: Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

**TIP**  
The Rhineside promenade is perfect for a stroll and the Electoral Castle and museum are also worth visiting.



(DG) 50.232392, 7.597741  
6HJX+X3 Boppard

**Address:** Junction of Rheinallee and Michael-Bach-Strasse, Boppard

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located at the entrance to the riverside park (Rheinanlagen)

**Public Transport:** Boppard railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available in the immediate vicinity

Installation complete

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail and »Marienberg« circular trail are approx. 10 min. away.

06





## 07 THE »HOSTILE BROTHERS«



Turner places the »Hostile Brothers« – the castles of Sterrenberg and Liebenstein – on an unnaturally high mountain ridge. In reality the slopes, as seen from the riverbank in Bad Salzbig, appear considerably lower. The light conditions depicted here may well come very close to the actual atmosphere at the time. Coming from Boppard, he looks back in order to capture this perspective. Turner, too, would probably have been familiar with the legend of the two brothers who, due to their profound mutual hatred, erected a »wall of discord« between their castles, producing this unique architectural constellation. Today Castle Sterrenberg is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is used as a restaurant. Castle Liebenstein is privately owned and accommodates a hotel and restaurant.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on washed paper

Dimensions: 212 x 327 mm

Collection: The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0089; Wilton 651

### HIKING

The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail and »Fünfseenblick« circular trail are approx. 15 min. away.

### TIP

If you're looking for somewhere to rest and unwind, Bad Salzbig's Kurpark is highly recommended – a green oasis in a side valley of the Rhine.



(DG) 50.204678, 7.637653  
6J3Q+V3 Boppard

**Address:** Rhine riverbank, Bad Salzbig

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the Rhine riverbank near the southern B9 underpass

**Public Transport:** Bad Salzbig railway station: approx. 5 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available on the other side of the B9

Installation complete

07



## 08 HIRZENACH



This viewpoint can be located upstream of Hirzenach, looking in the direction of Boppard-Hirzenach. The small village is not visible in the painting. Turner exaggerated the height of the Rhine hillsides to dramatize the everyday scene of fishermen on and by the river. This tendency can be seen in many of his works. Turner's supporter John Ruskin often referred to the fact that Turner was concerned not with producing an exact reproduction of reality, but with depicting specific light and colour phenomena.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 210 x 325 mm

Collection: The British Museum; Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0412; Wilton 681

### HIKING

You can reach the RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail and »Rheingold« circular trail via an access route through Hirzenach in approx. 20 min.

### TIP

The baroque Propsteigarten in Hirzenach was created in the 18th century. Today it is part of the »Route der Welteerbe-Gärten«.



(DG) 50.172825, 7.658272  
5MF5+48 Boppard

**Address:** Rheinradweg cycle path, Hirzenach

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located at the southern end of the quay wall

**Public Transport:** Hirzenach railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Near Hirzenach railway station – walk from there

Site not marked

08



## 09 CASTLE MAUS



The watercolour shows Castle Maus and the church at Wellmich. The motif is dominated by high cliffs, the colours of which appear to merge with those of the river. Turner devotes most of his attention to the castle, leaving all other elements silhouette-like and sketchy. On his later visits to the Rhine he continued to sketch the castle again and again from a variety of different perspectives. Today Castle Maus is privately owned and can only be visited on special guided tours.

Watercolour sketch, 1817

Medium: watercolour with pencil on washed paper

Dimensions: 183 x 242 mm

Collection: National Gallery of Ireland

**HIKING**  
You can reach the RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail via an access route through Fellen in approx. 20 min.



(DG) 50.165611, 7.698083  
5M8X+66 St. Goar

**Address:** Rheinradweg cycle path, St. Goar Fellen

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located at the southern end of Hunt harbour in the immediate vicinity of the Rh(ein-Blick installation

**Public Transport:** »St. Goar Fellen« bus stop: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available in the immediate vicinity

Installation complete

09

## 10 CASTLE RHEINFELS



Just outside the town of St. Goar this view of the Rhine Valley opens up, with St. Goarshausen and Castle Katz in the background. Turner, however, chooses not to use the view of Castle Rheinfels as seen from this position. He combines it with a second perspective, which is revealed at the Gründelbach Valley in the direction of Werlau. He makes the valley narrower and extends the Rhine hillsides upwards. In the foreground Turner adds a few ruins to complete the picture. Castle Rheinfels is a recurring motif in Turner's tours and sketches of the Rhine. Today Castle Rheinfels accommodates a hotel and restaurant. The ruins are open to the public.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on washed paper with scratching out

Dimensions: 190 x 311 mm

Collection: Yale Center for British Arts, Paul Mellon Collection

Reference: Wilton 650

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail is approx. 10 min. away.



