

Hainburg an der Donau



Hainburg an der Donau is a town in the Bruck an der Leitha district in Lower Austria. It is located on the right bank of the Danube river, 4 km southwest of Devín (Slovakia), 12 km west of the Slovak capital Bratislava and 43 km east of the Austrian capital Vienna.

History

The first settlers in the area were the Illyrians and the Celtic people, who lived on the Braunsberg hill. However, there are indications of an earlier settlement by the Urnfield culture or during the Hallstatt period due to the strategically excellent location.

During the Roman era the area was under the influence of the nearby town of Carnuntum, the capital of the province of Pannonia Superior, where Marcus Aurelius once resided. The first written mention was made in the Nibelungenlied in connection with Rüdiger von Bechelaren.

In 1050 Emperor Henry III ordered a castle built here. In the 13th century the town had two gates, 15 towers, and a 2.5 km long wall. From 1108 onwards the castle belonged to the Babenbergers. Around 1220 to 1225 the castle and the Vienna Gate were built with the ransom money received for Richard the Lionheart. On the 11th February 1252 Ottokar II, later the King of Bohemia, married the last Babenberger Margaret of Austria. From 1267 to 1268 Ottokar II of Bohemia built the lower part of the castle. In 1278 Ottokar II lost the castle to the Habsburgs in the Battle of Dürnkrut. They pledged the castle to various owners. The city was neglected and lost its importance. 1482: Siege of Hainburg – after several months siege the castle was occupied by Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus and his Black Army. From 1629 onwards the castle belonged to the city. The Second Ottoman Campaign destroyed the city and the castle on 11th July 1683. In 1709 count Löwenberg rebuilt the castle.

In the year 1738 Joseph Haydn the composer came to Hainburg as a six-year-old child to learn the rudiments of music from his relative Josef Mathias Franck. He sang as a choirboy. There is a Haydn Fountain on the Main square in the town.

In 1784, Joseph II set up a tobacco factory in the city with the tobacco patent, thereby establishing tobacco processing in Hainburg, where cigarettes and smoking tobacco were produced until 2011. The city was almost completely repopulated.

In the 19th century Hainburg gained a garrison. After the end of the First World War Hainburg was the easternmost town in Austria and still it is.

1984: Occupation of the Hainburger Au: Protesters against plans to put a power station in the Hainburger Au of the Danube forced the government of Austria to withdraw. Today Hainburg is part of the Donau-Auen National Park.

Attractions in and around Hainburg

The Philippus-und-Jakobus-Kirche, a catholic church, was built in 1263 and rebuilt in the Baroque style in 1683.

Museum: The Wienertor (Vienna Gate) was built in the 13th century and is the largest still existing medieval gate in Europe. Today it contains the city museum.
<https://wienertor.at/>

Castle hill Hainburg: You can visit the medieval castle ruins (built in 1050), with a wonderful view of the historic Hainburg. The residential tower is open all day.

Ruine Röthelstein: The Röthelstein ruin is located on a 30 meter high rock ledge on the Danube east of Hainburg, directly opposite the Theben ruins on the Arpadfelsen in Slovakia. Röthelstein secured the Danube River on the Austrian side for centuries, and Thebes did this for the Hungarians and Slovaks. The first written mention of Röthelstein Castle took place in 1180. The first known Röthelsteiners were Ulrich, Heinrich and Irnfried, who were ministerials of the Vohburgers between 1170 and 1209, once one of the most powerful noble families in this area, and who served as lords of the castle. There is a wonderful view of the Danube!

Braunsberg: The Braunsberg and the Thebener Kogel opposite in Slovakia represent the Hainburg or Hungarian gate of the Danube river. The breakthrough valley at Braunsberg is a geological link between the Alps and the Carpathians. A road leads from Hainburg to the summit. The Braunsberg offers an excellent view of the Hundsheimer Mountains, the Danube and the city of Bratislava and its surroundings, as well as far into the Marchfeld. On the mountain is the memorial of the Carpathian Germans in memory of their old homeland in Slovakia. The Braunsberg is also an archaeologically important site. The Celts built a mighty settlement on the plateau, which was protected by a palisade fence (2nd century BC). A small part of the palisade and a watchtower were reconstructed.

Assumption Basilica in Bad Deutsch-Altenburg: St. Mary's Church, a Romanesque three-aisled pillar basilica with Early Gothic chancel and western tower, was erected in Bad Deutsch-Altenburg in 1050. It was elevated to the status of imperial priory of the Hungarian Marches in 1051 and given as a gift to the imperial widow Agnes in 1058. Alban and Johann Dörr modified and added to the church in 1213. From the outside, it has one of the loveliest chancels in Austria.

Rundkapelle – Johanneskirche in Petronell: The St. John's Church of Petronell, usually referred to as the round chapel, is one of the most important Romanesque round churches in Austria. In the time of the Second Crusade, around 1150, it was probably built by the Templars on a circular floor plan as a resting place for crusaders who went to the Holy Land to conquer Jerusalem. This was possibly the first parish church in Petronell-Carnuntum. It consists of a higher round building with a curved conical roof and a lower apse with a semicircular end and is built in Romanesque stone ashlar. A corridor is hidden in the meter-thick outer walls, which served as a defense against frequent attacks. The outer facade is structured by delicate half-column pilasters with capitals. From the 15th century the round church served as a crypt for deceased members of the manorial family and important officials. Today it is the final resting place of the noble von Abensperg-Traun family and masses and religious events are still celebrated here. A visit is possible by appointment in the regional office Petronell (Tel. +43-2163-3555).

Rubin Carnuntum vineyards: Carnuntum is also the name of the wine-growing area situated east of Vienna, between the River Danube and the lake Neusiedlersee. It is one of the smallest wine-growing areas in Austria, but extremely dynamic. Here the group of wine-growers known as “Rubin Carnuntum” are active. Once an insider’s tip, wines from Carnuntum are today a “must” on every sophisticated wine list! Thanks to ideal climate and soil conditions, red wines in particular from Carnuntum are now successfully established. <https://www.carnuntum.com/en/>