Regensburg

The city’s Roman remains, its medieval churches, including one of Germany’s great Gothic cathedrals, rare Italian-style tower houses and narrow lanes make up a precious heritage.

The Roman legionary camp Castra Regina (named after the Danube’s confluence with the river Regen) gave Regensburg its name. The walled and gated camp, built at the direction of the 2nd century emperor Marcus Aurelius, followed the Celtic settlement Radasbona or Ratibona and a cohort castle built for Vespasian. It was clearly important then – and under the Bavarian dukes of the 6th century – but more so under the Carolingians as capi- tal of the eastern Frankish kingdom and an imperial seat in the 9th century. A bishopric was founded in 739 and contemporary graves (and older) are beneath the St Emmeram monastery church.

The established Danube trade route was crossed by a north-south route and in the 12th century the only medieval bridge over the river was built here, giving the city a pivotal role in trade and portage north of the Alps. Its network of connections included Italy, Bohemia, Byzantium and Russia. A monopoly over the regional salt trade from Passau confirmed Regensburg’s strategic position and by 1245, when it became a free imperial city under the Holy Roman emperor, it was rich, powerful and a cultural melting pot. Despite its affluence, the commercial patriarcate was forced by lack of space to build directly up – for storage rather than living areas. The result was tower houses more than 40m high.

The philosopher and theologian Albertus Magnus, a forerunner of the Classical revival, taught at the Dominican monastery of St Blasius and was for a few years bishop of Regensburg.

After this heyday Regensburg lost much of its commercial influence to Augsburg and Nuremberg. In 1519 its strong Jewish community, which had been part of its success since at least the 980s, was expelled and later the Jewish quarter around Neupfarrplatz was destroyed. Jews were not allowed to return for 150 years. The Reformation arrived in 1542, marking the city out from many in the southern German lands.

The city became seat of the imperial diet or Reichstag in 1663 and kept that title until the empire’s dissolution in 1806. The city was represented by the princes von Thurn und Taxis, from 1595 to 1867 operators of the imperial and national post, who took over the castle of St Emmeram in 1812.

Regensburg has the rare distinction of having its old town, and the medieval Danube bridge world heritage listed by UNESCO. A post-World War II policy of restoring and preserving its built environment is recognised in its listing, which includes Stadtturm across the river.

Alte Rathaus was the venue for imperial assemblies for almost 150 years.

Reuter-Platz are exposed remains of Castra Regina. Closer to the river, the street reaches Alter Kornmarkt, where the ambience is medieval. The ducal residence Herzoghof, with 10th century provenance and Romanesque windows, is joined by a buttressing arch to a Carolingian square tower. The Alte Kapelle to the south of the square preserves parts of a 9th century basilica.

Niedermünstergasse leads north to Unter den Schwibböggen and to the west the remains of a Roman tower are visible with the simple stone arch of the Porta Praetoria gate next to it.

Gothic style dominates the streets and facades of the old city centre. Some of the more colourful street names belong to inns that stood there and other names of narrow lanes and squares reveal the trading operations of the past. Past Krautererkmarkt is the old commercial quarter marked by the tower houses. On Goliathstraße is the Goliathaus with its painting of David’s great battle and (circling into Watmarkt) the tower of the Baumbergerhaus. Back through Krautermarkt to the east is Domplatz with the soaring spires of the cathedral. Residenzstraße leads south to Neupfarrplatz with the Neupfarrkirche in the centre and at the west end Wahlenstraße leads north past the Goldener Turm.

West of Kohlenmarkt is Rathausplatz with the old Rathaus complex and further west is Haidplatz, where another patronic house, Goldenes Kreuz, was an inn for the rich

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RAVEN QUICK GUIDE


Accommodation service: Rathausplatz 4 (tel 0941-5074410, email tourismus@regensburg.de, M-F 9-18, Sa 9-16, Su 9.30-16).


Lockers: Hauptbahnhof ground level (€2/2 per day).

Internet: Lok.in, Hauptbahnhof upper level (M-F 6-23, Sa 7-23); Tourist Information, Rathausplatz 4 (M-F 9-18, Sa 9-16, Su 9.30-16).