(DG) 50.154424, 7.709181  
5P35+QM St. Goar

**Address:** William Turner Platz, St. Goar

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located at William Turner Platz at the southern end of the St. Goar town harbour

**Public Transport:** St. Goar railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Short detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 2 min.

**Parking:** Parking available at the site

Installation complete

10

## 11 CASTLE RHEINFELS, VIEW OVER ST. GOAR

On the morning of Sunday 24th August 1817 Turner takes a look around St. Goar. From the hill of Castle Rheinfels he sketches the town below. Castle Katz can be discerned on the opposite bank of the Rhine. Other watercolour sketches preceded the completion of this work. As he demonstrates in many of his works, Turner explores the effects of light in great depth (here in the form of sunlight). Commenting on this watercolour, the art critic John Ruskin notes that what Turner is aiming for here »is the almost instantaneous record of an effect of colour or atmosphere«. Decades later these effects would become the hallmarks of Impressionism.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour with pencil on cardboard-like paper

Dimensions: 195 x 313 mm

Collection: private collection

Reference: TW1546; Wilton 677

### HIKING

The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail is approx. 2 min. away.

### TIP

Castle Rheinfels is the largest ruined castle in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley and is open to the public.



(DG) 50.153556, 7.706194  
5P34+CF St. Goar

**Address:** Schlossberg, St. Goar

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the small terrace (Alexander Platz) below Castle Rheinfels

**Public Transport:** St. Goar railway station: approx. 15 min. walk

**By bike:** longish detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route with steep uphill slope to the castle: depending on fitness level and/or (e-) bike: 10–20 min.

**Parking:** Paid parking available in the castle's signposted car park

Installation complete

## 12 VIEW OF CASTLE RHEINFELS FROM CASTLE KATZ

The main body of the painting is taken up by rocky crags and walls – an outlandish and striking compositional choice. The viewer's gaze is drawn downstream to the brightly illuminated valley and Castle Rheinfels. The ruins of Castle Katz in the middle of the picture, which do not exist in this form, are another striking feature. Here Turner has placed a lone figure standing in an archway, in order to emphasize the proportions of the picture. The scene appears almost monochromatic with only a few yellow and brown hues. Today Castle Katz is privately owned and is not open to the public.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour and gouache on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 190 x 311 mm

Collection: private collection

Reference: Wilton 649

### HIKING

The Turner plaque is located on the Rheinsteig hiking trail.

### TIP

The recently redesigned culture and landscape park on the Loreley is accessible on foot via the Rheinsteig hiking trail.



(DG) 50.152116, 7.723229  
5P2F+R7 St. Goarshausen

**Address:** on the footpath between St. Goarshausen and Castle Katz

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the footpath between St. Goarshausen and Castle Katz and is only accessible on foot

**Public Transport:** St. Goarshausen railway station: approx. 15 min., bus and ferry: approx 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Bikes must be left at the beginning of the footpath. Approx. 5 min. walk from there

**Parking:** Parking available in St. Goarshausen – walk from there

Installation complete

11

12





## 13 CASTLE KATZ AND ST. GOARSHAUSEN



On Monday 25th August 1817 Turner continues on his journey towards Mainz. Turner captures this view whilst walking along the towpath, not far from St. Goar. The composition centres on Castle Katz above the little town of St. Goarshausen. In the foreground we see several barge-horses. At this time boats were still towed upstream using »horse power«. Paintings from the late 1830s show how this form of traction was gradually replaced by steam ships. The rich colours that Turner chose for this scene, both in the lighter and the darker areas, are particularly striking. Today Castle Katz is privately owned and is not open to the public.

*Watercolour, 1817*

*Medium: watercolour and gouache with scratching out on washed paper*

*Dimensions: 196 x 307 mm*

*Collection: Courtauld Institute Gallery, London;*

*Turner Worldwide*

*Reference: TW0495; Wilton 645*

### TIP

Ground plaques #13 and #14 are both located at the same site. They show Turner's views of the Rhine Valley from different perspectives and the works that resulted.



