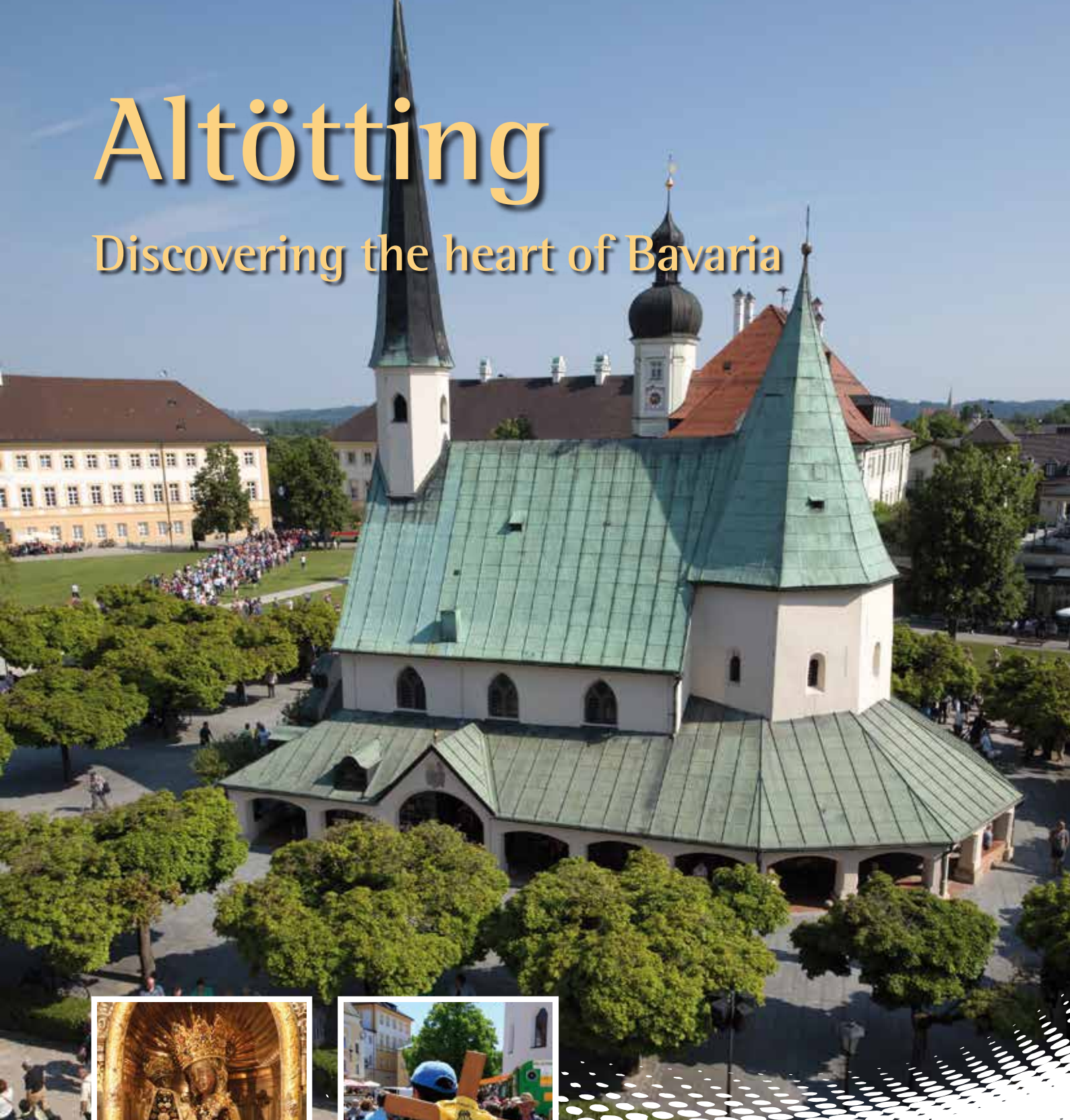


Altötting

Discovering the heart of Bavaria



2018

www.altotting.de





Pilgrimages and Festivities at the Pilgrimage Site

A Bavarian saying has it that "from every doorstep, a path leads to Altötting". Each year innumerable pilgrims journey to this national shrine located in Bavaria. Whether pledged to old traditions, moved by deep faith or out of sport-related ambition, everyone treading the paths to Altötting is motivated by the heart.

