

*"The centuries-old fortified beauty of the little town, which is protected by St. Elizabeth, has a certain dark and mighty inclination to the pipe organ, to the Gothic, to something abruptly broken and unfinished, which lies buried here."  
Boris Pasternak (1890 - 11960)*

The university town of Marburg is not only the county seat of the district of Marburg-Biedenkopf, the eighth largest city in Hesse and one of the places with the largest number of pubs in Germany, but also (as Boris Pasternak recognized as well) a place full of stories and history, whose spirit is omnipresent here at every corner.

Go on a walk through the streets of the Upper Town, visit historic places, travel through history and find the spirit of Marburg.

Basically, the round is feasible at any time of the day. But some questions might be very difficult to answer in the dark. Therefore, a visit by day is definitely recommended.

Please print out the solution sheet before your walk and take it with you. Furthermore, because of the cobblestone solid shoes are recommended, as well as a folding rule and binoculars (cell phone with camera / zoom is ok as well).

Depending on your condition and personal pace, you should plan around 2,5 hours for the tour.

To log this virtual multi, solve the following tasks and use the solution sheet to find the wanted email address. Once you receive a response, you have log permission.



*"To Marburg you have to move your legs and walk upstairs, downstairs."  
Jacob Grimm (1785 - 1863)*

## Stage 1

Once there was the entrance of a traditional Marburg company at this place: The brewery. In 2003, the insolvent company was closed. In the meantime, the Research Center Deutscher Sprachatlas has found a new home on the site. Today, only this wrought-iron monument is reminiscent of the splendor of the past.

**Task 1:** How many ears are on the gate?

Just opposite, a steep staircase leads uphill towards the Upper Town. You will be accompanied on your way by a poem carved in stone.

**Task 2:** On how many stones - including the name of the author - can you find parts of the poem?

## Stage 2



From here, the Kornmarkt, you have a wonderful view of the University Church and behind it the Old University. But even the place itself has interesting things to offer. So there are various works of art to admire, oversized chairs and desks, and different books.

**Task 3:** In how many languages are the books written?

Right next to the Kornmarkt is the University Church. From 1291 to 1300, the Dominicans built a monastery at that place, as well as this hall church. On July 1st 1527, Philipp the Magnanimous founded the oldest surviving protestant university in the world. Only this church has remained of the former Dominican monastery today.

The present-day Old University was built at the end of the 19th century on the foundations of the former Dominican monastery in the gothic revival style. After the demise of the monastery, the church remained unused for a long time and was even converted into a granary for a while. Incidentally, the name "Kornmarkt" for the place you are currently on, reminds you on that fact.

**Task 4:** At the entrance to the church you can find an information board on the right hand side. What is the third year from the top of the board?

### Stage 3



Here you are now in the heart of the town, the center of the town life and especially in the summer most popular place to relax in front of one of the numerous cafes and restaurants and watch the hustle and bustle. It is said that Hesse was founded here in 1248. The daughter of St. Elizabeth, Sophie of Brabant, is said to have proclaimed her four-year-old son Heinrich landgrave at the marketplace fountain. Incidentally, Sophie was also the builder of Burg Frauenberg, whose ruin is located a few kilometers south of the city in the Lahn mountains.

If you look around, you can see a striking bronze sculpture. It was created by Ivan Theimer in 1989 and shows Sophie of Brabant with her son Heinrich.

**Task 5:** The sculpture stands on a pedestal decorated with different sorts of motifs. On the back of Sophie, a kneeling man can be seen on the pedestal. Which impressive animal does he hold in his hands?

The most striking building here is of course the imposing town hall. It was probably built around 1512-1527 in the late gothic style. The town council is still located here today.

In 1581, the renaissance tower with the big clock was added. On the tower you can see the probably most well-known landmark of the town hall, the wing-striking rooster. The spectacle can be observed on every full hour and still attracts many tourists. By the way: It is a common misconception that the rooster crows. In fact, he only beats his wings, the musical "background" comes from the trumpeter next to it!

**Task 6:** Take a picture at the full hour that shows your GPS together with the clock and the rooster. If you like, you are welcome to join the picture. (If you have to wait too long, you can do this task after one of the following stages, the distances are all quite short)

## Stage 4

To find the next station, a sharp look must be proved. From the market square, head west along Barfüßer Straße. This street was named after a Franciscan monastery of the Barfüßer monks, which was located in this area from 1234 to 1528. Turn your eyes downwards and continue walking until you find the following pattern in the cobblestones:



In summer, the task can be quite tricky due to the local gastronomy and in winter due to the snow, but the place is so big and clear that you can definitely find it. At a house opposite it you can also find a corresponding board.