(DG) 50.140800, 7.723062  
4PRF+86 St. Goar

**Address:** Rhine footpath, St. Goar – An der Loreley

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located next to the Rhine footpath

**Public Transport:** »Loreleyblick« bus stop, St. Goar: approx. 15 min. walk

**By bike:** Unfortunately, cycling is not permitted on the Rhine footpath

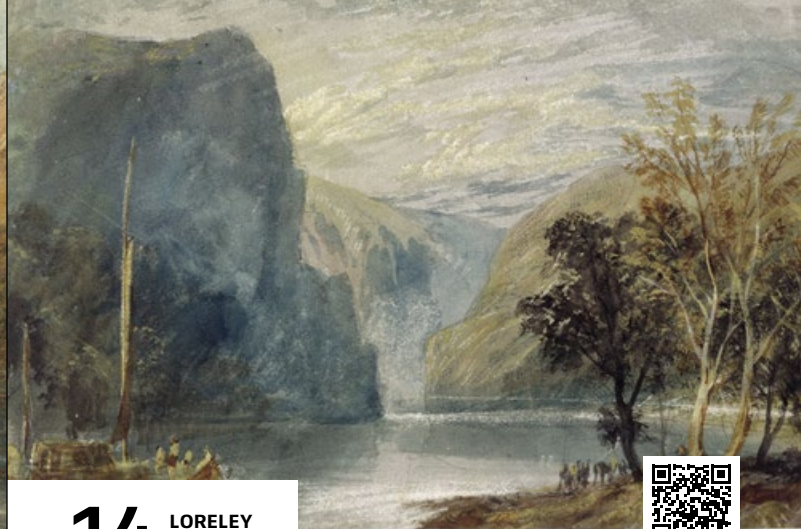
**Parking:** Parking available near the town's southern entrance. Approx. 5 min. walk from there

Installation complete

13

14

Gästehaus Loreleyblick



## 14 LORELEY



Coming from the direction of St. Goar, we encounter this view of the Loreley rock. Turner painted the legendary rock formation from seven different positions and left behind a considerably larger number of sketches of this exceptional landmark. Two more works originated only a few hundred metres from this point in the direction of Oberwesel. Once again, in this watercolour we see Turner's tendency to dramatize the landscape. He makes the mountains more impressive by portraying them as higher and more rugged than they really are.

*Watercolour, 1817*

*Medium: watercolour and gouache on grey-washed paper*

*Dimensions: 202 x 312 mm*

*Collection: Leeds Museums and Galleries,*

*UK/Bridgeman Images; UK Turner Worldwide*

*Reference: TW0318; Wilton 648*

### TIP

From here you have a wonderful, unobstructed view of the Loreley rock opposite.



(DG) 50.14079, 7.72306  
4PRF+86 St. Goar

**Address:** Rhine footpath, St. Goar – An der Loreley

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located next to the Rhine footpath

**Public Transport:** »Loreleyblick« bus stop, St. Goar: approx. 15 min. walk

**By bike:** Unfortunately, cycling is not permitted on the Rhine footpath

**Parking:** Parking available near the town's southern entrance. Approx. 5 min. walk from there

Installation complete

13

14

Gästehaus Loreleyblick

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail can be reached in approx. 20 min. via an access route.



## 15 LORELEY

Turner sketches this other view looking towards the Loreley and Castle Katz. The watercolour is considered the most interesting of Turner's seven depictions of the Loreley. The dark cliff casts its shadow on the salmon fishers, thus symbolizing the danger emanating from the fabled Loreley rock. In the background we catch a glimpse of the safe harbour at St. Goarshausen, illuminated through the clouds by the last rays of the sinking sun. The suggestion of St. Goarshausen and Castle Katz in the background give the watercolour marvellous depth.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour on washed paper

Dimensions: 197 x 309 mm

Collection: The British Museum; Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0414; Wilton 684

### TIP

For a long time, the section of the river at the Loreley was one of the most treacherous passages on the Rhine. But nowadays you can enjoy it safely on one of the many tour boats.



(DG) 50.136998, 7.727315  
4PPG+QW Urbar

**Address:** Rhine footpath, St. Goar – An der Loreley

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located next to the southern end of the Rhine footpath

**Public Transport:** »Loreleyblick« bus stop, St. Goar: approx. 9 min. walk

**By bike:** In the direct vicinity of the Rhine cycle route – right at the foot of the small ramp leading to the footpath along the Rhine

**Parking:** Parking available near the town's southern entrance. Approx. 1 min. walk from there

Installation complete

## 16 LORELEY

The watercolour shows the Lorelei rock again from a different perspective. This time Turner looks downstream in the direction of St. Goar and shows only part of the Lorelei rock. By doing so, Turner leaves it to the viewer to imagine the true scale and grandeur of the Loreley – an artistic device that he used many times in his works. On the left of the painting we see the towpath with several people on it. This is the same path Turner walks along to reach Bingen. On the right bank of the Rhine travellers were forced to take the route over the hills.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour and gouache on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 191 x 302 mm

Collection: private collection

Reference: Wilton 685

### HIKING

The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail can be reached in approx. 20 min. via an access route.

### BEWARE!

There is very little space on the cycle path. Please be careful!



