

Altoetting Pilgrimage Weekend

in the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI



Bayern

„Altoetting is the Heart of Bavaria
and one of Europe’s hearts”

(Pope Benedict XVI)

When it was first officially mentioned in 748 Altötting had already been an important town, the court of Bavarian dukes and an important residence. A Chapel with an octagonal ground plan, which conveyed the idea of being a baptismal chapel, was probably erected around 700. After the last Agilolfing duke, Tassilo III, was deprived of his power by Charlemagne in 788, the ancient ducal court of Ötting became a Carolingian royal palatinate and in 865 King Karlmann moved his seat of government from Regensburg to Ötting; he erected a Basilica and ruled from here as King of Bavaria and Italy.

In 907 the Hungarian assault devastated the palatinate, monastery and Basilica. Three centuries later, the Wittelsbach duke, Ludwig the Kehlheimer erected a Roman style church.

In 1489 pilgrimage to Altötting started due to the reports on two sensational healing miracles. The destination of the pilgrimage which soon reunited pilgrims from all over Europe, is a Madonna carved out of lime-wood, which was brought to the Chapel of Altoetting in about 1330. The pilgrims come in large numbers and there were far too many for the small chapel and the Roman Stiftskirche. A nave was built to extend the chapel and the Roman church was rebuilt into a gothic Stiftskirche.

During the 30 years' War the Bavarian elector Maximilian placed both his destiny and the destiny of his country into the hands of the Madonna of Altötting by writing a solemn letter with his own blood. Since the 17th century, the Bavarian sovereigns have their hearts buried in silver urns inside the octagon of the Altötting Chapel as a sign of "royal guard of honour".

When the Altötting capuchin monk Konrad of Parzham was beatified and canonized in 1930 and 1934, Altötting was given a second popular shrine of pilgrimage next to the Chapel of Grace.



of Traunstein (today it is called: Papst-Benedikt-XVI.-Weg). Here Joseph attended the "Chiemgau School for Higher Learning (Gymnasium)" until 1943. Today it is the School of Music in the street called "Rosenheimer Straße". After his graduation, he and his brother Georg attended the archiepiscopal seminary there.

In 1951, after finishing his studies, he and his brother were ordained by Cardinal Faulhaber. They both celebrated their first mass (Primizgottesdienst) in St Oswald church in Traunstein. Further studies followed in Munich. In 1953 he completed



his doctorate in theology and worked as a professor in Bonn until 1959, in Muenster until 1963, then in Tuebingen and finally in Regensburg until 1969.

In March of 1977 Pope Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Munich, and shortly after that he became a Cardinal.

Pope Benedict XVI and Altoetting

In his foreword to Altoetting's new city guide, Pope Benedict XVI wrote the following words: "I was fortunate to be born near the city of Altoetting. The many pilgrimages to Altoetting with my family are among my oldest and fondest memories." Pope Benedict XVI is a "Marienverehrer" (one who venerates Mary, mother of Jesus), as was his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

The election of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger to Pope Benedict XVI was followed by joyous celebrations in Altötting, the most important Marian Shrine in Germany. Pope Benedict XVI has remained closely connected to the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna since his childhood.



called "Stubenrauchhaus" today the building of the local savings bank at no. 39. The following story relates back to that time. When Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber visited the kindergarten in Tittmoning in 1930, Joseph Ratzinger was so impressed with his robe that he exclaimed, "I'm going to be a Cardinal some day, too!"



The family moved to Aschau on the river Inn in 1932. Joseph attended primary school there and received his first Holy Communion in the old Gothic-style church, Mariae Himmelfahrt. In addition, he took piano lessons at the nearby convent "Au am Inn" run by Franciscan nuns. Later the family moved to their own farmhouse in Hufschlag (Eichenweg 19) near the city

Childhood years between the Inn and the Salzach rivers



Joseph Ratzinger was born on April 16th, 1927 in Marktl on the river Inn, not far from the city of Altoetting. His birthplace on the city square in Marktl, the local museum next door and the Church St Oswald with the baptismal font used for his baptism have become popular tourist and pilgrim attractions for people of all ages. The Ratzinger family had to move several times in their lifetime, as the father was a police officer. In 1929 they left Marktl and moved to Tittmoning on the river Salzach, where three-year-old Joseph began kindergarten in a former Augustinian monastery. The family lived in the so-



In November 1980 Pope Benedict XVI, then the Archbishop of Munich-Freising, accompanied Pope John Paul II on his trip through Germany, including a visit to the city of Altoetting.



