

founder of the Lithuanian folklore studies Liudvikas Reza. Before the war this place was known as Sternplatz or Star Square. On old maps this area shows up having a star shape because of the fact that it was a hub of six streets going from it in different directions. **St. Adalbert's Church** (41 Prospekt Pobedy St.) hidden in the shade of densely planted trees can be seen from the square. The church was built in 1904 in neo-gothic by Friedrich Heitmann. It was enlarged in 1932, but the extension has not been preserved to this day. The church was the center of spiritual life of the Catholic community. Today the building houses the Terrestrial Magnetism Research Institute.

As you walk along Prospekt Pobedy St. it is impossible to pass over **villa Schmidt** (24 Prospekt Pobedy St.). The villa was built in 1903, the proof of which is the inscription made above one of the windows. Despite the fact that the villa has lost its tower, a rich variety of decorations has miraculously survived: stucco moldings, a bas-relief and others. The asymmetric shape of the building was inspired by romanticism in architecture of the previous century. In general, the foreside of the villa is very different from the “farmhouses” we have seen before.

The next villa is situated in the neighborhood of villa Schmidt, at 17 Borodinskaya St. It was named **Honcamp** after its owner Herman Heinrich Honcamp, the founder of Herwig, Zach & Honcamp company. The villa was built in 1903-1905 in neo-baroque by Friedrich Heitmann. From the side of Prospekt Pobedy St. the well-preserved winter garden of the villa can be seen.

Turning right on Borodinskaya St. we can see another villa standing close to the intersection of Borodinskaya St. and Prospekt Pobedy St. – **Schtinski** (13-15 Borodinskaya St.). It was named after its owner professor Albert Schtinski. The villa was built in 1906 by August Gershman. Today it houses the A.Gaydar Children’s Library. The library’s main entrance today is located in the annex built in 1986, which is different in style and colour.

Opposite Schtinski, at **12-14 Borodinskaya St.**, there is another villa with a truly fabulous balcony, which is considered to be a vivid example of the Jugendstil. The villa was built in 1905 by Friedrich Heitmann.

Going straight ahead to the end of Borodinskaya St., take the first turn on your left (Pushkina St.) and go on to the intersection of Mariny Raskovoy St. and Pushkina St. Here you can see **villa Steinkopf** (1 Mariny Raskovoy St.). It was built in 1905 by Friedrich Heitmann for Dr.Steinkopf. Today the villa is hidden by a high brick fence, but the objects of our interest - wooden symmetric decorative elements below the roof - are clearly visible.

The last point of our journey is **villa Liebeck** (8 Pushkina St.). It was built in 1906 (see the date written under the triangular slope of the roof) by architect Worms for Koenigsberg merchant Liebeck. The building is beautifully decorated with a geometric brick pattern.

Here our journey is over. Walking along Pushkina St. you will return to Prospekt Pobedy St. There you can catch a bus and reach the city centre. But we suggest that you spend a little bit more time strolling along picturesque streets of Amalienau. There are many well-preserved villas on Tchaikovskogo St., Admiralskaya St., and Pugacheva St. as well.



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Tourist route

Koenigsberg Treasures: Amalienau



There is nothing more exciting for a traveller than strolling for hours about the historic old town, admiring its architectural wonders that are over a century old. We invite you to visit Amalienau – old German area of luxurious villas where you will be able to fully experience the atmosphere of pre-war Koenigsberg, walk a stone-block pavement in the shade of ancient trees, and see the well-preserved buried in verdure houses of wealthy Koenigsberg dwellers.

A few areas of old Königsberg survived World War II. Amalienau is one of them. The area was named in honor of an eponymous noble manor. Thanks to its location away from the historical center of the city, Amalienau wasn't damaged much by British airpower during the massive bombing campaign of August, 1944. The east border of Amalienau is Lesoparkovaya St., north one – Yanalova St., south-west – Prospekt Pobedy St., and south – Krasnaya St.

In the early 20th century, the city began to rapidly grow beyond the borders of the Second Fortification Belt. But the new area of Amalienau was not built spontaneously; it was carefully designed according to the garden-city concept. Leading architects of East Prussia headed by Friedrich Heitmann (architect of the Church of Queen Louise and Church of the Holy Family) and construction advisor Josef Kretschmann took part in the project's development.

We begin our tour about Amalienau with **Kutuzova St.** This street was initially called Kerteallee in honor of Siegfried Kerte, the Mayor of Königsberg. It used to be the main street of the area before the war. As in the past, today it is the central street of the area.

On both sides of the street there are villas, mainly two-storied, in accordance with the construction rules set for the entire area. The first villa we are going to see over was formerly known as **Ruth Cottage** (8 Kutuzova St.). It was built in 1905-1910. The facade of the building is decorated with a cartouche with inscription "Landhaus Ruth".