Police: tel 110; Minoritenweg 1 (tel 0941-5062122).

Sparda-Bank Ostbayern, Weichser Weg 5 (M-F 9.30-18); Dom Apotheke, Am Frauenbergl 2 (M- Sa 8-20); Dom Apotheke, Am Frauenbergl 2 (M-Sa 8-20, Su 9-18).

internet: lok.in, Hauptbahnhof upper level (M-F 6-23, Sa 7-23); Tourist Information, Rathausplatz 4 (M-F 9-18, Sa 9-16, Su 9.30-16).

Laundry: Waschsalon Regensburg, Ostengasse 3 (M-Sa 6-23); Waschsalon+ Bügelservice, Hofgartenweg 4 (M-Sa 6-23).

Pharmacy: Arcaden Apotheke, Friedenstraße 23 (M-Sa 8-20); Dom Apotheke, Am Frauenbergl 2 (M-Sa 8-20, Su 9-18).

Hospital: Krankenhaus Barmherzige Brüder, Prüfeninger Straße 86 (tel 0941-3693501).

and powerful from the late medieval period (much as its neighbour Die Arch is now). It functioned for a time as an imperial residence and the emperor Charles V is claimed to have there conceived Don Juan. Neue Waag at the square’s east end was where the city’s standard scales were set up in the 15th century. North along Weingasse lies the river front. The houses to the east on Keplerstraße, such as Blauer Hecht at No 7 (and the adjacent Kepler Haus lived in by the astronomer Johannes Kepler until his death) were other residences built by the commercially successful close to the river port. East of Fischmarkt is the clock tower of the Brückturm, marking Steinerne Brücke over the Danube.

Information
The tourist information office is in the Altes Rathaus building at Rathausplatz 4 and online at www.regensburg.de/tourismus. From November to March the office is open only to 14.30 Sundays but during the December Christmas markets stays open Saturdays until 18.00. The Besucherzentrum Welterbe office at the Salzstadel at the city end of Steinerne Brücke (M-Su 9-19) can also provide assistance.

The Domplatz 5 centre (Apr-Oct M-Sa 9-18, Su 13.30-14.30, Nov-Mar M-Sa 10-17, Su 13.30-14.30) at that address is no tourist office, being basically a Catholic pastoral and information point, but has details about diocesan churches that can be visited, some free literature including pilgrimage information and books (several in English).

The book Regensburg: A guide to the UNESCO world heritage city ($6.90) by Heidemarie Böcker is for sale at the tourist office and excellent for a deeper understanding, including walking tours. There is even more depth in Schnell & Steiner’s weightier World Heritage Regensburg ($12.90) by Eugen Tapp.

Freytag & Berndt (M-F 10-19, Sa 9.30-18) at Kohlenmarkt 1 has a strong array of maps and some guidebooks in English. Dombuchhandlung at Domplatz 7 has basic books about Regensburg in English but to dig a little deeper try Books in a Box (M-Su 9-20) on two floors at Goldene Bären Straße 12 (enter Brückstraße). A Hugendubel book is downstairs in the Regensburg Arcaden at Friedenstraße 23.

Transport
Fast trains arrive from Vienna/Wien, Passau (several times daily, about one hour) or both. Servicing Nuremberg are hourly expresses (about one hour) as well as hourly regional trains. Agilis trains to Plattling (change for Deutsche Bahn services) provide further connections to Passau. Extra Nuremberg services are available through the VGN S-Bahn network (change at Neumarkt). Agilis trains also service Ingolstadt. Reaching Amberg mostly requires a change at Schwandorf.

DB fast connections to and from Munich require a change at Ingolstadt. Regional trains run by the Alex concern also run to and from Munich (about 90 minutes). Alex trains to and from Prague/Prag (four hours, 20 minutes) run four times daily via Plzeň/Pilsen.

The DB Reisezentrum (M-F 6.10-18.45, Sa 8-18, Su 8-16.30) is on the upper level of the Hauptbahnhof but the information counter is open until 22.30 (M-Su).

