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## **An illustrated guide-book to Heidelberg its castle and environs**

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Mannheim the City on Rhine and Neckar, since 1720 Capital of the  
Electorate Palatine [...]

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## MANNHEIM

*the City on Rhine and Neckar, since 1720 Capital  
of the Electorate Palatine, leading City of  
Commerce, Industry, and Shipping.*

At only 12 miles distance from Heidelberg is situated Mannheim, the important city of commerce, industry, and shipping, also known as a center of culture and sports. It can be reached from Heidelberg by railroad, electric train, or the Autobahn in less than half an hour.

The name of Mannheim was mentioned for the first time as a fisher village in a record of the monastery of Lorsch which dates back to the 8th century. In 1607, Mannheim was granted city rights, when elector Frederic IV founded a civil settlement beside the citadel Friedrichsburg at the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers. When elector Karl Philipp transferred his residence from Heidelberg to Mannheim in 1720, the cultural life of the young capital began to rise to a European-wide importance, especially under Karl Philipp's successor Karl Theodor. The Court's move to Munich in 1778, at first meant a heavy blow, the more so because, in 1803 Napoleon adjudged the city of Mannheim to the state of Baden, thus severing the city from its natural hinterland, the left-Rhine Palatinate. Owing to the efficiency of its population, however, Mannheim grew to be the leading city of commerce in Southwest Germany during the 19th century, and the most important industrial city in the 20th century.

In the singular plan of the present inner city there are no street names but only blocks designated by letters and figures like the squares in a chess-board. This regular baroque city foundation has been expanded on a large scale, especially after the turn of the centuries. Mannheim

was famous for its grand sports grounds and parks along the Rhine and Neckar Rivers as well as its model outskirts settlements.

Though Mannheim had overcome relatively well the destructions of former centuries — in the Thirty Years' War, the Orléans War of 1689, and the wars after the French Revolution — the last war inflicted painful wounds upon the city. Particularly baroque Mannheim suffered heavy losses. But the Mannheim Castle, the largest castle of Germany, still offers an impressive view despite its ruined condition. Likewise, the onlooker will be awed by the splendid front of Jesuit Church, once the most important baroque church of Southwest Germany. Of the buildings from the time the electors resided in Mannheim, there still exist the City Hall with the Lower Parochial Church in the old city, the Observatory, the market fountain and the fountain in Parade Square, and the Arsenal, which is to shelter the treasures salvaged from the museums in the Castle and in the Theatre and from the museums for natural history and ethnology. The National Theatre Mannheim, founded in 1779, maintains its 170-year-old high cultural tradition, though the historical Schiller stage on which in 1782 the first performance of "The Robbers" was given is ruined; the theatre performs now in another place.

The City Fine Arts Hall was founded in 1907 by culture-minded citizens as a gallery of paintings and sculptures of the 19th and 20th centuries. The public has again full access to its valuable collections, which are steadily supplemented by varying exhibitions and lectures.

If you want to feel the pulsation of labor, then make a trip around the harbor from the Rhine to the Neckar and through the commercial and industrial harbors. Measured by the extension of its harbor facilities Mannheim is the

largest inland harbor of Germany. The sports enthusiasm of its population finds its outlet in many fields; especially in soccer and rowing the Mannheim clubs enjoy a high reputation.

Such lively a city is quite naturally a center of attraction for people from near and far. Beside the railroad communications into all directions, electric trains run to Heidelberg and the Neckar Valley, to Weinheim on the Bergstrasse, and to Bad Dürkheim at the vine-covered slopes of the Haardt. Speyer and Worms are attractive destinations for trips on the Rhine.