The simple structures of these houses reveal the humble life-style of the former inhabitants. If you now follow the road round the corner, where Andreasstraße bears off to the left you will come to the church square, opposite the former vicarage (built in 1726) and the oldest part of Springe.

9 **St. Andreas Church** is a late gothic „Hallenkirche". According to a keystone found inside the church, this building probably dates back to 1445. The double-sided base of the tower suggests that an even older building, dating back to former times once stood on the same site. If the church is open, take the opportunity to go in and see the altar, which is carved out of wood and has gilt wings. This beautiful piece is the work of Dopmeyer (a professor from Springe) and was constructed in the second half of the last century. One section of the altar dates back to the time that the church itself was built.

10 **The so-called Pastor's widow's house** was originally built for the town scribe. The name of the builder and the year in which it was built is inscribed above the barn door. „Senatus Hallerspring 1652".

In what used to be the **11** **local school for boys**, which dates back to 1780, Heinrich Göbel was educated and learnt the basic skills without which he could not have made his famous discovery. In fact, at school he was pretty mediocre and according to his teacher, it was only his „inventive spirit" which gave him any real hope for the future.

If you still have time, and want to discover more about the town of Springe, both past and present, then take the opportunity to visit the **12** **Town Museum**, situated in the Burghof. It was here that the Counts of Hallermunt constructed a moated castle in the 13th century. Now administrative buildings stand on the site and unfortunately nothing of this 13th century castle remains. This is where the town of Springe started – and where this tour ends.
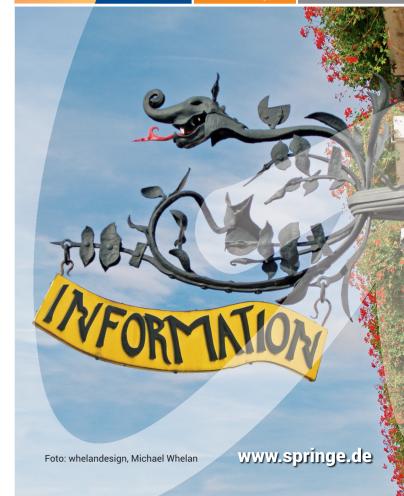

SPRINGE.
DIE**STADT**AM**DEISTER**

Stadtmarketing · Tourismus · Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Altes Rathaus · Zum Niederntor 26 · 31832 Springe
touristinformation@springe.de · www.springe.de

SPRINGE.
DIE**STADT**AM**DEISTER**

A walking tour around Springe

Tourist Information Office	Opening hours: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Phone: 0049-5041-73273

Foto: whelandesign, Michael Whelan

www.springe.de

1 2 **3** **4** **5** **6**

You want to know more about Springe?

The picturesque town near the mountain range Deister is waiting to be discovered. It is the birthplace of Heinrich Göbel (the alleged inventor of the light bulb) and numerous historical buildings, dating from various centuries, tell of an interesting past.

1 Peter's house dominates the market place, where merchants sold their goods as early as the 13th century. It was built in 1619 and is the oldest and most splendid example of a private house in Springe. Its bay window situated on the gable of the building; the so-called „Utlucht" is a typical example of architecture from the Weser Renaissance period. The splendid wood carvings along the house indicate the introduction of the Baroque style. Let your imagination take you to the fantasy world of mermaids, grotesque figures, dragons and monsters!

The Latin inscriptions, which run right around the building are just as interesting: These inscriptions comfort those who feel weighed down by worries and problems, for example:

„Post lachrima risus, post exdium paradisus."
„After the tears, laughter, after exile, paradise."

They also remind the „non-believers" of the fear of God:
„Dei verbo nitere, tutus eris"
„Obey God's word and you will feel secure."

2 The Marie Fountain: This fountain, made out of wrought iron is an excellent example of the style of the 20th century. This monument was presented to the town by Seebohm, a health inspector and respectable citizen of Springe. He congratulated the town authorities in 1903 on their efforts in replacing the old water pipes with this generous gift. The little Marie with her basket, found on top of the fountain, takes us back to former times when, unless you had a permit, you could only gather as much wood in the Deister as you could carry in a basket.

3 The old town hall was erected in 1775 as a posthouse, consisting of stables and lodgings. Due to its situation halfway between Hanover and Hamelin, Springe was previously the resting place for travelling salesmen. When the first road was built between the two towns in 1768, Springe enjoyed an economic boom. The posthouse in particular profited from this development.

A few meters away, the **Nightwatchman Heinerich 4** shows visitors the way through the town and to places of interest. The market place is surrounded by numerous timbered houses, which previously belonged to the town's farmers and date back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

On the left hand side of the market place is the **Ratskeller 5**. This was built as a town hall in 1638, during the Thirty Years' War. In former times it temporarily housed the prison and its iron neck brace. The significance of the four heads carved out of stone is not known; we will leave that up to your imagination! The coat of arms, situated in the middle of the facade, has remained unchanged since the founding of the town in 1300. The blue bands represent the „spring", the source of the Haller brook, which flows through the town of Springe and which used to be a vital water supply for the community. The roses with five petals were the emblem on the shield and on the seal of the Counts of Hallermunt.

6 The local law courts can be seen on the opposite side of the street. This building was constructed in the late baroque style and dates back to 1775. This impressive building was originally the residence of an influential landowner. Towards the middle of the last century none other than King George V of Hanover, owned it. The paintwork which covers the timber structure of the house is meant to give the impression of a stone-building: The paintwork is an attempt to recreate the baroque style and give the effect of a structure which actually does not exist. The cornerstones of the building, which are painted grey are a prime example of this.

In 1993 the town authorities and citizens of Springe erected a memorial to honour the 100th anniversary of Heinrich Göbel's (alleged inventor of the first electric lightbulb) death. *(See also section 8)*

7 The bell tower or „Glockenturm" clearly shows the contrast between old and new. The bells play popular folk tunes several times during the day.

You would not think that **Heinrich Göbel**, the alleged inventor of the first electric light bulb, was born in the **small house 8** of the street „Zum Oberntor 30" in 1818. A bronce plaque depicting an electric light commemorates this man.

This is where the old town ends and where the upper gate of the town used to stand. The town wall along with one of the three gates were pulled down in the middle of the 18th century to make way for a new road.

If you now walk back towards the town centre and turn right down Echternstraße, you will find some fine examples of timbered houses dating back to the last two centuries.