

As good old Goethe once said: "Frankfurt is full of interesting things to see". And he ought to have known; after all, he lived long enough in the middle of the city – naturally in Goethe's House (1) at the "Hirschgraben". → The generous citizens of the city have granted themselves a large number of important buildings: take, for example, the "Alte Oper" (2), or Old Opera, which even caused the Prussian king to turn green with envy when he saw its furnishings: "I would never be allowed to do that in Berlin!". On the other hand, a real city hall was never built. Instead, the municipal authorities purchased, among other things, the town residence "Zum Römer" (3) (The Roman) in 1405, which now lends its name to the entire Römerberg Square and its buildings. It has nothing to do with the Romans, it should be noted – the former owner of the "Römer" allegedly had trade

links with Italy. → The 96 m high cathedral (4) is, strictly speaking, not a true cathedral, since Frankfurt has never been a diocese. All the same, the emperors of Germany were elected at the Parish Church "St. Bartholomäus" from 1356 onwards and also crowned there as of 1562. As a result, the citizens of Frankfurt gave the Gothic edifice the honorary title of "Imperial Cathedral" in the 17th century. → In contrast, the shopping street "Zeil" (5) (Row) rightly bears its name: it was actually only built in one row at first. And the people of Frankfurt are very strict when it comes to symbols that generate revenue: → In 1955, a court even ruled that sausages can only

be called Frankfurters if they come from the economic area of the same name. Admittedly, they are now produced today in the suburb of Neu-Isenburg (6) to the south of the City Forest, but the older inhabitants of Frankfurt will still offer you their "mustard" (that is, their opinions) on the subject. → Despite all these idiosyncrasies, Frankfurt almost became the capital of Germany in 1949. A plenary chamber was even built as a precaution. But then the choice fell to Bonn and the plenary chamber was used by the Hessischer Rundfunk for broadcasting purposes (7). As compensation, Frankfurt became home to the Federal Audit Office (8). In 1991, the government adopted a decision to move to Berlin – and the Audit Office moved to Bonn. In the meantime, the question What City is the True Capital? has been clarified for good. In a leading Internet search engine, "Berlin" returns just 300,000 hits, "Frankfurt am Main" more than 1.5million. By the way, "MAIN

TOWER Frankfurt" returned 45,100 results – almost 10,000 more than "Cologne Cathedral." Just so you know.

FRANKFURT FOR KNOW-IT-ALLS