(DG) 50.136298, 7.730161  
4PPJ+G3 Urbar

**Address:** Cycle path along the Rhine, to the south of St. Goar – An der Loreley

**Site:** Turner's painting site is not yet marked

**Public Transport:** »Loreleyblick« bus stop, St. Goar: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available near the town's southern entrance. Approx. 2 min. walk from there

Site not marked



## 17 VIEW OF OBERWESEL



This watercolour combines at least four different perspectives. Turner assembled them to form a single painting using his sketches for reference. The main view of the Rhine Valley originates from an elevated location, from the direction of Urbar. The view of the ruined tower behind the trees and parts of the foreground also depict impressions that Turner sketched while walking towards Urbar. The »Ox Tower« was inserted into the picture as a separate element. According to this view, the tower would have been over 100 metres high. Turner made these adjustments for reasons of compositional harmony. The work became widely known in 2007 when it was put up for auction at Sotheby's for just under 4 million Euros. This is an unusually large-format watercolour in which the brush strokes of vibrant yellow and red convey shimmering heat.

Watercolour, circa 1840

Medium: watercolour and gouache with pencil on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 354 x 533 mm

Collection: private collection

Reference: TW1802; Wilton 1380

**TIP**  
The »Günderodehaus« offers one of the most stunning views of Oberwesel.



(DG) 50.115444, 7.716472  
4P88+5H Oberwesel

**Address:** Siebenjungfrauenblick, Oberwesel

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the terrace in front of the Günderodehaus

**Public Transport:** Oberwesel railway station: approx. 30 min. walk

**By bike:** Longish detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route with steep uphill slope to the Günderodehaus: depending on fitness level and/or (e-) bike: 15–30 min.

**Parking:** Limited parking in the direct vicinity of the Günderodehaus

Installation complete

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail is approx. 15 min. away.

Günderodehaus  
Filmhaus HEIMAT 3

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## 18 CASTLE PFALZGRAFENSTEIN NEAR KAUB



This view of the »Pfalz at Kaub« didn't present itself to Turner until he was on his return journey from Mainz to Cologne on 27th August 1817. From on board ship he sketched the former toll castle on its small island in the river with Castle Gutenfels on the hill to the right. The numerous drawings that Turner made on his journey, including those completed whilst walking, document his fascination with this extraordinary building. In this work he combines several pencil drawings to form a pleasing overall composition. This is one of the few castles in the Middle Rhine Valley that was not destroyed by Napoleon's troops. Today Pfalzgrafenstein Castle is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is open to the public.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour and gouache on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 190 x 305 mm

Collection: privately owned

Reference: Witon 643

**TIP**  
Like a giant stone ship, Pfalz Grafenstein Castle sits on a small island in the Rhine. You can take a ferry from Kaub and visit the castle.

**HIKING**  
The Rheinsteig hiking trail is approx. 2 min. away.



(DG) 50.083546, 7.767751  
3QM9+C4 Kaub

**Address:** Rheinradweg cycle route near the railway station

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located in a small bay on the Rheinradweg cycle route near the railway station

**Public Transport:** Kaub railway station: approx. 1 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Paid parking available on the opposite side of the road

Installation complete

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## 19 BACHARACH



In this watercolour sketch Turner records the main architectural contours of Bacharach. The castle, the church, the monastery and the town's towers all appear in their actual positions. There was good reason for this, as the watercolour served as the basis for an engraving for an illustrated edition of the Life and Works of Lord Byron. It was subsequently bought by John Ruskin, Turner's most prominent apologist. In other watercolours and sketches of the town he rearranges the buildings, setting them close together to achieve a particularly imposing effect. This watercolour is also a good example of Turner's efforts to dissolve contours and representations in expanses of colour.

Watercolour sketch, circa 1830  
Medium: watercolour on paper  
Dimensions: 229 x 276 mm  
Collection: Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center; Turner Worldwide  
Reference: TW1263; Wilton 1222

### HIKING

The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail can be reached via the steep access path to Stahleck Castle in approx. 15 min.

### TIP

Many people consider Bacharach to be the capital of Rhine Romanticism. Heinrich Heine, Clemens Brentano and Victor Hugo all stayed in this historic town.



(DG) 50.054640, 7.772435  
3Q3C+VX Bacharach

**Address:** Rhine riverbank, Bacharach

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located at the southern end of the narrow road along the riverbank between the campsite and the Rhine

**Public Transport:** Bacharach railway station: approx. 5 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 1 min.

**Parking:** Paid parking available nearby

Installation complete

## 20 CASTLE FÜRSTENBERG



On 25th August 1817, whilst continuing his walking tour along the banks of the Rhine, Turner has already left Kaub and Bacharach behind him when he arrives at Rheindiebach. This watercolour is based on a small but detailed sketch and shows Castle Fürstenberg as Turner saw it from this viewpoint. The scene is divided horizontally by the ancient town wall. In the foreground the artist depicts the life and activities of local people. The inclusion of such elements is typical of Turner's work.

