

ENGLISH GUIDE FOR WASSERBURG



WASSERBURG AM INN
Schleife mit Flair

www.wasserburg.de

WELCOME TO WASSERBURG AM INN

A first glimpse of the town impresses immediately. Almost an island, practically surrounded by the river Inn with its steep cliffs, Wasserburg appears quite extraordinary. On entering the town, the visitor has the feeling of entering a fairy tale world. A town with pastel coloured walls, archways and battlements, a gateway and mighty fortress – who hasn't imagined and painted a town like this as a child?

If you were to ask visitors and residents of Wasserburg what they treasure most about the town, they would start waxing lyrically about its Mediterranean feel, its cosmopolitan flair, how quaint, how culturally active, musical, sporty, historical, natural, lively and full of delights. Simply a lovely part of the world.

The old part of town with its colourful gothic houses pulsates with life and when the street cafés overflow, locals and visitors just meet together under the arcades to shop, celebrate or chat in its narrow streets. The 17 schools and colleges, everything from schools meeting special needs to technical colleges, provide a youthful aspect in this town of 13,000 residents.

The life of the town has been further enriched, as a centre of trade and culture in the region. While the old parts of town are characterized by many local businesses, trades and shops, its gates have now opened to admit world-wide renowned businesses which have settled and developed here. Together with the many services offered and the town's two hospitals, prosperity is almost guaranteed in Wasserburg and its surrounding hinterland.

Wasserburg is one of the most historic towns of Old Bavaria – somewhat older than Munich, a good 50 km to the west, continually fought over by the Bavarian nobility and, up to the 16th century, on an

equal footing with larger cities. The privileges afforded by this enabled the salt trade to flourish right into the 19th century. Lying on the junction of the main overland route with the main water route, Wasserburg became the most important trade centre with the Balkans, Austria and Italy, a means of attaining power and wealth for the shipping owners and merchants.

The protected position provided by the Inn, with its island peninsular, helped to make the fortress town, dominated by its castle of the Hallgrafen and later the Wittelsbacher family, virtually impregnable. Handicrafts and art also thrived in this rich trading town, so that, during its heyday in the 15th century, prestigious buildings appeared. Wasserburg's gothic style is of particular interest, but its green avenues, quiet dead ends and beautiful hidden squares are also a tourist attraction.

“This majestic river seems to embrace this riverside town in a circular path, almost surrounding it, before finally meandering on its way towards the mountains and forests.....”

This description is from a guidebook of Wasserburg from the middle of the 19th century. It clearly indicates the layout of the town as presented from The Kellerberg and other viewing points or from a boat on the Inn. The Inn, the most powerful river north of the Alps, nestles against the house fronts up to 7/8ths around the town, nearly circumventing it. The influence of the river is apparent every year at high water when the water surges past the houses, a reminder not only of the Inn's beauty and grace but also of its dangers.

At first glance, Wasserburg, the little town in the meander of the Inn, arouses one's interest. A closer exploration through the old town, reveals many fascinating hidden corners and is a typical case of “the best things come in small packages”.

TOWN HISTORY

11th century	Numerous references of Wasserburg in history books, such as 1085-1088 “Wazzerburch” and 1091-1098 “Wazirpurch”
12th century	Hallgraf Engelbert moves his family seat in the middle of this century from Limburg to Wasserburg
About 1245	Graf Konrad grants Wasserburg “Burgrecht” (an old form of city charter)
1247	After a 17 week siege, Herzog Ludwig (later Ludwig II) conquers the town which up till now was in the hands of the Wittelsbacher (by inheritance)
1248	Wasserburg accepted into the Bavarian “Landtafel” (a kind of parliament with representatives from the nobility, the towns and the people)
From 1252	Building of the first town hall
1255	Building of the first town church
Pre 1291	Right to levy own taxes
1323	Establishment of law
Pre 1324	Town constitution: Haag citizens are granted freedom of the town of Wasserburg
1334	Granting of the general charter by the emperor Ludwig of Bavaria. Later through the granting of further privileges the town reaches full autonomy with self administration – town charter
1339	Town fire