Long-distance buses use stops in Bahnhofstraße west of the Hauptbahnhof. DB’s IC Bus travels Prague-Munich via Plzeň and Regensburg twice daily (W-M). FlixBus offers a similar service once daily (W-M). Berlin Linien Bus runs Berlin-Leipzig—Passau-Bad Füssing twice weekly via Hof and Regensburg, providing Deggendorf and Passau services (W & Sa) and Berlin and Leipzig links (Th & Su).

Urban transit: RVV operates bus and local train services and in and around the city. The inner two zones of the RVV network cover the city and immediate area and single journeys (tickets from machines or bus drivers only) cost €2.10 (zone 1) and €2.90 (zones 1 and 2) for adults and €1.10 and €1.50 for children aged 6-15. Tickets for the inner city only cost €1.10 (valid for one hour) for single journeys and €2.50 for a day. Most other tickets are cheaper when purchased in advance and weekday day tickets covering the two zones cost €4.30 prepaid, €6.40 from bus drivers (valid for two people after 9.00). For a day’s travel in the inner two zones for up to five people at weekends or on holidays there is a €4.10 ticket available prepaid or from bus drivers, but this incurs €1 extra per person after 1.00.

Local buses converge on the stops in Albertstraße near Maximilianstraße, nearby at Ernst-Reuter-Platz and in Bahnhofstraße and adjacent streets. The Altstadt bus A (M-F 9-20.30) links central city attractions, running from outside the Hauptbahnhof down Maximilianstraße to Alter Kommarkt and Domplatz before completing an anticlockwise...
Remains of the walls of the Castra Regina legionary camp built for Marcus Aurelius from the year 179 are exposed for inspection where they were excavated at Ernst-Reuter-Platz east of Maximilianstraße. The walls, designed to protect 6000 soldiers, were strengthened about 300 and the city grew up largely within them, though the later medieval walls were built around a larger circuit. A gate slab from one of the portals is in the Historisches Museum.

The Alte Kapelle (875) at Alter Kommarkt started as a Romanesque Carolingian basilica built by the Frankish king Ludwig ‘the German’ but the choir was built in the 15th century and chapels were added later. The rich Rococo ceiling frescoes provide a stark contrast. Local traditions suggest the church is on the site where Christianity was introduced to Bavaria, although a Roman church might also have stood here. Certainly Roman-period stone went into the construction. The frescoes are by Christoph Thomas Scheffler and the stucco by Anton Landes. Take bus A (M-F) to Domplatz or bus 1, 2A/B, 6, 11 or 13 to Dachauerplatz.

The Porta Praetoria on Unter den Schwibögen, former north gate of the Roman the legionary base Castra Regina, probably would have had a similar appearance to Trier’s Porta Nigra – but without its size. The remains today, a simple stone arch with part of a circular bastion, can be compared with a model in the Historisches Museum. In this area the line of the Roman fortifications can be recognised in later buildings. The Danube was a frontier for Rome and Castra Regina provided part of its northern shield against the tribes of Germania. Take bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

The proud Ostentor (€1300) on Ostengasse was the gate through Regensburg’s medieval wall to Passau, Austria and eastern Europe and today at five storeys is the best representative of the power of the medieval fortifications. It contained the Ostenvorstadt artisans’ quarter, characterised by smaller buildings and inns. It is probable that much of the critical salt supply, which had to be hauled upstream from Passau, came through this gate. Take buses 5 or 10 to Gabelsberger Straße. Today its counterpart the Jakobstor, at Platz der Einheit at the west end of the city, is much less imposing.

The 12th century Niedermünsterkirche in Niedermünstergasse has a much older history. The site has remains of Castra Regina and churches were built there soon after the Romans’ departure in the 5th century. Early in the 8th century Frankish bishop St Erhard was buried in the so-called Pfalzkapelle and soon after the Bavarian duke Theodeo was interred there. His 10th century successor Henry I followed and his widow Judith founded a convent for women of noble status before herself being laid to rest there. The Roman and medieval archaeology beneath can be toured (twice weekly, see Museums). Take bus A (M-F) to Domplatz or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

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RegensburgCARD
RegensburgCARD (€9 for 24 hours), available at the tourist office, covers travel by bus and local trains for zones 1 and 2 of the RVV transit network. The two-day card (€17) covers travel in zones 1-5. Family cards for two adults and up to three children under 14 cost €20 and €35 respectively. The card also brings concessions on tours (the city tour is reduced by €3), cruises and typically 10% on some museum admissions (Reichstagsmuseum, Kepler Haus, Document Neupfarrplatz) and free coffee with meals at some restaurants.

