Wherever you are in Rhineland-Palatinate – you will encounter remarkable buildings, fantastic landscapes and live history everywhere. This region, today extremely popular for its excellent wines and proverbial hospitality, once was the scene of numerous events shaping European history.

You can discover no less than four UNESCO world heritage sites in Rhineland-Palatinate: Speyer Cathedral; Roman monuments, the cathedral and Liebfrauenkirche in Trier; the Upper Middle Rhine Valley and the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian defence wall Limes.

We bring history to life.
Speyer Cathedral

When approaching Speyer Cathedral the sight is awe-inspiring. The impressive building exceeds all standard dimensions: It is the world’s largest preserved Romanesque church, its crypt is Europe’s largest arcade, and its layout was model to Romanesque architecture across all of Central Europe. The crypt additionally serves as a burial place for eight German kings and emperors. Speyer Cathedral was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site as early as 1981.

Cultural Landscape Upper Middle Rhine Valley

Fairy tale castles, fabulous palaces and mighty fortresses are lined up along the Middle Rhine Valley in an incredible density. Paired with breath-taking views and a unique landscape, the spectacular architectural monuments make the 70 kilometres between Bingen and Koblenz a very special experience that cannot be matched by any other European cultural landscape.

The SchUM cities on their way to application for UNESCO world heritage site status

With the fifth place on the UNESCO application list, the SchUM cities have reached a big milestone on their joint way. SchUM cities: This is how the Jews called Speyer, Worms and Mainz in the Middle Ages – at that time the largest Jewish communities.

Nine out of a total of 31 applications were selected for the German nomination list in 2014, which will be finalised in 2020. The joint application of the SchUM cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz is among the top candidates in the ranking.

This first important step towards acknowledgment underlines the outstanding significance of the SchUM cities for the development of European Judaism. At the same time, it publicly underlines our unique Jewish inheritance even more and helps to make it known, not only on a supra-regional, but also on a world-wide level.

The SchUM cities thus stand a good chance to be granted the title of “UNESCO World Heritage Site” in some years’ time.

Roman Monuments, Cathedral and Liebfrauenkirche in Trier

A Roman bridge, the Porta Nigra, the Kaiserthermen and Barbarathermen spas, remains of the city fortifications, an amphitheatre, the palace aula – in Trier, Germany’s oldest city, you will feel transposed into Roman times. The Porta Nigra above all, as the best-preserved Roman town gate north of the Alps, magically attracts visitors. Subsequent buildings from the Christian era are no less impressive: The cathedral is the oldest episcopal church in this region, and the Liebfrauenkirche is among the oldest Gothic churches of Germany.

Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes

With a length of 550 kilometres, the upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes is Europe’s longest monument. Its forts, watchtowers, walls and palisades shielded the former Roman Empire from the free, “barbarian” Germany. Together with Hadrian’s Wall in Great Britain, the Limes forms the UNESCO world heritage site “Frontiers of the Roman Empire”. Along the 75 kilometre stretch which the Limes runs through Rhineland-Palatinate, the Romans were stationed in no less than 131 watchtowers.

Mikveh in Speyer

Jewish cemetery in Mainz

Synagogue in Worms

www.dom-zu-speyer.de

www.romantischer-rhein.de

www.welterbe-limes-rlp.de