1392	Division of the lands of Bavaria - Wasserburg becomes part of Bayern-Ingolstadt following a lottery
1410	Building of the town parish church by master builder Hans von Burghausen. Building continued by master builders Stephan Krumenauer and Wolfgang Wieser
From 1415	Extension of the town fortifications
1422	Failed siege of the city by Herzog Heinrich von Landshut (Monument in the town hall side entrance)
1439	Granting of the "Salzscheibenpfennig" the right to levy duty on transported salt for all time
1447	Further division of lands, Wasserburg is annexed to Landshut
1457-1459	Building of the town hall by Jörg Tünzl
1504	Landshut war of succession. The citizens hand over the town to Ruprecht von der Pfalz
1526-1537	Herzog Wilhelm IV upgrades the castle to a duchy seat
1634	Great plague epidemic, the town citizens vow to renovate the parish church
From 1635	Renovation of the parish church by the Zürn brothers following the citizens' resolution of 1634
23.11.1705	Battle of farmers at Achatzberg (Spanish war of succession)
1793	Last Bavarian Parliamentary meeting in Wasserburg
1800	Battle of Hohenlinden

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| 1885 | Last town fire |
| 1888 | Establishment of an exhibition of town history in the earlier St. Michael's church (today the Wasserburg town museum in the Herrengasse) |
| 1902 | Opening of the Wasserburg railway station (Reitmehring) to Wasserburg town, 3 years later the railway line Ebersberg-Wasserburg |
| 1929 | Collapse of the "Red Bridge" over the Inn caused by floating ice |
| 30.6.1972 | Dissolution of the local Wasserburg parliament as part of the area reforms of Bavaria |
| 1984-1986 | High water barrier of the old town |
| March 1987 | Blockage of the railway line to Wasserburg town by a landslide, since then, replaced by a town bus service |

From about 1980 until today

The realisation of numerous ambitious projects: the Wasserburg by-pass, a sewage treatment plant, a town sewerage system, 2 multistorey car parks, a connecting ramp to Münchner Straße and numerous buildings and street renovations in the old town.



GUIDED TOURS & MUSEUMS

History and stories about the old trading town of Wasserburg are entertainingly represented in the various town and theme tours, which make a Wasserburg visit a special experience. The classical historical guided tour and the beer cellar tour are tours for groups, bookable for up to 25 persons. Single persons may join a group subject to availability.
Information: Marienplatz 2, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 10522

Classical Tours

The guide points out the large and small, often hidden sights of interest. Duration: about 90 minutes. Children and foreign language tours on request.

Guided Tour through the Wasserburger Beer Catacombs (35)

This impressive beer cellar system, parts of which are over 200 years old, once served as storage for beer, the brewing of which, for hygienic reasons, was only allowed in winter. In the labyrinth of passages and chambers, dug deep in the escarpment, various aspects of brewing and building can be seen. The museum in the cellars can be viewed as a guided tour.

Town Hall Guided Tour (1)

The large and small auditoriums are famous for their detailed murals. The small auditorium with its perfectly preserved painting from 1564 is quite outstanding. Guided tours take place from Mondays to Fridays at 13:00 (April-October); Saturdays & Sundays (April-December), at 13:00 and 14:00 (except public holidays) (unless events are in progress). Booking is not necessary. Meeting point is in the foyer of the town hall.

Städtisches Museum Wasserburg - Wasserburg town museum (2)

The Städtisches Museum of Wasserburg contains one of the richest collections of historical culture between Munich and Salzburg. Arranged according to themes, the exhibits portray town and family life, handicrafts, trades and the rural life style. The visitor is presented with an almost complete impression of the history and culture of the Wasserburg area, from the stone age up to the 20th century.
Address: Herrengasse 15, Information Tel. +49 (0) 8071 925290



Riedener Weg

B

P

Parkhaus Überfuhrstraße

WC ♿

Bildungszentrum Sozialverwaltung

Busbahnhof

„Bürger-Bahnhof“

Post

Überfuhrstraße

Schiffmühlenweg

Im Hag

24

Unter Inn

Kanalweg

Holzhofweg

Schopperstattweg

P

Parkplatz Unter der Rampe

Münchner Str.

Knopperrmühlweg

Bahnhofplatz

Im Hag

Eichhornw.

