8 Tithe Barn

From 1605-1681 this imposing building was the tithe house of Canon-Courts of Strasbourg Cathedral Chapter. It comprised of a number of floors and a huge arched cellar. On the left can be seen a fire statue.

9 The Charterhouse

The Carthusians settled down in Molsheim where they founded a Monastery in 1598 after they had been driven away from **Strasbourg-Koenigshoffen**. Their presence in the town until 1792 was very much written about.
The buildings used to stand from the **Poudrière** to the Market Square, their centre being today's **Cour des Chartreux**. At the heart of the Charterhouse, the church (which was destroyed in 1791) used to stand. It was connected to a cloister by the monk's cells whose remnants are still visible today. The former priory houses the **Museum of Art, Archeology and History** and the **Bugatti Foundation**. The site is mentioned in the records of the National Heritage (Inventaire des Monuments Historique) and important works of restoration are in progress to preserve this unique cultural place.

10 The Powder Keg Wall

Several pieces of ordnance indicate the presence of an old Powder Keg Building, which was built to store the weapon and ammunition of the Middle Classes. Today

this forms one of the remains of the boundary wall and fortifications.

11 The Protestant Church

The progressive increase in the number of the Lutherans after 1870 made necessary the building of a church. Of neo-Renaissance style it consists of a curious bell tower, a short nave with pews on each side and a flat stone altar. To this day it remains a place of worship.

12 The Blacksmiths' Gate

It is the most impressive remnant of the city wall. It was erected at the beginning of the 14th century and had a drawbridge that spanned the water-filled moat and portcullis, part of which can still be seen today. During the 17th century, two buildings were adjoined to the wall on either side of the Gate: the house of the toll-booth attendant on the left and the guard-room on the right. Under the roof of the Gate is a magnificent 4-tonne bell, melted in 1412 by Master **André de Colmar** from the former St Georges church that used to stand on the «Place du Marché» (the Market Square).

Mairie de Molsheim
17 place de l'Hôtel de Ville
F-67129 Molsheim Cedex
Tél : +33(0)3 88 49 58 58
Fax : +33(0)3 88 49 58 59
www.molsheim.fr

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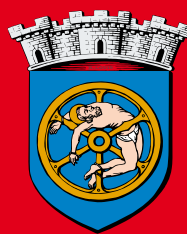DU TOURISME
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Molsheim throughout the centuries

In 1935, excavations in the North of the town revealed the presence of several Merovingian tombs dating from the 6th and the 7th century along the former Roman way coming from Avolsheim. **«Mollesheim»** was the first mentioned in 820 only, when **Archbishop Adaloch** donated vineyards to the Saint-Thomas chapter. Because the Bishops of Strasbourg owned property there, conflicts arose between them and the German Emperors, which ended in 1308 with the victory of **Bishop Jean de Dirpheim.** He had the first city wall extended (it dated back to the middle of the 13th century).

The **Grand Siècle** followed the Lutheran Reformation. Driven away from Strasbourg by the Magistrate of the town, the Canons of the Cathedral found refuge behind the walls of Molsheim in 1605. Before them the Jesuits and Benedictines in 1580, then the Carthusians in 1598 and finally the Capuchins in 1657 had also chosen Molsheim as a refuge. Thus the Episcopal city became the centre of Counter Reformation in Lower Alsace at the beginning of the 17th century. The religious people of Molsheim worked on lighting the «new doctrine» trough preaching, teaching and training young priests. The French Revolution marked the end of the **Ancien Regime** and the beginning of the industrial Era with the **Coulaux** workshops. Molsheim became the county-town of the district after 1870 and it diversified its activities throughout the 19th century thanks to **Ettore Bugatti** (1881-1947) who built his first automobile there.

