



BAMBERG

This view of the upper city with its seven hills shows a panorama of works of art in all its historical splendour.



FRANCONIA'S ROME. IN 1007, DURING THE REIGN OF THE LAST OTTONIAN, HEINRICH II, THE DIOCESE OF BAMBERG BECAME THE CENTRE OF THE MEDIEVAL EMPIRE. THE EMPEROR, WHO WAS LATER CANONISED, FOUNDED THE DIOCESE AND BUILT THE CATHEDRAL. THE PIOUS EMPEROR'S TOMB IS SITUATED IN THE CATHEDRAL. HAVING ESCAPED THE DEVASTATION OF MANY WARS, BAMBERG HAS ONE OF THE LARGEST INTACT OLD CITY CENTRES IN EUROPE. IN 1993 IT WAS AWARDED THE TITLE "UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE". MEDIEVAL RELICS WHEREVER YOU GO: "ECCLESIA" AND "SYNAGOGUE" IN THE CATHEDRAL, AND THE ROTTMEISTERHAUS BY THE OLD TOWN HALL.

Evidence of the Middle Ages wherever you go: Ecclesia and Synagogue in Bamberg Cathedral and Rottmeisterhaus by the Old Town Hall



Bamberg breathes the Middle Ages

Hidden corners, narrow alleyways, churches, palaces, half-timbered town houses, baroque style facades and medieval flair: a walk through the old town becomes a journey through time. Undamaged through the centuries, the town's ground-plan of the early Middle Ages is still visible today. It still breathes the atmosphere of a time long gone.

King Heinrich II initiated the foundation of the diocese of Bamberg on November 1st, 1007. 1012 saw the consecration of the cathedral, which had been started in 1004. However, fires in 1081 and 1185 destroyed most of these early buildings except for a few fragments. The cathedral of today was started in the first half of the 13th century. Its eastern part still shows elements of the Romanesque period, whereas the western part displays



Bishop's crozier of Saint Otto

the soaring early Gothic style pointing heavenwards.

Bamberg owes its worldwide appeal to the sculptures "Synagogue" and "Ecclesia" of 1225, to the choir screen reliefs depicting the prophets and apostles, and the famous "Bamberg Rider" which is – together with the "Magdeburg Rider" – among the oldest Gothic equestrian statues north of the Alps.

Further impressive works of art are the Princes' Portal, the Gates of Mary and of Adam with their sculptures, the tomb of Pope Clemens II (died 1047), the High Sepulchre of Emperor Heinrich II and his wife Saint Kunigunde, created by Tilman Riemenschneider in 1513, and the altar by Veit Stoß of 1523.

Bamberg – Franconia's Rome – with its long tradition of pilgrimage is one of the stations along St. James' Way. Today it is a bustling town with a medieval look, famous for its Bamberg Symphony Orchestra – and also for its breweries and bierkeller tradition.

INFORMATION

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TIP

Festivals and Markets

Carnival market, Lent period, Maxplatz; **Bamberg Beer Days**, May, Maxplatz; **Rose Garden Serenades**, Jun-Sep, Rose Garden; **Bamberg Summer Nights**, June/July, Symphony by the Regnitz River; **Bamberg performs Magic**, July, Old Town; **Sandkerwa**, Aug, old town; **Crib Town and Christmas Markets**, December, old town. For further information see: www.kultur.bamberg.de

Bamberg Symphony Orchestra

This first class orchestra was founded in 1946 by former members of the German Philharmonic of Prague and musicians from Karlsbad and Silesia. According to Eugen Jochum it is "one of Europe's finest orchestras". For concert dates see: www.bamberger-symphoniker.de