Tours
There are 90-minute Wednesday and Saturday Altstadt tours (May-Oct and during Christmas markets) in English (€8/5, families €19) by tourist train from outside the cathedral in Domplatz. Tickets are available there and at the tourist information office. An audio commentary for a self-guided tour can be hired for three hours (€8, additional hours €1.50 each) from the tourist office.

Cruises
Donauschiffahrt Wurm+Köck at Thundorfer Straße 6 east of Steinerne Brücke (Apr-Oct M-Su 10-16) runs five 45-minute sightseeing tours daily (Apr-Oct Sa-Th, €8.50). There are three daily 45-minute cruises to the wharf at Donautaustuf just below the Walhalla site (May-Sep Tu-Sa, €12.50/6.40), return trips (€13.80/6.90) allowing two or four hours at the monument. The same cruises are available twice daily for three weeks in December (Th-Su). For details and dates of occasional round trips to Passau (€36) and special cruises visit www.donauschiffahrt.de.

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The bilingual pamphlet Jewish Sites in Regensburg provides a map and notes for a short tour of Jewish sites including the former and present city cemeteries.

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Personen-Schifffahrt Klinger (www.schiffahrtklinger.de) at Thundorferstraße (Apr & Oct M-Su 10-15, May-Sep M 9.45-16, Tu-Sa 9-16) also runs Walhalla round trips twice daily (May-late Oct, €8.50 single, €12.50 return, concession and family tickets available). There are also novelty cruises.

Views
The tower of the Dreieinigkeitskirche (May-
The buildings of the Altes Rathaus at Rathausplatz were once the focus of more than city affairs. The imperial diet or Reichstag met in the upper hall of the Reichssaalbau (1360) from 1663 until 1806, trying to resolve complex issues involving the hundreds of separate states and jurisdictions that made up the Holy Roman empire. Today it is interesting to study the seating plan. The diversity is neatly represented at the portal of the adjacent corner stairwell – the local standards for length measurement including foot (here ‘Schuch’), which before the 19th century varied throughout Germany. The taped stair hall, adjacent chambers and the cells below can be toured (see Museums). Take bus A (M-F) to Altes Rathaus or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Fischmarkt.

In the tower houses known locally as Geschlechtertürme – which the wealthy families called home – the upper levels were not inhabited. They were used for storage and goods were winched up from courtyards below. Towers were also defensible. The 42m Goldener Turm or Haymohaus (c1260, nine storeys) at Wahlenstraße 14, with a Romanesque courtyard reaching through to Untere Bachgasse, and the Baumburger Turm (seven storeys) at Watmarkt 4 are the tallest. At many other houses (such as the Kastenmayer Haus at Wahlenstraße 22) storeys have been removed over time. Take bus A (M-F) to Altes Rathaus or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Fischmarkt.

Steinerne Brücke (1146) once had three towers and was for a long time the only substantial crossing of the Danube. Two spans of the 300m bridge were blown up towards the end of World War II but have been restored. The narrow portal of the 14th century Brückturm was for centuries the only access. The battered Brückennähen or Bruckmandl on the bridge parapet is a copy of the original in the city museum. The importance of the salt trade is shown by the warehouses flanking the north bank in Thundorfer Straße next to the Steinerne Brücke past the Wöhrd islands is Stadtamhof, long connected with Regensburg and long separate from it, remaining part of Bavaria when the city became independent in 1245. The uniformity of its 19th century streetscapes comes from having been destroyed four times, the last during the Napoleonic period. The period house facades are unbroken down the main street. The 17th century church of St Mang on Andreasstraße (enter at side door) has rich Rococo interior decoration. Take bus 17 to Stadtamhof.

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The Goliathaus at Goliathstraße 4 is another tower house but also has a fresco (1573) by Melchior Bocksberger, the surviving Regensburg example of the 16th century vogue for large exterior paintings on Classical or biblical themes. Begun in the 13th century for the Thundorfer family and modified, the house includes Romanesque forms among its various windows. The facade was probably on the line of the Roman wall. The painting, completed for the then owners the Tucher family, extends almost to four storeys. Take bus A (M-F) to Altes Rathaus or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Fischmarkt.

