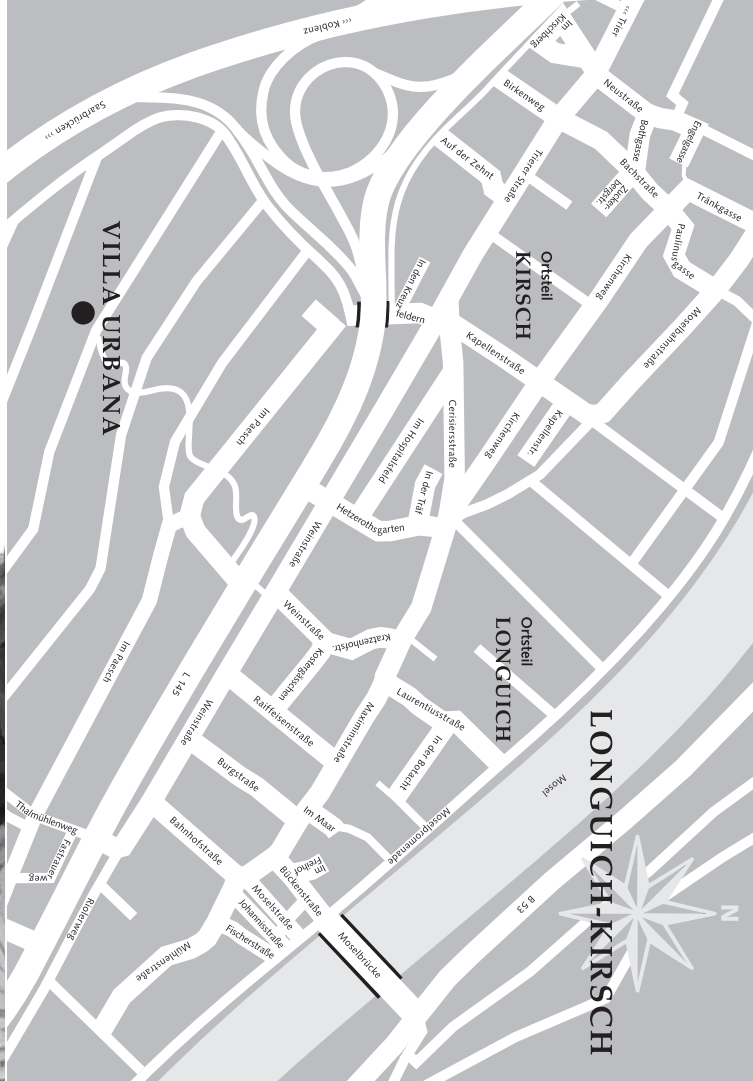


Guided tour through the Villa Urbana

May to October on Sundays 10.30 a.m.
or according to agreement.
Fon: 0 65 02 · 99 41 11



LONGUICH-KIRSCH

ON THE MOSELLE

Where your holiday begins

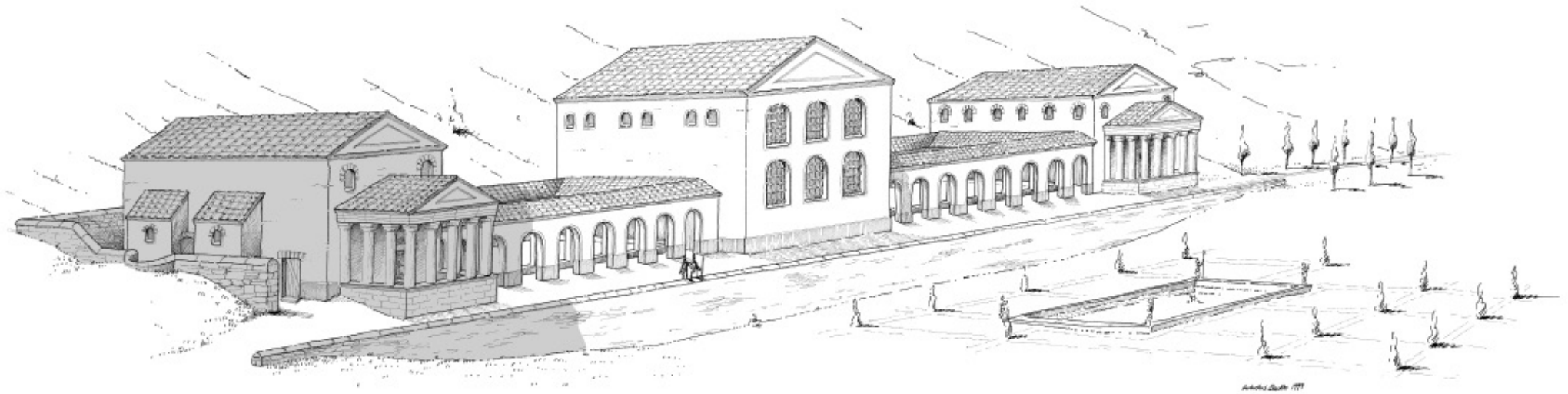
Tourist-Information Longuich
Maximinstraße 18
D-54340 Longuich