WC 7-19 h

Friedhof Altstadt

22

Stadtmauer

Friedhof-gasse

Lederzei-

Weberzipfel

Bauschweizer-Durchgang

Schuster

Neustr.

Burgweg

Vermessungsamt

Auf der Burg

Beirg-gasse

Greinbräu-Durchgang

Pfarramt

Kirchhof-platz

20

12

18

Schmi

Inn →

Ziehweg

Unterauerweg

Klosterweg

F

RO



Kindergarten Altstadt

Sportplatz

Landwehrstraße

Obere Innstr.

Heisenerplatz

Kaspar-Aiblinger-Platz

Bauhof (städtisch)

Sonderpädagogisches Förderzentrum

Hinter den Mauern

Nagelschmidgasse

Jugendtreff

Kinderhort

Wertstoffhof

Hofstatt

Schächthausstr.

Sedlmaiergasse

Palmanopark

Josef Kirmaier-Str.

Grundschule

Bäckerzeile

Palmanostr.

Flussmeisterstelle

Am Gries

Färbergasse

Salzenderzeile

Fletzingergasse

Max-Emanuel-Platz

P

Parkplatz Am Gries

WC

Allwangs-Durchgang

Herrngasse

Rathaus

Postgasse

H

H

30

Stadtwerke

Falung

Marienplatz

Tränkgasse

Zirneweg

Otto-Geigenberger-Weg

Bruckgasse

6

7

8

5

B

„Schöne Aussicht“

D

Stadtarchiv

WC

P

Parkhaus Kellerstraße

35

Kellerstr.

Kellerbergweg

Sachsenheimer Str.

S4-Zentrum

SIGHTSEEING

The almost completely preserved medieval old town of Wasserburg is altogether, a first class attraction. Practically every building embodies centuries of history of its own. Here is a summary of some of the old buildings which are particularly outstanding. The numbers refer to their position on the map.

The Inn Bridge (5)

The spanning of the river at its narrowest part, providing a permanent connection between opposite sides of the town, was thanks to the prosperity and privileges bestowed in the heyday of the middle ages. According to records dating from 1338, the wooden bridge was destroyed almost annually by floating ice. The last recorded such occurrence was in 1929. The current bridge was then built as a replacement and the main sections were renewed once again in 1982/83.

Brucktor - The Bridge Gate (6)

The Brucktor has been officially recorded as the main bridge entrance to the town since 1374. It has been rebuilt many times over the centuries. On the riverside front wall murals dating from 1568 can be seen. Two guards in armour are depicted holding the Bavarian and Wasserburger standards and Jupiter is represented on an eagle over a vase of lilies, carrying a bolt of lightning and a sceptre.

Heiligeist-Spital with Spital Church

– Hospital and Church of the Holy Spirit (7)

The hospital buildings on either side of the Bridge Gate were built before 1338 by the ducal guardian, Zacharias von Höhenrain. It was rebuilt as the Hospital of the Holy Spirit in 1341, two years after a fire devastated large areas of the town, and was renewed once again following further fire damage in 1380. The foundation's purpose was fulfilled by 1970: besides its function as a hospital, the foundation provided shelter and funds for the destitute and for old people without care. The rooms on the right hand side of the gate remained

empty for 40 years. Following renovation, the foundation's purpose was continued in the form of specially adapted old people's homes. The left hand side of the building complex had housed the Imaginäre Museum since 1978. The church, built as part of this complex, now houses one of the town's most valuable works of art: a wooden altar carving by an unknown craftsman, from around 1500, depicting the Whitsuntide miracles.

Altes und neues Mauthaus – Old and new Tollhouse (8 & 9)

The Inn bridge offered an excellent opportunity to collect customs duty and taxes on merchandise, and so the old tollhouse whose 16th century Renaissance archways are particularly remarkable, was erected directly next to the Heiliggeist-Spital. Later on, the official toll post was moved to the building opposite (the corner of the Schustergasse/Schmidzeile). Prominent on the new tollhouse is the polygonal arch with its angel sculpture (W. Leb 1497) which signifies the membership of the town of Wasserburg to the rich Dukes of Bavaria-Landshut.