**Task 7:** What does this rock formation represent, according to the board? (two words)?

**Task 8:** Which year is on it?

## Stage 5

Now it's back to the market square, to the house Barfüsser Straße 35.

The building was built around 1600 and from 1802 to 1803 it was a famous student residence.

**Task 9:** Who lived here at that time (two words)?

**Task 10:** How many lanterns can be seen on the outside of this house (front and side)?

## Stage 6



Now it's time for some physical exercise: Up to the castle!

The first small castle was erected up here in the 10th or 11th century. In the course of time, it was built on and extended until the castle became the residence of the Landgraves of Hesse at the end of the 13th century. When Landgrave Ludwig IV, the son of Philipp the Magnanimous, died in 1604 without descendants, this era ended again. Throughout history, the castle was then used as a garrison, prison or state archive. At the end of the 20th century, the entire complex was extensively restored. The Wilhelmsbau (the youngest of the castle buildings, the laying of the foundation stone was in 1496) is today on five floors home to the University Museum of Cultural History. Also worth visiting is the castle well. It was completed in 1675 on behalf of Landgravine Hedwig Sofia. The 2.50 wide and around 100 meters deep well has been extensively renovated and can be visited as part of the public tours in the castle since 2012. If you have time, you can also make a detour to the castle garden or (in summer) the lovingly created rose garden.

At the given coordinates you can find a bronze model of the castle. Here you can get a good overview of the entire area.

**Task 11:** There is a sign on the side of the model. How many lines of text can you see there?

Turning from the castle towards the town and walking a few meters forward to the wall to the left of the Laterna Magica, you can see a particularly bizarre landmark of Marburg: The leaning tower of the Lutheran parish church with its wooden top. The three-aisled gothic hall church was built as the first building of the Teutonic Order in Marburg on a romanesque church. The choir was consecrated in 1297. During the reformation, it was Hessian cathedral church, but it was also a university and court church.

On the northern wall of the choir are the tombs of several landgraves.

To the question of why the tower is so strangely crooked and twisted, there are different theories, but it is probably the work of wind and weather.

**Task 12:** On the side of the church facing the castle you can see several dormers on the nave. On top of each dormer is a spike (not the spikes on the church tower!). How many spikes can you see from here? Binoculars could be helpful here ...

## **Stage 7**

If you enjoyed the view long enough, it goes back down to the Upper Town. The coordinates lead to a small square at the beginning of the Schlosssteig. Next to a well you can see the remains of another structure, which was discovered accidentally in 1993 during an excavation.

**Task 13:** Which building is it (two words)?

## Stage 8



If you walk along the Schlosssteig, you get to the Wettergasse. It owes its name to the fact that it leads to the district of Wehrda. Over the centuries, the "Werdergasse" became the Wettergasse. Here are some of the most beautiful and oldest timbered houses in town, so a look up is worthwhile. If you follow the lane towards the Elisabeth Church, you'll meet another Marburg landmark at the given coordinates: Christian, the last porter of Marburg. Here, at the watershed, he has been given a memorial. The bronze statue, Christian himself modeled for, was created in 1988 by Paul Wedepohl.

Incidentally, the statue is located at a historically important place. St. Elizabeth here entered the town through the Hiltwingspforte in the 13th century. When numerous pilgrims came to the town after her death, the town was extended at this point. Therefore, here the Wettergasse becomes the "Neustadt".

Christian is a popular photo theme and had to endure so many jokes. If you like you can also take a funny picture for your log here.

But the real task is another one:

**Task 14:** How big in cm is Christian, including the pedestal on which he stands? The last number of the three-digit number should be a 0, if necessary, round.

## Stage 9



Continue down the Neustadt to reach one of the city's most imposing buildings, the Elizabeth Church with its 80 meter high towers. The bells in the towers are partly up to the 700 years old. The church was named after St. Elizabeth of Thuringia (1207 - 1231), who dedicated her life to the poor and the sick. It is the oldest gothic hall church in Germany, it was consecrated in 1283. This church was also built of sandstone by the Teutonic Order, directly above the tomb of Elizabeth, which made it an important place of pilgrimage. If you walk around the church, it is hard to believe that there are hundreds of tombs under your feet, some of them dating back to that time.

In 1539 Philipp the Magnanimous had removed the remains of Elizabeth, to end the cult of the relics. Today, the bones are distributed throughout Europe

Until the Reformation, the Elizabeth Church was the burial of the landgraves of Hesse and even a few Prussian kings found their last rest here for a while.

And someone else was buried here: The former President of the Reich, Paul von Hindenburg and his wife. In the chaos of war, their coffins were removed from Königsberg in 1945 and buried again in August 1946 in the north tower chapel of the Elizabeth Church, where they are still today.

