



### 15 River master house

Noteworthy features of this building are the Late Gothic window from the late Middle Ages and the remains of the frames and the sgraffito facade from 1562. The high water marks on the wall attest to the many floods that constantly ravaged the town. The highest water level on record dates from 11th July 1954 and the oldest measured water level from 27th January 1682. This building was the office of the last river master and was also once the "Zum blauen Hecht" (The Blue Pike) guesthouse. Today a copper pike on the gable serves as a reminder of its former identity.



### 16 Wedl tavern and the "narrowest lane"

The owner (see also 'Schindta-Burg') of this extraordinary building renovated the former Wedl guesthouse, also carrying out a complete remodelling of the facade. From the highest point of the facade St. Nicholas greets the passing ships on the Danube.

A small, narrow lane leads between the former Wedl tavern and the Lebzelterhaus up to Marktstraße. This alleyway is only 70 cm wide in places and once served as an escape route when the waters of the Danube were rising. The residents of the houses by the Danube could save their possessions during a flood and did not have to run along the long quay with all their property.



### 17 „Gingerbread“ House

This building dates from the 16th century, making it one of the oldest in Mauthausen. Particularly noteworthy features are the broad oriel on the left side and the round oriel on the right of the house. In the centre of the facade above the first floor is a niche with a life-size statue of the Virgin Mary.

Twin towns:  
1991 - Prachatice (CZ)  
1999 - Cogollo del Cengio (I)

2002  
Flooding catastrophe in Mauthausen;  
the Aist dam in Furth bursts.

2004  
Major fire in Mauthausen  
2006 Opening of the new secondary school

2005  
Opening of the "Donasaal" event centre and the new fire station

2007  
Opening of the pharmacy museum in Pragstein Castle  
2007-2008 Reconstruction and opening of the town hall

2009  
Renovation and redevelopment of the Heindlkai quay and the start of work on flood defences



### 18 Trading House „Perger“

From around 1000 AD the first toll house built by the Babenbergs and which gave the town its name stood on this spot. The house was built in the middle of the 17th century and remodelled in 1860.

Back then it was an important merchant house with trading links that extended as far as Verona and St. Petersburg. The house was the 'number one address' in Mauthausen and is known to have accommodated crowned heads of state (Franz Joseph I and Emperor Charles VI).



### 19 District Judicial Alley

This romantic lane with its flying buttresses links the group of buildings by the Danube with the market place.

It's worth looking out for the guard stones at the southerly start of the lane. Their purpose was to prevent the entry of horse and ox carts that were too large and to protect the houses from carts' iron-clad wheels.



### 20 House „Seyer“

This building also ranks among the most beautiful in Mauthausen and has an eventful history. It dates from the 15th century and the core is Gothic. The flat central oriel above the southern entrance is from the Renaissance period while the Baroque facade with a round oriel was remodelled in 1736. Also noteworthy is the stonemason sign underneath the windowsill in the adjacent 'Bezirksgerichtsgasse'.



### 21 Trading House „Rauscher“

This house was built in 1695 by the salt master at that time, Andreas Zellinger. In 1911 the house was acquired by the Rauscher family and used as a residential and merchant house. In 2017 the house was acquired by a new owner who has had it carefully restored in an exemplary manner. The display window created by the Mauthausen local history and museum association on the ground floor provides information on the history of the old Danube market.



## Historischer Rundgang in Mauthausen

### ENGLISH

The coat of arms of Mauthausen depicts Pragstein Castle in its original form in the municipal colours of red, white and blue.

Altitude: 243.44 m  
Area: 13.89 km<sup>2</sup>  
Residents: approx. 5000

A market town since 1335, a European Municipality since 1985  
Twin towns:  
Prachatice in Bohemia (CZ)  
Cogollo del Cengio in Venice (I)

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# The market town of Mauthausen



Finds from the Neolithic Age are an indication of an early settlement.

Of crucial importance to the subsequent development of the town were two key trade routes which crossed here: the Danube Shipping Route ran from west to east along the former Roman Limes while from the south via the rivers Traun and Enns the Salt and Iron Route crossed the Danube here and continued northwards towards Bohemia and Moravia.

At the end of the 10th century the Babenbergs established a toll station (Mauthaus) from which the town later took its name. In 1208 the settlement which had developed around the toll station was mentioned as "Muthusen" for the first time.

Although the Babenberg Duke Leopold V. had exempted the Crusaders from paying tolls along the Danube during the Third Crusade, the toll station nonetheless insisted on levying the Danube tariff. As a result, Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, who was taking part in the Third Crusade, ordered that the town be burnt to the ground in 1189.

