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27.06.2008



PRESSE-INFORMATION

... Experience the UNESCO World Heritage Site Regensburg

Regensburg, with its about 150.000 inhabitants, is the fifth largest city of Bavaria today and has been rediscovered as a medieval gem after the Second World War. This independent imperial city, founded during the 13th century, became part of Bavaria in 1810 and was forgotten for almost 150 years afterwards. Fortunately, the mostly medieval buildings stayed nearly intact and escaped the destructions of the Second World War.

That is why this exemplary preserved city is considered as a unique cultural-historical monument in Europe.

In July 2006 the Old Town of Regensburg and Stadtamhof have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Till today you can see 2000 years of historical development on the facades of the Old Town.

... When the Romans came

The Porta Praetoria, the northern gate of Castra Regina, is a surviving part of the strong walls, which once surrounded the roman fort Castra Regina. This fort was built in 179 AD by Emperor Marc Aurel. The inscription carved in stone, that proves the building, can be seen in the municipal museum.

But the rise of Regensburg was much earlier, as shows the Celtic name Rathaspona, which is still used as Ratisbonne in the French language. Grave findings prove that the eldest settlements of Regensburg's surrounded area were founded during the Stone Age.

... World Trade City during the Middle Ages

The face of the city was influenced by the Middle Ages, an era with the greatest economic bloom based on global trade relations. The Stone Bridge was built at that time (1135-1146) and is an outstanding result of medieval architecture. This archetype of the famous Charles Bridge in Prague was, among other things, one reason for the rise of the city Regensburg. For about 800 years the Stone Bridge was the only passage across the Danube in Regensburg and the surrounding area. That's why during this time it was considered as "wonder of the world". Beside the Stone Bridge, St. Peter's cathedral, built from 1250, is one of the main sights and one of the architectural landmarks of Regensburg. The cathedral is the most significant gothic building of South Germany and is famous for its medieval glass panes.

Without doubt, the western front is the tourist feature of the cathedral.

... Brilliance and glory of the churches

There are 46 churches in the city centre of Regensburg. The Ulrichskirche, former Dompfarrkirche, was built 1230 and is one of the most ancient gothic churches north of the Alps. The basilica Alte Kapelle, which was founded in the 9th century, can be admired because of its Rococo glory. The new organ was inaugurated by pope Benedict XVI in 2006. The "Schottenkirche" St. Jacob is very famous, especially among experts, because of the northern portal with its mysterious images.

In the basement of the Niedermünsterkirche, the former church of the independent and noble convent Niedermünster, you can view famous remains of previous buildings and excavations of roman houses. St. Emmeram's basilica, which belongs to the area of the princely castle Thurn & Taxis, was a part of the most famous monastery in Bavaria in the past and is one of the main churches of the city and the diocese of Regensburg today.

... The Perpetual Imperial Diet

The Old Town Hall with the famous Imperial Hall takes the first position among the profane buildings. Since 1594 the Imperial Assemblies, called by the Emperor, proceeded there and from 1663 until 1806 the Perpetual Imperial Diet met in that Hall.

Common figures of speech in the German language like "Etwas auf die lange Bank schieben" and "Am grünen Tisch sitzen" were invented there, too.

... The flair of Italy

The patrician towered houses and castles, which are characteristic for Regensburg, come from the bloom of the Middle Ages. Today there are still 20 from originally 60 towers, built according to Italian noble houses. Also the narrow lanes, backyards and squares with their southern ambiance lead to the typical flair of Italy in Regensburg and its byname "Italy's northernmost city".

... Around Regensburg

Outside of Regensburg you find well-known destinations for unforgettable excursions. To the east of Regensburg, in Donaustauf, there is the Walhalla, a temple with more than 100 busts of famous German persons. For 120 years you can reach this impressive monument, built by King Ludwig I. in 1842, with a ship starting at the Stone Bridge.

Another favoured destination is Weltenburg with the eldest monastery of Bavaria. The best chance to go there is also by ship. On your way to Weltenburg you can see the beautiful landscape of the Altmühltal valley, which is influenced by the spectacular Donaudurchbruch and which is therefore called one of the most stunning waterways of Germany.

Very favoured by hikers is the landscape of the "Oberpfälzer Jura". Along the rivers "Schwarze Laber", "Naab" and "Vils" you can discover a lot of castles, caves and remains.

Cycling fans can also explore the beautiful landscape, because there is the DonauRadweg, a cycle track, which is 600 kilometers long and goes through Regensburg via Passau up to Vienna.