

which became the Rural District Council's offices after the secularization.

This palatial, two-storey building, recently restored, is a significant example of Swabian Renaissance. The horizontal row of windows, the arched windows above the second floor and the steep pinnacled gable are characteristic of this period.

We now leave the Reichsstrasse and, passing the Heilig-Kreuz-Strasse, we reach the Monastery of the Holy Cross 12.

The history of this former Benedictine monastery goes back to the 11th century. Around 1030, Count Mangold I brought a **precious relic** of the holy cross to Donauwörth, where he



founded a convent to venerate it. The cross had been given to him by the Byzantine Emperor of Constantinople (The historic documentation dates back to Emperor Constantine's mother Helena, 4th century). In 1101, the Benedictine monks from St. Blasien took over the arrangements for the pilgrimage to the Church of the Holy Cross.

In 1125, the **church** and the **monastery** were erected on the present site. Under Abbot Amandus Röls, the monastery, (1696-98) the church of the Holy Cross (1717-1720) and the tower (1747, romanesque foundation) were modified to their present style. Napoleon, who had been to Donauwörth on two occasions, used the church as a stable. **The church complex is an example of the Wessobrunner School:** Josef Schmuizer was the architect from Wessobrunn. The painting was done by Johann Stauder from Constance. The top storey of the monastery, with the **"Emperor's Hall"**, was commissioned by Abbot Gallus Hammerl (1776-1793) (The ceiling fresco by Enderle is not on public display).

Objects of interest inside the church:

Duke Ludwig II of Wittelsbach (Ludwig the Strict) had his wife, the **Duchess Maria von Brabant**, beheaded in the Mangoldstein Fortress in 1256, despite her innocence.

She is buried there, **under the organ gallery**, behind an artistically made, protective wrought-iron grille, donated by Prince Regent Luitpold of Bavaria. The tombstone, with the coats of arms of Brabant, Bavaria and the Palatinate, dates from the end of the 13th century. The **high altar** was built by Franz Schmuizer of Wessobrunn, the architect's brother. The **choir stalls** (17th and 18th century) and the chancel are also worth seeing.

Inside the church, we enter the **Vault-Chapel**, which was built in the west wing of the church, in the middle of the 15th century. Here, in this vaulted chapel, it is worth looking at the **pieta** (about 1500) on the right-hand altar, the pyx, dated from 1716

with the Byzantine cross particle, is on the left-hand altar, (shown only on special feast days). This cross particle (historically proven as having been in the possession of Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine) used to be part of the (Byzantine) Imperial gem collection.

In the Auer Garden we see the **Uncle Ludwig's memorial**. It is dedicated to Ludwig Auer (died in 1914), the founder of the "Cassianeums" and later, the Auer publishing house, which made Donauwörth famous in the entire German-speaking area, with its educational and religious literature.

We **return to the Fugger House** and reach the **"Pflegstraße" on the left handside**. After about 150 metres (~165 yards), we find particularly fascinating and interesting evidence of the town's history, especially in summer, the **"Invalidenkaserne" 13** (the Invalid Barracks). This elongated building was constructed in 1715/16 and used to serve as barracks for four hundred men, in order to relieve the population of constantly having to provide private billets for the soldiers. From 1803 on, the barracks were used as a home for invalids, from 1805 on as a military hospital and today, it belongs to the town.

Once again, we turn towards the "Reichsstrasse", walk along the right handside as far as the Sparkasse building and reach the **"Färbertörl" 14** via the Upper and Lower Farbberg, one of the original 38 wall towers. After the latest restoration, redevelopment and decoration, this picturesque building contains a picture gallery and an artstudio for Donauwörth's supporters of the arts.

We have now reached the **"Kleine Wörnitz"** and arrive **at the "Ried"** via a wooden bridge. This is the oldest part and the nucleus of Donauwörth. This island in the Wörnitz used to be called "Wörth", but in the 16th century, it was renamed "Ried". The town was developed from this island by fishermen and ferrymen during the time of the tribal migrations. The name "Wörth", meaning "island", has been retained in the name of the town. We are reminded of this fact by the "Fisher-Well" designed by Georg Bayer in 1982. We keep to the left and reach the **"Hintermeierhaus" 15, the local museum**. This former fisherman's house, with its gothic frieze dating from the 15th century, mainly contains exhibits illustrating the life of fishermen and informs visitors about metal crafts, historic costumes and the costumes of living in the 19th century.



