



HOHENEMS
Inspiriert!

HISTORICAL TOUR

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Tracing the inspiring history of Hohenems

King Ludwig of Bavaria had already granted the „Flecken zu Ems“ a town charter in 1333, but Hohenems was not elevated to the status of a town until 1983. Regardless of this, an impressively rich and diverse history had already unfolded here over the centuries.

This idyllic place on the Schlossberg, on which Alt-Ems Castle once towered mightily, was often a **gateway to the world**. The knights and later counts of Ems brought forth personalities who also worked in Rome and Salzburg and left their architectural mark on these towns just as characteristically as on their place of origin.

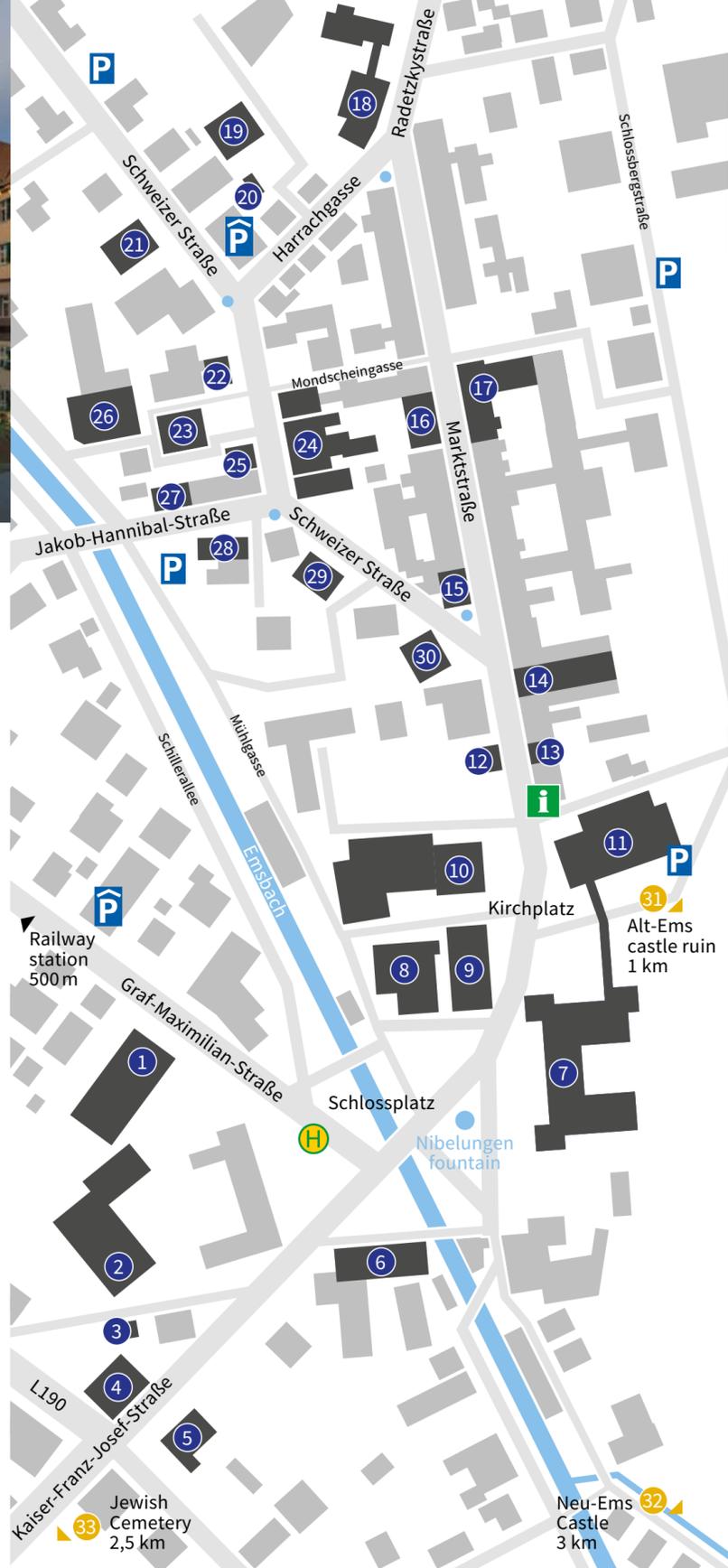
At the beginning of the 17th century, a letter of protection from Count Kaspar laid the foundations for the settlement of a **Jewish community**, which was to exist for centuries and significantly shape the town in both economic and cultural terms.

