

ASPECTS OF BAVARIA September 2019

Neuburg an der Donau

Neuburg an der Donau, literally “Newcastle on the Danube”, is situated about two hours south of Erlangen in the district of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen. Schrobenhausen, of course, is extremely well-known for its asparagus and you might well have visited its asparagus museum. Neuburg is a much larger town, famous for its architecture and castle, and lies about 25 kms east of Ingolstadt.

Even from a distance, the old part of the town, built on a Jurassic limestone hill, dominates the lovely Danube valley. This imposing silhouette has remained practically unchanged for centuries.



Neuburg on the Danube with its castle...

The town has a long history and can even trace its roots back to the Roman settlement of 2,000 years ago, "Venaxamodorum". This area was once part of the Roman Empire, guarded back then by other “limes” towns such as Weissenburg and Gunzenhausen to the north.

The present appearance of Neuburg, regarded as having one of the most beautiful town centres in Bavaria, is a fascinating combination of late medieval, Renaissance and Baroque architecture. The first duke of the Palatinate-Neuburg principality was Ottheinrich, who inherited the castle in Neuburg after a war of succession in 1505 between Palatinate and Bavarian members of the House of Wittelsbach. Duke Ottheinrich enlarged his medieval residence into a stately palace with high Renaissance gables and a beautiful courtyard surrounded by arcades.

The castle took on its present-day form during the reign of Duke Philipp Wilhelm with the addition of the Baroque eastern wing and the two round towers. It's here in the west wing of the castle that we find the art gallery dedicated to Flemish Baroque painting. With its approximately 160 paintings it is certainly one of the biggest art collections in southern Germany with significant works by Rubens, van Dyck and Teniers.

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