The **"Hohe Meer" 16** is an outstanding building in the Ried, a six-storey stone building with an imposing gable, dating from the first half of the 17th century. Above the arched gateway, there is an inscription dated from 1639.

Going towards the town, we arrive at the **Rieder Gate 17**, the only remaining one of four large town gates in the town wall. Inside is the town's historical collection as well as the Lovriner Stube. The **gatehouse**, in its present shape, was built in 1811, restored in 1913, damaged by bombs in 1945 and restored again in 1983/86.

Further places of interest

For those who have some time left after this walk, we recommend another scenic stroll. We follow the Kapellstraße out of town and turn left into the **"Promenade"**.



The Donauwörth Promenade, along the town wall and the railway embankment of the former Danube Valley Railway, dates from the 19th century. Old trees and a rich variety of flowers grow all along the path, past the **"Ochsentörl" 18**, the modern building of the **Forum for Education and Energy** and the Adult Education Centre (VHS) to the **"Mangoldfelsen" 19** (Mangold rock). The proud-looking Mangoldstein Fortress was erected on this rock at the beginning of the 10th century. The castle survived all the ups and downs of the Empire's history, until its destruction by Albrecht I of Austria in 1301. Maria von Brabant was beheaded here in 1256. The Danube crossing used to be guarded from this point. The first bridge, built in 977, linked the town to the outside world, enabled the town to grow, and brought trade and commerce, self-confidence and pride to the citizens. In 1308, the former Mangoldstein Fortress was demolished – its last remains were removed in 1818.

From the "Mangoldfelsen", the way leads us over the Kaibach bridge to the "Kalvarienberg" 20 (Hill of Calvary). After the battle of the Schellenberg (see below), the council and the inhabitants of the town vowed to erect **a crucifixion group** on the former battlefield, as a sign of gratitude that the town had not been destroyed as had been feared. In 1720, this vow was fulfilled and shortly after, the **"Maria Hilf Kapelle"** (Mary's Help Chapel) was built and consecrated in 1723. The Kalvarienberg is the site of the Schellenberg facing the town. On this Schellenberg, over 60 burial mounds from the Halstattzeit (700 B.C.) were discovered in 1901. Here, we find ourselves in an old Celtic settlement, about 2,500 years old. This is where the citizens of Donauwörth paid homage to Charles V in 1546. Tilly's army began to build the town's star-shaped bastion in the Thirty Year's War and the Swedes completed it after the capture of Donauwörth. The name "Schwedenschanze" originates from those days. The most important, but also the most terrible event that took place here was the "Battle of the Schellenberg" in 1704 (a preliminary to the Battle of Blenheim). The adversaries in the

Spanish War of Succession were the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and the French King. Nearly all the German states supported the Emperor; Bavaria and the Archbishop of Cologne fought on the French side. The English were allied with the Emperor.

The Bavarians and the French entrenched themselves on the Schellenberg. The Emperor's troops and the English attacked and 16,000 men fell in the battle. The final outcome was a victory for the Emperor. As a result of this battle, the Hill of Calvary was erected.

We turn back to the Mangoldfelsen and return to the Ochsentörl (renovated in 1991.) In front of the Ochsentörl, we see the **"Zauberergeigenbrunnen"** (Well of the Magic Violin). It was created by Professor Hans Ladner in 1991 to commemorate the 90th birthday of Werner Egk. The well shows a scene of the composer's first opera written in 1935. In the key scene, the main character of the opera is presented with a magic violin, given to him by a nymph. The magic violin guarantees virtuosity, richness, power and glory to the violinist, as long as he abstains from love. We go through the Ochsentörl, past the town's tourist information centre and come back to the Town Hall.