Watercolour, 1817

Medium: watercolour and gouache with scratching out on grey-washed paper

Dimensions: 235 x 311 mm

Collection: Manchester City Galleries; Turner Worldwide

Reference: TW0588; Wilton 641

### TIP

The »Four Valleys« area centred around Bacharach, Steeg, Diebach and Manubach is known for its beautiful hiking trails and good wines.

### HIKING

The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail and »Schellengang« circular trail are approx. 10 min. away via an access path.



(DG) 50.042866, 7.789997  
2QVQ+4X Oberdiebach

**Address:** Rhine riverbank, Rheindiebach

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the meadow next to the Rhine cycle route, near the barbecue hut

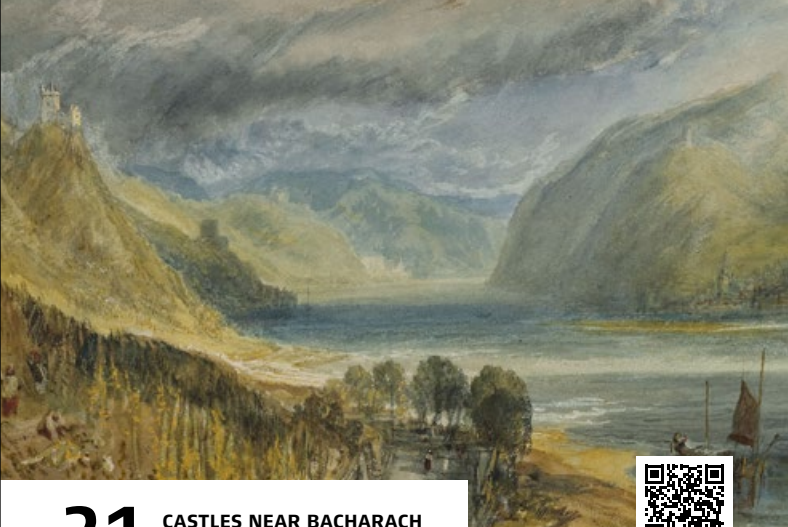
**Public Transport:** »Wehrturm«, bus stop, Rheindiebach: approx. 5 min. walk; ferry Niederheimbach–Lorch: approx. 20 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** Parking available in Rheindiebach. From there, walk through the underpass to the Rhine riverbank

Installation complete





## 21 CASTLES NEAR BACHARACH



Just before he reaches Trechtingshausen on his way from Bacharach, Turner is presented with this peaceful vista of the Rhine – similar to the Hirzenach scene (Artwork 8). He looks back at this wonderful cluster of sunlit castle ruins, all combined in a single field of view. Bacharach and Castle Stahleck are faintly discernable in the distance, also bathed in sunlight. In the foreground Turner shows people harvesting grapes. The castles of Heimburg and Sooneck can be identified on the left bank of the Rhine. On the right bank Turner gives a suggestion of Lorch in the shadows and Castle Nollig. Today Castle Sooneck is owned by the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and is open to the public. Castle Stahleck is owned by the Rheinischer Verein für Denkmalpflege (Society for Monument Conservation) and is used as a youth hostel. The Heimburg and the ruins of Castle Nollig are privately owned and not open to the public.

Watercolour, 1817  
Medium: watercolour on grey-washed paper  
Dimensions: 220 x 360 mm  
Collection: The British Museum;  
Turner Worldwide  
Reference: TW0409; Wilton 671

**TIP**  
Trechtingshausen is a veritable castle hotspot: the castles Sooneck, Reichenstein and Rheinstein are all in the immediate vicinity – and you can visit all of them.

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail is approx. 15 min. away.

21



(DG) 50.014278, 7.843861  
2R7V+PG Trechtingshausen

**Address:** Mainzer Straße,  
Trechtingshausen

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the pavement at the northern entrance to Trechtingshausen

**Public Transport:** Trechtingshausen railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 5 min.

**Parking:** Parking available in Trechtingshausen

Installation complete



## 22 CASTLE RHEINSTEIN AND CASTLE REICHENSTEIN



On August 25th Turner sets off on foot in the direction of Bingen. Just outside Trechtingshausen this wonderful view opens up. On the hill to the right is Castle Reichenstein, while in the background of the painting you can just make out the silhouettes of Castle Rheinstein and St. Clement's Chapel. Turner later became intensely preoccupied with this particular location – particularly after he had studied Goethe's Theory of Colours. This watercolour was painted in around 1841, about 25 years after his first visit to the Rhine. Today Castle Reichenstein is privately owned. It is open to the public and has a museum, as well as a hotel and restaurant. At nearby Castle Rheinstein, which is also privately owned, you'll find a museum and a restaurant.