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. Since the blossoming of pilgrimages here in 1489, an incalculable number of pilgrims have flocked to the Chapel of Grace with its Black Madonna: among them prince-electors, emperors and kings of Bavaria and Austria, as well as three popes.



The pilgrimage calendar is highlighted by many traditions and festivities such as the first of May, marking the beginning of the Marian month, the impressive Corpus Christi procession and the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th, which is preceded by a solemn procession of lights, the evening before. Above all, the three-day Whitsun celebration marks the arrival of numerous traditional groups of pilgrims, the origins of which go back hundreds of years. This event is bathed in a very special atmosphere.

However, worldly customs should not be missing at a pilgrimage site either. Every year, on the weekend following Whitsun, Altötting's court fair takes place, featuring a procession of the breweries' festively decorated, horse-drawn carts. Beer, snacks and Bavarian specialties are among the quintessential draws of this one-week long event held at Dultplatz. As a matter of fact, Altötting can boast a history of popular festivities going back over 600 years: it was in 1383 that these annual festivities began – back then, they took place right on the square of the Chapel of Grace!



Dates, Festivities and Celebrations:

Altötting's Lenten Market **March 18th**

Holy Week and Easter **March 25th – April 2nd**

Whitsun weekend **May 19th – 21st**

Traditional Fair **May 25th – June 3rd**

Altötting's Abbey Market **July 20th – 22nd**



Great Procession of Lights **August 14th**

Votive Pilgrimage of the Motorcyclists **September 23rd**

Altötting's Church Fair **September 29th – October 7th**

Altötting's "Tilly" Market **November 4th**

Altötting's Christkindl Market **November 24th – December 16th**

Big Advent Concert **December 16th**

Altötting's Advent Singing in alpine style **every Wednesday and Saturday** during Advent

TIP Find out more about the pilgrimage town on the theme tour: "Altötting - 1250 years Heart of Bavaria" or "Following the Footsteps of Emperors, Kings and Popes".
 New: "Customs and Traditions in the Heart of Bavaria"
 € 61,00 per group of up to 30 participants max. - Reservations through the Altötting Tourist Office.



The Solemnity of Assumption and the Great Procession of Lights: The evening preceding Assumption is one of the highlights of the pilgrimage calendar. Ever since the 9th century, Altötting has celebrated the Marian patrociniun that accompanies the solemnity of Mary's ascent into heaven the next day, on August 15th. This day also marks the church consecration festival of the famous Chapel of Grace with the miraculous image of Our Lady. The "Special Day of Our Lady", devoted to Bavaria's Patron Saint, is usually celebrated with the blessing of the herbs during Holy Mass. Seven different herbs are bound into bouquets

Did you know? **"Following the Footsteps of Emperors, Kings and Popes"** – the history of Altötting is intrinsically linked with both the Wittelsbach and the Habsburg dynasties. Emperors, kings, as well as three popes spent time in Altötting as pilgrims. Since the 17th century the Wittelsbach dukes, prince-electors and kings have had their hearts enshrined in artistically fashioned urns and placed as a princely guard of honour opposite the image of the Black Madonna in Altötting. Among them is the heart of "fairy-tale king" Ludwig II of Bavaria, famous for his impressive castles.



(symbolizing the Seven Sacraments or Mary's Seven Sorrows) and solemnly blessed in church. Suspended in the attic, the herbs are believed to guard against illness, evil, storms and lightning.

