

“The Heart of Bavaria (Pope Emeritus Benedikt XVI) and One of the Hearts of Europe”

Today Altötting is a vibrant pilgrimage centre with international connections, visitors and pilgrims from throughout Europe and the world. It hosts an **international youth forum** every year in August.

Largely on Altötting's initiative, the **'Shrines of Europe'** committee was founded in 1996, uniting Europe's principle Marian pilgrimage sites: Lourdes, Loreto, Fatima, Czestochowa, Altötting and a few years later Mariazell and Einsiedeln.



www.shrines-of-europe.com

For its Europe wide commitment the town of Altötting became the 16th German town to be awarded the **Council of Europe's 'Europe Prize'** (2013). The Europe Prize is awarded for exceptional contributions to European unity.

Information and room reservation at
www.altoetting.de/tourismus

If you have further questions, the team of the pilgrimage and tourist office is at your disposal.

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Film about Advent and Christmas in Altötting



Feasts and Festivities throughout the year in Altötting...

Altötting's inhabitants always seem to have cause to celebrate. Throughout the year the **Kultur+Kongress Forum** offers a wide selection of cultural events and Altötting's choirs and musical ensembles enrich the town's busy cultural calendar.

Altötting's Hofdult is a popular celebration with a tradition dating back over 600 years. What is the secret of its success? The fest offers three distinctive "beer" tents, each lovingly and tastefully decorated and serving delicious Bavarian specialties and great entertainment!

Altötting's Klostermarkt (monastery market) takes place on the third weekend in July in the beautiful setting of Kapellplatz with its backdrop of Baroque buildings. The market features the wares of various monasteries or convents from different European countries.

Altötting organizes the world's fastest nature race, the **international OMV half-marathon** in September, making the township popular with sports enthusiasts as well.

Just before Christmas, a warm and unique atmosphere prevails in the town centre attuning its visitors in quite a special way to the "nicest holy day of the year". The spacious square skirted by many baroque buildings has been the home for one of Germany's most beautiful **Christmas markets** for centuries. Numerous concerts, above all Altötting's famed Adventsingens, are scheduled in the churches that have been richly decorated for the Advent season.

The Alps in Sight and Picturesque Excursions at Your Door...

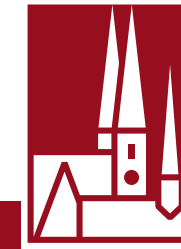
Altötting's central location between Munich, Passau and Salzburg makes it the ideal base for daytrips to the most attractive destinations in Upper Bavaria and neighbouring Austria.

On the way to the Alps, one finds Mozart's birthplace: **Salzburg**, as well as **Lake Chiemsee**, with its many attractions. Bavaria's capital, **Munich**, the picture-perfect town of **Landshut** with its palace and the town of **Passau**, built on three rivers, are all reached within good hour's drive. The Inn-Salzach region has striking places as well, such as the neighbouring town of **Neu-ötting** or **Mühdorf am Inn** known for its squares featuring distinctive Inn-Salzach architecture. The nearby township of **Markt** is well known as the birthplace of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Visitors to **Burghausen** are also impressed with the ducal town boasting the world's longest fortress.



Biking to Altötting

There are numerous cycling trails for pleasant bicycle excursions throughout the **Inn-Salzach region**. Biking enthusiasts can also choose routes requiring several days of pedalling along the Inn River from its source in Maloja, Switzerland, all the way to Passau, making a stop, of course, at Bavaria's state shrine Altötting. Another option is a five-day trip on the **Benedict Trail** to discover the towns and places connected with the childhood and youth of the Bavarian Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.



ALTÖTTING
Heart of Bavaria 

Bavarian National Shrine



Explore and Experience



www.altoetting.de/tourismus

Welcome to the Heart of Bavaria!

For over 1250 years the town has been the spiritual centre of Bavaria and for more than five centuries it's been the most important Marian pilgrimage site in the German-speaking world. Though the first traces of human settlement date back to the early Stone Ages, the first documented mention of Altötting was in the early Middle Ages, in the year 748, under the name 'Autingas' – the Latin form of 'Ötting'.

The greatest period in the history of the palatinate was the time when King Carloman, the great grandson of Charlemagne, moved his seat of government in 865 from Regensburg to Ötting and ruled from here as King of Bavaria and Italy. He erected the first college of canons and a basilica, in which he was buried in 880.



