XTOP 2026
16th Conference on High-Resolution X-Ray Diffraction and Imaging
21 - 25 September 2026, Karlsruhe, Germany

XTOP 2026 – Excursion to Heidelberg Castle & Old Town

Wednesday, 23rd of September 2026, 12:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Time	**Program Schedule**
12:45 p.m.	Departure to Heidelberg by bus
2:00 p.m.	Arrival at Heidelberg Castle / bus parking area
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Welcome by the coordinator
2:15 – 3:45 p.m.	English-guided tour: “Life at Court” at Heidelberg Castle
3:45 – 5:30 p.m.	❖ Free time in the castle area / viewpoint ❖ Walk to Heidelberg Old Town (see pages 2+3) *or* Ride on the mountain railway to Heidelberg Old Town (Maximum capacity: 80 people per 10 minutes) (see page 4) ❖ Free time in Heidelberg Old Town
5:30 p.m.	Group meeting at the bus pick-up point at Neckarmünzplatz (see page 5)
5:45 p.m.	Return journey to Karlsruhe by bus
7:00 p.m.	Arrival at GenoHotel Karlsruhe

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Walk from Heidelberg Castle to Old Town

The most efficient route to walk from Heidelberg Castle to Kornmarkt Square is:

1. Exit the castle through the main entrance.
2. Follow the Burgweg (Castle Path) downhill toward the Old Town (see page 3).
3. Continue to Kornmarkt Square, where the nearby valley station of the mountain railway is located.

Route summary:

- Distance: approximately 700–900 meters (0.4–0.6 miles)
- Walking time: about 10–15 minutes downhill
- Difficulty: easy, mostly downhill
- Highlights: scenic views of Heidelberg's Old Town along the way