Suggestion for a pilgrimage weekend in Altötting

1st day (Friday)

Individual arrival in Altötting.
 Discovery of the pilgrimage town and visit to the local museums:
 - monumental cyclorama "Jerusalem Panorama of Christ's Crucifixion"
 - "House Pope Benedict XVI – treasury and pilgrimage museum" with the famous "Golden Horse"
 - diorama show
 Dinner in a typical Bavarian beer garden.

2nd day (Saturday)

Breakfast at the hotel.
 Guided city tour "Customs and traditions" in English by prior request at the local tourist office (€ 61,00 per group, max. 30 participants).

Tour to the surrounding area in the afternoon, e. g. to Markt, the birth place of Pope Benedict XVI, or Burghausen with Europe's longest fortress complex and Raitenhaslach Monastery.
 Dinner at the hotel.
 Participation in the candlelight procession of Altötting (from May to October every Saturday evening after evening mass).

3rd day (Sunday)

Breakfast at the hotel.
 10.00 am. Attend festive High Mass at the Basilica of St Anne with orchestral mass, followed by individual departure or additional sightseeing in the Inn-Salzach area.

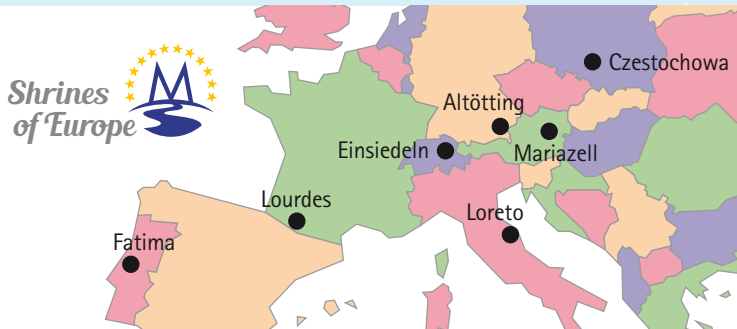
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The Shrines of Europe

The association "Shrines of Europe" was founded in 1996 and is uniting Europe's principle Marian pilgrimage sites: Lourdes, Loreto, Fatima, Czestochowa, Marizell and Altötting. The importance of these great Marian Shrines was emphasized by the visits of the last European Popes John Paul II and our Bavarian Pope Benedict XVI. As great devotees of Mary, they each visited the shrines during their time in office. The youngest member of the association is Einsiedeln in Switzerland (2017).

How about travelling to the Shrines of Europe and organizing a pilgrimage to three or more of the most important Marian places of pilgrimage in Europe? We are at your disposal for any organizational questions concerning a possible journey.



Suggestions:

Einsiedeln (CH), Altötting, Marizell (AT)
Loreto (I), Einsiedeln (CH), Altötting
Altötting, Marizell (AT), Czestochowa (PL)
Fatima (Portugal), Lourdes (F), Altötting

TIP Bavaria's religious centers

The Marian pilgrimage town of Altötting and the Passion Play village of Oberammergau are the two best known religious places in Bavaria world-wide.

Explore both religious centers in a 5 day round trip!

Starting from Munich, journey to Oberammergau. Enjoy a two day visit to the fairy tale castles of Ludwig II Neuschwanstein and Linderhof, as well as the famous "Wieskirche" (church in the meadows) and of course the Passion Play Theatre (Next Passion Plays will be held in 2020). The journey continues along the German Alpine Road with a stop at lake Chiemsee and a two-day-stay in Altötting featuring a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady and participation in a candle-light procession.



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Altötting
Herz Bayerns

May - Oct Mon - Fri 8.00 am - 5.00 pm Sat 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Sun 11.00 am - 3.00 pm
Nov - Apr Mon 8.00 am - 5.00 pm Tue/Wed/Thu 8.00 - 12.00 am/2.00 - 5.00 pm Fri 8.00 - 12.00 am

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