From the Mangoldfelsen, you can alternatively take the Brabantweg past the **Käthe-Kruse-Museum 21** and the **Werner-Egk-meeting-place 21**, to the Pflegstrasse and from here back to Donauwörth's "showcase", the Reichsstrasse.

Last but not least we recommend a detour across the **Friedensbrücke (Bridge of Peace) 24** to the confluence of the rivers Danube and Wörnitz, the so-called **Donauspitz 23**. Following the Kapellstraße, flanked by the sculptures **"The Young Danube" by Prof. Hans Wimmer 22** and **"Cancer" by Raimund Göbner 26**, you will come to the medical center Maximilium which is housed in the **former Hotel Krebs 26**. Across the street are the **Danube Bridge and the old Danube port 25**.



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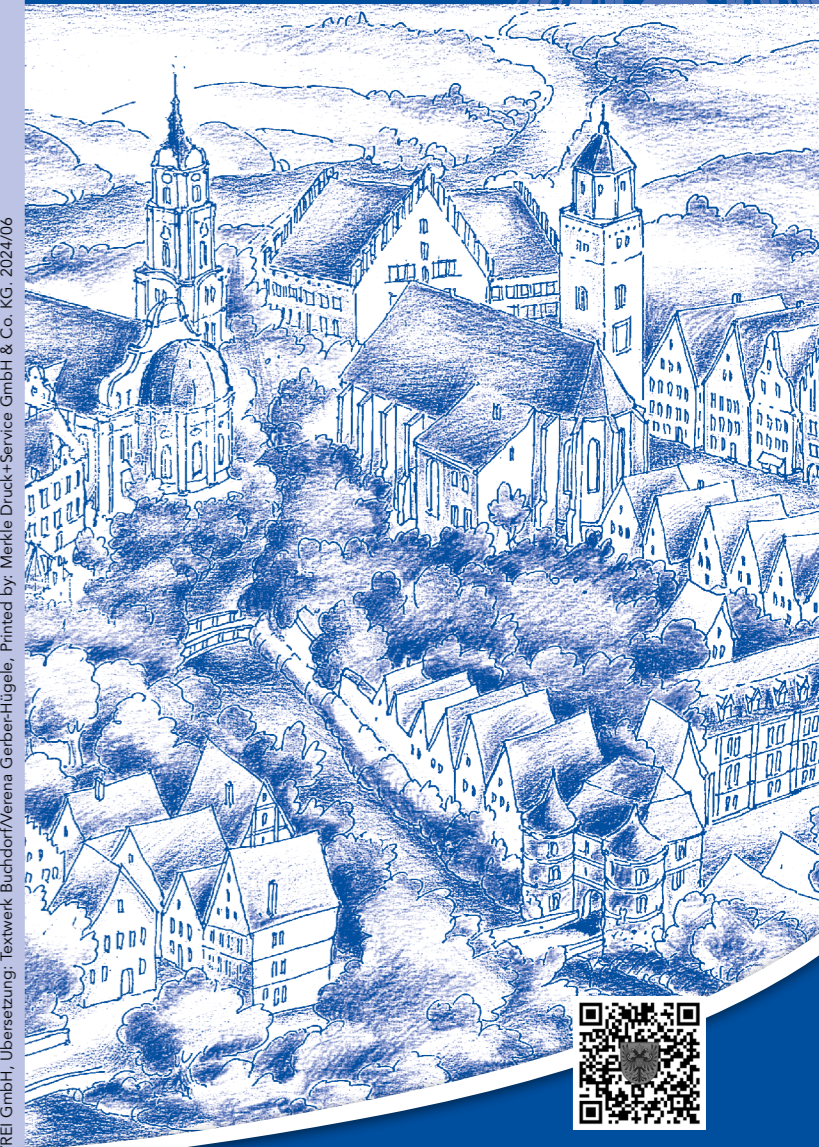
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A short stroll through history



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donauwörth

A short stroll through history

We begin our walk in the **Kapellstraße** at the **"Deutschordenshaus" ❶** (House of the Knights of the Teutonic Order). The present building, topped with a dainty tower and lantern on the eastside, was built by the Grand Commander Freiherr von Riedheim from 1774 to 1778.