St. Michael's Church - The church on two levels (18)

In the Schmidzeile, on the stairway connecting St. Jakob's church and the castle, on the town side of what used to be the protective ditch, stands the earlier emblem of Wasserburg, St. Michael's Chapel, the tower of which was broken off during the reformation. This was a late gothic church on two levels by Wolfgang Wieser. A crypt chapel for the cemetery of the time was on the lower level.

The Castle (12)

Old "Wasserburg" mentioned in a history book from 1085 as "Wazzerburch", continued to be extended from the middle of the 12th century as the seat of the Wasserburger Hallgrafen. Its outpost and main fortress building were protected on the west and east sides by a deep ditch and by the cliffs on the south and north sides. The entrance was protected by a large fortified gate. Ludwig the Bearded from Bayern-Ingolstadt further reinforced the fortifications of the whole area in 1415 making it virtually impregnable. Duke Wilhelm IV rebuilt the fort into a ducal residence between 1531 and 1537. The castle chapel of

St. Ägidien was built in its present day form in the second half of the 15th century. The castle now houses an old people's home, therefore viewing for visitors is restricted.

St. Jakob's Parish Church (20)

The parish church of St. Jakob was rebuilt after 1410 on the same site as the first town church from 1255. The following master builders worked on this building until its completion in 1478: Hans Stethaimer, Hans von Burghausen (builder of the St. Martin's monastery in Lands hut), Stefan Krumenauer (master builder for the archbishop of Salzburg) and Wolfgang Wieser, the Wasserburger master builder whose particular responsibility was the construction of the church tower. The inside of the building has often been changed. Following their survival of the plague in 1634, the brothers Zürn renovated the church as vowed by the citizens, in a splendid renaissance style from which only the original pulpit remained. The gravestones of many important citizens and civil servants can be seen inside the church and on the outside walls, and a traditional representation of the healing process in the form of "the tree of life" can be seen on the outside wall of the chancel.

Frauenkirche mit Stadtturm – Church of Our Lady with watch tower (3)

Referred to historically in 1324, the Market church is the oldest church in the town. The inside of what used to be a place of pilgrimage, was refurbished in barock style in 1753, although the gothic character of the church remained despite the removal of the main gothic elements. Of particular importance is the gothic picture of the Merciful Mother of God, in the style of "The beautiful Madonna" from approximately 1420. The barock version of the church decoration which was first discovered in 1912/13, was restored in the same style in 1974/75. The 65 meter tower used to be the watch tower – hence the coat of arms showing the lion and tower.

Rathaus – Town hall (1)

The Wasserburger Rathaus was built between 1457 and 1459 to replace the original building from 1252 – which was itself rebuilt in 1339 following the devastating town fire. The structure of the impressive late gothic building was suited to the town council activities of the time. Right up until the 1970's the bakers of the town all brought their bread to be sold in the bread house (today a café). The entrance hall of the town hall building used to be the corn exchange. The small auditorium on the first floor, with its murals, unchanged since they were painted in 1564, was where the local council of the time held their meetings. County council meetings were also held there, Wasserburg being the county town of Bavaria until 1806. The large auditorium as seen today was used for large celebrations such as weddings, dances and other festivals. The room was burnt out in a fire in 1874 and was fitted out in its current form between 1902 and 1904. The halls can be viewed by appointment with official guides.

Kernhaus – The house of the family Kern (4)

The facade of this edifice directly opposite the Rathaus was formed by the court stucco specialist Johann Baptist Zimmermann, who combined two buildings into one common facade. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful rococo facades in southern Germany and was commissioned by the unusually rich patrician family Kern. The Kernhaus passed into the hands of the town council for use as a courthouse in 1795. The local council was also situated here until 1849. The left side of the building was rebuilt as a modern courthouse in 1965/68, the right side today houses a hotel.

Max-Emanuel-chapel (30)

The chapel is named after the elector Max Emanuel who, as many of his predecessors, set out from the shore of the river Inn to go to court meetings, weddings, war campaigns and pleasure trips. The remembrance chapel, established in 1716, later destroyed by floods, was rebuilt by the Maurerzunft (mason's guild) which still maintains the building.