Watercolour, circa 1841  
Medium: pencil, watercolour and gouache on washed paper  
Dimensions: 185 x 242 mm  
Collection: Sotheby's art dealers, London

**HIKING**  
The RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail is approx. 15 min. away.

**TIP**  
From here, you can explore the wild, romantic Morgenbachtal valley.



(DG) 50.006043, 7.854321  
2V43+CP8 Trechtingshausen

**Address:** Mainzer Straße,  
Trechtingshausen

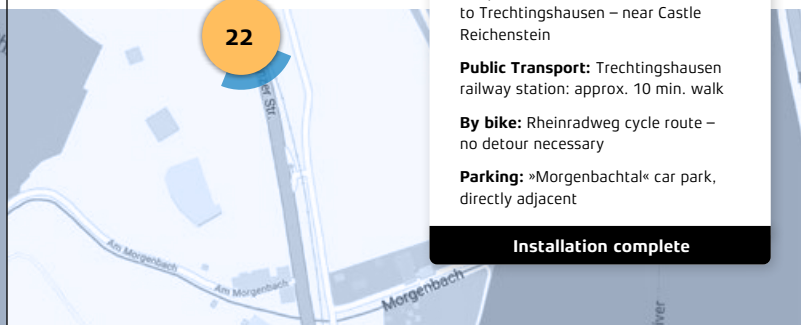
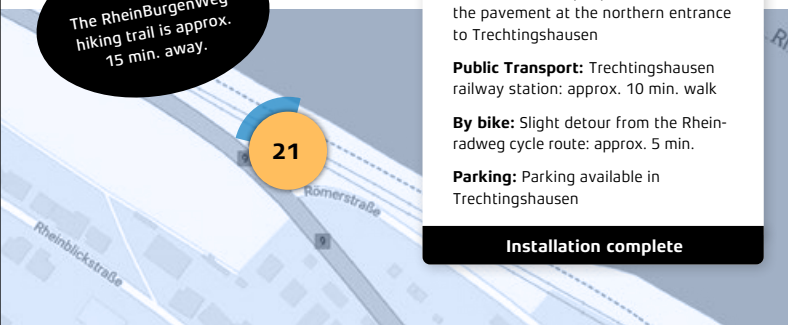
**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the pavement at the southern entrance to Trechtingshausen – near Castle Reichenstein

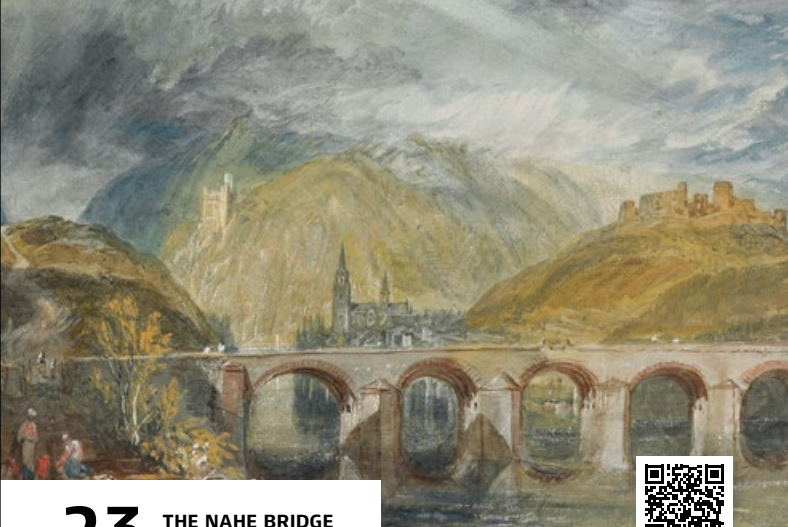
**Public Transport:** Trechtingshausen railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Rheinradweg cycle route – no detour necessary

**Parking:** »Morgenbachtal« car park, directly adjacent

Installation complete





## 23 THE NAHE BRIDGE NEAR BINGEN



On the evening of 25th August 1817, before reaching the landing stages on the Rhine from where he is to continue his journey by boat, Turner stops to sketch at the bridge over the River Nahe. The final watercolour shows parts of the town of Bingen watched over by Castle Klopp, with Castle Ehrenfels in the distance. The Drusus Bridge is depicted in the foreground and behind it, not far away, the Nahe flows into the Rhine. In this painting Turner produces a successful contrast effect of light and shadow with the billowing thunderclouds, which gives the picture a dramatic touch. From a compositional point of view this work displays a certain similarity to Turner's Koblenz paintings of the bridge over the Moselle. Nowadays the painting location itself is no longer accessible. The view towards the Rheingau can be enjoyed from the Drusus Bridge.