Going forward we will see the square dedicated to Russian-Belarusian friendship. Before the war Luisenplatz—one of the three squares of Amalienau named in honor of the Prussian Queen Louise – was situated here. Then, turning right, we head for our next destination—**villa Rosenthal** (38 Ogareva St.). It was designed by Friedrich Heitmann and Franz Krah. The villa has been preserved almost in its original form. The only thing was changed – the entrance used to be on the northwest part of the building.

Having reached the end of Ogareva St., we return to Kutuzova St. through Kashtanovaya Alleya St. Here we can see **villa Mehl** (34 Kashtanovaya Alleya St.). The villa built in 1905 was named after its architect Ernst Mehl. Half-timbering on the second floor of the building is used for decoration. Amalienau was distinguished by its 'historical' style. Modern construction designs were mixed with traditional architectural styles, such as half-timbering, baroque, romanticism. Many of Amalienau villas resemble rural manors.

Walking further down the street we see **villa Krahmer** (32 Kashtanovaya Alleya St.). The name of this manor is the one of its first owner—counsellor of justice O.Krahmer. The villa designed by Friedrich Heitmann in 1905 was damaged during the Second World War and restored afterwards.

At the intersection of Nakhimova St. and Kashtanovaya Alleya St. there is another villa - **Aron** (2 Nakhimova St.). This two-storied building with a cock-loft was built in the early 20th century by Otto Walter Koekkoek (the author of water tower in Svetlogorsk and Luisentheater, which is the Kaliningrad Regional Drama Theatre now). Court jeweler D.Aron was the first owner of the villa. It has two distinctive elements of the Jugendstil: asymmetrical windows and rounded corners on west side of the building. "Juvenile Style" was particularly popular in East Prussia

before World War I, and therefore many buildings of this style can be seen in Amalienau which was being dynamically developed at that period.

It is notable that Kashtanovaya Alleya St. and Nakhimova St. intersect at an acute angle. Street pattern in Amalienau differed from the traditional one for Königsberg. The idea was to create the atmosphere of privacy in the area, that is why it is full of winding streets, alleys and circular squares, and none of the streets of the area intersect with each other at right angles.

Opposite the villa Aron you will see a massive building with a principal staircase, two columns and a corner tower bearing clocks on both sides—**villa Winter** built in 1911-1912 (26-28 Kashtanovaya Alleya St.). Its owner—Salomon Winter—ran a pea plant. The building has elements of Classicism, which was experiencing revival at that period, but never caught on in Königsberg. The tower was built later than the villa itself. Despite its massiveness, the villa fits in the construction rules set for the area – it is two-storied. The architect of the villa was Johann Ludwig Friedrich Lars, known as the creator of the memorial to Immanuel Kant at the wall of the Königsberg Cathedral. If you have already seen the Immanuel Kant's Tomb you may notice some similarities of these two architectural structures: both have strict rectangular platforms on columns and the decoration is rather modest.

The house at **25 Kashtanovaya Alleya St.** next to villa Winter is also worth noticing. It's a building of the early 20th century with a steep slope gable roof. It is interesting to note that in pre-war Königsberg most houses had tiled roofs angled at 48 degrees. While restoring the buildings damaged during the war this characteristic feature was not taken into account and has not been preserved. Thus roofs became flatter, and as a result traditional roofs of pre-war Königsberg are rare in our time.

Now we suggest that you go to the end of Kutuzova St. enjoying amazing views around. On the way there is another circular square, which used to be called Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz before the war (in honor of the King of Prussia Frederick William), whereas today it carries the name Swedish Square. Kutuzova St. comes to an end at the intersection with Prospekt Pobedy St. Moving further southward you will find yourself in another pre-war area of Königsberg—Rathshof. This area was mainly inhabited by working class people employed at local car-building plant. But let us continue our journey around Amalienau and turn to the east. Our path runs along Prospekt Pobedy St. On the left side of the street there is a narrow-gauge tram line. It was typical for Königsberg and, as in the case with stone-block pavement, it has become a characteristic feature of present-day Kaliningrad.

On the left side of the street there is **villa Leo**, hidden behind a fairytale wicket with floral design (16 Kashtanovaya Alleya St.). The villa was built in 1902 by Friedrich Heitmann. It belonged to city councillor, owner of a shipping company, and respected citizen of Königsberg Ludwig Leo. Decorated with a louver, the villa is an example of so-called farmhouse style. It also has large adjacent territory. It is interesting that sometimes wealthy citizens welcomed all visitors to their gardens; at weekends tables were set with tea and treats in the shade of trees or on a terrace, and everybody, even a simple worker, was free to help him/herself and have a rest there.

Villa Leo stands on the border edge of **Lithuanian Square**, in the center of which there is a monument to Lithuanian poet and