A film about the history of Altötting

Ever since the rise of pilgrimages due to reports of miraculous healing in 1489, innumerable faithful have made the pilgrimage to the Chapel of Grace, among them prince-electors, kings and emperors of Bavaria and Austria, as well as popes. Preceded by Pope Pius VI in 1782 and Pope John Paul II in 1980, more recently Pope Benedict XVI visited what he referred to as his "spiritual homeland". Two years later, as a token of his great esteem for the Marian shrine, he conferred the town with the Golden Rose.



Altötting is now a vibrant pilgrimage centre. Every year large-scale pilgrimages take place from May to October. The multiplicity of the groups testifies to the variety in today's pilgrimages. Groups can vary from the sick to cooks or from farmers to motorcyclists for whom the visit to Altötting is a matter of the heart.

The Easter period always sends off the pilgrimage year in Altötting with its impressive liturgy from Palm Sunday till Easter Monday, along with outstanding musical performances. The top events are the beginning of the Marian Month (May 1st), Pentecost-Weekend with the arrival of numerous pilgrims on foot, Corpus Christi with a festive procession and the Assumption of Mary, with a great candlelight procession on the eve of the feast day.

On Foot to Bavaria's Heart

The roads to Altötting can also be travelled on foot, as a pilgrim – alone or in company – but in any case on a journey towards one's inner self. The pilgrimage site is part of an extensive network of pilgrims' trails: the St James's Way from Bohemia through Bavaria and Tyrol, the St Rupert Pilgrimage Trail and the Wolfgang Trail – all connect Altötting to the starting points of its many pilgrimages.

Photos copyright: Heiner Heine, Stadt Altötting, Dorfner/Liebfrauenbote, Hans Baumgartner, Burghauser Touristik, Tourismus Salzburg

So Much to Discover:

Churches and Treasures...

The octagonal **Chapel of Grace**, likely dating back to the year 700 as a baptistery, dominates Kapellplatz (Chapel Square). Each year over a million pilgrims visit the Miraculous Image of Our Lady. Opposite the altar, the chapel also enshrines the hearts of the Bavarian electors and kings in artistically decorated silver urns; among them that of the 'fairy tale king' Ludwig II.



South of the Chapel of Grace stands the **Stiftspfarrkirche** (Abbey and Parish Church) built between 1499 and 1511 as the last Gothic hall church in southern Germany. Of notable interest are the attractively carved portals on the north and south ends of the church, as well as the chapels in the cloister. The tall cabinet clock dating back to the time of the plague and representing the 'death of Eding' is another popular attraction.

With the resurgence of pilgrimages at the beginning of the last century it became necessary to build **St Anne's Basilica**. It was consecrated at its completion after only three years' building time and raised to the rank of a papal basilica by Pope Pius X one year later. For this reason the personal coat of arms of the acting pope is displayed above the entrance portal. Since 2014, following its thorough renovation, this House of God has been restored to its original glory.

When the Altötting capuchin monk Konrad of Parzham was beatified in 1930 and canonized in 1934, Altötting was given a second popular shrine of pilgrimage: the **grave of Holy Brother Konrad**. The Brother Konrad meeting rooms and the Alte Pforte (old entrance area) are of particular interest.



Further information entrance fees and opening hours

...World-Class Artwork

The **Jerusalem Panorama of Christ's Crucifixion** refers to an extensive circular viewing space. The panorama art form was widespread in the 19th century. The classic panorama of Christ's crucifixion from 1903 is the only historical spacious panorama in Germany (the screen area is about 1200 square meters) and today it is a UNESCO listed site. Its creator was Prof. Gebhard Fugel (1863–1939), a doyen of biblical imagery.

The **Pope Benedict XVI House** – treasury and pilgrimage museum offers information on the history of Altötting's pilgrimages and precious artistic testimonials of its pilgrimage tradition. Besides the famous "Golden Horse" (a small Marian altar made of gold and enamel, a worldwide unique work of art that experts rank among the most precious art treasures of Europe) or the bridal wreath of Austrian's Empress Elisabeth, known as Sissi, numerous other treasures from many centuries are on display.

At the **Altöttinger Marienwerk** one can view the documentary film "Unsere Liebe Frau" (Our Lady), as well as artistically created dioramas (three-dimensional representations) with thousands of figures representing the early history of pilgrimages to Altötting.

Altötting's Stadtgalerie (Town Gallery) at Papst Benedikt Platz 3, completes the artistic offer with temporary exhibits and fine arts.