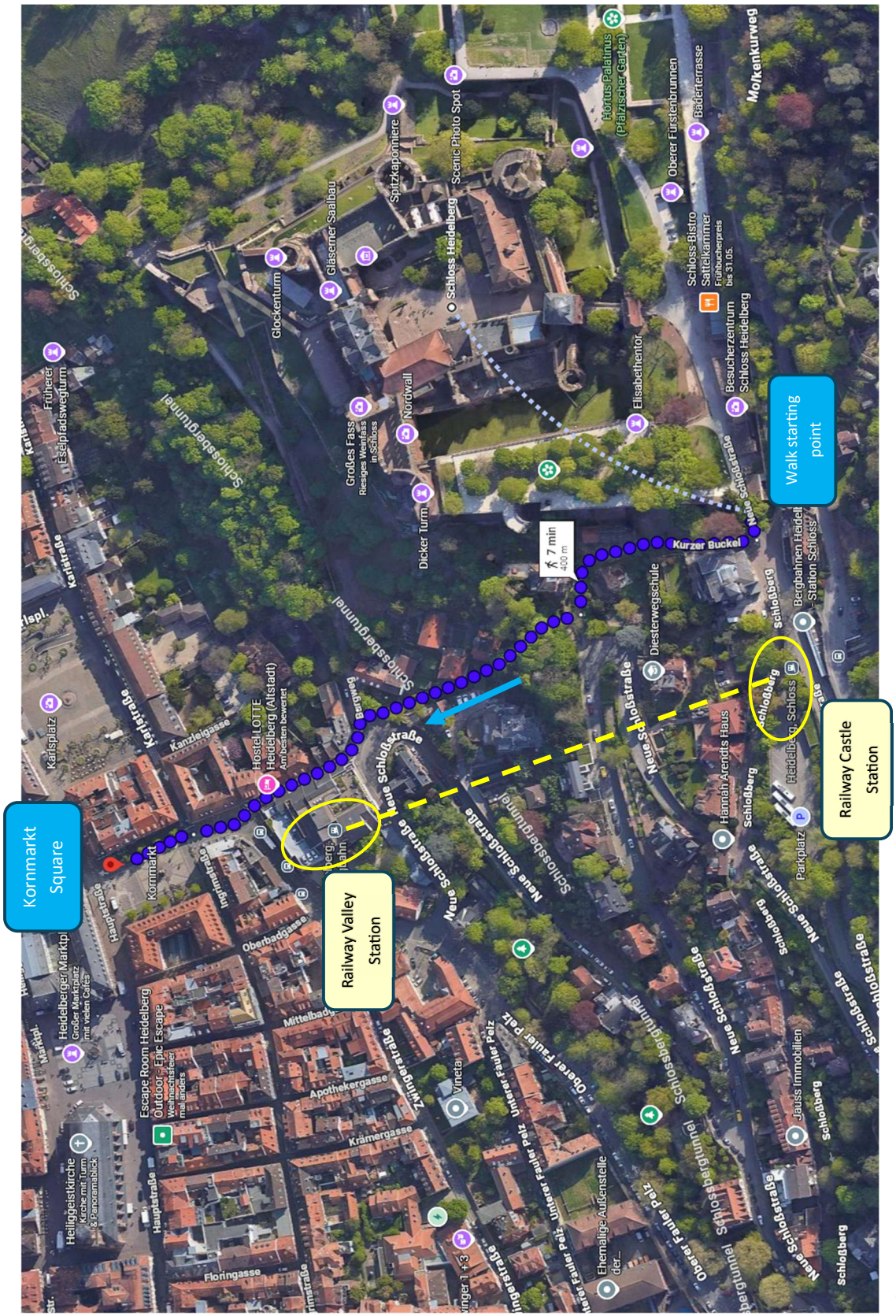
Kornmarkt Square at Old Town

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Scan the QR code to open the location in Google Maps: **Kornmarkt Square**

Heidelberg Castle to Old Town – on foot or by mountain railway (map)

Note: the arrow points downhill



Mountain railway schedule

Your Heidelberg Castle visitor ticket includes travel by mountain railway twice per person. The mountain railway from Heidelberg Castle to Old Town (labeled ‘Lower Mountain Railway’) departs every 10 minutes.

Summer Timetable

(valid from 28 March 2026 through 1 November 2026)

UPHILL			
Station	**First Journey**	**Frequency**	**Last Journey**
Lower Mountain Railway			
Kornmarkt (dep.)	9:00 AM	Every 10 min	8:00 PM
Castle (arr.)	9:02 AM	Every 10 min	8:02 PM
Castle (dep.)	9:03 AM	Every 10 min	8:03 PM
Molkenkur (arr.)	9:05 AM*	Every 10 min	8:05 PM
Upper Mountain Railway			
Molkenkur (dep.)	9:08 AM	Every 20 min	7:28 PM
Königstuhl (arr.)	9:17 AM	Every 20 min	7:37 PM

DOWNHILL			
Station	**First Journey**	**Frequency**	**Last Journey**
Upper Mountain Railway			
Königstuhl (dep.)	9:08 AM	Every 20 min	7:48 PM
Molkenkur (arr.)*	9:17 AM*	Every 20 min	7:57 PM
Lower Mountain Railway			
Molkenkur (dep.)	9:00 AM	Every 10 min	8:00 PM
Castle (arr.)	9:02 AM	Every 10 min	8:02 PM
Castle (dep.)	9:03 AM	Every 10 min	8:03 PM
Kornmarkt (arr.)	9:05 AM	Every 10 min	8:05 PM

Bus pick-up point at Neckarmünzplatz

(same place as the Tourist Information center)



© KIT

Scan the QR code to open the location in Google Maps:
Bus pick-up point at Neckarmünzplatz

Selected sights in Heidelberg Old Town

❖ Old Bridge Heidelberg

The Old Bridge, officially known as the Karl Theodor Bridge, is one of Heidelberg's most iconic landmarks. Built in 1788, it spans the Neckar River and connects the historic Old Town with the eastern riverbank. Visitors can enjoy beautiful views of Heidelberg Castle, the river, and the surrounding hills.



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Scan the QR code to open the location in Google Maps: **Old Bridge**

❖ Church of the Holy Spirit (Heiliggeistkirche)

Rising above Heidelberg’s picturesque Market Square, the Church of the Holy Spirit has been at the heart of the city for centuries. Its impressive Gothic architecture reflects Heidelberg’s rich cultural and religious heritage. Its tower offers scenic views over Heidelberg's rooftops and the Neckar Valley.

The church is open to visitors until 5 p.m. Admission is free.



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Scan the QR code to open the location in Google Maps:
Church of the Holy Spirit

❖ Heidelberg University

Founded in 1386, Heidelberg University is Germany's oldest university and one of Europe's most renowned research institutions. For more than six centuries, it has attracted students and scholars from around the world, shaping Heidelberg’s vibrant intellectual and multicultural atmosphere. Its historic buildings, traditions, and academic excellence continue to define the unique character of the city.



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Heidelberg University