The civic coexistence in the „Christengasse“ and „Judengasse“ was to become characteristic of this town, which was shaped by the most diverse cultures from the earliest times and thus produced a striking number of **pioneering achievements**: Thus the first bank, the first printing press and the first café in Vorarlberg were built in Hohenems.

Alongside sights such as the magnificent Renaissance palace, it is often the small houses that appear inconspicuous at first glance that tell interesting stories: This folder is intended to direct the eye to what is significant when walking through the centre of Hohenems; historical photographs allow a glimpse into the past.

A walk across the squares Schlossplatz and Kirchplatz, through Marktstraße and the Jewish Quarter, with its numerous owner-managed shops, still reveals an astonishing diversity today: Within easy walking distances, the city's history manifests itself in the architecture of various eras.

We wish you enjoyable discoveries!



1 Graf-Maximilian-Straße 3 Markus-Sittikus Hall Former gym

1911-13 Built as a gym in the local style according to plans by Ludwig Morstein, head of the building authority

It is not only used for gymnastics, but also for many cultural and social events, until 1955 also as a cinema hall.

2005 Renovation and conversion into a concert hall for Schubertiade events, design of the garden according to the historical model



4 Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Straße 4 Town hall Former count's guesthouse

Built as a count's guesthouse and inn in 1567 on the occasion of the synod in Constance by order of Cardinal Markus Sittikus III, according to plans by master builder Martino Longhi.

Alliance coat of arms: Harrach and Hohenems (under the southern gable) as well as Waldburg-Zeil-Hohenems and Enzberg (above the portal)
1594-1610 Count Kaspar lives with his family in the guest house.

1622 Temporary refuge for the Poor Clares of the Valduna Convent

1841-68 Count Maximilian inhabits the guesthouse during the summer months.

1868-82 His son Count Clemens lives here.

1882-1908 Use as a dwelling for the count's stewards

1908 Used as a leasehold town hall

1938 The municipality buys the building; until today it serves as a town hall.



6 Schlossplatz 1 and 2 Former post office

1808 Joseph Spieler establishes a brewery next to the „zur Sonne“ guesthouse

1822 Spieler is awarded the position of postmaster. From now on, the guesthouse bears the name „Zur Post“.

1910-11 The brewery building is converted into an art nouveau post office according to plans by architect Hanns Kornberger.

1981 Closure of the post office

1982 Conversion to the „Zur Alten Post“ guesthouse and office premises

2004 The „Alte Post“ closes; subsequently, other gastronomic establishments open here.



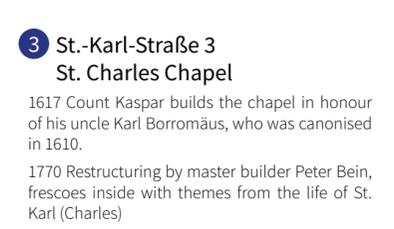
2 St.-Karl-Straße 4 „Mehele House“ Former beer brewery

1903-04 Building of a beer brewery by the Spieler family in the Domestic Revival style according to plans by the Munich architects Miller & Hetzel

