



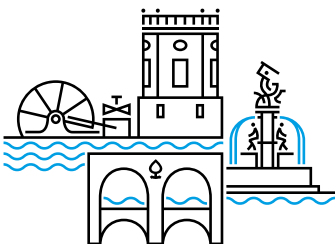
Stadt Augsburg



**WATER MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM OF AUGSBURG**

# General plan and tours to the UNESCO World Heritage Site

**4 maps  
incl.  
GPS tracks**



**unesco**

Water Management System  
of Augsburg  
World Heritage since 2019



**2000** years  
of water history

**29** Lech canals

**40** Hydropower  
plants

**200 km**  
brooks and canals

**1** Olympic  
canoe course

**530** bridges

**7** water towers

## **WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF AUGSBURG – UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2019**

**Water makes  
history.  
Past. Present.  
Future.**

The Water Management System of Augsburg consists of 22 elements. It represents an urban water landscape and water management that is over 800 years old. It is unparalleled in terms of its surviving technical diversity. Thus the outstanding universal value which constitutes the uniqueness of the Water Management System of Augsburg is described. It stands for the responsible way the Augsburg population deals with the precious commodity of water and the associated technical innovations.

This includes above all the strict separation of drinking and process water at an early stage. The reason was the awareness that pure spring water from the city forest is very important for our health. The Augsburg fountain masters developed pump systems which also supplied those parts of the city situated at slightly higher altitudes. These and other groundbreaking technical innovations were implemented in Augsburg and aroused great interest internationally. The 22 elements are a vivid testimony to the continuous and successful Water Management System of Augsburg which has existed since the Middle Ages.

# The 22 elements of the Water Management System of Augsburg

The system which combines nature, technology, economic management and art was of great significance for the development of the city. Its task was to:

- Supply the city with drinking water as a vital resource
- Supply the city with process water for energy, hygiene and disposal
- Strictly separate drinking and process water

Today the continued existence of the Water System reminds us that it is important to use natural resources sustainably.

## 1 Hochablass (Lech weir)

Since the late Middle Ages, the Hochablass has served to mark the beginning of Augsburg's use of hydropower. The water for most of the city's canals is diverted at this weir. Apart from a few renovated technical parts, today's system dates from 1911/12.



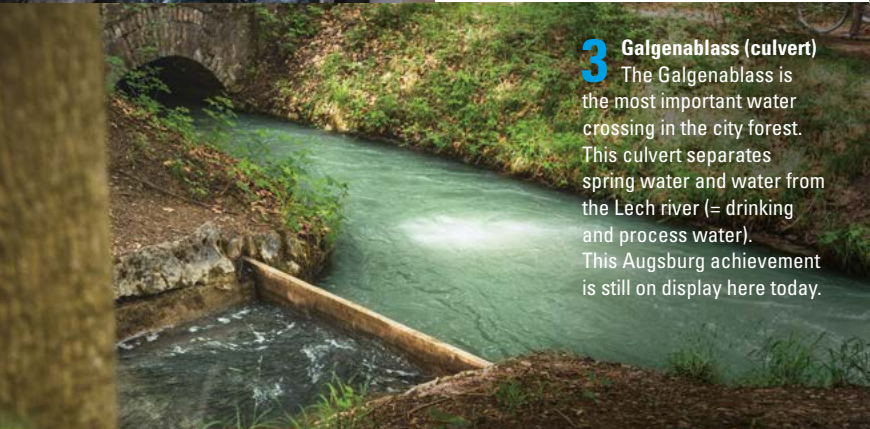
## 2 Lech canals

Since the Middle Ages the canals have supplied process water and energy. Their existence was first recorded in writing in the town charter in 1276. The canals were indispensable for supplying water to the many craftsmen's businesses, which powered their machines with water wheels, and later for factories and for generating electricity.



## 3 Galgenablass (culvert)

The Galgenablass is the most important water crossing in the city forest. This culvert separates spring water and water from the Lech river (= drinking and process water). This Augsburg achievement is still on display here today.



## 6 Waterworks at Vogeltor

The construction of the waterworks on the city wall next to the Vogeltor started in 1538. Its main purpose was to supply drinking water to the part of the town called Lechviertel (Lech quarter). In the 1770's, a fortified tower was repurposed into a water tower, making the works larger and more efficient.



## 4 Waterworks at Rotes Tor

The architectural ensemble with three water towers was of primary importance for Augsburg's water supply. Starting in the 15th century, the waterworks provided the city with drinking water. The pumping systems were continually improved over the centuries and were admired throughout Europe as technical masterpieces.