Tel: 0 65 02 - 17 16
www.longuich.de
e-mail: longuich@roemische-weinstrasse.de

The Roman Villa urbana



Reconstruction drawing of the Villa Urbana: the reconstructed part – the bathing area – was marked in grey. Reproduction with kind permission of the Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier.



Find spot

In 1984 we have found the ruins of a large Roman villa (a country house) southwest of our village. The villa is situated between two natural terraces above the Moselle, consequently it could never be flooded. In earlier times we had found relicts of Roman buildings, which haven't been excavated yet. (There is probably another villa near the parish church and experts think there may be a Roman winepress outside.) The villa in Longuich is only one example among the lots of Roman relicts in our area. It was situated at the road that connected Trier and Mainz; you can see relicts of that road between Longuich and Kirsch. In our days the road to Pölich follows the Roman predecessor and opposite Pölich a part of the Roman road is reconstructed as well as a Roman mile-stone.

Inhabitants

We are sure that the villa didn't have any function for the road, it was only the home of a rich family, the owner may have been an official from Augusta Treverorum (Trier) who lived there in his old age. Another idea is that he was a nobleman of the Treveri tribe, who, even after the Roman conquest, were the majority in that area and whose upper class had not lost their noble status.

Agriculture

During the excavations more relicts were found, parts of a farmhouse, homes for the workers and some slaves. The houseservants, among them cooks, teachers and nurses, lived in the main house. The prosperity of the owners was based on the land and the hard work of the lower classes who were dependent on the nobles. Wine and corn were their main products; the Romans added some mediterranean plants, such as cherries, peaches, plums, cucumbers and asparagus. The lots of potted plants and flowers in front of the houses is a practice that goes back to that age, too.

Architectural style

The Villa Urbana (2nd cent.) was 110 x 28 metres in size. Today you can see the reconstructions of the bathing area. Villas of that type were only found in Pölich, Wittlich or Nennig. The vast and luxurious living area is typical for them. More often you can find another type – a Villa Rustica – smaller and not as elegant. A predecessor of the 1st century was a house like that.



Finds

In the bathing area a sandstone statue, about 40 cm high, was found, probably a sitting goddess. Near by the villa there is a sarcophagus that might have belonged to the burial ground of the villa. Inside this sarcophagus a skeleton was found, not more than 160 cm long, covered with lime. It was the skeleton of a young girl. Together with that girl a bottle, made of light green glass, a phial made of dark green glass and fragments of a terracotta vessel were also found

Today copies of this goddess (a mother-goddess), a relief with vine (from Lörsch), a head with flowers (3rd cent., from Mehring) and a Fortuna (from Pölich) are in the villa. There are also very interesting instruments to be used in the vineyards (Landesmuseum Trier).

From the 11th up to the 16th centuries the villa was used as a quarry. They probably used its stones to build the ›Alte Burg‹ in Longuich. It is very likely that the baptismal font in the parish church in Longuich is made of one of the Roman pillars that had once decorated the Villa Urbana in Longuich.