*Watercolour, 1817*  
*Medium: watercolour on grey-washed paper*  
*Dimensions: 195 x 316 mm*  
*Collection: The British Museum*  
*Reference: TW0413; Wilton 682*

### TIP

In the summer months you can climb the keep of Klopp Castle from where you'll enjoy panoramic views over Bingen and Rüdesheim.

### HIKING

The Ausonius long-distance hiking trail to Trier starts at Bingen.



(DG) 49.959975, 7.892679  
 XV5V+X3 Bingen am Rhein

**Address:** Drusus Bridge, Bingen

**Site:** Turner's painting site is not yet marked

**Public Transport:** »Bingen (Rhein) Hbf« main railway station: approx. 15 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 10 min.

**Parking:** »Naheparkplatz« car park approx. 10 min walk away

Site not marked

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## 24 MÄUSETURM AND CASTLE EHRENFELS



Turner produced the study for this watercolour after he had crossed the Nahe near Bingen. Turner depicted the »Binger Loch« – the perilous narrow passage in the Rhine near Bingen – from both sides of the river in numerous sketches. The resulting watercolour, painted at a later date, shows a perspective that Turner would have had from on board a boat. This explains the relatively symmetrical composition of the picture. The »Mäuseturm« (Mouse Tower) is visible in the distance, whilst the hill on the right bank is flanked by Castle Ehrenfels. These structures were built by the Archbishop of Mainz to enable him to collect tolls from the boatmen at the »Binger Loch« bottleneck.

*Watercolour, 1817*  
*Medium: watercolour and gouache on grey-washed paper*  
*Dimensions: 194 x 311 mm*  
*Collection: private collection*  
*Reference: TW1871; Wilton 679*

### TIP

In the nearby »Museum am Strom« you can learn interesting facts about Hildegard von Bingen, Rhine Romanticism and the town's Roman history.

### HIKING

You can reach the southern starting point of the RheinBurgenWeg hiking trail in approx. 10 min.



(DG) 49.969920, 7.889799  
 XV9Q+XW Bingen am Rhein

**Address:** Rhein-Nahe-Eck

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the upper viewing platform at the Rhine-Nahe confluence

**Public Transport:** »Bingen (Rhein) Hbf« main railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 2 min.

**Parking:** »Gerhausstraße« car park approx. 5 min. walk away

Installation complete

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## 25 THE BINGER LOCH



Standing on the river bank in the late afternoon of 25th August 1817, Turner looks back towards the »Binger Loch«. In the foreground the painting shows a typical boat of that time. On the right bank we see the town of Rüdesheim, its buildings reflected in the river. On the left bank we can just make out Bingen, at the foot of the Rochusberg. Castle Ehrenfels is only hinted at. In the far distance we can vaguely perceive the »Mäuseturm«, which was originally built on a small island in the Rhine as a customs tower. In Turner's painting, the inky black, threatening clouds over the narrow straits at the »Binger Loch« suggest the dangerous nature of the navigation channel. In the foreground, however, boats with motionless sails and pennants float serenely on calm waters. From Bingen Turner continued his journey to Mainz by boat. The »Mäuseturm« is only open to the public on selected dates.

*Watercolour, 1817*  
*Medium: watercolour and gouache with scratching out on grey-washed paper*  
*Dimensions: 203 x 330 mm*  
*Collection: National Museum of Wales*  
*Reference: Wilton 639*

**TIP**  
 The extensive Hafenpark and the Hindenburg gardens stretch along the Rhine riverbank to the mouth of the River Nahe.



