

# JOURNEY INTO THE MIDDLE AGES



“travel like a princess ...”

In our millenium our cultural treasures are more easily accessible than at the time of “Elisabeth of Thuringia” – Entering the Middle Ages at the Wartburg.

**MEDIUM TEMPUS:** FRANCESCO PETRARCA (1304-1374) WAS THE FIRST TO CALL THE PERIOD BETWEEN ANTIQUITY AND HIS OWN TIME “MEDIUM TEMPUS” – MIDDLE TIME. THE MIDDLE TIME “IS THE DARK TIME”. THE FEELING THAT HOPE COULD BE FULFILLED CAME FROM THE IDEALIZATION OF ANTIQUITY. ANCIENT ROME’S IMPORTANCE, GLORY AND ORDER MADE PEOPLE HOPE THAT THEIR OWN TIMES WOULD ALSO BECOME BETTER ONES. THE NEOLOGISM “MIDDLE AGES” AS USED TODAY HAS ONLY BEEN IN USE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.

## In the footsteps of the Middle Ages

You cannot please children more than by giving them a toy castle with knights on horseback and on foot. Nowadays, perhaps even a virtual castle.

The fascination of the chivalrous knight who rescues a damsel of the castle has continued to this day. So, what comes to mind when you hear “Middle Ages”? Castles, chivalrous knights, holy or not so holy lady landgraves, crusaders, monks, bishops, the eternal strife between emperors and popes, swords, axes, knights’ armour, coats of arms,

Romanesque churches and Gothic cathedrals, torture chambers, falconry, rules of etiquette so one’s manners do not offend, Knights’ tournaments, Uta von Naumburg, the most beautiful woman in the world according to Umberto Eco, and “The Name of the Rose”, also by Eco. Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Richard Lion-Heart, Friedrich Barbarossa, Heinrich the Vogler, Walther

von der Vogelweide ... More and ever more things, names and places come to mind, one story after the other. There is wealth and poverty, there is craftsmanship to be admired when standing in front of church treasures.

(In Saxony-Anhalt they are called “Highlights of the Romanesque Road”). Two works of art have encapsulated the German ideal of the “Middle Ages” like no other – whether intentionally or not – Albrecht Dürer’s idealistic painting of Charlemagne and the monumental mural “Emperor Otto III opening the crypt of Charlemagne in Aachen Cathedral”.

There are many places in Germany for you to experience the Middle Ages first-hand, to know what it feels like to stand where Heinrich I was offered the crown – according to legend – to stand before the fascinating marble throne of Charlemagne, to listen to a concert in one of the imperial palaces or to attend a knights’ tournament in a castle. These and other important exhibitions are listed in this brochure. Take your family on an excursion into the “Middle Ages” and enjoy a journey through time.



The helmet as seen in this Nuremberg example of 1350 was the typical mark of a noble knight

### EXHIBITIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE AGES 2009/2010

#### Braunschweig:

“Otto IV – Dream of a Guelph Empire”, Braunschweigisches Landesmuseum, State Exhibition of Lower Saxony, Aug 6<sup>th</sup> until Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Tel. +49 (0) 531.1215-0  
info@blm.niedersachsen.de  
www.braunschweig.de/otto

#### Magdeburg:

“The Advent of the Gothic” Kulturhistorisches Museum Magdeburg, State Exhibition of Saxony-Anhalt, Aug 31<sup>st</sup> until Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Tel. +49 (0) 391.53548-0  
info@gotik2009.de  
www.gotik2009.de

#### Mannheim:

“The Stauffers and Italy” Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen Exhibition of the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate und Hesse, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 until Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Tel. +49 (0) 621.293.3150  
reiss-engelhorn-museen@mannheim.de  
www.stauffer2010.de



This bracelet from the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg originates from a member of the entourage of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa – the counterpart to the one in the Paris Louvre.

picture at centre: Aquamanilia were ewers, often in the form of an animal, used for the washing of hands during the ritual of Mass.