



MARBURG
STADT & LAND

GRIMM

CITY

MARBURG

THEME PATH

GRIMM CITY MARBURG

The brothers Jacob and Wilhelm used to live in the university town, respectively from 1802 to 1805 and from 1803 to 1806. Their few years in Marburg turned out to be formative ones for the Grimms, and by many accounts also represented a crucial transit station. It was here that their ideas for the collection of "Kinder- und Hausmärchen" (Children's and Household Tales) were born, for which they subsequently became famous. It was also here that their interest in "German studies" was piqued, which they helped found.

They both studied law with the jurist Friedrich Carl von Savigny. In the process, they also met his brother-in-law, the romantic poet Clemens Brentano, who awoke their interest in folk songs and fairy tales. While still living in Marburg, they began the "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" folk song collection for Brentano and Achim von Arnim. Possibly, Marburg's medieval flair inspired them, too. To this day, ancient halftimbered houses, narrow little alleys, steep staircases, the romantic-looking market square, and the proud castle bear all witness to the time of fairy tales. This was already seen by the draughtsman, Otto Ubbelohde, who a century later used many of Marburg's motifs and those of the surrounding area to illustrate the Grimm fairy tales.

**We would like invite you to set off on a city walk,
following in the footsteps of the famous students!
See numbering 1-9 in text and map.**



STAGES IN THE LIVES OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM

First and foremost, the Brothers Grimm are known for the “Kinder- und Hausmärchen” (Children’s and Household Tales) they collected, and which have meanwhile been given the title of a Unesco World Documentary Heritage. Together with Luther’s Bible, it is the most frequently translated German book today, and it is available in more than 160 languages. Equally important, is Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm’s linguistic research – the foundations for the science of German studies. They wrote the books “German Grammar” and the “German Dictionary”.

Originally from Hanau, Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm Grimm (1786-1859) spent their youth in Steinau and Kassel. After studying in Marburg, they moved to Kassel. In addition to the “Kinder- und Hausmärchen” (Children’s and Household Tales), they published numerous essays and books on courtly lovesongs, ballads, sagas, and fairy tales. Jacob was formally appointed as a librarian and Wilhelm as the library’s secretary.

Jacob was appointed as a full professor in Göttingen in 1830 and Wilhelm five years later. They were politically active and wanted to unite the small German states. They helped in formulating human rights in Germany. In 1837, as members of the “Göttingen Seven”, they were expelled from the country, together with five other professors, for a polemic against the abolition of the constitution in the Kingdom of Hanover. They drafted the “German Dictionary”, a history of the development of words. Three years after their expulsion, the new Prussian King, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, brought them to Berlin, where they researched the German language until their deaths.



A FAMOUS FLAT-SHARING COMMUNITY

The more than 400-year-old half-timbered house at [Barfüßerstraße 35 \[1\]](#) used to house a famous resident. In 1802, Jacob Grimm moved into the town house with the decorative bay windows. He suffered greatly from being separated from his family. Therefore, he was very happy when his brother Wilhelm followed him in April 1803. Like Jacob, he began studying law with the jurist Friedrich Carl von Savigny. Both brothers moved into what is today known as [Wendelgasse 4 \[2\]](#). Jacob lived there with Friedrich Carl von Savigny until his trip to Paris in January 1805, and Wilhelm until his exams in May 1806.

Both brothers lived in Marburg, in a small space and in modest financial conditions. They were not particularly fond of the city. The upper town was characterised by dirty, poorly-lit alleys and warped houses. Jacob Grimm was often annoyed by the numerous dogs' barking and by the shouting of the wood-driving farmers, which probably penetrated too loudly through the thin window panes into his living room.

Almost 150 years later, shortly after the Second World War, the house at Barfüßerstraße 35 served as a hiding place for the Nazi war criminal, Klaus Barbie. The "Butcher of Lyon" lived here from 1946 to 1947 under the name of "Klaus Becker". Today, a student flat-sharing community is living in the half-timbered house. In memory of Jacob Grimm, they call themselves Grimm flat-sharing community.



THE WAY TO THE “UNIVERSITY”

At the beginning of the 19th century, Philipps University only had 170 students. To study, they went to their professors' homes, where they sometimes also had lunch.

