

Welcome to Traunstein – at the heart of the Chiemgau!



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WC Public toilets

The town of Traunstein is situated on a high bank inside a loop formed by the river Traun, flanked by two lakes named "Chiemsee" and "Waginger See", close to the Chiemgau Alps. The town covers an area of 48.5 km² at a height of approximately 590 metres above sea level and has about 22,000 inhabitants.

City walk

History and culture of Traunstein



A Lindl Fountain and historic well

Traunstein's landmark is the Lindl, created from red Ruhpolding marble by Master Steffan in 1526. The life-sized figure portrays a knight in Maximilian armour and can be seen as a symbol of the ambitious bourgeoisie that was gaining influence in the 16th century. The meaning of statue's name ("Lindl") is easily explained: according to the Dictionary of Bavarian German, "Lindl" is simply a humorous term for a statue depicting a male person. The fountain itself was built in 1646 to replace an older one made of oak. A small archaeological sensation



was the shaft that was found in the course of the Town Square renovation; a well from the time when the town was founded in the first part of the 14th century. The salvaging of its contents brought everyday objects, coins and food waste of the early modern era to light; these provide interesting insights into the history of the town's life.

B Jackl tower

The demolition of the Jackl tower, or "Lower Tower", that was badly damaged by the 1851 fire, left a distinct gap in the Town Square. The Alt-Traunstein Association, founded in 1983, was able to close this gap in 1999. After almost 150 years, the tower finally completes and enhances the landscape. Just a few metres from the Jackl tower, at the end of the Hofgasse, the Brewery Museum is worth a visit. It belongs to the Traunstein Hofbräuhaus, one of the three Traunstein breweries, together with the Schnitzlbaumer and Wochinger. The opening hours of the museum can be found in the adjacent information box.



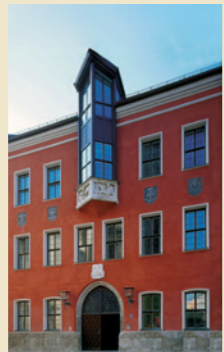
C Parish church of St. Oswald

The parish church, dedicated to Saint Oswald, was badly affected by both fires of 1704 and 1851. Basically, it corresponds to the Wandpfeiler church (built between 1675 and 1690) with galleries. The plans were drawn up by Caspare Zuccalli, and the builders were Lorenzo Sciasca and Antonio Riva. The Traunstein resident Max Fürst, church painter and local historian, carried out the frescoes between 1904 and 1909. Much more recent are the furnishings, and worthy of special note are the Baroque side altar sculptures of 'St Rupert and the Virgin Mary'. In front of the main entrance of the church a bust of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI can be found, in which he celebrated his first Holy Mass.



D Salzmaier, or Main Salt Office, former Regional Court, Town Hall

In the mid 19th century three administrative buildings were established on the south side of the Town Square: the main Salt Office in the vaults of the Baroque "Salzmaierhaus" (constructed in 1716 by the Munich court architect Viscardi), the Regional Court, in place of the municipal clerk's house and the former 1576 Town Hall, and the neo-Gothic Town Hall (today's facade dates from 1947/49) on the foundations of a former town house. Between 1995 and 1999 the whole complex was renovated and partly rebuilt into today's Town Hall, during which time a former 13th century well house of the "Salzmaieramt" came to light (see ground showcase in front of the building in the Town Square).



E Town and Toy museum with "Brothaus" tower and "Zieglerwirtsgaststätte"

The last visible evidence of the medieval fortifications is the Upper Tower built in 1541, also called "Brothaus", as bread used to be sold in the vault beneath the tower. Bakers had to sell their products at fixed prices in a central place in the town. Until the fire of 1851, this took place in the vault of the Town Hall and later in the Upper Tower. Late 19th century research into local history therefore led to it being called the "Brothaus". The nearby Ziegler Inn displays the features of Inn-Salzach architecture, typical of Traunstein until 1851: arcades, oriels and high fire walls. "Stadt und Land, Hand in Hand, eines Gau's Heimathaus" ("Town and country, hand in hand, a district's home museum"): this inscription on the western side of the tower boldly points to the Heritage Museum located in both buildings. A town and toy museum is housed there. It displays civic culture, sacred art, and also the history of salt; an impressive model shows the old Traunstein of 1890, accurate in every detail. Toys from 1879 to 1960 are also on view. A variety of special exhibitions rounds off the wide choice of what is on offer. The opening hours can be found in the adjacent information box.



F Kulturforum Klosterkirche and the art gallery

The Klosterkirche (German for "Monastery Church") was built in a deliberately modest style and originally belonged to a Capuchin monastery that had been consecrated in 1690 after a construction period of three years. In the course of secularisation, the monastery was dissolved in 1806 and the church was downgraded to become to a grain storehouse. Later on in 1857, it enjoyed an unexpected revival as a school church and received a new bell tower, and in 1920 the present-day paintings on its walls and ceiling were added. In 1980, the Town Gallery was set up in the upper storeys of the former monastery building as a venue for changing exhibitions of contemporary art. The former church was acquired in 1986 by the Town of Traunstein and refurbished. Since 1993, an association for the promotion of culture ("Kulturfördervereinigung ARTS") has held concerts, exhibitions and readings here. From 2017 to 2019, this ensemble of listed buildings was renovated and modernised by the town and turned into a unique multi-purpose venue site.



