Art exhibitions

Monastery museum

Herb garden

Ivy maze, Garden

Forest pavilion with exhibition

Monastery hotel and restaurant
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Monastery

The Canons Regular of Prémontré have been living and working in and around Roggenburg for more than 800 years. This remarkable tradition has made a successful transition into the 21st century: after the restoration of the buildings and the baroque gardens, the canons' monastery has a new radiance. At any time of year, the monastery church, the museum and the monastery gardens with an ivy maze are a thoroughly delightful experience.

Roggenburg
Monastery
New life in old walls

If you are looking for gifts for occasions such as christenings or first communions, you will find what you seek in our monastery shop. Here booklovers can discover religious literature and CDs, as well as home-decor items and devotional objects.

We supplement our product range with a selection of wines and spirits as well as culinary delicacies, making the monastery shop a unique insiders’ tip for presents of all kinds.

www.kloster-roggenburg.de
Beginnings

Tradition has it that Count Bertold von Bibereck founded Roggenburg Monastery with his wife and brothers Konrad (Bishop of Chur) and Siegfried (Canons in Augsburg), in 1126. The first Canons Regular of Prémontré (the Order was founded in 1121 by St Norbert of Xanten in Prémontré, France) came from the nearby Ursberg Abbey. The flourishing monastery was promoted to Abbey status in 1444 and was granted imperial immediacy in 1544. The monastery survived the destitution of the Swedish Reformation troubles, and the devastation of the Thirty Years’ War.

Prosperity

In the blessed 18th century, a triumvirate of the great abbots Dominikus Schwaminger, Kaspar Geisler and Georg Liehrhardt created the baroque wonderland which we still see today. The rebuilding of the monastery buildings started with the west wing in 1732. Work on the spacious double-towered monastery church was completed with an inaugural celebration in October 1758. The southern wing of the monastery complex was completed in 1766. The following years – overshadowed by the suffering of incoming French refugees, war, plundering and hefty contributions – caused considerable harm to the monastery.

Dissolution

After the Peace Treaty of Lunville, there was nothing to stop secularisation from spreading. The monastery of Roggenburg was occupied by the Bavarian military on September 4, 1802. On November 29 of the same year, the last abbot, Thaddäus Aigler, was relieved of his office and the monastery, with its 36 canons, was dissolved. All the efforts the abbey and monastery made to continue communal life proved to be in vain.

A new beginning

180 years after secularisation, the Canons Regular of Prémontré returned to their former monastery once more. Winiberg Abbey near Bogen in Lower Bavaria took over the parish of Roggenburg in October 1982. The aim of this initiative was to re-establish the Order of the Canons Regular of Prémontré at Roggenburg. The monastery was officially re-established in 1986 and was raised by Winiberg Abbey to the rank of a dependent priory on November 8, 1992.

Resettlement

180 years after the resurrection of the monastery, the community renovated the building and developed a utilisation concept for the monastery grounds. After extensive renovation work on the former western "Relates’ garden" courtyard, the House of Art and Culture was inaugurated and opened in 2001. One year later, in 2002, the Educational Centre for Families, the Environment and Culture moved into its new building. In the same year, the monastery hotel and restaurant and the monastery shop opened their doors.

Monastery restoration

Roggenburg Monastery was restored and renovated between 2008 and 2015. The starting point for the complete renovation was recognition of the desolate state of the entire monastery building in 2006. Damp and dry rot were affecting the walls, the baroque roof structure and all the beams. 200 years of the building being used for purposes other than that of a monastery had resulted in a great deal of damage. Additional structures had to be dismantled, plasterwork and frescoes were severely damaged. The monastery accommodation was upgraded to modern living standards.

Monastery gardens

The grounds were redesigned starting in 2015. The new design was based upon that of the original gardens, which was revealed after detailed research work. The terraced gardens on the southern side are designed according to a historical baroque template. In one area, a meditation garden was created with an ivy maze. The monastery herb garden has around 150 different medicinal plants in twelve beds. The garden is divided into six beds featuring important people in monastic medicine throughout history, and another six beds planted with medicinal herbs used in classical mainstream medicine and folk remedies.

A living monastery

Throughout the centuries, the Order of the Canons Regular of Prémontré in Roggenburg has always focused on the community and pastoral care, particularly parish work, but also other types of pastoral care as and where required. This still applies. Today’s Roggenburg Monastery continues this rich tradition of religious and spiritual life. Other activities include pastoral care in schools, emergency counselling and hospice patient support. The cultivation of church music plays a particularly important role.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1126</td>
<td>Prémontré papal confirmation of the new monastery</td>
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<tr>
<td>1144</td>
<td>Abbey</td>
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<tr>
<td>1544</td>
<td>Imperial Monastery</td>
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Map of the grounds in the refectory corridor

Monastery church, built 1752 - 1758

Deviated state of the monastery grounds in the 1970s

New-build of the educational centre and monastery hotel/restaurant

The completed Educational Centre for Families, the Environment and Culture

Complete restoration of the historic monastery building

An atmospheric autumn in the new monastery gardens

Painting of the founders in the refectory corridor

Abbot Thaddäus Aigler

History Windberg

1126

1732

1802

1982

1997

2002

2017

| 2000 | Our own windyala |
| 2001 | House of Art and Culture |
| 2002 | Educational centre |
| 2003 | Monastery hotel/restaurant and shop |
| 2007 | 950 anniversary of resettlement |
| 2013 | Inauguration of the renovated monastery |
| 2015 | Completion of all renovation work |

Completion of the herb garden

Complete renovation of the historic monastery

An extensive renovation project

The Roggenburg Canons Regular of Prémontré (2017)