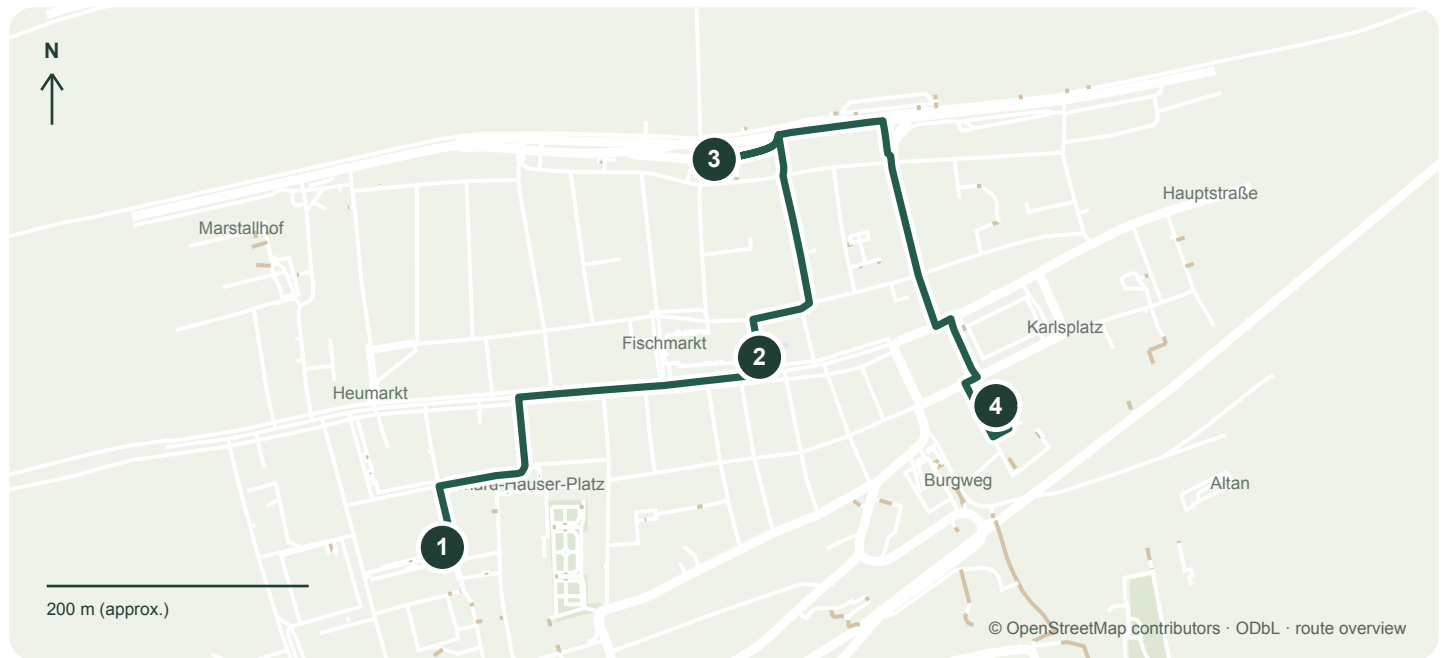


Old-town squares and the Neckar

Explore Heidelberg's lower old town from Universitätsplatz to the market, Old Bridge and Karlsplatz. The castle appears as part of the skyline; the steep climb is a separate outing.

1.09 km / 4 stops / 40-65 min with pauses / one way



1. Universitätsplatz

2. Marktplatz

3. Old Bridge, southern end

4. Karlsplatz

Start & finish

Start in Universitätsplatz in the old town. Finish at Karlsplatz. Public transport approaches from the wider city need their own planning; this is not a walk from the main railway station.

Make it shorter

Finish at Marktplatz after the university square. Add the Old Bridge when you want a river view.

Look closer at each stop

01 Universitätsplatz

Begin in the university square and compare its institutional buildings with the surrounding shopping streets. The public square gives a first sense of the old town's scale.

Next: 379 m to stop 2. Route includes Universitätsplatz, Merianstraße, Heugasse.

02 Marktplatz

The Church of the Holy Spirit and the surrounding façades frame the market square. Pause at an edge so any stalls, terraces and through-routes remain clear.

Next: 262 m to stop 3. Route includes Marktplatz, Heiliggeiststraße, Fischergasse.

03 Old Bridge, southern end

Walk to the river and look through the bridge gateway. From the pedestrian space, compare the river's broad line with the tightly packed old-town roofs.

Next: 452 m to stop 4. Route includes Am Hackteufel, B 37, Mönchgasse.

04 Karlsplatz

Finish in the square with a view toward the castle above. This is the end of the lower-town route; any ascent needs extra time and a suitable approach.

Underfoot & access

Paved and cobbled streets with gentle changes of level. The bridge and market can be crowded. The castle stairs, hillside paths and Philosophenweg are not included.

Before you go

Markets and festivals can change access through squares. Castle and university interiors are optional separate visits. Wet stone and winter conditions may affect footing.

Sources & route review

Germany Travel: Heidelberg

Heidelberg official tourism

Map: OpenStreetMap / Valhalla pedestrian routing. Distances follow the mapped line; suggested visit times include pauses and are editorial estimates, not a timed on-site walk.