That's why the Grimm brothers often climbed the little Wendelgasse branching off right next to their apartment building. The famous polymath and founder of Moscow University, Mikhail V. Lomonosov, used to live at number 2 during his time as a student in Marburg from 1736 to 1740. One house further (Wendelgasse 4), Wilhelm Grimm lived with his school friend Paul Wigand when his brother Jacob went on a research trip to Paris with Professor Savigny for several months.

Anyone who has ever walked up the narrow alley past the Rübenstein, through a small spiral staircase up to the **Lutheran Churchyard [3]** knows about the wonderfully expansive view over Marburg. Jacob Grimm found the city “very ugly”: “I think there are more stairs in the streets than in the houses. In one house you even go up to the roof,” he moaned. The house can still be admired today on the edge of the Lutheran churchyard.



IN THE FORSTHOF (RITTERSTRASSE 15)

Behind the parish church, you will see stairs leading up to the picturesque Ritterstraße. Professor Carl von Savigny (1779-1861), who was revered by the Grimms, used to live here, on the left, in the house marked with the number 15. It is an **outbuilding of the Forsthof [4]** behind it. There, according to the Grimms, the scholar led a “cheerful and carefree life devoted to science”. He lived in the house with his wife, Gunda, a sister of Clemens and Bettine Brentano.

The brothers cultivated a lifelong friendship with Carl von Savigny, who in 1803 – at the age of only 24 – was appointed as a professor of law in Marburg: “What else can I say of Savigny’s lectures than that they gripped me in the most powerful way and had the most decisive influence on my entire life and studies,” Jacob Grimm wrote. Indeed, they did not only find legal texts in his rich library; Savigny also introduced them to the works of Romanticism and courtly lovesong. At the same time, he introduced them to and taught them historical-critical thinking. Under his influence, the Grimms developed their philological passion for collecting old legends and fairy tales. Bettine Brentano used to live in the Forsthof located behind it – today, there is a student residence on the private grounds. Just like her brother, Clemens, she belonged to Savigny’s circle of friends, who gathered around them such Romantic intellectuals as Caroline von Günderode, Achim von Arnim, Sophie Mereau, Pastor Johann Christian Bank, and the Brothers Grimm. Somewhat hidden in the extensive garden is the **“Bettinaturm” [5]**, which commemorates the writer.



THEATRE, BALLS AND A READER'S CIRCLE

Carrying on from Ritterstraße, the route leads to the Ludwig Bickell stairs, where you will find a Grimm quotation on the steps between the ivy-covered masonry. The steep staircase leads up to the **castle [6]**, which even Jacob Grimm liked, who was known to be rather critical. The gate to the castle courtyard subsequently inspired the painter Otto Ubbelohde to illustrate fairytales.

Walking along over historic cobblestones, the path goes down Landgraf-Philipp-Straße. The subsequent castle staircase leads directly to the **Haus der Romantik [7]**, located above the market square. The Grimms regularly used to watch plays and comedies in **Marburg's town hall [8]**.

One street away, in the Hofmännische Saal (today **Reitgasse 5 [9]**), Jacob Grimm attended a ball which "amused him exceptionally well". In the neighbourhood (Reitgasse 7), Krieger's lending library was located, which is the seat of **Lehmann's bookshop [10]** today. Reading was one of the Grimms' passions. Jacob was known to sometimes virtually take refuge in literature. Shortly after his arrival in 1802, the avid reader visited Krieger's lending library, of which he was very fond. Wilhelm Grimm even founded a journal circle himself in Marburg in 1804. When following Reitgasse downhill, you will come across the **Old University [11]**, in whose predecessor building the Grimms were awarded an honorary doctorate from Philipps University in 1819.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BROTHERS GRIMM

