

Going further from the city centre, one will come to an other urban quarter that has remained almost intact. Unlike Maraunenhof and Amalienau, **Ratshof (location: Vagonostroitelnaia st. - Waggonfabrik Factory)** was originally a labour suburb in the north-west of Königsberg. There visitors can still see the famous Waggonfabrik factory of L. Steinfurt. In 1906, the owner of the factory Felix Heymann initiated the construction of a village. He wanted to provide his workers with inexpensive, though comfortable accommodation. By the 1920s, the district has already been densely built up with cheap two-storey houses for four families with a common front door and a courtyard. The buildings have remained almost intact after the WWII bombardment. Nowadays, one can still see the original house numbering which often confuses guests of the city since the Germans enumerate each entrance of houses and not houses as a whole. Along with cheap accommodation for the workers, one can also find more expensive old mansions with intricate roofs, nice roof windows and chimneys. Ratshof is delineated by Vozdushnaia street, Mira avenue, Engelsa street and the Pregolya River. Vagonostroitelnaia street is the heart of this urban area.

Ratshof offers different tourist attractions such as the Shaffner School (1910), several apartment buildings in Vagonostroitelnaia and Radishcheva streets and, of course, the former Christ Church built in 1937. It is a rather big rectangular building with a former bell tower left without a dome that resembles a factory pipe. During WWII, the church was badly damaged. Later, it was substantially rebuilt. Today it looks more like a wagon depot than a church because after the end of the war, the building was handed over to the Waggonfabrik factory which transformed the church into the House of Culture for the workers. From the 1990s to the present, this building houses the famous nightclub *Vagonka*. All these years, it has been the most popular club of the city. After Perestroika, *Vagonka* became the centre of the underground culture. Nowadays, it is a venue of the largest city rock concerts.



The Administration of the City District

«The city of Kaliningrad»

Address: Pobedy Square, 1



<http://klgd.ru>



*Tourist route
through Kaliningrad
Art Nouveau City*



«The Art Nouveau City» 6 km 

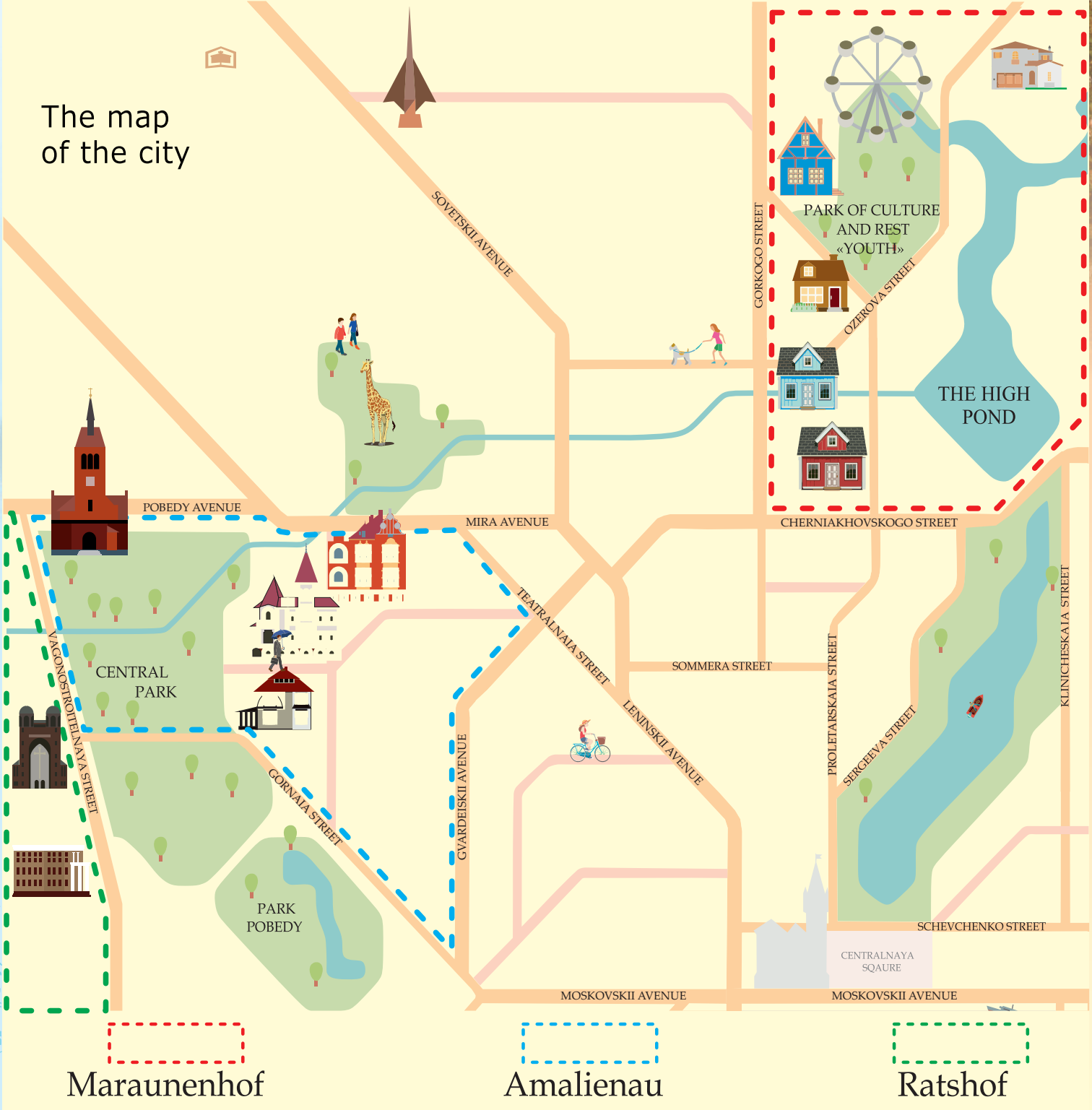
Kaliningrad is known as one of the most beautiful cities of Russia. Its beauty is not only in parks and gardens, but also in three old Königsberg quarters that despite all the twists and turns of XX century have remained intact. During this tour, one can see the best pre-war buildings of Königsberg designed by famous German architects. Visitors will also admire luxurious villas decorated with turrets, plasterworks or bas-reliefs, and walk along cobblestone streets lined with the century trees and fire hydrants.

