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Bad Arolsen



Bad Arolsen Baroque Walking Tour

The 1.5-kilometre Baroque Walking Tour leads around the castle and through the Baumpark arboretum. Along the way, eight steles mark locations that highlight the special landscaping and horticultural features of the baroque town layout.

In absolutist town planning, architecture and landscaping are closely interwoven. The planned towns of the baroque period include buildings with clearly defined structures as well as sight-lines extending far into the surrounding countryside.

This combination is still visible in the appearance of the Residenzstadt, the royal residence town, of Arolsen today.

A model of the town on display opposite the Marstall stables provides an easy overview.



1 At the castle

2 Stonemasons' square

3 Castle lake

4 Am Wildkamp

5 Am Vorhof

6 Am Marstall

7 Große Allee

8 Im Boskett

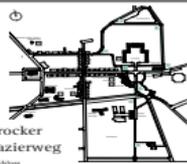




1

- 1. Am Schloss
- 2. Platz der Heiligen
- 3. Schlosspark
- 4. Am Schloss
- 5. Am Theater
- 6. Am Markt
- 7. Große Allee
- 8. Am Schloss

Barocker Spazierweg



Am Schloss
Das Barockschloss wurde – ebenso wie die Residenzstadt
Aachen – Anfang des 18. Jahrhunderts durch den Fürsten
Friedrich Anton Ulrich zu Württemberg und Pfalzgraf
und nach Plänen des Baumeisters Julius Ludwig Rothweil
ausgeführt. Dazu gehörte eine Vorgängerkirche im Renaissance-
stil.

Am Markt
Für Schloss und Pfalzstadt sind Achsenkreuz, Symmetrie
und Monumentalität bestimmende Gestaltungsmerkmale. Die
Haupt-Achse des Schlosses war die Symmetrieachse
für die ursprüngliche Stadtplanung.

Am Schloss
Im Museum Schloßmuseen kann die Identifizierung
des absolutistischen Herrschaftsapparates zu sehen und
auf dem Hof, Stadtmuseum, vor dem Schloss zu sehen.

2



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At the castle

The baroque castle – like the residence town of Arolsen itself – was built in the early 18th century by Prince Friedrich Anton Ulrich of Waldeck and Pyrmont based on the plans of master builder Julius Ludwig Rothweil. This new construction replaced an older castle built in the renaissance style. For both the castle and the planned town, intersecting axes, symmetry and mansard roofs are characteristic design elements. The north-south axis of the castle was the symmetry axis of the original layout plan for the town.

The ideal draft of this absolutist urban planning concept is on display at the Schreibersches Haus museum. The model of the town, on display in front of the castle, provides a more tangible illustration.



Stonemasons' square

Before the construction of the baroque residence castle could begin (circa 1710), the existing buildings on the site had to be dismantled. These buildings went back all the way to the old Aroldessen monastery founded by Augustinian nuns in the 12th century.

The stonemason's work area called the Grafft was located here, on the west side of the castle.

Here, we are already outside of the initial city layout. The more than two-metre-high sandstone garden wall with its recessed doors still indicates the old boundary.

The nearby court brewery goes back to monastic times; with its overbuilt horse drinking trough, it is one of the oldest buildings in town.



Castle lake

The castle lake was fed by the Leitegraben canal that brought drinking water from the Thieletal valley into the town. The dam in the east is man-made.

The boat house was specially designed to allow elegant court parties to step safely onto the boats for their pleasure outings.

Around the year 1765, Prince Friedrich created the Spindelallee with its linden trees. This tree-lined avenue runs along the north side of the castle lake towards the hunting grounds.

This extends the architectural axis of the castle far into the surrounding landscape, making it visible and recognisable even from a distance.



Am Wildkamp

The Wildkamp area between the residential castle and the royal hunting grounds was originally more densely forested than today, and was most likely used to feed the game animals.

A tree-lined avenue leads to the Kniepholz woods and the Fischhaus café. When this road was paved for the first time in 1850 – the paving bricks are still visible here and there – people felt that the forest was being 'desecrated'. The elm trees that had been planted originally were destroyed by Dutch elm disease and were replaced with pyramidal English oak trees in the early 1980s.