## 5 Lower waterworks

The Lower waterworks, dating from the early 16th century, is the second largest and second oldest waterworks in Augsburg. It consists of the Lower water tower, the Pump house and a water crossing where the Innere Stadtgraben (inner city moat) now crosses the Stadtbach canal.





## 7 Augustus fountain

The three monumental fountains with bronze figures are the artistic highlight of the water system. The first one was created by Hubert Gerhard between 1589 and 1594. The city's founder Augustus is portrayed as an emperor of peace. The four river gods symbolize Augsburg's main bodies of water: The rivers Lech, Wertach and Singold, and the Brunnenbach which was artificially created to supply the town with drinking water.

## 8 Mercury fountain

The fountain was designed around 1599 by Adriaen de Vries, a sculptor of European renown. The bronze group on the pillar shows Mercury and at his feet Cupid, who is taking off the sandals of the god of trade. This symbolises the desire and certainty that Mercury will remain in Augsburg and keep trade flourishing and thus the city prospering.

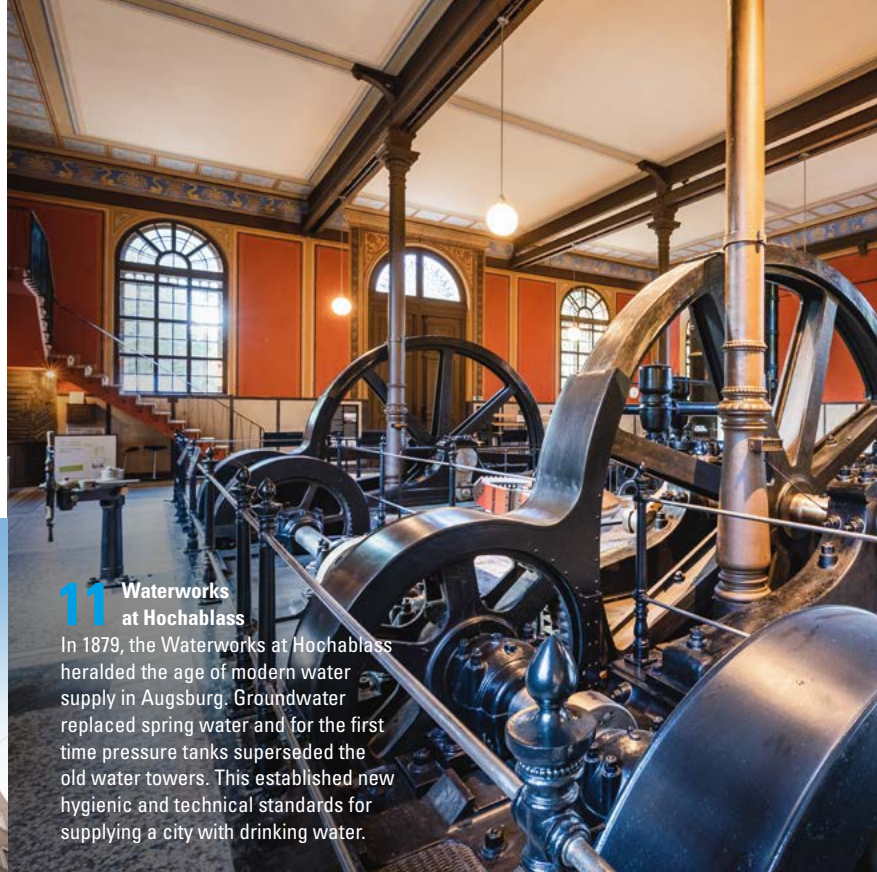


## 9 Hercules fountain

The Hercules fountain was completed in 1602. The bronze casts were designed by Adriaen de Vries. The Hercules and the Mercury fountain count among the grandest works of art created by de Vries. The hero Hercules fights against the Hydra, a multi-headed, water-snake-like monster. The fountain pillar is decorated with naiads, tritons and boys strangling geese.

## 10 Stadtmetzg

The building was constructed in 1609 by Elias Holl. It served as the butchers' guild house. What made it unique was the innovative use of process water: The Western Lech (canal) was routed through the basement of the building to cool the meat and dispose of the waste.



## 11 Waterworks at Hochablass

In 1879, the Waterworks at Hochablass heralded the age of modern water supply in Augsburg. Groundwater replaced spring water and for the first time pressure tanks superseded the old water towers. This established new hygienic and technical standards for supplying a city with drinking water.

## 12 Power plant at the Stadtbach

The first hydropower plants in Augsburg powered factory machinery directly in transmission operation. Since 1875 the Power plant at the Stadtbach had supplied the Baumwollspinnerei am Stadtbach, then the largest cotton spinning mill in the German Empire.