The route starts with the western bank of the High Pond known as **Maraunenhof (location: Telmana st.)**. This urban area was constructed on the site of fortifications of the Internal Defensive Ring. Eventually, they became unnecessary and were partially torn down at the beginning of XX century. Maraunenhof was named after an estate located to the west of the High Pond. The active development of the territory began in 1906 after Maraunenhof had become an urban quarter of Königsberg. The area used to be a fashionable district with elegant villas for wealthy citizens. Maraunenhof was designed as a part of a garden-city.

In other words, it was a spacious residential area with small houses separated by numerous green zones. These buildings were designed either in the Art Nouveau or in Countryside style. Maraunenhof was expected to change the traditional out look of old European cities, which were so densely built that they resembled stone wells. After the war, all the streets of Maraunenhof were renamed. Some of them (Gogolia street, Nekrasova street or Tolstogo street) are still lined with beautiful apple trees that remind residents of Kaliningrad of the German time. The heart of Maraunenhof was in Telmana street where one can still admire German low-rise apartment blocks and single-family houses with parquet floors, ceramic tiles and bas-relief that have been there since the old times.

The most indelible imprint of the Art Nouveau era was left on another well-preserved quarter of Königsberg - **Amalienau (location: Kutuzova st., Pobedy ave., Vagonostroitel'naya st.).**

It was a fashionable residential area for wealthy residents. Everybody wanted to live there because Queen Louise of Prussia and her children spent summers in their Luisenwahl estate - modern Kaliningrad Central Park. Friedrich Heitmann, one of the most famous architects of East Prussia between XIX-XX centuries, designed loads of buildings in that area. F. Heitmann also designed various public and religious buildings. Despite this, the Amalienau villas became his most significant creative and professional heritage preserved to the present day. All the buildings in Amalienau were constructed in accordance with strict requirements. For instance, the number of floors was limited to two, the distance between the houses had to be at least 30-35 meters, and the streets should not intersect at a 90 degree angle. Luckily, Amalienau was not destroyed during the war. Nowadays, this part of old Königsberg is delineated by Krasnaia st, Lesoparkovaia st., Yanalova st. and Mira avenue.



A lot of effort was put into the construction of Lawsker Allee (modern Pobedy avenue) and Kürte Allee (modern Kutuzova street), the two central streets of Amalienau. Lawsker Alley was famous for two churches erected at its both ends - the Queen Louise Church (now the Regional Puppet Theater, Pobedy avenue, 1A) in Luisenwahl Park and the Church of St. Adalbert, a Catholic chapel, one of the few surviving Gothic buildings (now the western branch of IZMIRAN company, Pobedy avenue, 41). The Church of St. Adalbert is situated near the former Sternplatz (*Star Square*), the starting point of six streets that stretch in six different directions. Later, this site was reconstructed and renamed Litovsky Park. After the war, the monument Ludwig Reza, a Lithuanian poet, was erected there. In the north of Amalienau, there was the Zwillingteich Pond (*Twin Pond*). Now it is known as Poplavok (*Fishing Buoy*). The pond with its promenade is a favourite recreation area of Kaliningraders.

The buildings of Amalienau were designed in the Art Nouveau, romantic, and neoclassical architectural styles popular at that time. They embodied creative architectural ideas, for instance, multi-level roofs of fancy shapes, turrets, bay windows, and unusual decorative ornaments. Already at the beginning of XX century, the houses were equipped with all the amenities typical of modern residential buildings - water supply, sewerage, electricity and gas. As a rule, villas were named after their owners or architects.