Hungerturm – The Debtor’s Prison (24)

This tower was not a part of the town fortifications, but took its name as the town’s debtor’s prison.

Roter Turm – The Red Tower (26)

The Red Tower, integrated in the old city wall, stands today as the last gate house of the city fortifications on the spot where an earlier abutting wall which ran northwards to the Inn to protect the town from attack from the landward side at low water was. The city slaughterhouse (the Freibank) was built in the middle of the 19th century against the wall leading to the Hungerturm. Similar towers stood earlier at the end of Tränkgasse, Gerblgasse and Bahnhofsplatz (railway station square).

City Wall and Cemetery (25 & 22)

The last visible piece of the city wall can be seen, running from the red tower to the west. The entrance gate to the cemetery which has been here since 1544, was newly built in 1855 using valuable old marble epithaphs.



ART & CULTURE

The citizens of Wasserburg have an unusual appreciation of art and culture. Many artists of fine and impressionistic art have settled in and around Wasserburg. For theatre goers, for concerts or exhibitions, one is soon able to find something of interest. The extensive cultural activities are quite unique for such a small town and this is renowned far and wide.

Galerie in the Ganserhaus - Art Gallery Ganserhaus

The gallery in the Ganserhaus was opened in 1975 as home to the Association of Artists (AK 68), the forum of fine arts in Wasserburg. The purpose of the AK 68 is to promote, exhibit and vitalise contemporary art as a talking point. Every summer, the AK 68 holds a large art exhibition which makes use of the historic town hall as a further extension to the Ganserhaus. In the Ganserhaus regular exhibitions from known artists can be seen. Information: Schmidzeile 8, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 4484

Theater Wasserburg

Wasserburg has a small professional playhouse. Its programme and repertoire presents not only plays from classical to comedy, but also contemporary dance and concerts. In the summer the company performs on an open-air stage with great success, sometimes in the heart of the town. Information: Salzburger Str. 15, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 103263

Wasserburger Town Hall Concerts

The Wasserburger town hall concerts have been well known far beyond the region since 1973. Five classical concerts take place in the large auditorium each year. Traditionally, a varied programme of high quality is on offer. Local festival and folk music is played each year at the "Wasserburger Volksmusik" and at the "Adventsingen". Information: Marienplatz 2, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 10522

Kino Utopia – Utopia Cinema

The Wasserburger cinema Utopia goes to some effort to show film productions of special merit and receives regular awards in this connection. Each year in summer, the open-air cinema takes place at the "Stoa" amphitheatre near Edling. Information: Herrengasse 5-7, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 6206

EVENTS

In Wasserburg something or other is always happening. Hardly a weekend passes by, especially in summer, without some major event. Here are some of the events in the usual calendar year which often attract and delight visitors from all over the world:

Frühlingsfest – Spring festival

This week long grand public festival (Wasserburger Volksfest) with its large beer tent and amusement park, takes place traditionally at the Volksfestplatz (festival ground) at the sport complex, Badria.

Nationenfest – Festival of Nations

This somewhat exotic festival, held on a Saturday in mid June brings a multicultural flair. A must for fans of culture and travel, for lovers of international music, for gourmets of exotic foods, for those interested in aid for developing countries, and, last but not least, for our citizens and guests from all over the world.

Weinfest – Wine Festival

In the year 1464, 43 establishments serving wine are recorded. Out of such a tradition, the wine festival has also emerged as the festival of landlords. Romantics are not the only ones enjoying their wine on the last Saturday in July, in the streets, squares and under the old town arcades, everywhere decorated with coloured lighting for a special ambience.

Nachtflohmarkt – Night Flea Market

Haggling and bargaining by candlelight and moonshine. There are many flea markets but only one Wasserburger Nachtflohmarkt. Over 10,000 visitors equipped with torches, go looking for rarities and bargains – antique or otherwise. For many people buying or selling is not really important. They are just there to experience this unique atmosphere. The flea market takes place from the first Friday night in August until the following Saturday.

Inndammfest – Inn Dam Festival

The gourmet can wander around the loop of the Inn from the high water dam and sample all kinds of culinary delights which are on offer from the various societies and clubs at numerous refreshment areas on the third Saturday in August. This festival originally celebrated the freeing of the town from constant high water.