## 13 Power plant at the Fabrikkanal

This power plant was put into operation in 1885 by the Worsted Yarn Spinning Works Göggigen. The Fabrikkanal fed by the Wertach river was created specifically for this purpose. In 1907 new turbines were installed; the plant is still in operation today.



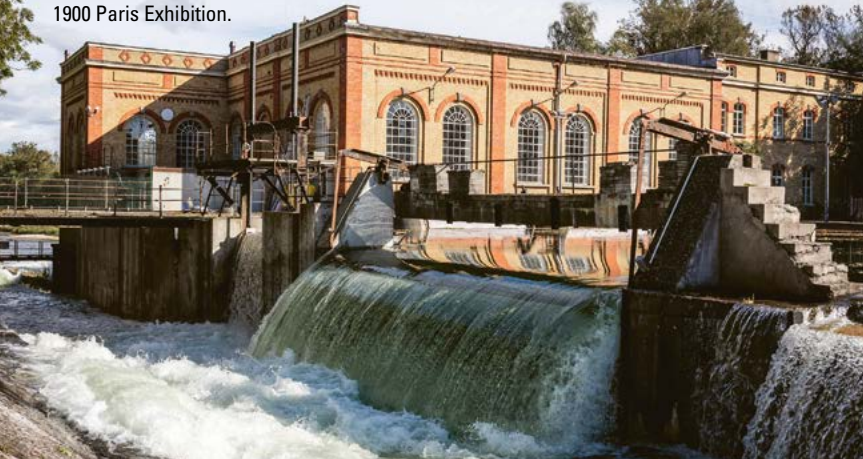


**14 Power plant at the Singold**  
The small power plant has been in continuous operation since 1887. It was originally built to drive the transmissions of the Worsted Yarn Spinning Works Göggingen, but later, like the other two earlier power plants, generated electricity for the factory.



**18 Power plant Langweid**  
Like the plant in Gersthofen, the second power plant on the Lechkanal was built in elaborate design. The Power plant Langweid has been generating electricity since 1907, initially for a factory, then for general supply. Today, it is home to the Lechmuseum Bayern, which features an exhibition on the Lech river as well as impressive machinery.

**15 Power plant at the Wolfzahnau**  
This power plant is an impressive structure which straddles a canal shortly before the confluence of the Lech and Wertach rivers. In 1900 it was the first plant to be built to generate electricity for the Baumwollspinnerei am Stadtbach (cotton spinning mill), in other words, no longer to drive the factory machines directly. Its hydroelectric sets had been showcased previously at the 1900 Paris Exhibition.



**19 Power plant at the Wertachkanal**  
The Power plant at the Wertachkanal was completed in 1921. The canal had been newly built to reduce the risk of flooding and for energy production. The original purpose of the power plant was to generate electricity for Augsburg's tram network.



**20 Power plant at the Proviantbach**  
This power plant, which went into operation in 1923, initially belonged to the Baumwollspinnerei (cotton spinning mill), as did those at the Stadtbach and at the Wolfzahnau. The first power plant on this site had been built in 1858. The new building, designed in the austere style of the industrial architecture of the time, still contains the turbine and generator from the early 1920s.



**16 Power plant Gersthofen**  
The first of three hydroelectric power plants on the newly constructed Lechkanal (canal) – a palatial Baroque Revival building – went into operation in 1901. It was no longer connected to a single factory but marked the beginning of comprehensive power supply in Swabia.



**21 Power plant Meitingen**  
This power plant is the third one on the Lechkanal (canal) and furthest away from Augsburg. Initially, it generated power for the industry, and later for the entire region. This power plant has the entire original technical equipment from 1922 preserved and still in operation.



**22 Canoe course (Eiskanal)**  
For the 1972 Summer Olympics, the historic Eiskanal (ice canal) was transformed into the world's first artificial whitewater canoe course. Thus, modern sport is also part of the centuries-long continuity of Augsburg's water system. The course is still used today for international competitions.



**17 Power plant at the Senkelbach**  
The power plant, dating from 1904, is situated on the oldest Wertach canal. Initially, it supplied a machine factory. Later it was used for general power supply. Equipped with a modern turbine, it is still in operation today. The set of machines used in 1923 has been preserved and is periodically in operation.



## GENERAL PLAN

# Discover Augsburg's world heritage on site.

The Water Management System of Augsburg consists of 22 elements based on a network of canals. With three rivers and numerous springs, the natural conditions are extraordinarily favourable.