The town was swiftly rebuilt with the proceeds from flourishing trade, soon becoming affluent and acquiring a series of privileges including the bestowal of market town status, the staple right, the obligation for tradesmen to use certain paths or routes and summary jurisdiction.

As a market reeve was mentioned in historical documents from 1280, market rights must have been in force by then at the latest.

In 1490 Emperor Frederick III pledged Mauthausen market to Lasla of Prague, who commissioned the construction of Pragstein Castle on a small rock island in the Danube.

In 1502 a wooden bridge was built over the Danube for the first time.

Over the centuries Mauthausen was beset constantly by acts of war: in 1424 many houses were destroyed by the Hussites, while devastation was also wrought in the 16th and 17th centuries by the Peasants' Wars, the Thirty Years' War and the Ottoman Wars. The Napoleonic Wars at the start of the 19th century also resulted in punitive reprisals which caused a great deal of suffering for the residents of Mauthausen.

The most famous guest of Mauthausen was undoubtedly Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: as a 6-year-old child prodigy he stopped off with his family overnight in Mauthausen on 5 October 1762 while travelling by ship to the Imperial Court in Vienna.

After the salt trade came to an end at the start of the 19th century an important stone industry developed in Mauthausen underpinned by its significant granite deposits. An abundance of cobbled pavements, bridges and monuments in the major cities of the former Danube Monarchy still bear witness to this era today. At the of the 19th century as many as 1,200 stone workers were employed in granite quarrying and stone processing in Mauthausen.

The 20th century chiefly brought horror and death to the municipality: during World War One there was a prisoner of war camp in the east of the municipality of which the international soldier cemetery serves as a reminder today. Mauthausen, however, is also inextricably linked with the horrors of National Socialism: over the course of its seven-year existence (from 1938 to 1945) some 200,000 people were deported to Mauthausen concentration camp and its auxiliary camps. Approximately half of these people died as a result of the inhuman conditions or were murdered.

In 1988 Pope John Paul II visited the camp memorial site.



## 1 Heindlkai quay

This row of houses by the Danube is named for the property and quarry owner Leopold Heindl. Heindl was also a member of the provincial parliament and mayor of Mauthausen (1870-1909) and therefore one of the most influential people in the

town.

The ferry memorial stone created from Mauthausen granite in Heindlkai park serves as a reminder of the importance of the ferry, which transported people and goods across the Danube. The ferry was withdrawn from service in 1961 when a new bridge over the Danube was built.



## 2 Pragstein Castle

Lasla of Prague built his castle on a rock island in the Danube in 1492. Access to the original water castle was therefore only possible by means of a suspension bridge. The Danube arm, which separated the castle from the mainland, was

filled in the middle of the 19th century.

The flood water level markers, which attest to the terrible floods once suffered, are still visible on the north gate of the castle.

The coat of arms of Lasla of Prague, which depicts monkeys, can be seen on the south side of the castle.

Today Pragstein Castle accommodates the local history museum, Austria's only pharmacy museum and the provincial school of music. The B3 road runs between the castle and the Danube. This road was built at the beginning of the 1960s to accommodate the traffic that used to pass through the town.

It's well worth taking a look at the paved lane opposite the north gate of the castle. These paving stones were originally laid on the salt road (Salzstraße) (which today is Kirchenberg). The gap in the centre of the paving stones gave horses a foothold on their steep uphill path.



## 3 Johannes Nepomuk Fountain

The Johannes Nepomuk statue is between the elementary school and the B3.

The queen of Bohemia is said to have chosen Johannes, who became vicar-general of the diocese of Prague in 1398, to be her confessor. Her suspicious husband King Wenzel IV wanted to force Johannes to breach the seal of confession. When he refused to do so he was tortured and thrown into the Vltava in Prague.

In 1941 the statue was deemed to be a "worthless concrete casting" and demolished. It has stood on the promenade since 1954.



## 4 Elementary school

The most striking feature of the elementary school built in 1898 in the style of the Wilhelmine Era is the decorative gable with a clock.



## 5 Old post office

This historic building was constructed in 1897/98. The facade with its massive bays was designed in the late Historicism style. This building was once the post office as the sign still in place above the entrance indicates.



## 6 Town hall

This building was erected in 1901 as a savings bank building and today serves as the town hall of the market municipality of Mauthausen. The old coat of arms of the market municipality with the duke's hat and striped shield over

the Pragstein Castle is clearly visible on the left side.



## 7 Market fountain and plane trees

The octagonal market fountain on which the years 1607 and 1716 are marked is in the centre of the market place. The fountain was once a public water-drawing point for the people of Mauthausen.

Today there is a basin with drinking water on the south-facing side of the fountain. The fountain remains a popular place to take a break today.