The view from here extends through the valley via Wetterburg and Breuna all the way to the Hesse Highlands near Kassel.



Am Vorhof

Am Vorhof is where according to Rothweil's plans, the eastern half of the town was to be built. However, this did not happen because of the outbuildings dating back to monastic times, which were still in use back then and which still exist today. Moreover, the construction costs would have far exceeded the financial means of the principality.

Today, the monastery barn, the orangery, the gardener's house and the coach house are used by the adjacent hotel.

The Fürstliche Reitbahn hippodrome was built in the early 19th century by master builder Theodor Escher. Today, the building is used as Arolsen's festival house.



Am Marstall

Master builder Franz Friedrich Rothweil's original plans from 1743 intended a U-shaped layout with two symmetrical building sections and a parade ground in between. For financial reasons, only the western half could be built and was completed in 1755.

As the terrain slopes upwards from the castle, it offers an imposing view onto the grounds and the building. The relief above the entrance underscores the building's importance as a stable for the royal horses.

Today, the Marstall houses a museum dedicated to Arolsen-born sculptor Christian Daniel Rauch.



Große Allee

An essential characteristic feature of Arolsen's town layout was the creation of multiple tree-lined avenues with different kinds of trees that are still visible in the appearance of the town today; these include Spindelallee, Fürstenallee and Königsbergallee.

But Große Allee, a historical monument, is the most striking element of the planned urban landscape.

Prince Georg Friedrich had this avenue created in 1670, when he was still a count.

The avenue was 1.6 kilometres long and planted with 888 oak trees in six rows. It followed a section of what was then a major highway between Cologne and Leipzig, and connected the Charlottental pleasure castle – built a little earlier in the Thieletal valley in the 'Dutch style'–, the Hünighausen manor farm and the renaissance castle, which still existed at that time.

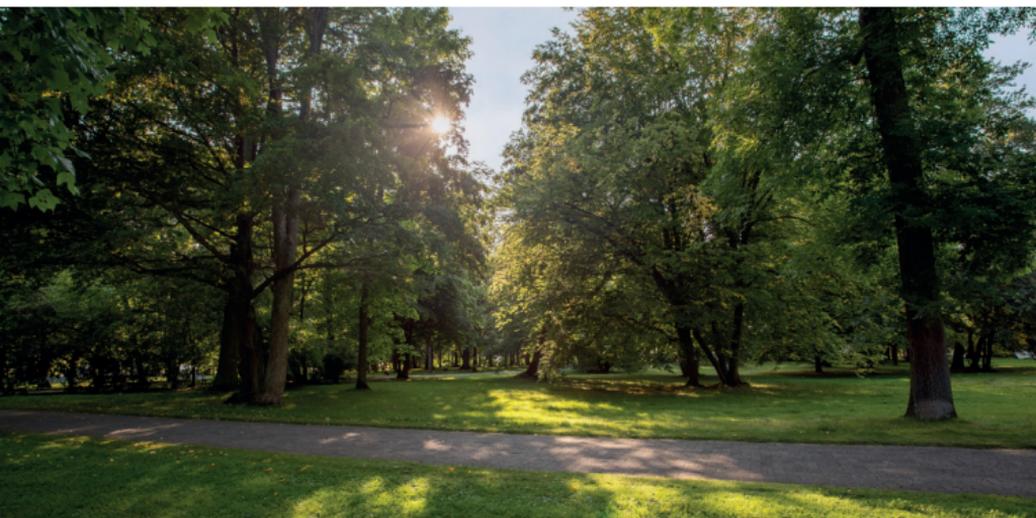


Im Boskett

The original name of the Baumpark arboretum was 'Boskett'. It was created in 1770 for the Neues Schloss, the dower seat of Princess Christiane designed by Franz Friedrich Rothweil, and included many exotic trees.

Towards the south, the park connected to a large terraced vegetable garden and orchard. A travelogue from the year 1785 praised the particular beauty of the princess's garden.

In the 1970s, the Boskett was transformed into the Baumpark arboretum.



Arolsen resident Edith Putzar (1904 - 1990) indirectly became the initiator of the Baroque Walking Tour.

In her will, she left a substantial sum of money to the town of Arolsen, which enabled the town to realise several urban planning and landscaping projects, among them the Baroque Walking Tour.

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