While leading the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome (since 1981), he made several official trips to Altoetting. He attended the official celebration of 500 years of pilgrimage in Altoetting in 1989 and celebrated the opening mass in the Basilica St Anna.

In 1999 he returned for the 400-year celebration of the "Congregation of Marian Brotherhood" as the main speaker. In 2001 he joined the nearly 10,000 pilgrims coming from Regensburg and walked the last stretch with them.



He regularly visited the Pilgrims-Chapel in Altoetting, as he did on his 75th birthday, often without even being noticed by the public. Such a visit happened during his time as Dean of the College of Cardinals in Rome, when he visited the city together with his brother Georg and the Archbishop of Salzburg, Georg Eder, in August 2002. His last visit was in January 2005 with his brother.



Then, on April 25th, 2005, the Mayor of Altoetting, Herbert Hofauer, personally presented the Pope with a copy of the Altoetting "Madonna". The Pope thanked Mayor Hofauer with these words, "Altoetting is the heart of Bavaria and one of Europe's hearts..."

Pope Benedict XVI was awarded honorary citizenship of the city of pilgrimage on June 7th, 2006. His holiness dedicated the "Golden rose" to the marian shrine of Altoetting in 2008.

Popes as pilgrims and donors in Altoetting



The first papal visit was in 1782. It was during the Age of Enlightenment and a difficult time politically for the Catholic Church. Pope Pius VI travelled to Vienna to visit Emperor Joseph II, but was not well received. After accepting an invitation from the Bavarian Kurfürst Karl Theodor (electoral prince) to visit Altoetting on his return journey to Rome, he was welcomed royally. It was "the greatest reception in his

lifetime and the people flocked to greet him despite heavy rain". He celebrated mass in the Holy Chapel on the city square, visited the Treasury and met with high clerical and political officials. He spent the night in the dwelling of the provost next to the Collegiate Parish Church.

In 1939 Eugenio Pacelli was elected Pope Pius XII. He, too, was well known and loved in Altoetting. In the years following 1917, as befitting his job as "Apostolischer Nuntius" in Bavaria, it became his responsibility to act as a representative for Pope Benedict XV, in the hope of ending World War I peacefully. In the following years he often made pilgrimages to Altoetting. Pope Pius XII donated his own chalice with miniature ivory carvings on it to the Holy Chapel in 1957. Until his death, a housekeeper from Altoetting was at his side and cared for him: Sister Pascalina from "Heilig-Kreuz-Kloster".



Pope John Paul II's visit to the city of Altoetting in 1980 was a great occasion for the city. He made stops in Cologne, Mainz, Osnabrueck, Fulda, Altoetting and Munich, but Altoetting was probably the high point of his journey. The 60,000 people who gathered on the Chapel Square that evening of November 19th will remember his word "I join all of you in your pilgrimage to Altoetting. And I am just as pleased as you are to have Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger with us as well. Your wonderful welcome for me on this special day makes me feel at home here".

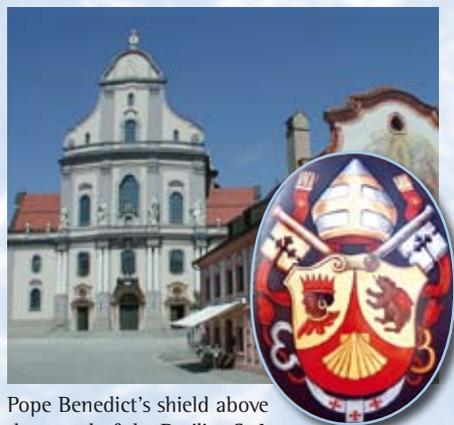
A tree planted by him, the "Pope's lime tree", and a bronze sculpture of the Pope himself near the "Kongregationssaal" remind visitors of this extraordinary Pope from Poland.