At the end of the 19th century plane trees were planted on both sides of the fountain. These

impressive trees, with a trunk circumference of approx. 4 ½ metres and which stand approximately 25 metres tall, were declared natural monuments in 1984.



## 8 Pillory

On the eastern edge of the market place is the old pillory. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was regarded as a symbol of summary jurisdiction. Whoever was condemned to the pillory was held to account for cheating, theft, brawling or the like. Cantankerous women and gossips were also condemned to the pillory and chained to it with neck iron and foot chains, making escape virtually impossible. Markings which refer to the various offenses are visible on the four sides of the pillory.



## 9 Ossuary

This octagonal building dates from the 13th century and is dedicated to St. Barbara, the patron saint of the dying. The basement served as an ossuary. The bones from the old abandoned graves were transferred

red to the ossuary if there was insufficient space in the cemetery. Particularly noteworthy are the frescoes inside, which were painted around 1260 and rediscovered in 1907. In the semi-dome of the apse Christ is enthroned as the judge of the world. Nowadays the charnel house serves as a blessing chapel during funerals.



## 10 St. Nikolaus parish church

The original Romanesque church was destroyed in 1424 during the Hussite Wars and rebuilt in the middle of the 15th century as a Late Gothic church.

A Baroque remodelling of the interior took place in the 17th and 18th centuries. The valuable altar panels by the famous Baroque painter Johann Martin Schmidt, known as 'Kremser Schmidt' also date from this time.

The church tower, which is visible from afar, originally had a Baroque bulbous spire which was

replaced with a neo-Gothic steeple (height approximately 60 m.) in 1901.



## 11 Salt tower on the old salt road

From the middle of the 17th century the old salt road to Budweis ran along what today is Kirchenberg. The salt from the Salzkammergut region was transported on the Traun in salt ships to the Danube, temporarily stored in Mauthausen and then reloaded onto horses and carts to be transported to Bohemia.

In the middle of the Kirchenberg is the old salt tower from which traffic was directed through the narrow thoroughfare: The salt carts waiting at the foot of the mountain could proceed northwards if the white flag was flying from the tower. They had to stop, however, if the red flag was flying and allow the traffic from the other direction in Bohemia to travel through. This "traffic light" was used until the 17th century and was one of the first on Austria's roads.



## 12 Schindta „Fortress“

This building was purchased and refurbished by a dentist in 1973. "Schindta Burg" is written in large letters on the eastern side and there is also a self-portrait of the dentist. The name "Schindta Burg" (Schindta Castle, from the German verb schinden: to

mistreat, torment) was intended to humorously remind patients of the pain that they might suffer while undergoing dental treatment.



## 13 Villa Poschacher

This Neo-Baroque-style villa was built in 1903 and is still owned by the Poschacher family (it was Anton Poschacher who established the granite works in Mauthausen).



## 14 Heinrich's church

This church is thought to have been built in around 1400. The nave was demolished in 1898 due to its poor state of repair, with only the sanctuary retained.

Today a set of stairs leads down to the entrance of the Heinrichskirche since the Danube bank was raised later. Alongside the church was a cemetery in which people who had drowned in the Danube were buried.

Sailors frequently died in the river. For many years raftsmen and sailors had to be non-swimmers so that they would not abandon their goods in the event of danger. The cemetery also served as a potter's field.

End of the 10th century  
until 1000 AD  
The Babenbergs establish  
a toll station

1189 – Emperor Frederick  
Barbarossa orders that  
the town be burnt to the  
ground after payment of a  
toll is requested

1208  
The first reference to  
"Muthusen"

1335  
The first reference to the  
town as a market

1424  
The Hussites destroy  
large parts of Mauthausen

1500– Construction of  
Pragstein Castle –  
Reformation, salt trade  
flourishes (salt  
warehouses on the  
Danube)

1600  
Counter Reformation  
Thirty Years' War  
(1618–1648)

1732  
Emperor Charles VI  
attends religious service  
in the Heinrichskirche  
church

1762  
The 6-year-old Mozart  
spends the night in  
Mauthausen

1781  
Opening of the first  
quarry

1800  
Napoleonic Wars:  
Mauthausen falls into  
poverty

1900  
The peak of the granite  
trade, prisoner of war  
camp in the municipality  
(1914–1918)

1938  
Establishment of a  
concentration camp by  
the National Socialists

5 May 1945  
Liberation of the  
concentration camp

11 July 1954  
The highest water level  
on record for the town

14 January 1962  
Last crossing of the ferry

1985  
650th anniversary  
as a market town  
European Municipality

1988  
Visit by Pope John Paul II