Parks & gardens
A green belt surrounds the old town on the south river bank for almost the full sweep of the medieval defences from east to west with walking paths. Notable is Herzogspark at the west end of the old town on the Danube, formerly part of the palace grounds, which has small botanic gardens including a surviving medieval tower.

Food
The Regensburger, known locally as Knacker, is a boiled variety of white pork Wurst served with a salad of red onion, mustard, oil and vinegar. The usual place to sample this speciality is Historische Wurstküche or Wurstküche (M-Su 8-19) on the Danube south bank in Thundorfer Straße next to the Salzstadel (near the bridge).

Further markets and Christmas performances take place in the courtyard of the Schloß Thurn und Taxis (12-22, entry fee applies) and there is yet more food at the Spitalgarten (W-Th 16-22, F 14-22, Sa 11-22, Su 11-20).

Meet & drink
Haus Heuport (M-Su 11-22) through the archway at Domplatz opposite the cathedral offers light courses under €10 as well as more refined fare up to €25. Brasserie Dombrowski (M-Th 11-1, F 11-2, Sa 10-2, Su 10-24) next door offers a strong pasta menu with its salads, Bavarian dishes and pizzas.

For vegetarian variety Mischbar (M-Sa 10-21, Su 12-19) through the archway at Gesandtenstraße 3 offers salads, curries and soups as well as fresh juices. Dean & David (M-Sa 9-20) with its salads, wraps and sandwiches is in the Donau-Einkaufszentrum centre at Weichser Weg 5 off Nordgaustraße north of the Nibelungenbrücke over the Danube.

Markets
There are weekly fresh produce markets at Bismarckplatz (Sa 9-18).

Events
There are four Christmas markets that run from the end of November until December 23. The traditional Christkindlmarkt (M-Su 10-20) for toys and decorations is held at Neupfarrplatz, while handcrafted goods and Christmas delicacies are available at the Lucreziamarkt (M-Su 11-20) held at Haidplatz.

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Meet & drink
Haus Heuport at Domplatz is the city’s central watering hole and Brasserie Dombrowski has a cocktail cellar (W, F & Sa 21-2).

Also in vaulted surroundings at Gesandtenstraße 3 coffee lovers can choose...
Medieval and Renaissance streetscapes dominate the Altstadt. The 16th century Amberger Stadel and the 17th century Salzstadel, above, at the Altstadt end of Steinerne Brücke were two of the chief depots for a trading city. Blaue-Lilien-Gasse, top right, is typical of the narrow lanes in the Altstadt. Still older, the Herzoghof at the east end of Domplatz shows Romanesque hints, as does the square tower RömerTurm, part of the old ducal palace complex.

The Basilika St Emmeram (M-Su 8-19.30) through the portal at Emmeramplatz behind the Thurn und Taxis palace covers an extraordinary sweep of history from Carolingian times, testified by its grave markers underfoot and Romanesque segments with a riot of Baroque interior decoration (by the Asam brothers) overhead. The Benedictine abbey’s foundations go back to the early years of the bishopric in the 8th century and their links were close. The three crypts include that of the saint, one of the earliest Frankish bishops, and the graves of two Carolingian emperors, although chapels with the older grave markers may be roped off. Take bus 8, 16 or 17 to Justizgebäude.

The Schloß Thurn und Taxis was converted in 1812 from the former St Emmeram abbey for the use of the Thurn und Taxis princes, formerly of the Italian Tasso family. Operators of the imperial mail service for almost three centuries, their influence grew and they became imperial representatives at the Reichstag as well as successful brewers. When the family postal monopoly lapsed their new palace became part-compensation. The cloisters, with Romanesque and Gothic elements, and palace (featuring a marbelled grand staircase) are visible by tour only (see Museums). Take bus 8, 16 or 17 to Justizgebäude.