Several other Popes gave special gifts to the Holy Chapel in Altoetting, although they were never able to make the pilgrimage there themselves. Pope Pius IX do-

nated a hanging lamp decorated with precious stones in 1854 and an exquisite chalice in 1868. He gave his golden pocket watch to the coachman Anton F. Horn in appreciation for the quick escape from the Italian revolutionaries. Eventually the pocket watch was also given to Altoetting.

Meeting Pope Benedict XVI in Altoetting

On his first official journey to Bavaria from September 9th to 14th, 2006, his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI also visited, besides Munich and Regensburg, Altoetting, the city of pilgrimage, on September 11th, which he called "my religious home". Tens of thousands of believers, who will keep this moving event in mind, attended the ceremonial mass on "Kapellplatz" that day when the sun was shining.



Pope Benedict's shield above the portal of the Basilica St Anna

Pope Pius X made St Anna's church a papal basilica in 1913 and his likeness can be seen on the main altar. In 1907 he donated a high-quality chalice known as a "Ziborium" which had been made by a goldsmith in Lyon.

A visit to the Altoetting Treasury will give you the opportunity to see these things and many others, including the famous "Goldene Roessl" (Golden Horse) made in 1404.



Altoetting Pilgrimage Weekend in the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI

Weekend offer:

3 days stay – price per person in double room with shower/WC for 2 nights with breakfast (prices valid 2012)

Hotel "Zur Post"****	from 107,00 €	(+12,00 €)	(single-room)
Hotel "Plankl"****	76,00 to 116,00 €	(+11,00 €)	

Gasthof "Münchner Hof"	75,00 – 135,00 €	(on request)
Altstadthotel "Schex"*** superior	70,00 €	(+12,00 €)
Hotel-Gasthof "Zwölf Apostel"	70,00 €	(+10,00 €)
Hotel-Gasthof "Scharnagl"	69,00 €	(+12,00 €)

Gasthof "Altöttinger Hof"	60,00 €	(+8,00 €)
Gasthof "Graminger Weißbräu"	60,00 €	(+8,00 €)
Gasthof "Weißbräustuben", etc.	60,00 €	(+9,00 €)

Seminary house "Franziskushaus"	63,00 €	(+7,00 €)
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(mainly single-room accommodation)

Extensive information package with information on Pope Benedict XVI and Altoetting, excursion map "In the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI" (detailed city guide about the pilgrimage city), pilgrimage medal of Altoetting and multimedia CD.

Programme proposal:

1st day (Friday)

Individual arrival to Altoetting.

First contact with the city of pilgrimage and visiting the local museums: monumental cyclorama "Panorama Crucifixion of Christ" (€4,50), "House Pope Benedict XVI – treasury and pilgrimage museum" with the famous "Golden Horse" (€4,50), Diorama show (€2,00), Mechanical manger (€2,00).

Dinner and accommodation in the hotel.

2nd day (Saturday)

Breakfast in the hotel.

Guided city tour in the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI upon request at the local tourism office (€51,00 per group, max. 35 persons). 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 castle complex and Raitenhaslach Monastery.

Dinner in the hotel.

Participation in the candlelight procession of Altoetting (from May to October on every Saturday evening after the evening mass).

3rd day (Sunday)

Breakfast in the hotel.

10.00 a.m. Visit of the solemn high mass in the Basilica St Anna with orchestra mass. After this, individual departure or further sightseeing in the Inn-Salzach area.

The Benedict trail – In the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI between the rivers Inn and Salzach

A new biking trail was built in the summer of 2005. This trail connects the places where Pope Benedict XVI spent his early and later childhood and extends through the Upper Bavarian vacation area around the rivers Inn and Salzach to the Chiemgau, the lake Chiemsee and the areas around the city of Rosenheim.