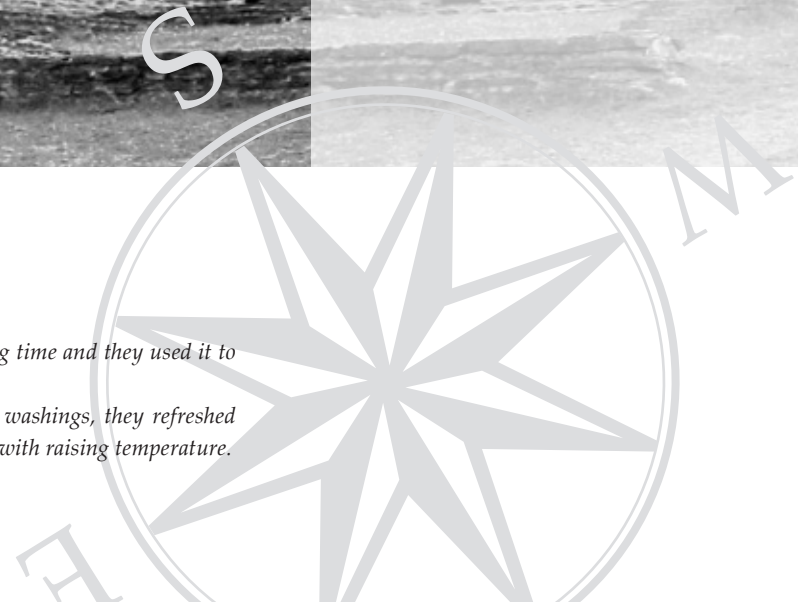
A tour round the Villa

You enter the restored part of the bathing area from the Northeast. Start your tour in R 17, from this arcade you can get into the bathing area.

To the Romans hygiene and bathing were very important. Consequently the bath played a main role in the social and political life

of the Roman people. Bathing took a long time and they used it to have conversations and debates.

After the hot bath, interrupted by cold washings, they refreshed again in a Tepidarium, a flat of cabinets with raising temperature.



Room 10

hot bath (caldarium)

(enter from R 12, second door) Caldarium, originally with two tubs, still in good condition; parts of the heating (tubuli = brick pipes) can be seen. All the rest was demolished.

Room 13

heating place (praeefurnium)

for R 10 and R 11

Room 11

hot steam bath (sudatorium)

Room 9

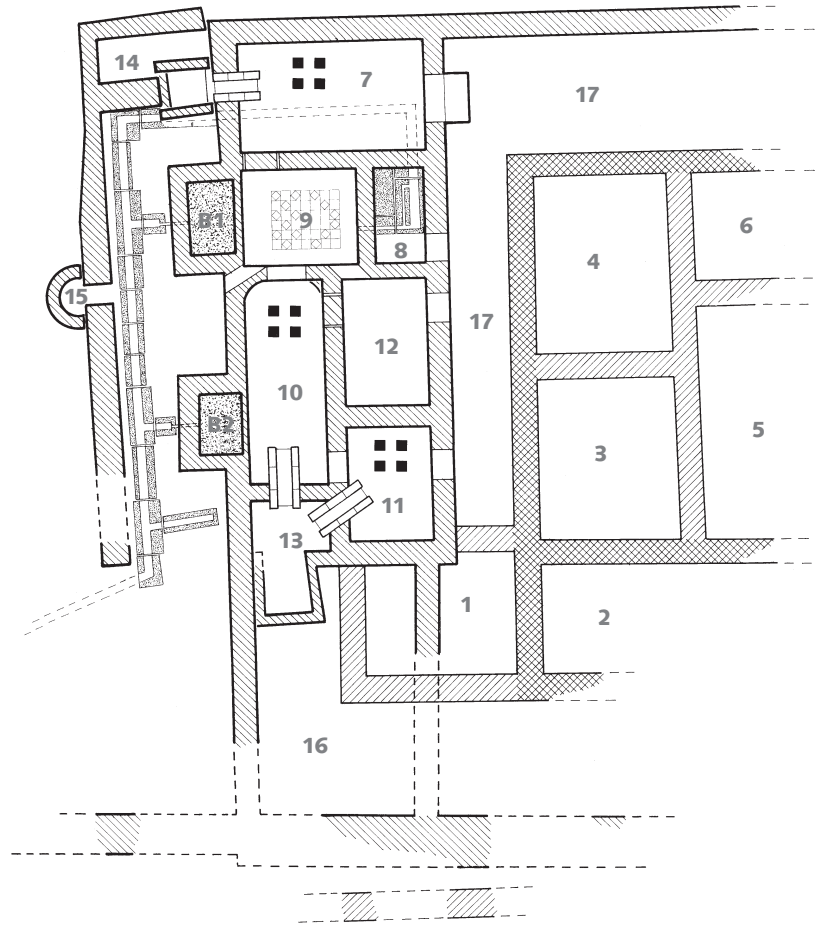
cold bath (frigidarium)

the floor is restored: white, grey and black marble. Tub 1 is the original one. The room was entered from R 7.

Room 7

dressng-room (apodyterium)

the heating and the steps were added later.



Room 8

latrine

with sewerage.

Room 12

function not identified

possibly another dressing-room.

Room 1-6






remains of the older building (1st cent.)

Room 14

fireplace

Room 17

formed an arcade round an inner yard.

-  Villa rustica (previous building)
-  Villa urbana
-  Hypocaust pillar
-  screed of the tubs
-  stone canals

5m

Reproduction of the floor plan with kind permission of the Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier.