Donauwörth was **one of the first centres of the Knights of the Teutonic Order**, founded in 1197. In 1214, King Friedrich II of Germany handed the chapel at the bridgehead of the old Danube bridge over to them. This chapel had been built by the inhabitants

of the town. Alms for the poor used to be collected at this chapel.

In 1332, the Grand Commander Heinrich von Zipplingen moved to Donauwörth with his knights and had the house and chapel enlarged.

As the commemorative plaque at the

house entrance explains, the members of the **"Hoch & Deutschmeister" Regiment** swore their oath of allegiance to the Austrian Emperor and then embarked on a journey down the Danube to join Prince Eugen's army, which won the decisive battle near Zenta against the Turks in 1697.

The cross of the Knights of the Teutonic Order, with the Grand Commander's coat of arms on the gable of the house, is the most impressive element. On the first floor of this house, we find a small, but sumptuous banqueting hall, the **"Enderlesaal"**. Donauwörth's baroque artist Johann Enderle, famous for his light colours and rich motifs, who decorated many churches and banqueting halls, created the famous ceiling fresco "The Feast of the Gods" in 1780.

The town's art gallery, showing a range of pictures related to Donauwörth, can also be found on the first floor.

Continuing along **Kapellstr.**, towards the town centre and past the Spital Kirche (Hospital Church), we arrive at the neogothic **"Marienbrunnen" ❷** (Mary's Well) in front of the Town Hall. The town council had this well cast in 1854 for 1.550 guilders.

The work on the oldest section of the **Town Hall ❸** began in 1236. The latter was enlarged with stones taken from the demolished Fortress of Mangoldstein in 1308. The building was destroyed by fire during the 14th century;

the third floor was added in the 16th century and, at the end of the 18th century, the present-day attic was put on. The present profile of the Town Hall with its pinnacles dates from the neogothic restoration in 1853.

The coat of arms with the double-headed eagle above the stairs of the Town Hall was granted by Emperor Charles V in 1530. He visited "his" imperial town on several occasions.

In 1973/75 and in 1985/86, the Town Hall was not only wholly renovated and enlarged, but also internally altered to meet present-day needs. In spite of the numerous alterations that have taken place during its long existence, the Town Hall has retained its medieval character, shaped by the civic pride of that time.

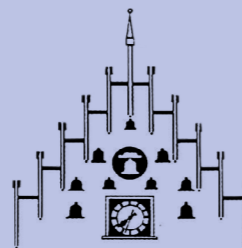
Since 1986, the 750th anniversary of the Town Hall, Donauwörth has gained a further attraction: The "Donauwörther Glockenspiel" resounds from the Town Hall's west gable at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Apart from renowned German folk tunes and prayers for peace which are connected with the fate of the old imperial town, a song from the opera "The Magic Violin" by Werner Egk, the world-renowned composer and son of the town, is played twice a day.

From the **Town Hall steps**, we enjoy a fascinating **view over the "Reichsstraße" ❹**, the "showcase" of Donauwörth. For centuries, the wide road rising from the banks of the Wörnitz, has been the town centre, known as the Lower and Upper Market. It obtained its name "Reichsstr." (Imperial Road), as it was part of a road of the Holy Roman Empire which connected the imperial cities of Nuremberg and Augsburg.

The imposing urban houses, whose decorative gables accentuate the rising road beautifully, are a reminder of the glorious imperial past of Donauwörth. Fortunately, it was possible to rebuild this road, which had been almost totally destroyed during a bombing raid in 1945. After the attacks of April 11th and 19th, Donauwörth was, after Würzburg, one of the worst-hit towns in Bavaria. Today, the Reichsstr. is part of the so-called "Romantic Road", which connects Würzburg with Füssen. It is considered to be **one of the most scenic roads in Southern Germany**.