### CANALS

- 2 Lech canals
- 22 Canoe course (Eiskanal)

### DRINKING WATERWORKS

- 4 Waterworks at Rotes Tor
- 5 Lower waterworks
- 6 Waterworks at Vogeltor
- 11 Waterworks at Hochablass

### WATER ENGINEERING STRUCTURES

- 1 Hochablass (Lech weir)
- 3 Galgenablass (culvert)

### FOUNTAINS

- 7 Augustus fountain
- 8 Mercury fountain
- 9 Hercules fountain

### STADTMETZG

- 10 Stadtmetzg

### POWER PLANTS

- 12 Power plant at the Stadtbach
- 13 Power plant at the Fabrikkanal
- 14 Power plant at the Singold
- 15 Power plant at the Wolfzahnau
- 16 Power plant Gersthofen
- 17 Power plant at the Senkelbach
- 18 Power plant Langweid
- 19 Power plant at the Wertachkanal
- 20 Power plant at the Proviantbach
- 21 Power plant Meitingen

You can find the opening times on our website:  
[wassersystem-augsburg.de](http://wassersystem-augsburg.de)

Not open to the public

## TOUR OVERVIEW

- Tour 1** Inner city tour
- Tour 2** Romantic & industry tour
- Tour 3** City & forest tour
- Tour 4** Wolfzahnau & Wertach tour



- The urban area of Augsburg
- The old town
- Water courses (rivers, streams, canals & lakes)
- World Heritage water courses & canals
- World Heritage Info Centre

## INNER CITY TOUR

# Where the craftsmen were at home

 DURATION APPROX. 1 HOUR (3.5 KM)

 TOURISTS, SCHOOL CLASSES, PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY AND THE HISTORY OF ART

**Route:** Augustus fountain – Stadtmetzg – Lower waterworks – Lech canals – Waterworks at Vogeltor – Waterworks at Rotes Tor – Hercules fountain – Mercury fountain – Maximilianmuseum

In the Middle Ages, numerous handicraft businesses set themselves up with their mills, forges and pump stations along the canals in the inner city to use the hydropower. Maybe as you are strolling around, you will stumble across the last traditional tannery in Augsburg. To this day, it is still located beside the water and still uses a tanner's floor just as it did back then.

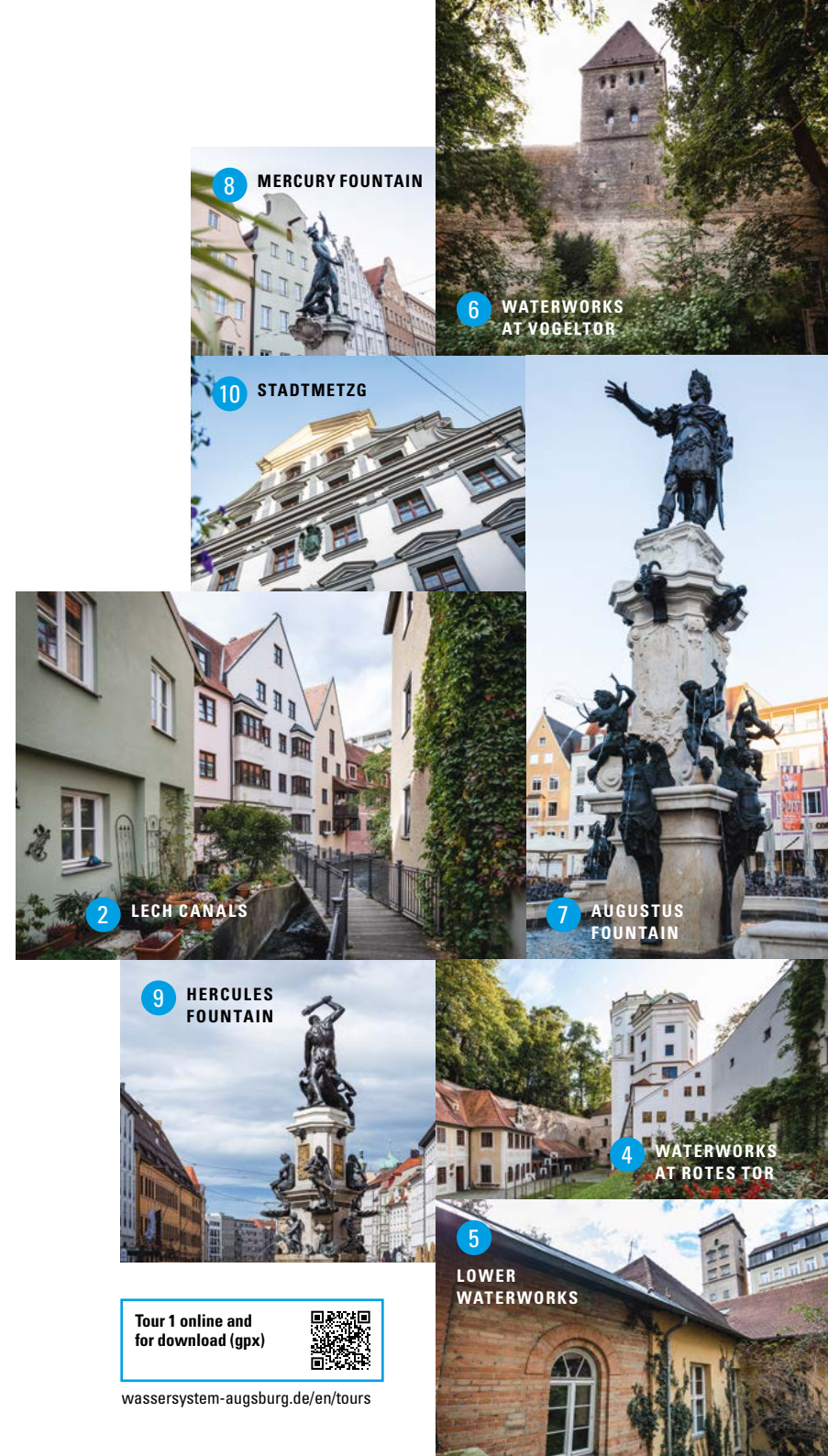
But of course the old town of Augsburg has more to offer: Make a stop at an ice-cream parlour, visit the little shops or refresh yourself at the public drinking water fountains.