1934 Purchase by Josef Mehele and conversion to forge workshop

1959 Expansion to agricultural machinery trade

2020 Operation closed



3 St.-Karl-Straße 3 St. Charles Chapel

1617 Count Kaspar builds the chapel in honour of his uncle Karl Borromäus, who was canonised in 1610.

1770 Restructuring by master builder Peter Bein, frescoes inside with themes from the life of St. Karl (Charles)

1826 Saved from demolition and restored by the early mass priest Alois Math

Until 1884 used for Sunday Christian teaching

1888 Construction of a Lourdes grotto

1932 and 1955 Exterior and interior renovation



5 Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Straße 5 „Spanish villa“

1904-05 Merchant Antonio Ammann, who lived in Spain for several years, has the villa built in a remarkable art nouveau style with Moorish style elements; the architect is Hanns Kornberger.

The garden fence, built in a geometric art nouveau style, is also original.



8 Schlossplatz 10 „Schlosskaffee“

Around 1820 Predecessor house built by a Jewish wine merchant

1848 Purchase by the Schwarz banking family

1892 Sale to Ludmilla Durgiai-Mathis

1898 New building as a town house in the historicist style by the embroidery factory owner Peter Anton Durgiai according to plans by August Amann

1939 Purchase by master confectioner Josef Fenkart, conversion into the „Schlosskaffee“



9 Schlossplatz 9 „Löwen“ pub and „Löwensaal“

1806 Construction of the restaurant „Zum Löwen“ by postmaster Johann Josef Waibel

1811-22 Post office premises also housed

1827 Sale to community leader Andrä Peter with tavern business rights

1850 Handover to his son, Mayor Alois Peter

1905 After demolition of the stables and barn floor, a hall is added according to plans by Seraphim Pümpel

1831-60 Use as barracks

1882 Count Clemens von Waldburg-Zeil restores the palace to a habitable condition.

1954 Franz Josef Waldburg-Zeil buys the palace. It has since served as the family's residence.

In 1976, the first Schubertiade takes place in the knights' hall under the artistic direction of Hermann Prey.

Since 1990 performance venue for the concerts of the chamber orchestra Arpeggione Hohenems

10 Kirchplatz 1 Primary school „Markt“

1828-30 Building of the primary school

1840 Construction of a 3rd floor
In addition to school classes, it temporarily houses the municipal office, a teacher's flat, a bank and the first kindergarten.

1948 Oswin Amann designs the street-side façade with a fresco.

1983 Construction of the new gymnasium and a connecting wing

2009 The attic is demolished and rebuilt.

11 Kirchplatz 2 Parish Church of St. Karl Borromäus

1796-97 Construction as a grandiose late baroque-classicist hall building according to plans by Jakob Scheiteler

Takeover of valuable works of art from the predecessor church: Renaissance high altar by Heinrich Dieffolt, choir stalls, reliefs of the side altars in the choir and epitaph for Count Jakob Hannibal I. by Esaias Gruber, marble funerary monument to Count Kaspar

Ceiling painting by Andreas Brugger

1857 Renewal of the church tower

1886-87 Interior renovation: Construction of a ciboria altar, decorations in the Nazarene style

1951-53 Interior renovation: Renaissance high altar reinstalled

1984-86 Interior renovation: Folk altar and „fisherman's pulpit“ by sculptor Ulrich Henn

1987 Gollini organ, front designed in baroque style



13 Marktstraße 6 Formerly Vorarlberg's first book printing house

Built around 1605 as a chaplain's house

1616 Conversion to a printing press, at the same time the home of Bartholomäus Schnell the Elder

1700 Renovated, again house of the court chaplaincy

1777 Destroyed in the town fire, new building in late Baroque style above older basement floors

1781 After the introduction of compulsory education, schoolrooms are set up.

In the 20th century, raised by one storey: striking transverse gable with rocailles ornaments and heraldic crown carried out by painter Julius Wehinger in 1936.