The exterior of the Schottenkirche St Jakob (1195) in Jakobstraße would be of precious value alone as an unaltered 12th century basilica. But the intricate Schottenportal, now enclosed by glass to protect its features, is a rare instance of statues being incorporated into Romanesque style: beasts are depicted either side of the portal with enigmatic faces staring down. Figures are also used on the capitals of the sturdy interior pillars. The crucifixion in the arch is contemporary. Irish monks were active in Franconia early and founded this church among others. In 1515 Scottish Benedictine monks adopted it, staying for more than three centuries. Take bus 1 or 4 to Taxistraße.

Accommodation
To book accommodation including private rooms visit the tourist website (see Quick Guide). Listings of budget beds are also online at www.deutsche-pensionen.de/pension-regensburg.

Mid-sized and central is Hotel Weidenhof (tel 0941-53031, www.hotel-weidenhof.de) at Maximilianstraße 23 halfway between the Hauptbahnhof and city centre with singles/doubles including breakfast from €61/86. Parking is €6 extra. Walk 400m north from the station.

Hotel Am Peterstor (tel 0941-54545, www.hotel-am-peterstor.de) at Fröhliche-Türken-Straße 12 has singles/doubles at €40/50 and three-bed rooms at €60, with breakfast €5 extra. The hotel is about 500m from the Hauptbahnhof – walk north on Maximilianstraße and follow St-Peters-Weg around to the left.

The IBIS Regensburg City (tel 0941-78040) is at Furtmayersstraße near the east end of the Hauptbahnhof with singles starting at €55.20 plus €6 for breakfast. WLAN is available.

Hotel-Restaurant Wiendl (tel 0941-920270, www.hotelwiendl.de) at Universitätsstraße 9 has singles with shared facilities starting from €29 up to singles/doubles with full facilities at €50/65. A double with extra bed is €75. Breakfast is €5 extra but some free parking is available. Walk 400m from the Hauptbahnhof south exit along Friedenstraße.

Nearby at Gutenbergsstraße 17 is Stadt-hotel Regensburg (tel 0941-99255755, www.stadthotel-regensburg.de) with singles/doubles with breakfast at €49/64 (€75 for a third bed). Bicycles can be hired for €10 a day. Take bus 2A/B, 8 or 10 to Gutenbergstraße.

Brook Lane Hostel (tel 0941-6965521, www.hotel-regensburg.de) at Obere Bachgasse 21 offers singles/doubles with shared facilities from €40/50 and beds in dorms from five to ten beds ranging from €20 to €16. A €2.50 charge for linen is added. A communal kitchen and lounge is provided and lockers are available. There is also apartment accommodation at €50/70 for one/two persons. Take bus 2A/B or 17 to Bismarckplatz or (M-F before 20.30) bus A to Gutenbergplatz.

At Adolf-Schmetzer-Straße 33 just east of the city centre is Hotel Regensburger Hof (tel 0941-60030, www.regensburger-hof.de) with one, two, three and four-bed rooms starting at €36/73/89 including breakfast, although the range is up to €61/82/98/114. Added beds are €16. Take bus 5 or 10 to Weißenburgstraße.

In Stadtamhof is Hotel Lux (tel 0941-85724, www.hotel-lux.eu) at Stadtamhof 24 across Steinerne Brücke from the city centre. One, two or three-bed rooms (€60/85/110) are available with breakfast. Take bus 17 to Stadtamhof.

The DJH hostel is Jugendherberge Regensburg (tel 0941-4662830, email regensburg@jugendherberge.de) on the Danube island Untere Währ at Währstraße 60, with beds from €21. Take bus 3, 8 or 9 to Währstraße.
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

The Historisches Museum (Tu-Su 10-16, €5/2.50, families €10) in the former monastery at Dachauplatz 2 has the general historical collection including finds from Castra Regina and reconstructions of Roman life and a Judaica section. Take bus 1, 2A/B, 6, 11 or 13 to Dachauplatz.

In the Altes Rathaus at Rathausplatz is the Reichstagsmuseum, a tour composed of rooms from the Rathaus including the underground vaults and cells and the Reichsaal, where the assembly of the Holy Roman empire met for almost 150 years. Tours in English are daily (Apr-Oct 15.00, Nov-Dec and Mar 14.00). Occasionally the building is closed for special events, so it is best to check with the tourist office, where tickets (€7.50/4, families €15) are purchased. Take bus A (M-F) to Altes Rathaus or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Fischmarkt.