In post-medieval times, Augsburg was famous throughout Europe for its effective water management system. The city celebrated this achievement around 1600 by erecting three monumental fountains. It is well worth visiting the Maximilianmuseum where the original figures of the fountains and original technical models of Augsburg's historical water supply system are on display.

### Opening times:

**Maximilianmuseum:** Tues – Sun: 10 am – 5 pm

**Schwäbisches Handwerker-museum** (Waterworks at Rotes Tor, Handwerkerhof): Mon/Tues: 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm, Wed – Fri: 1 pm – 5 pm, Sun/bank holidays: 10 am – 5 pm



Tour 1 online and for download (gpx)



[wassersystem-augsburg.de/en/tours](https://wassersystem-augsburg.de/en/tours)



## ROMANTIC & INDUSTRY TOUR

# Where Augsburg is more than a World Heritage Site

 DURATION APPROX. 1-2 HOURS (5.0 KM)

 TOURISTS, SCHOOL CLASSES, FAMILIES, PEOPLE INTERESTED IN HISTORY OF ART

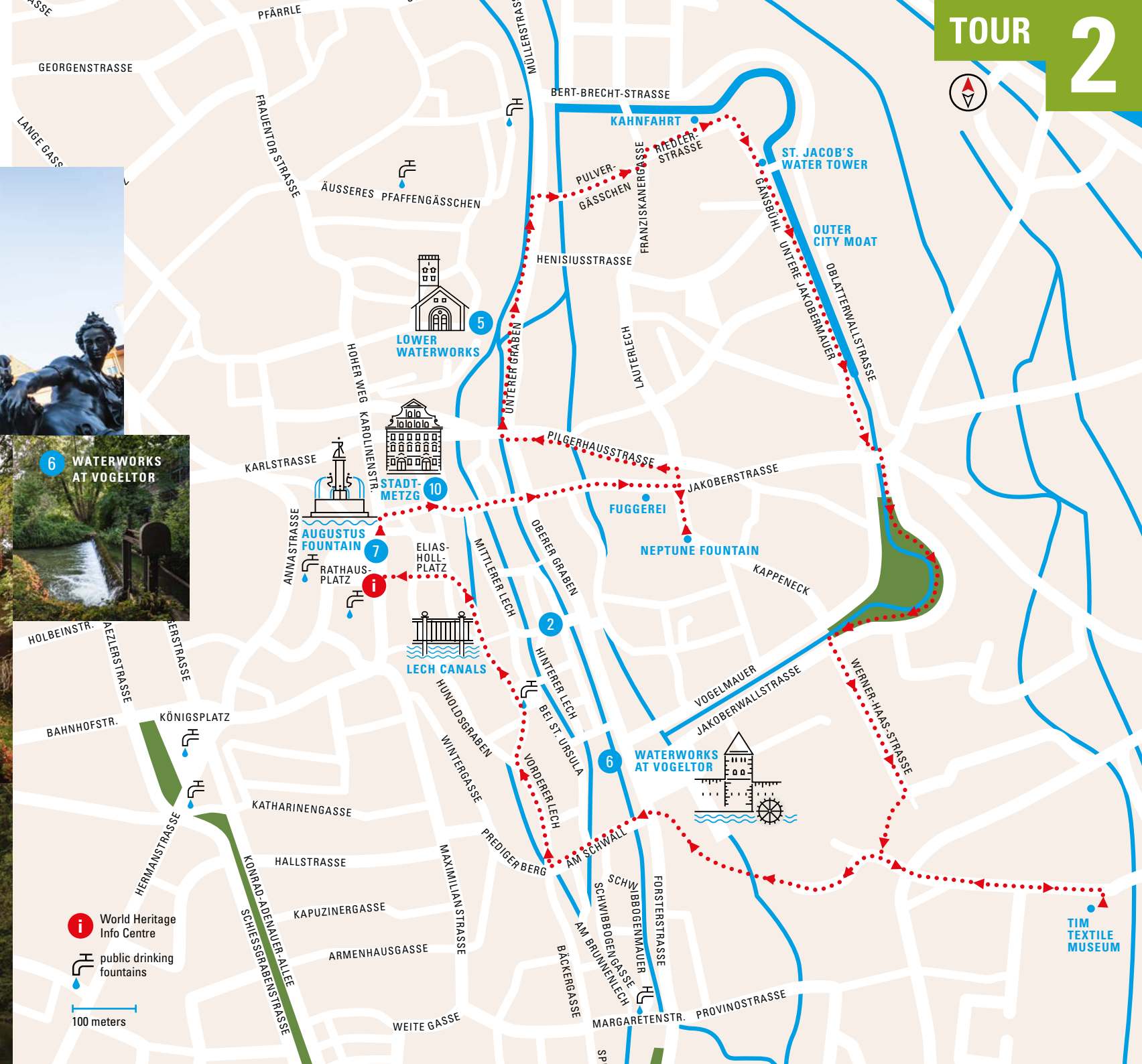
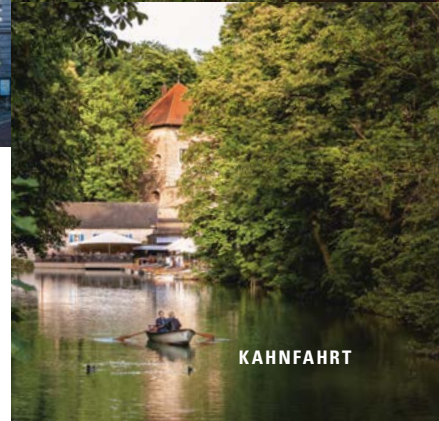
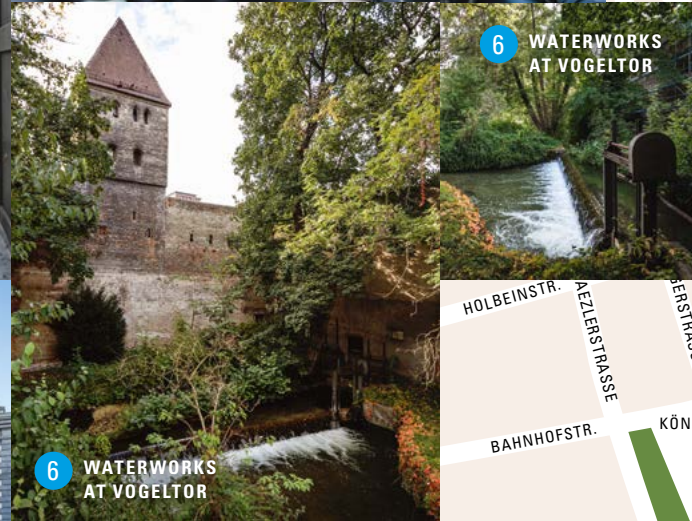
**Route:** Augustus fountain – Stadtmetzg – Fuggerei – Neptune fountain – Lower waterworks – Kahnfahrt – St. Jacob's Water tower – Outer city moat – tim textile museum

Immerse yourself completely in Augsburg's water history. In addition to World Heritage elements, on this tour you will also visit other places of interest in Augsburg.

At the Kahnfahrt, for example, you can hire a rowing boat for a trip on the city moat. The writer Bertolt Brecht also enjoyed being out and about here. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was even a plan to develop this stretch of water into a harbour! Pay a visit to the Fuggerei – the world's oldest existing social housing complex. And in the tim (State Textile and Industry Museum) you can learn a bit about Augsburg as a former centre of the textile industry. From the 19th century onwards, many textile factories established themselves along Augsburg's waterways and used the hydroelectric power to drive their looms directly. The numerous power plants on the waterways also date from this time.