On the right, we see a corner house, the Customs House, with an oriel, which appears to be resting on a knight figure. This Gothic gabled house was built in 1418. The town's customs officers' quarters used to be on the ground floor, the Mayor's office on the first floor and the councils' drinking chamber on the second floor. Under the bay window, the **"stone knight"** with flag and an eagle-adorned shield (originally the coat of arms of the town, dating from 1193)



is kneeling on a corbel (on the left, the sign of the stonemason and on the right, the date 1524). Traditionally, it is said to be a memorial to the councillor of Donauwörth, Georg von Zusum, captain of a seventy-strong squad during the "Swabian War" in 1499. His remarkable bravery was rewarded with the imperial flag by Emperor Maximilian I.

A local legend says that the "little man" can be heard sighing at night, when the town is in danger. Opposite, we see the **"Baudrexhhaus" ❺**: this imposing half-timbered house dates from the 16th century. The old weather vane displays the date 1592. From there the road leads us to a mighty building, the **"Stadtkommandantenhaus" ❻** (the Town Mayor's House). At the beginning of the 16th century, the wife of Emperor Maximilian resided here. Since 1607, it has been the seat of the Bavarian Town's Trustee, and later the seat of the town's mayor. In the 18th century, the house was converted by the town council. In the terrible airattack in 1945, it was completely gutted, and rebuilt in the original style by 1950. Half way up

the road, we find the **"Tanzhaus" ❽** (Dancing Hall). It was built in 1400 as a town market hall and dance-house (every Sunday, the council engaged musicians who played for the townsfolk). For a long time, this house was the most important building in the Reichsstraße. Emperor Maximilian I (the last knight, died in 1519) celebrated here, in his much beloved town, with the citizens of the town. Probably the greatest feast in the history of this medieval town took place on March 8th, in 1500, when Emperor Maximilian received news of the birth of his grandson, who later became Emperor Charles V. In 1570, the Dancing Hall became a granary. During the Spanish War of Succession in 1704, the house was ravaged and in 1872, it was fully restored. The medieval building was completely destroyed in 1945. It was rebuilt from 1973 to 1975.



Diagonally opposite, on the upper Reichsstraße, the **"Münster zu unserer Lieben Frau" ❾** (Parish Church of Our Lady) dominates the scene.

The **gothic brick building** was built as a **three-naved hall church** between the years 1444 and 1467, on the site of the former St. Ulrich Church, which originated from the 11th century. The original frescos, of historic interest, were exposed in 1938. Other items **of interest** are: The **tabernacle** dated from 1503, the epitaphs of the Grand Commanders of the Knights of the Teutonic Order,

the baptismal font (1503), the choir stalls (1690), the Scourging of Christ on the left and the pieta on the side altar on the right, the stone madonna on the second side altar, on the right. The floor level in the parish church falls by 120 cm (=3,9 feet) from the rear of the church to the altar.

The **church tower**, regarded as "the Guardian of Swabia" holds the "Pummerin", weighing 131 cwt, which makes it the largest churchbell in Swabia. It is affectionately described as "the little sister" of the Pummerin in St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna. (The tower, with its 218 steps to the towerchamber, can be visited between May and September).

Only a few metres further, to the west, our attention is drawn to the **"Reichsstadtbrunnen" ❿** (Imperial Town's Well). The well is crowned by a majestic-looking eagle, which has been part of the town's coat of arms since 1193.

The inscription on the "cone" reminds us of the town's history. The well was designed by the well-known Munich sculptor Professor Hans Wimmer (a second eagle by this artist stands in front of the Hanseatic House in Bremen). The people of Donauwörth had the well erected to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of their town in 1977. (DM 100,000 in itself were donated by the town's freeman, Professor Werner Egk). The well was ceremonially inaugurated during a splendid street festival in 1977. The Reichsstraße ends in front of the **"Fugger Haus" ⓫** (Fugger House – today's Rural District Administration) with its imposing renaissance gable. The Fugger family was granted the protectorate of the town in 1536. To exercise this office, they built the present-day Landratsamt in 1539, which they decorated generously in accordance with the style of that period. Gustav Adolf (1632) and Charles VI (1711) were guests in this house,