1952 Renovation; sandstone embrasures and historic box windows are preserved.



14 Marktstraße 12 Former „Krone“ guesthouse

Probably built in 1605/06, mentioned officially as a guest establishment in 1640

1777 Destroyed in the town fire

1778 Arch stone in the round arch portal: New building over older cellar with iron door from the construction period. The roof truss is one of the most beautiful of its kind in Hohenems.

1908 Restructuring by architect Hanns Kornberger with three storeys: The façade in the manner of the historicising art nouveau is one of the most striking building profiles on Marktstraße.

Until 1956 a guesthouse, then a commercial and residential building

15 Marktstraße 5
Former „Engelburg” guesthouse

In 1606, Count Kaspar acquires the guesthouse from Jos Metzler and expands it into a manorial „tavern”. The following year, the Ems court convenes here for the first time.

1777 Destroyed in the town fire in and rebuilt over older cellar

1781 After the introduction of compulsory education, pupils are also accommodated here.

1813 Purchase by the Christian community as a schoolhouse

1831 Purchase by the Brettauer family

1892 New owner Josef Anton Heinzele opens the „Engelburg” guesthouse with a brewery.

1933 The Co-operative Society is also housed here for a short time.

1989 Renovation and conversion of the house

2013 Legge Museum established

17 Marktstraße 38 und 40
„Jahreis House”

Residential and commercial building: House no. 38 was built before 1610. Master tanner Josef Anton Amann is the first owner known by name at the beginning of the 19th century, before the sale to banker Emanuel Brettauer in 1838.

It is unknown when house no. 40 was built. The leather trade and banking business of Ludwig Brettauer are located in this building.

1861 Joining of houses 38 and 40 to form a semi-detached house

1899 Purchase by the embroidery manufacturer Carl August Jahreis: Conversion into a factory owner’s villa with representative parkland

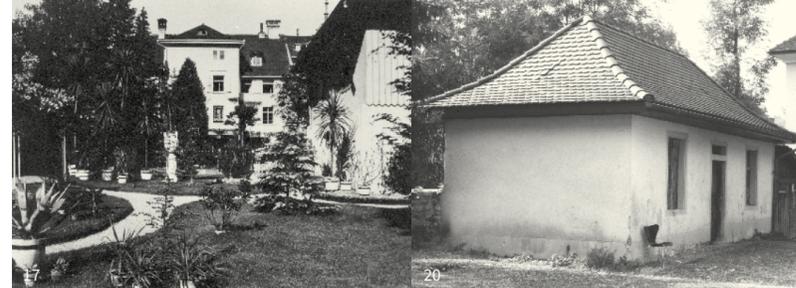
1910-71 Fruit and vegetable shop of the Glatthaar family

1921-75 Gendarmerie station on 1st floor

1967 Conversion to commercial and residential building

1977 Enlargement of the commercial area

2021 Conversion to service and gastronomy units



20 Schulgasse 1
Mikvah

1829 Construction of the new community mikvah. The immersion bath is used by Jewish women for the traditional purification ritual. Towards the end of the 19th century, the mikvah is no longer used.

1941 „Aryanisation” takes place.

2010 Renovation of the building and opening as a branch of the Jewish Museum. The Hohenems ritual bath is the only preserved historical mikvah in Austria.

21 Schweizer Straße 35
„Elkan House”

1801 Joseph Wolf Levi senior builds the representative, villa-like house. The famous doctor Dr. Simon Steinach is among the frequently changing owners.

1898 Theodor Elkan becomes a procurator at the insurance agency of his father-in-law Michael Menz. He lives here with his family; from 1935 he also acts as the last head of the Israelite community.

1940 The Elkan family and Sophie Steingraber who also lives here are deported and killed at the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

After the Second World War, Elkan-Haus is a stop-over for Jewish holocaust survivors (“displaced persons”).

1996 Renovated, since then a residential and medical house

22 Schweizer Straße 31
Salomon Sulzer birth house

Presumably built by the court Jew Jonathan Uffenheimer and Moos Jäck in the 18th century.