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

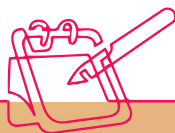
- ... Marburg only had about 6,000 inhabitants around the year 1800? And Philipps University had no more than 170 enrolled students.
- ... Jacob Grimm never obtained an official university degree? Wilhelm Grimm was the only person to pass his law exams in May 1806. Regardless, both were awarded honorary doctorates from Marburg University in 1819.
- ... the Grimms shared a common household until they were quite old? Jacob Grimm continued living with his brother even after he had gotten married and had children.
- ... the city of Marburg is still characterised by many flat-sharing communities today? Nowhere else in Germany do more students live in a flat-sharing community than in Marburg.
- ... it was hard for them to be separated? When Jacob first went to Marburg on his own, he complained of almost "unbearable loneliness". When Jacob travelled to Paris with Savigny for several months in 1805, Wilhelm wrote: "When you left, I thought it would tear my heart apart.... surely, you have no idea how much I care for you."
- ... that the Grimm's Children's and Household Tales' great popularity is also due to the illustrations by the Marburg painter Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922), who first published them in 1907.

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TIPPS



HAUS DER ROMANTIK [7]

Permanent exhibitions on the Romantic circle in Marburg and the Brothers Grimm as well as temporary exhibitions and lectures focusing on the Romantic period.

Markt 16, 35037 Marburg, Tel +49 (0) 6421 917160
www.romantikmuseum-marburg.de

OTTO UBBELOHDE HAUS

The Marburg painter Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922) became famous, first and foremost, for his 444 illustrations of the Grimm fairy tales. These are exhibited in rotation alongside Ubbelohde's paintings in the Otto Ubbelohde House.

Otto-Ubbelohde-Weg 30, 35094 Lahntal-Goßfelden
Tel +49 (0) 6421 63326

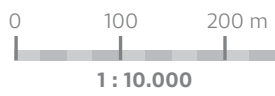
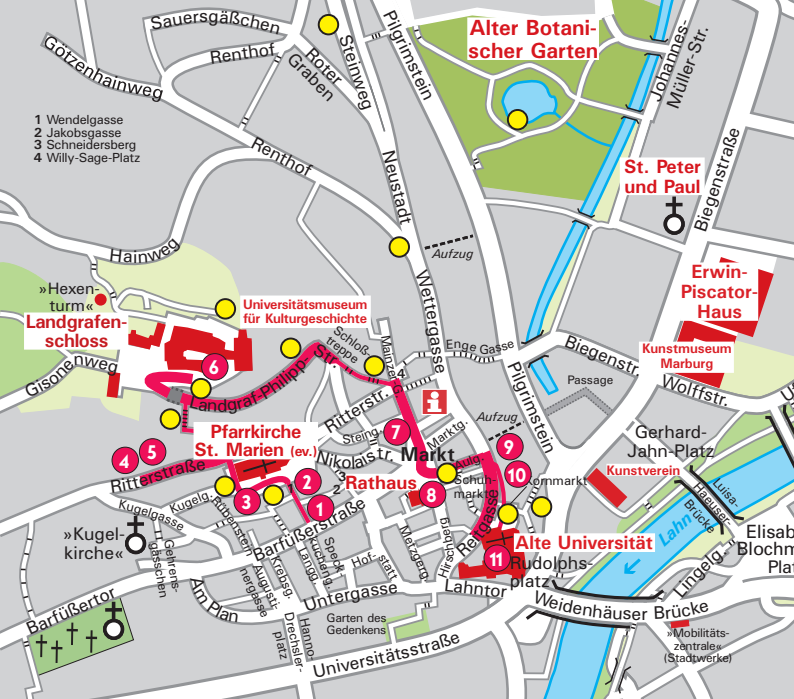
GRIMM-DICH-PFAD

Fairy tale figures and interesting facts, from the Old Botanical Garden to the Landgrave's Castle.

Information via QR codes at the stations and at
www.marburg-tourismus.de/GDP

GUIDED TOURS AND MORE

At the tourist information offices and online (see contact)



- 1** Flat of the Grimms
Barfüßerstraße 35
- 2** Flat of the Grimms
Wendelgasse 4
- 3** Lutheran Churchyard
- 4** Outbuilding of the
Forstthof
- 5** Bettinatum
- 6** Castle
- 7** Haus der Romantik
- 8** Town hall
- 9** Lehmann's bookshop
- 10** Reitgasse 5
(Hofmännischer Saal)
- 11** Old University
- Points of interest of the
so called Grimm-Dich-Pfad

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