Brückturm-Museum (Apr-Oct M-Su 10-19, €2/1.50) in the tower at Weiße-Lamb-Gasse 1 documents the ancient bridge, its role in Regensburg history and the salt trade and its impact on the river. A display of a salt barge is among the exhibits. The Besucherzentrum Weltber (M-Su 10-19, entry free) has more on Regensburg’s historical significance and world heritage status and makes sense of UNESCO criteria. Take bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

At Keplerstraße 5, the house where Johannes Kepler died in 1630, is the collection of the Kepler Gedächtnishaus (Sa-Su 10.30-16, €2/1.10, families €4.40), including period interiors and instruments and a summary of his work including a model of his laws of motion, so important to Newton’s later discoveries. His Regensburg grave was destroyed by the Swedish army (he had been an astrologer to the imperial general Wallenstein) but this house is his memorial, along with a bust set up near Maximilianstraße. Take bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Fischmarkt.

There are two accessible parts to the palace at Schloß Thurn und Taxis, also known as Schloß St Emmeram. The palace chambers with the Benedictine cloister can be viewed with 90-minute German tours and English audio guide (late Mar-Oct five to seven times daily, Nov-Mar weekend or limited weekday daily tours, €9) or more limited English tours. The princely collections and stables with the carriage collection (late Mar-Oct M-F 11-17, Sa-Su 10-17, Nov-late Mar Sa-Su 10-17, €4.50/3.50) are a separate tour. Take bus 8, 16 or 17 to Justizgebäude.

At Neupfarrplatz the underground museum Document Neupfarrplatz is at the site of the former synagogue and centre of the Jewish quarter. Archaeological layers from the Roman period and Jewish cellars are visible, as well as a multimedia presentation. Admission is by tour only (Sep-Jun Th-Sa 14.30, Jul-Aug Th-Sa and Su-M 14.30, €5/2.50, families €10) with tickets available at Tabak Gotz, Neupfarrplatz 3. English tours (€65) must be booked in advance with the museum (tel 0941-5073442). Take bus A (M-F) to Neupfarrplatz or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6, 11 or 13 to Dachauplatz and walk west on Schwarze-Bären-Straße.

A 75-minute underground tour of the city’s ancient and medieval foundations is offered at Document Niedermünster (Su & M 14.30, €5/2.50, families €10). Join at the Infozentrum, Domplatz 5, for a multi-level journey into the site’s past. Group tours in English are offered only by arrangement but visitors prepared to join a tour in German can read information boards in English and have the experience of walking at Roman street levels and through remains of the medieval convent. Take bus A (M-F) to Domplatz or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

Journeys into church history are possible at two museums. The Domschatzmuseum (Apr-Oct Tu-Sa 10-17, Su 12-17, Dec-Mar F-Sa 10-16, Su 12-16, €2/1, families €4) at Krantermarkt 3 features the golden trappings of ecclesiastical power. The nearby Diözesan Museum St Ulrich has a broader collection including church art and sculpture and is expected to be reopened after renovations during 2014. Combination tickets (€3) are available. Take bus A (M-F) to Domplatz or bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

At Donau-Schiffahrts-Museum (Apr-Oct Tu-Su 10-17, €3/2) two historic river boats, largely in original condition, are moored for inspection on the Danube at Thundorfer Straße. Take bus 1, 2A/B, 4, 6 or 11 to Thundorfer Straße.

In the old storehouse Leeren Beutel at Bertoldstraße 9 is the Städtische Galerie (M-Su 10-16, €5/2.50, families €10), the principal collection of regional artists working in the 20th century. Take buses 1, 2A/B, 6, 11 or 13 to Dachauplatz.

Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie (Tu-W & F-Su 10-17, Th 10-20, €6/3, families €12) at Dr-Johann-Maier-Straße 5 has a focus on Romantic to contemporary art from central and eastern Europe with names including Käthe Kollwitz, Andy Warhol, Gerhard Richter, Oskar Kokoschka and Lovis Corinth. Take bus 6 or 11 to Ostdeutsche Galerie.