Salomon Sulzer (1804-1890) was born here. As cantor in Hohenems and later head cantor in Vienna, he established modern synagogue singing.

1806/07 Josef Sulzer and Heinrich Bikard are recorded as owners of the house.

1830-33 Angelus Kafka, rabbi and distant relative of Franz Kafka, lives here.

1833-44 Reform Rabbi Abraham Kohn lives here.

1900-38 General store of Julius and Sara Fränkel

1938-71 Shoe shop August Reis

Since 1972 Installation business Rossmannth



24 Schweizer Straße 2 to 8
Jewish merchant houses

The stately office buildings of the Jewish merchant families Löwenberg, Löwengard and Hirschfeld are built after the fire of 1777 and partly renovated in the 19th century.

Members of these families undertook trade business for the Habsburgs and acquired the status of court Jews, which gave them travel and residence privileges. In the 19th century, some of them settled as merchants and industrialists in Italy and the Ottoman Empire, in the USA and above all in Switzerland.



25 Schweizer Straße 17
„Brettauer House”

1832 Built by Simon Brettauer according to plans by the building master Xaver Fässler on an old site of a fire as a stately town house. The basket-handle arch bears the initials S. B. in a neo-gothic lunette grid.

The mother of Stefan Zweig, a daughter of the Hohenems banker Samuel Brettauer, comes from the Brettauer family.

From 1910 briefly the knife grinding business of the Collini company

Renovated in 2004-06 and 2020

23 Schweizer Straße 21
Salomon Sulzer Hall
Former synagogue

1770-72 Synagogue built according to plans by the building master Peter Bein in a late baroque-classicist style

1816-17 Renovation

1863-67 Restructuring according to plans by Arch. Felix Wilhelm Kubly (tower and clock with bells)

1938 Seized by the Hohenems municipality; three years later “Aryanisation”

1950 Restitution to the Innsbruck religious community

1953 Sale to the market town. The largely destitute religious community agrees under financial pressure to the conversion into a fire station and infant welfare establishment in 1954.

2005 Conversion into the „Salomon Sulzer Hall” and home of the central Rhine valley music school „tonart Musikschule Mittleres Rheintal”. The original cubature and the characteristic high windows with „ox eyes” are restored.



27 Jakob-Hannibal-Straße 8
Former Jewish care centre for the poor

Core probably 17th century

1774 Owned by Benjamin Burgauer

1871 Sale to the Israelite community: Conversion to a Jewish care centre for the poor
Founding panel: „Israelitische Versorgungs- und Armenanstalt” (Israelite Care and Care centre for the poor) founded by the blessed spouses Josef and Clara Rosenthal. Opened on 1 January 1872”

1924 Dissolved due to low demand, donation of the building to the municipality of Hohenems

1962 Sale, since then privately owned

2012 Restoration

28 Schweizer Straße 15
„Kitzinger House”

In the last third of the 18th century, residence of the Gutmann family: The inner room structure from that time has been preserved almost unchanged.

1797 Jakob Kitzinger settles here from Pfersee and opens the first coffee house in Vorarlberg: It is a meeting place for upper-class Jewish society, Jewish clubs and Christian middle-class Hohenemser.

1846 The house partially burns down and is then rebuilt.

1882 Guest enterprise ceases

1882 Sold to mayor Dr. Hermann Mathis

1919-21 Inn licence once again

1926-37 Homestead of the nursing association

1996 General refurbishment



29 Schweizer Straße 5
Jewish Museum, Villa Heimann-Rosenthal

In 1864, textile manufacturer Anton Rosenthal has the two-storey late classicist villa built according to plans by the architect Felix Wilhelm Kubly. Artistic wrought iron work, façade painting and floral stucco decoration characterise the building.

1936 Clara Heimann-Rosenthal sells her birth house to the community doctor Dr. Oskar Burtscher; she dies in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1942.

