The UNESCO World Heritage Convention

The "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" was adopted by UNESCO in 1972. Worldwide, it is the most important instrument that aims to safeguard the cultural and natural heritage of "outstanding universal value" for future generations. Over 890 cultural and natural sites from 148 states are on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Buildings, urban areas and archaeological sites, monuments to industrial history and cultural landscapes can become part of the World Cultural Heritage. World Natural Heritage covers important ecosystems, testaments to evolutionary history, natural paradises and protected reserves for animals and plants.

Further information

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Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof
Regensburg also significantly contributed to more recent European history being the seat of the Perpetual Assembly from the 1663 to 1806. As a testimony to these functions, there are the remains of two imperial palatine palaces from the 9th century, and a large number of other well preserved historic buildings, which are testimony to the wealth and political importance of the community. (Criterion iii)

The Old Town of Regensburg is an outstanding example of a central-European medieval trading town, which has well preserved its historical stratigraphy, and which is an exceptional illustration to the development of commerce particularly from the 11th to 14th centuries. (Criterion iv)

The Old Town

Since 1945 Regensburg is the only intact medieval metropolis in Germany, which, from the Middle Ages till today, has been able to function as an urban mechanism without interruption. Regensburg’s Old Town has been able to preserve – as can be clearly seen from its layout today – its original basic outline since the 14th century. The interrelationship of public buildings, private residences, workshops and the imposing grounds of the churches, monasteries and religious foundations all contribute to creating an authentic picture of medieval urban culture and architecture – a constellation destroyed and lost forever elsewhere in Germany. The many preserved patrician palaces and large townhouse complexes with their imposing towers are outstanding examples of a style of architecture – influenced by Italy – which can be found nowhere else north of the Alps.

Stadtamhof

A small settlement at the northern end of the Stone Bridge, Stadtamhof was initially an integral part of Regensburg’s cityscape. In the middle of the 13th century Regensburg broke away from the Bavarian duchy, whereas Stadtamhof remained under Bavarian rule. Due to its immediate vicinity to Regensburg and the Stone Bridge, Stadtamhof was affected by Regensburg’s armed conflicts and therefore also had to bear the consequences of siege and destruction. The face of Stadtamhof today shows its reconstruction after destruction during the Napoleonic Wars in 1809.

The Stone Bridge

Built between 1135 and 1146, the Stone Bridge enjoys the status of being a unique masterpiece of medieval engineering. One of the major achievements of medieval bridge building, it was for many centuries the only stone bridge spanning the Danube between Ulm and Vienna. It was not only a technological masterpiece of engineering, but of strategic importance in terms of transport and, as a result, of great commercial value. No written documents concerning the construction of the bridge have survived, but it has been ascertained that it was in full use by the year 1147. Built with the strong, active support of the merchant class of Regensburg’s citizens, the Stone Bridge is regarded as a symbol, expressing the growing wealth, influence and determination of the patricians.