St. Peter's Cathedral

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 eco-systems, testaments to evolutionary history, natural paradises and protected reserves for animals and plants.

The Old Town

Further information

German Commission for UNESCO
http://www.unesco.de

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
http://whc.unesco.org

Tourist-Information
Tourism Office Regensburg
Altes Rathaus
Rathausplatz 4
93047 Regensburg, Germany
Phone 0049 (0) 941/507-4410
Fax   0049 (0) 941/507-4418
tourismus@regensburg.de

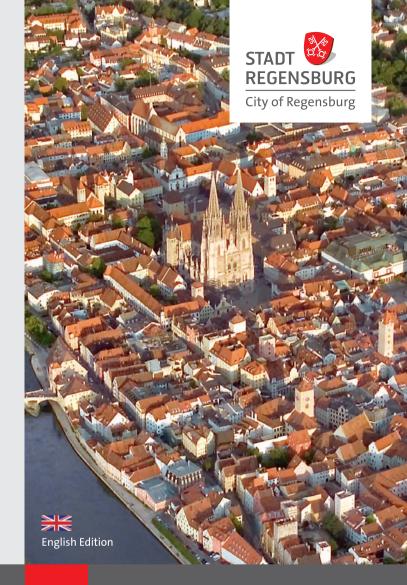**Editor**
City of Regensburg
Planning and Building Division
World Heritage Management
Neues Rathaus
D.-Martin-Luther-Str. 1
93047 Regensburg, Germany
Phone 0049 (0) 941/507-4614
Fax   0049 (0) 941/507-4619
welterbe@regensburg.de

English Edition

STADT
REGENSBURG
City of Regensburg

www.worldheritage-regensburg.de

UNESCO World Heritage

Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof

UNESCO
Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Kultur und Kommunikation

Altstadt von Regensburg mit Stadtamhof
Welterbestätte
seit 2006

Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof UNESCO World Heritage

On July 13, 2006 the Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The ensemble is about 183 hectares (452 acres) in size and includes 1,000 monuments. Approximately 15,000 people live in Regensburg's historic city centre. Regensburg is the 32nd UNESCO World Heritage site in Germany.

In order to become UNESCO World Heritage, a site needs to fulfil at least one of the ten criteria listed in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof is inscribed on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

The architecture of Regensburg represents the city's role as a medieval trading centre and its influence in the region north of the Alps. Regensburg was an important transition point on continental trade routes to Italy, Bohemia, Russia and Byzantium. It also had multiple connections with the transcontinental Silk Roads. As such, the city exhibits an important interchange of cultural and architectural influences, which have shaped its urban landscape. (Criterion ii)

Reichssaal

The Old Town of Regensburg bears an exceptional testimony to cultural traditions especially in the Holy Roman Empire, being the location for most of the assemblies of the Empire in the High Middle Ages.

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.

Goldener Turm

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.