Wasserburg leuchtet – Wasserburg light show

This event centres on light and sound. The visitor enters a world of fantastic light and sound combinations. Buildings are lit up with special effects, laser beams cross the streets, celestial sounds ring through the town. Open-air cinema and live bands provide further atmosphere. Takes place mid September.

Jahr- und Wochenmärkte – annual and weekly markets

The official rules for holding the annual town markets were laid down in 1803 and, since then have been strictly observed for the five traditional markets; Mittfasten, Georgi, Benno, Michaeli and Kathrein. In July a ceramics market is held additionally. In the Hofstatt, a market for farm produce is held every Thursday and every Saturday a vegetable market is held.

Weihnachtstraum Wasserburg – Christmas in Wasserburg

The traditional Advent in Wasserburg still offers something different. The tastefully decorated alleyways and numerous individual shops set the mood for a Christmas shopping spree. Everything in the Christmas spirit is reflected in the small booths of the Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market) in the style of the old town houses. The Christmas Bazaar in the Hofstatt has been a further addition in recent years. The citizens of Wasserburg however, still come up with something new each year, such as the old town Christmas Crib Trail, the Angel's pathway or Advents Exhibitions in the Museum. A visit to Wasserburg during Advent lights up not only the children's eyes.

SHOPPING & EXPLORING

Skulpturenweg (B) - Sculpture Walk and Theme Footpaths

The high water dam, which slows down the Inn meander around Wasserburg, provides a fascinating backdrop for the exhibition of large works of art. Leisure footpaths lead the way along the sculpture walk which follows the Inn around the town, starting at the bridge gate, for about 1.5 km. Over 30 works by artists of the local AK 68 (see Gallery in the Ganserhaus), are on display there.

Works of art beside a footpath, surrounded by nature and unsupervised, hardly existed before the opening of the sculpture path in 1988 (B). In the idyllic Wuhrtal (Wuhr valley) is the path of meditation, a walkway alongside religious motifs presented in a modern style.

Wander- und Radweg – Footpaths and Cycle Ways

The rural landscape around Wasserburg is a paradise for nature lovers, whether on foot or by bicycle. Numerous footpaths and cycle ways criss-cross the valley floor of the Inn and the moraines and hills of the Bavarian “Alpenvorland” with its many magnificent views. Wasserburg lies at the junction of 12 cycle round-trips and long-distance routes which are well signposted and network the whole region. For trained sportsmen or the whole family.

Shopping Spree

Wasserburg’s range of shops make it possible to find exactly what you are looking for and has therefore, always been the shopping centre of the region. What makes shopping here especially attractive is the fact that, in contrast to other towns full of the usual chain stores with their standard ranges and prices, Wasserburg boasts numerous smaller specialist shops with the resulting individual flair. Handicraft workshops and artist’s studios round off the package. Your shopping in the narrow streets of the old town is fun and there’s a lot to discover.

Leisure Centre Badria (F)

The main swimming and sport leisure complex in Wasserburg, with extensive swimming and sauna facilities offers everything for water fans both great and small. Main attractions are its nearby sauna park, its indoor and outdoor pools, and two huge water-slides of 69 and 106 meters in length which are in use throughout the year. Badria is one of the most reasonably priced swimming complexes over a large area and provides fun for all the family. The Badria hall next door, is, among other things, home of TSV 1880 Wasserburg ladies basketball team, several times German champions.

Information: Alkorstraße 14, Tel. +49 (0) 8071 920210





CHIEMSEE
ALPENLAND

BERGE. SEEN. BAYERN.

Tourist Information

Marienplatz 2 (Eingang Salzsenderzeile)

83512 Wasserburg am Inn

Telefon: +49 (0) 8071 105-22

Telefax: +49 (0) 8071 105-21

E-Mail: touristik@wasserburg.de

Internet: www.wasserburg.de

Opening-Times in summer (Mai to September):

Mondays to Fridays from 9.30 to 12.30 and from 13.30 to 17.00 o'clock

Saturdays from 9.30 to 14.00.

Opening-Times in winter (Oktober to April):

Mondays to Fridays from 9.30 to 12.30

and from 13.30 to 16.00 o'clock.