



AACHEN

silhouette of
Cathedral at dusk



TWO EMPERORS WITH VISIONS. TODAY THE KING IS DRESSED IN FRANCONIAN ATTIRE, NOT IN THE SAXON MANNER. TODAY, ON AUGUST 7, 936, HE INTENDS TO BE ELECTED, ANOINTED AND CROWNED IN THE FAVOURITE PALACE OF HIS GREAT IDOL. HE IS SEATED ON KARL'S MARBLE THRONE. WITH THIS DISPLAY OF POWER, OTTO, SON OF HENRY I, HAS OUTLINED HIS GOVERNMENT AGENDA TO THE ELDERS OF THE EMPIRE. HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE THE SUCCESSOR OF CHARLEMAGNE, AND LIKE HIM THE KING OF THE FRANKS AND SAXONS WANTS TO BECOME RULER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. IN AACHEN EUROPE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE.

Left to right:
Barbarossa
candelabra,
marketplace
in summer



Aachen derives from Ahha!

Hold tight! You are approaching 2000 years of history. Narrow alleyways in a charming historical old town remind you of times long gone. The 1200-year-old Aachen cathedral is one of Europe's most important buildings and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Granus Tower of the historic town hall is even older – from Carolingian times. The Gothic town hall with its coronation banquet hall on the first floor was built on the foundation of the Carolingian palace. 32 kings were crowned in Aachen between 813 and 1531, more than in any other European town. Copies of the imperial regalia, true to the originals that are kept in the Vienna vault, remind one of the great emperor: The Imperial Crown, the

marble
throne of
Charle-
magne in
Aachen
Cathedral

Imperial Orb, the Imperial Book of the Gospels and Charlemagne's Sabre.

What else comes to mind about Aachen? The spiced biscuits of course. And the fountains. Aachen has always been the town of water. The Romans appreciated the hot and healing springs – and so did Charlemagne. Hot springs are the origin of Aachen's name: Ahha is the Germanic name for water. Handel came here for health treatments, as did Blücher and Czar Alexander the Great. Why not join the many distinguished guests who still come here for treatment? Today 380,000 people come annually to the Carolus Thermen Bad Aachen for relaxation.

But how is Aachen's European Spirit displayed? In the "Internationaler Karlspreis", for instance. Since 1949 this prize has been awarded to personalities who have contributed to the idea of a United Europe. Konrad Adenauer was one of the award winners. So were Winston Churchill, King Juan Carlos of Spain and Angela Merkel.

INFORMATION

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TIP

Bad Aachen

Teutons, Celts and Romans must have been so impressed with the hot springs that the Teutons even used their word for water as the place name. Einhard, Charlemagne's biographer, wrote: "He took the warm waters often and with enthusiasm – he loved and needed them". Because of its springs Aachen became a famous and fashionable spa early on, and rightfully so. Scientists have proven that the heat and 19 different minerals contained in the water contribute to the healing process of diseases of the bones, muscles, joints and skin. When the water is drunk, it also detoxicates. There are three modern sanatoriums, and since 2001 the Carolus Thermen Bad Aachen in their fascinating environment provide peace, warmth and relaxation.

www.aachen-tourist.de