

## Information for the press

### The Aachen town hall

Since the time of Charlemagne today's town hall has been located in the centre of the historic old town. Its appearance has been shaped by the influence of many centuries.

Built by the Aachen citizens on the foundation walls of the ruinous palace complex, the new building was converted into an administrative centre and ceremonial hall in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Still today the monumental coronation hall, where banquets of the Aachen royal coronations were held between 936 and 1531, bears witness to this time. Besides copies true to the original imperial insignia from the Viennese Imperial Treasury Museum and a life-size figure of Charlemagne from the year of 1620, the largest historical pictures of the epoch of Romanticism can be admired. In total four frescoes of the Aachen artist Alfred Rethel (1816-1859) show legendary historic scenes from the life of Charlemagne.

Until today the gothic town hall has been used as the administrative centre for the Council and the Lord Mayor and as a venue for special festivities, e.g. the Award of the International Charlemagne Prize. Only the Granus Tower integrated in the town hall, which represents the oldest Carolingian building of the Aachen palatinate, as well as the bureau of the Lord Mayor are not open to the public.

Since 2009 the Aachen town hall has been part of the so-called "Route Charlemagne" and with its museum exhibition and the interactive guide *Aixplorer* it provides information on the history and the works of art accommodated in the house. By means of various stations, the Route Charlemagne describes the development of Aachen as a European city, poses questions on the future and leads visitors to the most important places of Aachen. The "Centre Charlemagne – New City Museum Aachen", located at the Katschhof between town hall and cathedral, is a central contact point.

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