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Office de Tourisme
19 place de l'Hôtel de Ville - F-67120 Molsheim
Tél: + 33(0)3 88 38 11 61
Fax: + 33(0)3 88 49 80 40
infos@ot-molsheim-mutzig.com
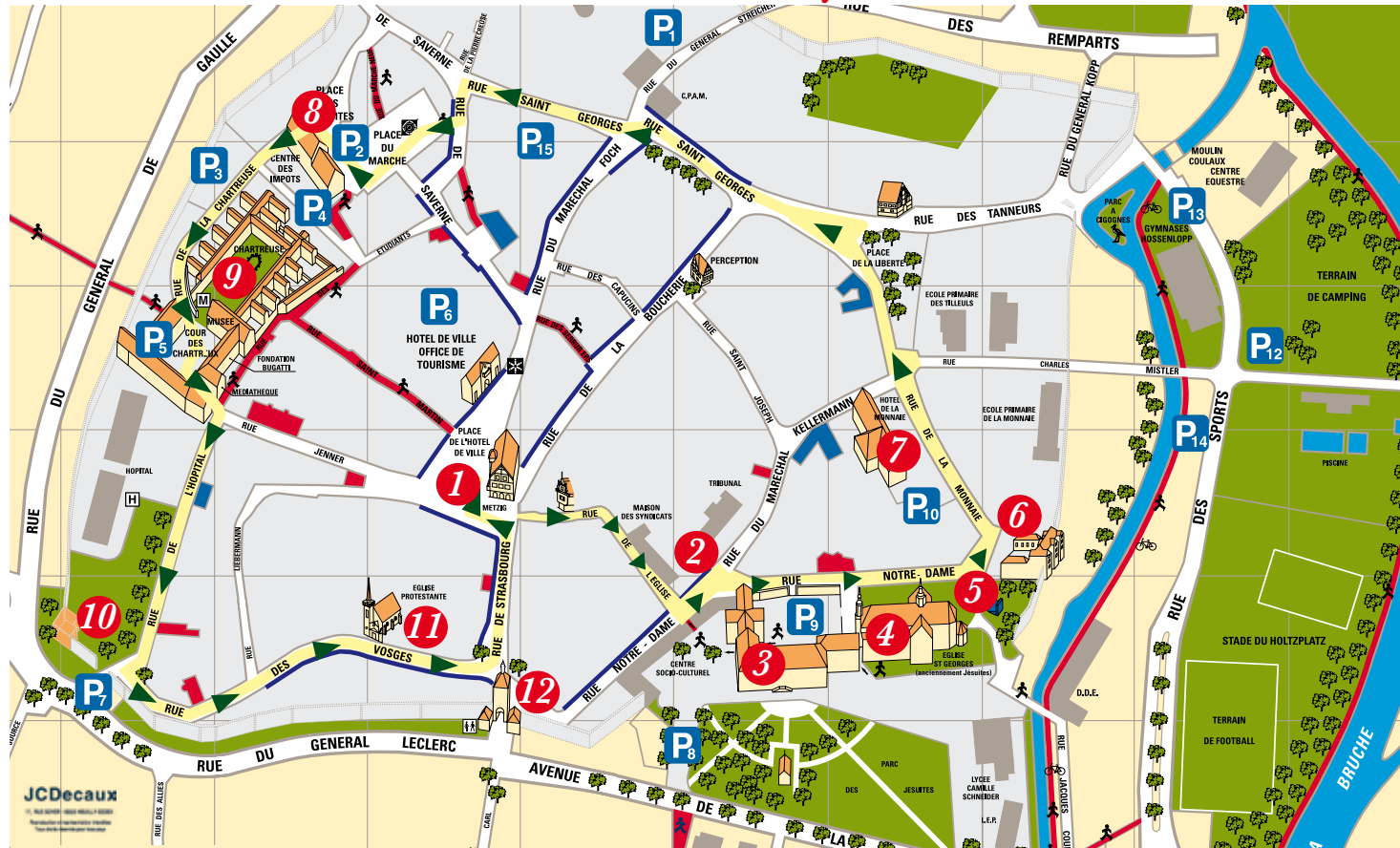*www.ot-molsheim-mutzig.com*

Molsheim
Walk through the old City

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❶ The Butcher's House

Built after 1583 for the butchers' corporation, the **Metzig** is the most representative Renaissance building in Molsheim. This fine rectangular building has two levels: the vaulted ground floor rests on pillars whereas the first floor is ornamented with a balustrade balcony. Facing the **Place de l'hôtel de ville** (the Town Council), the main front is decorated with a double staircase topped by an onion-shaped turret. Its **Jaquemart Clock** (1607) where two stone angels strike the hours and the quarters. In the top part nestle a statue of Our Lady and Child.

❷ The County Court

Erected in Molsheim in 1906 by **Maximilien Metzenthin**, the building is in neo-Renaissance style. The Court room, which is an extension of the building, dates from the same period, as does the old prison located at the back, which is now a dwelling house.

❸ The Chapel of Our Lady

Coming from **Dieuze (Moselle)** the Canonesses Regular of St Augustine settled in Molsheim in 1836. They lived in what used to be the **Collège des Jésuites** before the French Revolution. For over a century, they spent most of their time teaching the local girls, until they left Molsheim in 1954. Built by **Vautrin**, an architect from Lorraine, the Neo-Gothic chapel has a cruciform plan and two magnificent rose-windows in its transept and its front.

❹ The Jesuit church

The former church, which later came to be known as Molsheim's parish church, was built between 1615 and 1617 by architect **Christophe Wambser**. A major land mark in the artistic evolution of the 17th century, the church was the main religious building erected in the Rhine Valley at that time. The stucco decorations of the side chapels are the work of **Jean Kuhn** (1630).

In the Chapel of our Lady (South side) the beautiful slab of **Jean de Dirpheim** (1306-1328) reminds us that the first hospital of Molsheim, founded by the same bishop, used to stand there. The coat of arms on the key-stone of the Saint Ignatius Chapel is that of **Archduke Leopold of Austria**, brother of **Emperor Ferdinand II** and protector of the Jesuits in Molsheim. The organ was completed in 1781 by Jean **André Silbermann**. It is the only one in Alsace to have a «**clavier d'écho**» (keyboard) of 4 octaves.

❺ The Mount of Olives

Already in existence at the Charterhouse before 1685, it was moved in the last century near to the Jesuit church. The present monument dates from the beginning of the 18th century. The original consisted of a domsel roof, which was demolished about 1920, which contributed to its deterioration.

❻ Oberkirch Castle

The home of a noble military family. This manor owes its name to two cousins of **Baroness Oberkirch**. Once under the control of **General Jean François Barbier**, it is now a private residence.

❼ The Mint

This building occupies the site of an old coin workshop, founded in 1573 and demolished in 1722, to make room for the Bishop's Treasury. The present building was used, in turn, as a hardware factory by **Ets J. Coulaux**, a barracks for the Army and a place for processing tobacco. The restoration between 1972 and 1978 allowed the town to have two vaults (**Coulaux** and **Bugatti**) and a large room on the first floor (**Manderscheidt**) for receptions, general assemblies and exhibitions.