The Benedict Trail is 248 km long and begins in the city of Altoetting at the linden or lime tree, planted by Pope John Paul II in 1980. The main points of interest along the trail include: the Pope's place of birth in Marktl on the river Inn, his places of residence in Titt-

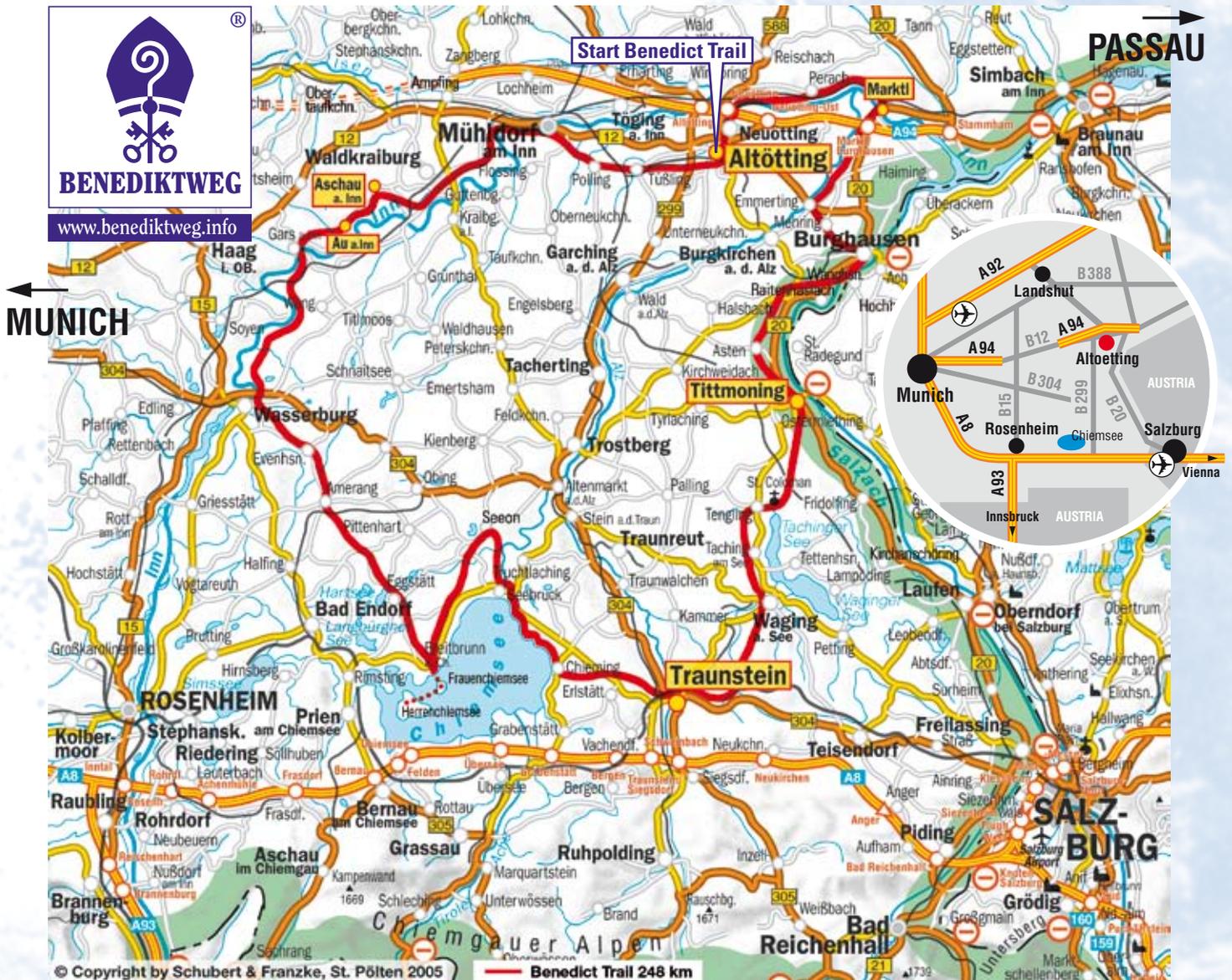


moning, Aschau on the river Inn and Traunstein. Between these places of attraction, the cyclist can enjoy the historical cities of Neuotting, Burghausen, Muehdorf and Wasserburg. Beautiful scenery, farming villages, churches and monasteries with fine works of art can also be seen.

