

Lauingen – A Town with a long History

Lauingen developed from an Alemannic settlement and was given to the monastery of Fulda in the 8th century. It was surrounded by a wall and got the status of a town during the reign of Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa). After the division of the inheritance of the Hohenstaufen Emperors Lauingen was given to the House of Bavaria.

White Horse Tower

Height 54 metres, built between 1457 and 1478 as a municipal watch-tower. The tower has been painted since the beginning. The frescos represent the "Giant White Horse of Lauingen" and on the fourth floor, and beneath it the local shoe-maker's fight against the giant soldier. The painting below them shows Saint Albertus Magnus (left) and "Mistress Geiselina" (right), a countess who had become Duchess of Schwaback and a great benefactress of the town. On the left side of the tower the former market halls called "Schupfe" were built. The tower may be visited.



„The cleverest, finest and greatest woman in Europe“

On the ground floor of the White Horse Tower there is a fresco, depicting Duchess Geiselina of Schwaback. It is said that she gave considerable donations to the town, e.g. the "Bridge House", the proceeds of which maintained the bridge across the Danube. In front of the "Bridge-House" we can see the "breadstone", upon which the town officials had to place a loaf of bread for the poor in former times.



Gmeinder Fashions

Here an epitaph is to be found in honour of Albertus Magnus who, according to an old document, was born in these premises. One can follow the "Path of Albertus" which leads through the old town of Lauingen and describes the life and work of the towns' greatest son.



Albertus Magnus – The Great Son of Lauingen

Albertus Magnus, the great scholar of the Middle Ages, was born in Lauingen about 1200 (probably in 1193). As a boy he closely observed nature in the fields, woods, lakes and the river. In 1222 he studied in Padova, where he joined the order of St. Dominik in 1225. He graduated as Master of Arts at the Paris University in 1245, and was given the presidency of the

Dominican college in Cologne. As a provincial he travelled on foot through many countries. In 1262 he was appointed Bishop of Regensburg by the Pope, and from 1262 until his death on November 15th 1280, he lived in Cologne again. Albertus Magnus, whose disciple was Thomas Aquinas, is considered the first scholar, who combined elements of the Aristotelic philosophy and Christianity.

Town Hall with Albertus Magnus Monument

The Town Hall was built between 1783 and 1791. Designed by Lorenzo Quaglio, electoral court architect and built by the municipal mason of Lauingen, Georg Launer. Erected in strictly classic style, the building has three storeys and nine axes. The vertical segmentation underlines a division into three sections with three axes each. An Inscription concerning the history of the building is to be found above the main entrance.

On the ground floor the visitor enters a square hall of nine bays. Climbing the staircase one can have a look at the glass-painting by Bernhard Mittermaier (1906). On the first floor is the banqueting hall with paintings in richly decorated gold frames, depicting Elector Karl Theodor and his wife Elisabeth, by J.W. Hoffnas.

In front of the town hall stands the monument of Albertus Magnus, greatest scholar of his time, born in Lauingen about 1200 – erected in 1881. Artist: Ferdinand v. Miller jr. of Munich.



Augustine Church

This church is dedicated to Saint Thomas of Villanova. A monastery was founded here about 1295. The present church was erected on the remnants of a former church in 1716. The beginning of the steeple took place in 1717. After a disastrous fire in 1790, the rebuilding was carried out the same year, using remnants of the old church. The façade of 1716 was preserved. The nave is a hall of six bays. The altars are erected in a classic style. The fresco on the ceiling was painted by Johann Baptist Enderle of Donauwörth, in 1791.



The Mosque of Lauingen

The tolerance of the citizens of Lauingen shows itself in the relationship with the many fellow citizens who came from foreign countries and have found their home here. For this reason the administration of Lauingen granted the Muslim population permission to erect a magnificent mosque, which serves as an area for prayer to the believers of Islam coming from the whole region, ever since.



Danube Salt Shipping

A river gives a special character to the landscape and towns along its banks. Throughout history there has been navigation on the Danube, and Lauingen for a long time was an important trading centre for goods from Switzerland, France and the Netherlands which were shipped to Austria and the Balkans. As early as 1771 Lauingen owned a salt depot and a large electoral salt storage was established in 1784. In the same year a shipping company was founded, which sent a ship to Vienna every week. There was also rafting on the Danube.