### Opening times:

**Fuggerei:** Apr–Sept: daily 9 am–8 pm; Oct–Mar: daily 9 am–6 pm  
**Kahnfahrt:** Apr–Oct: Tues/Wed: 12 pm–10 pm, Thur/Fri: 12 pm–11 pm, Sat: 10 am–11 pm, Sun: 10 am–10 pm  
**tim:** Tues–Sun: 9 am–6 pm



Tour 2 online and for download (gpx)



wassersystem-augsburg.de/en/tours

## CITY & FOREST TOUR

# Where the water comes from

**DURATION WITH BICYCLE: APPROX. 1 HOUR,  
ON FOOT: APPROX. 3 HOURS (13.3 KM)**

**TOURISTS, NATURE ENTHUSIASTS, CYCLISTS**

**REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

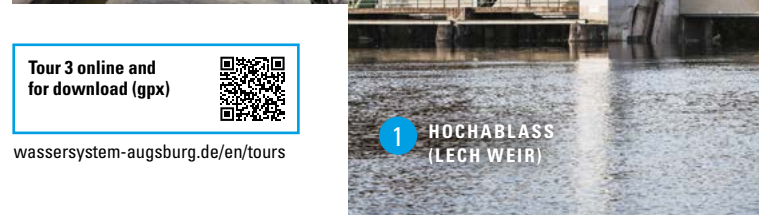
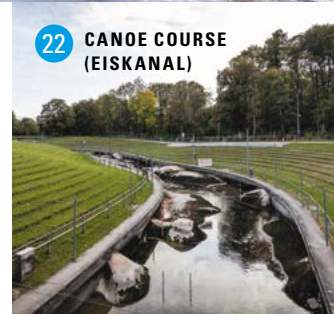
**Route:** Augustus fountain – Stadtmetzg – Lech canals – Waterworks at Vogeltor – Waterworks at Rotes Tor – Galgenablass (culvert) – Hochablass (Lech weir) – Waterworks at Hochablass – Canoe course (Eiskanal) – Hercules fountain – Mercury fountain

Water gushes from numerous springs in the Augsburg city forest. The rich groundwater reserves still supply the city with drinking water. The Galgenablass ("Gallows sluice") is located in the middle of the city forest. A structure reminiscent of a set of gallows used to stand here, hence the name. Still today, the Galgenablass fulfills its centuries' old function and separates spring water and water from the Lech river (= drinking and process water) by means of a culvert. Thus, the Grenzgraben crosses the Siebenbrunner Bach underground, and today it supplies the animals in the zoo with fresh water.

The route continues through the forest until we reach the Hochablass which has been a popular excursion destination since time immemorial. To this day, the Lech water for most of the canals is diverted from here. 1972 heralded a completely new use for the water: for the Olympic Games in Munich, an old canal was developed to create the world's first artificial whitewater canoe course.

**Opening times: Waterworks at Hochablass:**

May–Oct: every first Sunday of the month 12 pm–5 pm



### EXTRA TIP

At the city hall square and at the south end of the park at Rotes Tor, bicycles can be rented at hire stations so you can do the tour either entirely or partly by bike.



Tour 3 online and for download (gpx)



wassersystem-augsburg.de/en/tours

# Where turbines rattle

 **DURATION WITH BICYCLE: APPROX. 1 HOUR (14.4 KM)**

 **NATURE ENTHUSIASTS, CYCLISTS, TOURISTS, PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY**

 **REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

**Route:** Augustus fountain – Stadtmetzg – Power plant at the Proviantbach – Power plant at the Wolfzahnau – Power plant at the Senkelbach – Power plant at the Wertachkanal

Cycle along the Proviantbach (canal) through the idyllic Wolfzahnau – a landscape conservation area that creates the impression that you are miles away from the city. You will get to see Highland cattle, as well as old iron bridges and weirs. At the end of the street, the Power Plant at the Wolfzahnau, located at the confluence of the Lech and Wertach rivers, sits perched across the canal.

After a short detour to the Riedinger industrial park, we continue on southwards for a few kilometres. Under spreading trees, past allotments and under old railway bridges, you will follow the Wertach, which rushes past you over stones and rocks not unlike a wild river. The Power Plant at the Wertachkanal which was built primarily to supply electricity for the city's trams marks the end of the tour. The Wertachkanal was originally used to reduce the risk of flooding.