The most impressive of these monasteries include the Cistercian abbey in Raitenhaslach, the former Benedictine monastery in Seon, the Benedictine

monastery on the island of Frauenchiemsee and the monasteries in Gars and Au on the river Inn.

All of these attractions are suitable for family bike trips or can be reached by car or by bus. Tours can also be planned in connection with the railway "Suedost BayernBahn". A detailed touring map is also available for planning your tours.



 Wheelchair accessible



Chapel of the Miraculous Image

This chapel probably first dates back to around 700. The octagonal ground plan indicates the original purpose as a baptismal chapel. According to legend, the holy Bishop Rupertus of Salzburg baptised the first Christian Bavarian duke here. Statue of the "Black Madonna" from 1330. Two reported healing miracles from 1489. Nave and walkway (around 1500) with 2,000 votive tablets and 57 "Miracle Plaques". Heart shaped silver urns containing the hearts of Bavarian princes and kings.



Brother Conrad Church

Former Franciscan church from 1657, today a capuchin church featuring the tomb of the saintly Brother Konrad. Johann Birndorfer from Parzham in Rottal, entered the monastery in 1849 and was given the name "Brother Konrad." Due to his exemplary life filled with pioussness, poverty, humility, responsibility and service to the order, he was beatified in 1930 and canonized in 1934 by Pope Pius XI.



Church of St Magdalene

Jesuit monastery church built in 1697. Especially worth seeing are the stucco work, most probably done by an artist from northern Italy, the late baroque side altars (1712-13) and the high altar (1795) with a painting of Magdalene under the cross by the court painter Christian Winck. Today church of the nearby Capuchin monastery with a youth hostel.



Basilica of St Anne

The Neo-Baroque pilgrimage basilica was built in 1912 (accommodates up to 8,000 people). The building became necessary as the numbers of pilgrims increased at the beginning of the 20th century. The church was consecrated on October 13, 1912. Pope Pius X made it a papal church in 1913.



Town Hall

Built in 1906 in Neo-Baroque style by Prof. Rudolf Esterer.



House Pope Benedict XVI

New treasury with pilgrimage museum opened in 2009. Collection of liturgical devices, jewellery and memorabilia, among them the famous "Golden Horse", a small altar made of gold and enamel at 1404 in the royal court studio in Paris. Offices of the Episcopal Administration.



Jerusalem Panorama of Christ's Crucifixion

Monumental circular painting by Prof. Gebhard Fugel from 1902/1903 with a canvas surface of 12,000 sqm. The art form of the Panorama was widespread in the 19th century. Today the Jerusalem Panorama is the only historic Panorama in Germany and thus historically listed and under the protection of UNESCO.



Collegiate Parish Church with Chapel of Adoration

Late gothic hall church from 1511 and cloister. According to available data this was the third building to be constructed on this site. In 876 King Karlmann built a canon convent here together with a basilica. In 1228 the Romanesque church with its double towers was rebuilt together with a monastery. Then from 1499 to 1511 the present-day Gothic church was built. The adjacent chapel of Adoration was inaugurated on September 11th 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI, during his visit to Altoetting.



Church of St Joseph

Belongs to the English ladies' Institute (Congregatio Jesu). Dates back to 1737 and features a Rococo interior.



House of St Mary's Association

Canons' building from 1616. Diorama on the history of pilgrimages with 22 large three-dimensional pictures comprising of more than 5,000 handmade figurines by Reinhold Zellner.



Town Gallery

Former museum with varying fine arts exhibitions.



Culture and Congress Forum

Opening 2013. Various conference and event rooms for up to 1200 persons.

Further info: Pilgrimage and Tourist Office · D-84503 Altoetting · Kapellplatz 2a
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