Church of St. Leonard (Church of Pilgrimage)

The first church was built here in 1433. The present church was erected between 1731 and 1736. One nave and a choir of the same width, closed on three sides and separated from the nave by a semi-circular arch. Plain barrel roof with vaulting panels in nave and choir. On the ceiling and walls paintings by the local artists Franz Karl Karpf (choir) and Wilhelm Schreiner (nave), depicting the signs of grace of Saint Leonard. Stucco 1731 by Balthasar Suiter of Dillingen. Altars by master joiner Johann Michael Schroff, statues by Johann Gröbner, altar-pieces by Johann Anwander. Pulpit of 1768. Crucifix of 1667. Many votive paintings from 1698 up to the present times. Above the southern entrance Mount of Olives of 1664.



Duke's Castle

The castle was built between 1474 and 1482. Completed during the reign of Duke George the Rich, it served the Dukes of Neuburg as a second residence. From the Danube you have the finest view of it. The massive three-storey building is flanked by two round battlement-towers (that can't be visited). In 1890 the Elizabethan foundation established an asylum for incurable female patients, in one part of the former Duke's castle. In 1909 the whole castle was used for this purpose. Later, further annexes were erected. Today the buildings are used as an institution for social therapy for mentally handicapped people with some 300 beds.



Church of Saint John

Formerly chapel of the hospital for incurable people. Built in 1672/73, general renovation in 1770. Hall with five axes and polygonal closure towards the north. Plane ceiling over chamfer. Ceiling painted by Johann Baptist Enderle of Donauwörth. Stucco 1770/71. Altar pieces by Enderle 1772. Stalls of 1764.

Lauingen has an interesting religious history. Between 1542 and 1634 the inhabitants of the town had to change their denomination six times.

Parish Church Staint Martin



Gothic church erected on the foundations of an older church between 1515 and 1521. Rectangular hall, supported by seven pairs of slender cylindrical brick columns. They divide the room, which is 62 m long by 22 m wide as well as 22 m high, into three naves, identical in height and width. Wall frescos painted

1521/1522. Interior neo-gothic 1880/81. Stalls 1747/48. Choir stalls 1768. On the west side is the sarcophagus of Duchess Elisabeth (dec. 1563), erected in 1572, and a crucifix of 1520. Height of tower: 56 metres. Exterior East: Roman votive tablet, dedicated to Apollo Grannus (from the Roman temple at Faimingen).

Municipal Museum



In a remaining part of the Cistercian convent Saint Agnes, the Municipal Museum is to be found. It contains the oldest municipal collection of its kind in Bavaria (Prehistoric art, Middle Age, town history, ethnology, handicrafts). Painting by Mathis Gerung depicting the "Camp of Charles the Fifth outside of Lauingen of 1546".

Opening Hours: From April to October every second Sunday from 10 to 12 a.m. Special tours all year by appointment.

Opposite the Municipal Museum is the place of birth of St Albertus Magnus.

Apollo Grannus Temple

In the suburbs of Faimingen remnants of a temple dedicated to the Roman-Celtic god Apollo-Grannus have been excavated and reconstructed. A so-called Gallo-Roman gallery temple may have existed here as early as A.D. 100. It was constructed after a Celtic model. Its basis was used for a later platform temple, which was built in the second half of the second century A.D. The sanctuary was situated at a concourse in a Roman fortification.



Valley of the Fountains

After the enlargement of the town in 1413 houses were built on the former town-wall, which dates back to the days of the Staufers a Middle Age imperial house. Their picturesque balconies high above the Valley of the Fountains offer a nice view.

St Andrew's Church

First mentioned in 1416. Constructional changes in 1533, 1550/51 and 1554. After the Thirty-Years' War reconstructed by the town. Complete restauration in 1721, baroquization of the interior in 1725. The edifice consists of one trapezoidal nave, a choir closed on three sides and separated from the nave by segmental arches. Ceiling painted by Johann Wilhelm Schreiner. Stucco of 1725. High altar of 1699, altar-piece by Schreiner in 1721. On the west side painting "Resurrection of Lazarus", about 1720. Wooden statues by Schifferle an Gröbner.



A Social Act



In the 13th century the "Spital", that is to say the old-age-asylum, was founded in Lauingen. The deed of foundation dates from the year 1350. A church belongs to the asylum. The present building was erected in 1870 on the remnants of an older church, and equipped in neo-gothic style. The tryptich was created by the local painter, Anton Bernreiter. On the right side of the Choir, a stone staircase leads to a crypt which is an old place of pilgrimage called "Our dear Lady at the fountain".

And there is more



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Lauingen on the Danube

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Town of Albert the Great

