***The Arnstadt tour***

1. „Riedtor / Oberkirche “
2. „Liebfrauenkirche “
3. „townhall / market place “
4. „Bachkirche “
5. „Schlossmuseum “
6. „Neideck “

1. „Riedtor / Oberkirche “

- the place is at the border of the city

- nowadays it’s just used for parking cars and city festivals, for example the „Stadtfest“ (every year at the first September weekend)

- “Riedtor “: one of two city gates, first official mentioned in the 15th century

- “Oberkirche “: start to build in the 13th century one of the oldest churches of Arnstadt and inside it’s really beautiful

2. „Liebfrauenkirche “

\* around 1220 - the construction of the church started

\* 1220 - Completion of three-naved Romanesque basilica with a twin-towered

 west facade; groin-vaulted side aisles; replacement of original flat

 ceiling of the central nave by Early gothic vaulting in 1250 and

 construction of a triforium

\* 1275 - Start of construction of a transept and High Gothic choir, completion

 of towers in Gothic style

\* 14th century - Transfer of the Benedictine convent from Walpurgisberg (2km away;

 foundation walls of the abbey church are visible) tot e Liebfrauenkirche

\* to 17th century - Liebfrauenkriche was the burial place for the Earls of Schwarzburg

A large Gothic and rich designed Romanesque entrance (Tympanon of the 13th century) can be seen on the north side of the Liebfrauenkirche. The Southside has a simple Romanesque entrance, while the large west entrance originates from the 19th century.

The Gothic winged altar of 1498, the „Beautiful Madonna “(linden wood, 1415) and several windows of the 14th century as well as a Renaissance pulpit observe particular attention.

Since 2004 the “Liebfrauenkirche” again has four-part peal with bronze bells which includes a historical bell of 1585 (4.4 tonnes). The bell tower was rebuilt several times over the course of the centuries; it has had its present shape since 1956; after the removal of a Neo-Gothic tower.

3. „town hall / market place “

\* town hall:

-after a big fire in the city in 1581, then they build a new one from 1582 to 1586 (Renaissance)

- the town hall is in the north of market place

- it’s the seat of mayor (Frank Spilling)

- different public authorities’ inside

\* market place:

- the market place is three- cornered

- on the place is a Bach memorial from the year 1985

- once a week different people come here to sell things like vegetables, meat, clothes, etc.

4. „Baachkirche “

- first it was mentioned in 1333 as St. Bonifatius Chruch

- this church was built to honor the patron saint Bonifatius

- but more detailed data on the edification of the church are not known

- it burned down in a fire in 1581

- a new church was built from 1676 to 1681 on the foundation of the St. Bonifatius church

- it has three galleries, a simple interior design, baroque hall construction and a wooden barrel vault

- the original name was „Trinity Church “, but the population of Arnstadt didn’t like this name

- therefore, the wore name was „The new church “

- in 1703 the church got a new organ made by Johann-Friedrich Wender

-that’s why it’s called „The Wender Organ “

- it’s located on the west side of the church on the second gallery

- Johann Sebastian Bach was invited to Arnstadt to check the new organ then

- when he came to Arnstadt he was 18years

- from 11703 to 1707 he was the organist at the „new church “, also he had to teach the choir

- in 1935 this church was renamed in „Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Church “, because Arnstadt celebrated Bach’s 250th birthday

- actually there is another organ called „Steinmeyer-Organ“ which is also located on the west side of the church but on the first gallery

- it was built in 1913

- furthermore the Bach church is a protestant church

- there are about 813 seating’s

- sometimes the Bach church is a location for very special events, for example a German group called „Die Prizen“ gave concerts here

- it’s also used for other events for instance for the Christmas concert of our school

5. „Schlossmuseum Arnstadt “

- the strictly rationalist building of the new palace was built from 172 to 1736 by prince Günther I. von Schwarzburg-Sondershausen as a widow’s residence for his wife

- above all, the name is associated with a unique collection of dolls: the „Mon Plaisir“ in German „Mein Vergnügen“ in English „My pleasure“

- obviously these dolls were never meant to play with it

- they show stage-like images of the different lifeworld’s of a small late Baroque royal residence

- you can see the life in the time of the Baroque, for instants a kitchen, churches, normal rooms, …

- there are little houses and you can see the life of them really well

- every year thousands of visitors visit the museum just to see this collection of dolls

- with 82 scenes and overall 391 characters and figures, it’s the world’s largest and most extensive collection of this kind

- the castle museum also houses a fully preserved Baroque porcelain cabinet with precious East Asian porcelains

- Günther I. collected about 1000 Chinese and Japanese porcelains (from around 1700)

- he also had an exhibition of Meissen porcelain

-the big house was used by the prince couple as a residence, but also to represent their art collection how to do it at the time

6. “Neideck”

- built in the 13th century

- 300 years later the building was rebuilt into a renaissance style castle

- losing the status of a roylaresidence in 1716, the slow and steady decline of the castle began

- e.g. was used as a shelter for horses

- in 1779 the castle collapsed partially

- in the second world war the intact tower was heavily damaged by the American artillery fire

- in recent years’ tower was restored and is now accessible

- today’s district office is located in the outer bailey of the castle ruins Neideck, which was also surrounded by a moat