18 POWER PLANT LANGWEID/  
LECHMUSEUM BAYERN



20 POWER PLANT  
AT THE PROVANTBACH



17 POWER PLANT  
AT THE SENKELBACH



10 STADTMETZG



15 POWER PLANT  
AT THE WOLFZAHNAU



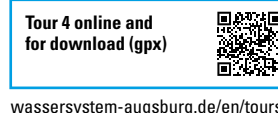
15 POWER PLANT  
AT THE WOLFZAHNAU



19 POWER PLANT AT  
THE WERTACHKANAL



19 POWER PLANT AT  
THE WERTACHKANAL



Tour 4 online and  
for download (gpx)

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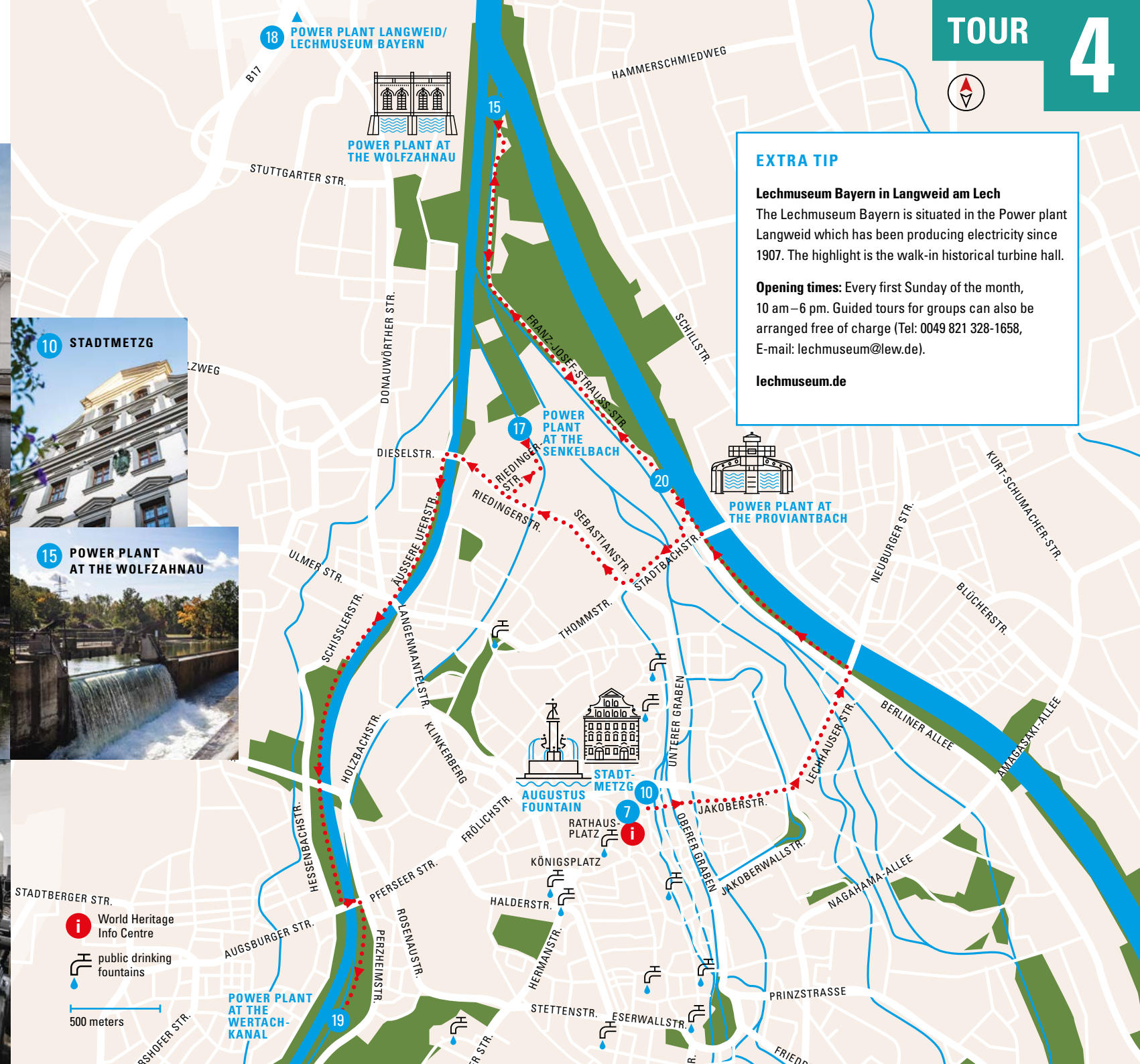
## EXTRA TIP

### Lechmuseum Bayern in Langweid am Lech

The Lechmuseum Bayern is situated in the Power plant Langweid which has been producing electricity since 1907. The highlight is the walk-in historical turbine hall.

**Opening times:** Every first Sunday of the month, 10 am–6 pm. Guided tours for groups can also be arranged free of charge (Tel: 0049 821 328-1658, E-mail: lechmuseum@lew.de).

[lechmuseum.de](http://lechmuseum.de)





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World Heritage here:  
**[wassersystem-augsburg.de](https://wassersystem-augsburg.de)**