1983 Purchase of the villa by the town of Hohenems

1987-91 Conversion into the Jewish Museum Hohenems, which opens in 1991. The interior and the garden undergo further renovations in 2005-2007 to accommodate exhibitions and the museum café.

30 Schweizer Straße 1
Villa Arnold Rosenthal

Built in 1843 by Josef Rosenthal as a bourgeois residential house

1887 Conversion into a historical neo-Renaissance villa by his son Arnold Rosenthal. He had the initials A. R. added to the keystone.

1916 Takeover by the company Neumann & Söhne

1941 Purchase by the Josef Otten company

1980 Sold to the insurance company “Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsanstalt” and renovated

Since 1981 used as the office of Schubertiade GmbH (LLC), which also opened its Elisabeth Schwarzkopf Museum here in 2011.



31 Castle Ruin Alt-Ems

Built in the 12th century, the 800-metre-long complex was once one of the most powerful castles in the entire region: 1407 destroyed in the “Appenzeller War”, followed by several conversions and extensions over the centuries, before the castle becomes derelict. Since 2006, the ruins, whose inner courtyard contains the legendary „Konradsbrunnen” (Conrad’s Fountain), have been undergoing continuous renovation.

32 Neu-Ems Castle

In 1343, the knight Ulrich I von Ems built Neu-Ems Castle, later also known colloquially as Gloppler Castle, for his family. Destroyed in the same year of the war as Alt-Ems, it is immediately rebuilt. The characteristic stronghold with its keep-like bastion and palace has been privately owned by the Waldburg-Zeil family since 1843.

2018 Conversion to a sophisticated 5* luxury holiday residence



33 Jewish Cemetery

In 1617, the year of the settlement of the Israelite community, a cemetery was also established at the end of the village, in the Hohenems „sulphur”: Over 500 people were laid to rest here; around 370 gravestones – Jewish burial places cannot be dissolved – are preserved to this day. The Jewish Museum offers visits and guided tours.



Legal notice

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16 Marktstraße 15
„Kadur House”

The flat-arched entrance gates with numerous iron nails are distinctive.

Originally two houses: the right wing was built in 1659

Spared in the big fire of 1777. The owner at the time was the court Jew Jonathan Uffenheimer.

1796-1810 District court physician Dr. Karl Holenstein is the new owner and resident.

Multiple changes of Jewish owners:

Bernheimer, Löwenberg, Hirsch

1815 Construction of a barn in place of an older house by Moritz Löwenberg

1824 Restructuring by Salomon Bernheimer

1900 Purchase by embroidery factory owner Valerian Dillinger

1931 Purchase by Johann Kadur

2009 Purchase by Schubertiade GmbH (LLC), houses the Shoemaker Museum



18 Radetzkystraße 1
Villa Franziska and Iwan Rosenthal

1768/69 Predecessor building owned by the post-master Josef Waibel

1807 Purchase by Josef Rosenthal

1823 August Rosenthal builds a stately town house.

1889/90 Conversion into a representative factory owner’s palace with baroque elements by Iwan Rosenthal. Alfred Chiodera and Theophil Tschudy from Zurich are the architects.

1938 Purchase by dentist Hans Schebesta

Future seat of the Vorarlberg House of Literature

19 Schulgasse 1
Former Jewish school

1825-28 Construction of the „German Normal School” in simple rural classicism

1861-96 The private school is also attended by Catholic children until it is banned by the regional school board.

From 1862 onwards, the school enjoys an excellent reputation far and wide thanks to the long-serving schoolmaster Moritz Federmann.

1913 Upon his retirement, it is closed due to a lack of pupils.

1941 „Aryanised”

From 1945 privately owned

1973 Takeover by the municipality and use as a residential building

2008-10 After change of ownership, renovation and conversion for gastronomic, commercial and cultural use, opening of the „Federmann Kultursaal” (cultural hall)



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