G St. Georg and Katharina with the war memorial area in the Town Park

In 1639 the church of St. Georg and Katharina, first referred to in 1405, was relocated from the Town Square to the municipal cemetery, which was at that time situated in the town centre (now the Town Park). The graveyard was closed and the area was converted into a war



memorial in 1920. The obelisk, one of the oldest in Bavaria, recalls the Napoleonic campaigns, and the Raupenhelm monument reminds us of the soldiers killed in 1870/71. Metal books by the church list the dead of both World Wars. Since 1994 the site is also dedicated to victims of Nazi persecution. The Cultural Centre in the Town Park was opened in 1977 in a former breadcrumb-producing factory. Today it houses the public library, rooms of the adult education centre, and a concert and exhibition hall.

H Art Nouveau buildings

The fire of 1851 largely destroyed the original character of the town. The Art Nouveau and related styles are therefore of the most historical significance. A prizewinning design by the renowned architects and builders Josef and Sebastian Polz forms the basis of the building at Bahnhofstraße 16.

A slight detour to the exclusive residential area at the Wochinger Spitz (Leonrod-, Hausen- St. Oswald-Straße) is recommended, where more beautiful Art Nouveau facades can be marvelled at.



I Lourdes Chapel at the presbytery

It was not till 1850 that Traunstein became the centre of the parish. Originally, St. Oswald's was merely a branch of the parish of Haslach, which lay around three km southwest of the town. In 1939 the Lourdes chapel, which was part of the monastery church dating from 1886, was taken down and rebuilt near the presbytery in Maxplatz. It is a popular place for silence and retreat amidst urban bustle.



J Karl Theodor Square

This large open square (in German: "Karl-Theodor-Platz") is today a large parking lot, but until 1924 it used to be the site of an impressive boiling house within Traunstein's saltworks ("Saline" in German) that was dedicated to salt production for almost 300 years (from 1619 to 1912). In former times, the "white gold" was a sought after trading commodity, and in 1613, another rich brine spring was discovered in Bad Reichenhall. But to turn brine into salt by boiling off the water, one needs large quantities of firewood, and there were not enough trees left in the Bad Reichenhall area. South of Traunstein however, there were still large forests, and this is why Traunstein was chosen as the site of new saltworks facilities in the early 17th century. To transport the brine from Bad Reichenhall to Traunstein, Hans und Simon Reiffenstuel invented the "Soleleitung" – a technical masterpiece and indeed the world's first pipeline, made of wooden pipe pieces – in which the salty water flowed from the brine spring in Bad Reichenhall via the villages of Inzell und Siegsdorf right into the boiling house of Traunstein's saltworks. After the latter had been closed down in 1912, the facilities served as a detention camp for convicts and prisoners during the Great War. In 1924, the former boiling house was demolished.



K Saline houses

The workmen's housing in the Saline consisted of several houses. They were named after the members of the Wittelsbach house and were called the Wilhelmi-, Maximiliani, Fernandini- and Alberti halls. Each "hall" united under one roof a "Pfieselhaus" (to harden the salt) on the ground floor, and above it two "salt containers" as well as living rooms and workshops. At the back lay the wooden brewhouses, which became redundant after the construction of the Karl-Theodor-Sudhaus in 1786/87. Luckily, the Saline houses and the old Brunnhaus, where the brine pipeline used to terminate, have been preserved for future generations.



L The Salinenpark and the permanent "Soleleitung" Exhibition

The Salinenpark (German for "Saltworks Park") was established in 2019 on the occasion of the 400 year anniversary of the Bad Reichenhall – Traunstein brine pipeline and brings testaments from the saltworks history back to life. The main attractions of the park are two pumping machines from different time periods that were used to overcome the 346 metres of height difference on the pipeline route between Reichenhall and Traunstein. Also on display are original wooden pipe segments that were part of the pipeline at the time as well as a cubic metre of stapled wood pieces to show the visitor how much wood had to be burned in the process of boiling brine down to dry salt. In one of the saltworks houses lining up at one end of the park you can find a small exhibition dedicated to the salt pipeline technology and showing numerous historical objects belonging to the saltworks business. On the eastern end of the park, a pharmacy garden featuring medicinal plants was set up in order to recognise Traunstein's log-standing tradition as a health centre.



M Saline Chapel St. Rupert and Maximilian

The spiritual centre of the meadowland was its chapel. It was built by local master mason Wolf König in 1630/31 to the plans of the highly respected Munich court master mason Isaak Bader. The Saline Chapel was not consecrated until 1671, 40 years after its completion. It is considered the most important sacred building in Traunstein and it was dedicated to the patron saint of salt, Rupert, and also the founder of the Saline, Duke Maximilian (Elector since 1623) after whom it was named. Most notable among the interior furnishings is the impressive high altar. The design of the organ gallery is rather unusual, featuring a



panelled stairway and creating a somewhat overwhelming impression, due to its sheer size and the dark colour of the wood.