

ASPECTS OF BAVARIA – INGOLSTADT

May 2017 – Ingolstadt Medical Museum

On 27th May, a goodly number of us will be travelling down to Ingolstadt to visit the Medical Museum and also to go on a walking tour of this attractive Upper Bavarian city situated a little south of Franconia on the River Danube. Its population of just over 130,000, slightly bigger than Erlangen's, makes it the fifth largest city in Bavaria.

It's definitely an interesting city, now the headquarters of Audi, Media Markt and Saturn, and back in the days of Mary Shelley the town where the scientist Victor Frankenstein created his monster. However, I suspect that for many of us, with our sights set on Munich, it's a place that we simply drive past as quickly as possible.

Ingolstadt's history is a long one. It was first mentioned in a document issued by Charlemagne on 6th February 806 as "Ingoldes stat", the place of Ingold. Circa 1250, it was granted city status. In 1472 one of Germany's oldest universities was founded here, but in 1800 the university was moved to Landshut, and then, in 1826, to Munich. I am, of course, talking about the famous Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität! And yet another claim to fame is that it was here in Ingolstadt that the Bavarian Reinheitsgebot (beer purity law) was signed in 1516, famously allowing only barley, hops and water as the ingredients of beer.

Ingolstadt was once a fortress city, enclosed by a medieval defensive wall. The Bavarian fortress (1537–1930) now holds the museum of the Bavarian army. During World War I, future French president Charles de Gaulle was detained there as a prisoner of war.



The museum we will be visiting, a museum for medical history, is partly housed in the Ingolstädter Alte Anatomie (Old Anatomy Building), Mary Shelley's setting for the aforementioned Gothic novel *Frankenstein* of 1818. It was opened in 1973 and presents a permanent exhibition of more than 1,000 objects documenting medical history from antiquity to today. The exhibition in the former dissecting room, which has a beautiful ceiling fresco depicting medical allegories, presents the beginnings of western medical science - anatomy, botany, pathology - with specimens, teaching books, instruments and microscopes. More

than 180 medicinal plants are grown in a baroque garden on the grounds of the former Botanical Gardens of the university.

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