

ShUM

Jerusalem on the Rhine

The **three Jewish communities** in the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz established a unique alliance known as ShUM that shapes the Jewish world to this day.

ShUM is a term composed of the initial letters of these cities' Hebrew names.

ש Schin [Sch] Schpira Speyer
ו Waw [U] Warmaisa Worms
מ Mem [M] Magenza Mainz

Along the Rhine river was the heartland of Ashkenazic Judaism. It is here that a major common culture and renowned rabbinical scholarship developed.

Scholars flocked to the ShUM communities and later spread their knowledge around the world.

In 2021, this heritage was recognized by **UNESCO** as **world heritage**. Superbly conserved evidence of a vibrant Jewish tradition can be witnessed at two places in Worms:

In the synagogue district and at the Jewish cemetery.

◀ Entrance to the synagogue's men's section



- 1 Synagogue and Frauenschul
- 2 Mikveh (ritual bath)
- 3 Heiliger Sand (Jewish cemetery)
- 4 Judengasse street
- 5 Jewish museum at Rashi house

„Worms erleben“ app

- ▶ Shum tour - Jewish Worms
- ▶ Worms compact tour (50 minutes)
- ▶ Diverse Worms (2 hours)

Brochures and leaflets

free of charge:
www.worms-erleben.de/flyer.php

Guided tours

available at the:

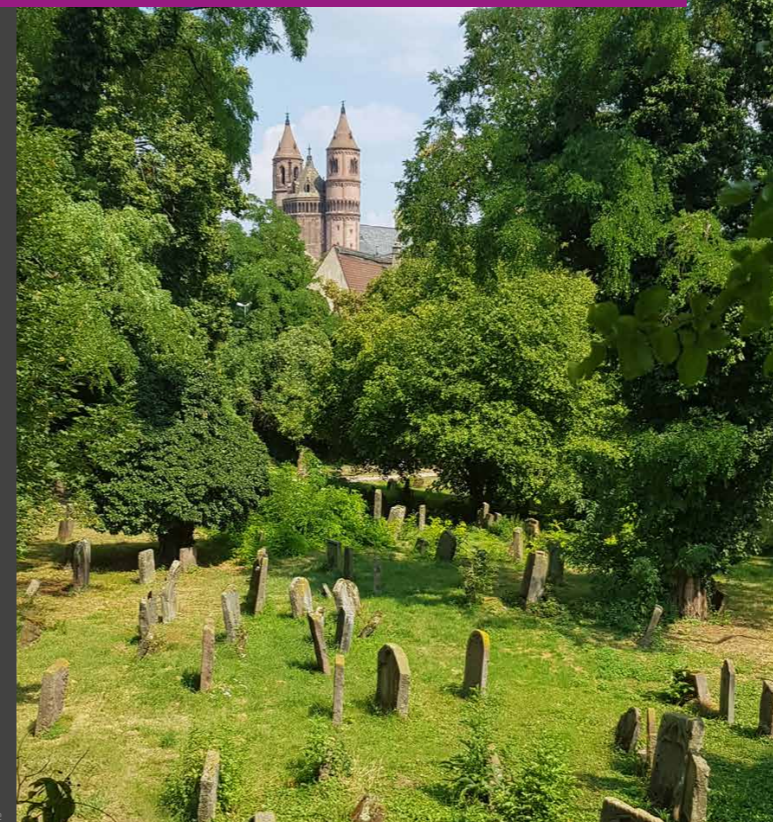
Tourist Information

Neumarkt 14 · 67547 Worms · T. +49 6241- 853 -7306
touristinfo@worms.de

Rheinland-Pfalz **.Gold** 

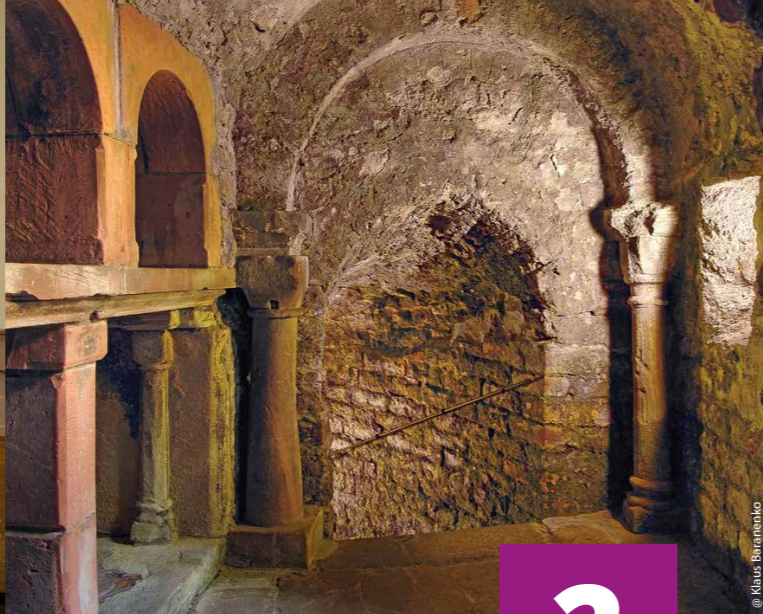
Jewish Worms

ShUM world heritage



WORMS
SHUM CITY





SYNAGOGUE

The Worms Synagogue is one of the oldest north of the Alps: The inscription on the right side of the entrance indicates the year 1034.

The Frauenschul (women's school) of 1212 is the first known synagogue section for women. In the 19th century, the wall separating it from the men's section was opened. Previously, women had to listen to the cantor through slots or to their own female cantors.

The semicircular Rashi teaching house extension (yeshiva) was built around 1624. On Kristallnacht in 1938 the synagogue was set on fire and reduced to rubble. From 1956 onwards, it was reconstructed to resemble like the original building.

MIKVEH

The Jewish mikveh (ritual bath) that dates from 1185/86 is currently under reconstruction.

It is located in a tower that reaches 9 m deep into the ground, allowing access to the groundwater.

The mikveh of Worms is one of the most significant historico-cultural sites of the Rhineland.

Men and women used the mikveh separately. Three immersions were required for ritual cleansing.

Since 2018 the mikveh is closed to the public due to restoration. Information about the ongoing works are available on-site and in the SchUM app.

JEWISH CEMETERY

The Heiliger Sand (holy sand) Jewish cemetery is the oldest of its kind in Europe that is still in its original location.

Around 2500 tombstones have been preserved, of which 1200 are in the old section. The oldest one dates from 1058/59. Close to the entrance are the graves of Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg and Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen. Their biographies are linked by one of many harrowing stories that you can hear on a tour or read in the **ShUM app**. There you can also find out what lies behind the symbols on the tombstones of the new section.

Please make sure to plan a visit outside of the Jewish holidays, on which the cemetery is closed to the public.

JUDENGASSE

Jews lived on this street along the city walls from the 10th century onwards. After persecutions during the Black Death in the 14th century it became a **ghetto**. This is where in 2006 Worms' first sets of the **Stolpersteine** ("stumbling stones") memorial project were laid. An updated list is available at: <https://stolpersteine-guide.de>

JEWISH MUSEUM

The Jewish museum at Rashi house features a **ShUM exhibition**. It is located on the foundations of the former Jewish community center. A statue in the synagogue's court commemorates Rashi, he studied in Worms in the 11th century. Rashi's Talmud commentaries are influential to this day.