(DG) 49.971194, 7.910944  
 XWC6+F9 Bingen am Rhein

**Address:** Hafenpark Bingen, near »Papa Rhein« Hotel

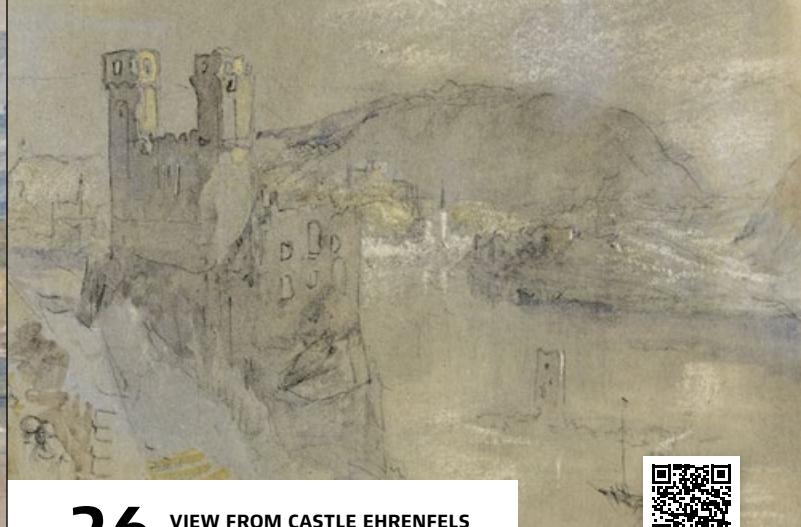
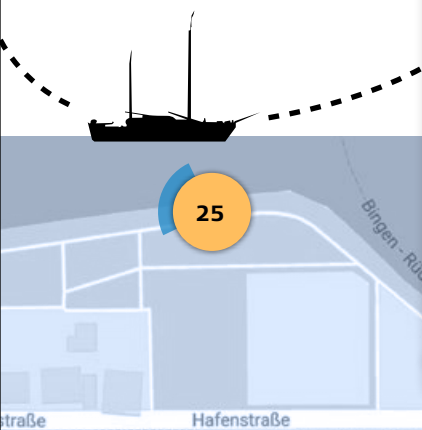
**Site:** Turner's painting site is not yet marked

**Public Transport:** »Bingen (Rhine) Stadt« railway station: approx. 10 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 2 min.

**Parking:** Parking available near the ferry landing stage

Site not marked



## 26 VIEW FROM CASTLE EHRENFELS TO THE MÄUSETURM



This watercolour drawing was only produced in 1841. Turner made repeated visits to places that had first fascinated him in 1817, sketching them over and over again. In order to see Castle Ehrenfels from this angle, the artist used an elevated vantage point. Bingen and the mouth of the river Nahe are visible in the distance. In the foreground there is a glimpse of a steamship near the »Mäuseturm«. In the late 1830s the tradition of towing boats upstream was eclipsed by the advent of steam power, which explains why the motif disappears in later works.

*Watercolour drawing, 1841*  
*Medium: watercolour and gouache with pencil and scratching out*  
*Dimensions: 184 x 241 mm*  
*Collection: The Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro*  
*Reference: TW1962*

**TIP**  
 Explore nearby Ostein Park and the Niederwald monument.

**HIKING**  
 You can access the Rheinsteig hiking trail through the vineyards in approx. 15 min.



(DG) 49.975910, 7.879553  
 XVGH+9R Rüdesheim am Rhein

**Address:** Vineyards to the north of Rüdesheim

**Site:** The Turner plaque is located on the access road, about 50 metres downstream from the Ehrenfels ruins

**Public Transport:** Rüdesheim railway station: approx. 40 min. walk

**By bike:** Slight detour from the Rheinradweg cycle route: approx. 15 min.

**Parking:** No parking facilities available

Planned for autumn 2025





*»A giant among artists, single-minded and uncompromising, extraordinarily prolific, revolutionary in his approach, consummate at his craft, clairvoyant in his vision.«*

Mike Leigh, Director of the film »Mr. Turner«

## PUBLISHER'S DETAILS

### Initiated and published by:

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[www.zv-welterbe.de/en](http://www.zv-welterbe.de/en)

The inspiration for the William Turner Route came from the »Forum Ehrenamt« (»Volunteers Forum« – no longer active), whose project idea is now being implemented by the Zweckverband Welterbe Oberes Mittelrheintal. For the identification of the individual sites and the project's content design, the Association has had the support of artist Dr. Armin Thommes.

**Concept and design:** SCHUMACHER Brand + Interaction Design GmbH  
[www.schumacher-design.de](http://www.schumacher-design.de); Art Direction: Andreas Strack

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**Status:** July 2025

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# On the trail of Rhine Romanticism

The artist William Turner is considered one of the fathers of Rhine Romanticism. With his vast body of work he not only influenced succeeding generations of artists and literary figures, but also played a decisive role in making the region famous all over the world. As a place of *Sehnsucht* and unspoilt nature, the Upper Middle Rhine Valley became Germany's prime tourist destination. 200 years after Turner's first journey to the Rhine, visitors can now experience his painting locations.

Follow the trail of the artist and discover his fascinating view of the Middle Rhine Valley – directly on site or online at:



[www.turner-route.de/en](http://www.turner-route.de/en)



**unesco**

Upper Middle Rhine Valley  
World Heritage since 2002



Welterbe  
Oberes Mittelrheintal  
Zweckverband