**Task 15:** At the given coordinates you can see a dark brown door. Its surface consists of numerous squares. How many are there in total?

Now continue along the church in an easterly direction to the Firmaneiplatz. At the top of the church, three large stone gargoyles in shape of animal heads can be seen at the top of the roof. Above them you can see another animal high up on the top of the roof.

**Task 16:** Which animal is it?

### Stage 10



Only a few steps away from the E-Church, as it is called by the people of Marburg, five beautiful ladies have found a new home since May 28 2013. This was the end of a long journey. In 1718 Damian Hugo von Schönborn, the land commissioner of the Teutonic Order, commissioned the sculptor Johann Friedrich Sommer to make five representative figures of virtues from sandstone for his baroque garden. Today, the old botanical garden is located in the grounds of this garden. Schönborn was very art-affine and had precise ideas of the characters. Following Dutch engravings, five female figures in white and gold emerged, representing the Christian virtues of love, faith and hope, as well as two of the cardinal virtues, justice and moderation. Damian Hugo von Schönborn died in 1743 and the garden and the ladies fell into oblivion. After the dissolution of the Teutonic Order by Napoleon in 1809, they finally came into private possession. In 1867, they came into the possession of the von Knoblauch to Hatzbach family as a dowry of the bride at a wedding, into whose garden they then fell into a deep sleep for almost 150 years. After extensive restoration and production of casts for the owner family, the ladies were able to return to their old home as part of a permanent loan.

**Task 17:** To the right of the five muses you can find a plastic plate at the stone wall. What is the first word in the fourth line of the second paragraph?

## Stage 11



Here stands the bust of a Marburg honorary citizen: Emil von Behring (1854 - 1917).

After the study of medicine and doctorate in Berlin and several years as a military doctor, Emil von Behring came to Marburg as a professor in 1895. On December 10th, 1901, he was awarded the first Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine for his development of a serum for diphtheria. In 1904 he laid the foundation for a large pharmaceutical company by the founding of the "Behringwerke oHG", which existed until 1997. Today, the Behringwerke belong to a network of well-known biotechnology companies. His first laboratories of 1913 are still in the Wannkopfstraße. After his death, he was buried in his mausoleum on the Elsenhöhe, which is named after his wife Else von Behring.

Anyone who wants to engage more intensively with his life and work can do so for example by walking along the Behring route.

To the right of the bust, a few steps lead upwards in the direction of the Pilgrimstein. At the top of this small staircase is a striking high metal construction on the right side.

**Task 18:** How many metal ornaments are there on the whole?

## Stage 12



A few minutes' walk south of St. Elizabeth's Church, past the ruins of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, is the 3.6-hectare old botanical garden. As already reported at stage 10, this garden was created at the end of the 18th century by the Teutonic Order. At that time it was used as a French pleasure garden.

After his appointment as professor of botany in 1810, the German pharmacist and botanist Georg Wenderoth (1774-1861) took on the run-down garden and brought it to a new glory until 1814. The sandstone building of the botanical institute on Pilgrimstein 4 was built from 1873 to 1875 in the neo-gothic style. Furthermore, there was a residential building, greenhouses, supply rooms and sheds. In the 1960s, the number of students increased so rapidly, that from 1961 to 1977 on the Lahn mountains a 20-acre new botanical garden was created. Today the Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology is located in the former botanical institute and the residential building is now the guest house of the university. There is still a stock of special and old trees and among other things, a garden for medicinal plants, as well as a scent and tentative garden and many cozy corners to relax and enjoy.

From here, in the direction of the Elisabeth church, you also have a good view of the new university library. The 110-Million-Euro construction on the old Firmanei site forms the center of a new campus area and accommodates about 3.2 million books on approximately 18.000 square meters.

At the coordinates stands a small statue of a boy on a stone base

**Task 19:** Which animal does the boy hold in his hand?

**Task 20:** How many of these animals can be seen in the overall environment of the boy?

Next to the statue you can find a bench that invites you to linger. Here's a nice place to use the hopefully well-filled solution sheet to find the email address you're looking for.

We hope you enjoyed the walk through Marburg and that you will soon come back to our beautiful town. Maybe you'll visit the Marburger Geocacher-Stammtisch, to which this Virtual is dedicated and without which this little ghost probably would be missing on the Cache-Map!

We have collected the information we provided you to the stations to the best of our knowledge and belief, but they make no claim to completeness and accuracy.

Many thanks to Yvo111, Xandriel, DSLJ-K and FamNau for the support and many great ideas that you have contributed, you have been a great help!

Also many thanks to murmeltier and MiniMaus71, who were so kind to take the time for a test-run.

**A little banner for successful ghost hunters:**



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