

Tour of Jewish Worms

The group “Stolpersteine Heppenheim” invited guests on a guided tour of Jewish sites of Worms. On a Sunday in August around 40 interested people gathered at the “Halber Mond” hotel and travelled in private vehicles the 20 km to Worms. They they were met by the guide, Ms Storf-Felden, at the “Raschi Gate”.

The tour first led along the Judengasse towards the old synagogue. Ms Storf-Felden described the living condition of the Jewish residents of earlier times and how during the emancipation movement in the 19th Century many Jews took their family names from the names of their houses. A popular name is Hirsch (stag). The Hasenhaus (rabbit house) is a café today.

In the synagogue, and later in the Raschi House, the guests heard all about the development of the Jewish quarter, the old and new synagogues, the meaning of the SchUM towns (Speyer, Worms, Mainz) and the life works of the infamous Talmud scholar Rabbi Solomon ben Isaak, known as Raschi.



After this the tour led past the Luther monument to the “Heiliger Sand” (Holy Sand), Europe’s oldest Jewish cemetery. There Ms Storf-Felden recounted histories of the many famous persons and their families who are buried there. She also shed light on the scraps of paper covering some of the grave stones and also the raised boxes which have recently been placed next to some of the more prominent ones. It seems lately some visitors have been lighting candles, which in the current heatwave without this measure could easily lead to bush fires.

Returning to the entrance, the participants had the opportunity to admire the so-called Martin Buber view, which has been opened up this year and affords a wonderful vista across the graves to the Worms Cathedral.

Although the tour lasted a good three hours on one of the very hot days of this summer, the time went in a flash thanks to our guide’s interesting and very entertaining stories.



Back in Heppenheim the day was rounded off in the garden of the Halber Mond. Many of the participants found the time to enjoy a pleasant evening with good food and a glass of wine or two under the trees.

—Annette Spencer