

Historic world heritage city in the four-country corner

Legend has it that in the year 612 the Irish monk Gallus stumbled over a root in the Steinach valley. He decided to stay there and built himself a hut. Followers joined him and a first church was built in what is now St.Gallen.

The spiritual center of Europe

719 - a century later the Gallus settlement was revived by Otmar. From this arose the monastery of St.Gallen, which with its imposing, double-towered cathedral became an important spiritual center of Europe. It was a haven of culture and a place of great radiance. Numerous manuscripts and documents from this period of prosperity have been preserved. They are of central importance for the study of the early Middle Ages. The St.Gallen monastery plan - the oldest preserved building plan in Europe - and the oldest German-language dictionary are among the most precious treasures. Numerous manuscripts were written in the monastery and remain there to this day. A tourist magnet is the monastery library, built in 1758, which is one of the most beautiful historical book halls in the world. The stock of the library, which is still active today, amounts to about 170,000 books. Special attractions are the 16th century globe, over two meters high, and the Egyptian mummy of the Shepenese, which has been the property of the library since 1836, together with its sarcophagi. Her lifetime is given from about 650 to 610 BC. From an architectural point of view, the library is also a true treasure trove of art: the magnificent, curved hall with its ornamented inlaid floors, wood-paneled, columned bookcases and richly stuccoed ceiling paintings is a baroque synthesis of the arts. UNESCO declared the Abbey District with the Abbey Library a World Heritage Site in 1983.

Historical exhibits from the history of the monastery

The vaulted cellar of the Abbey Library (formerly the Lapidarium) is home to the new attractive permanent exhibition about Gallus, his monastery and the 1400-year cultural history of the site. It permanently displays important originals from the monastery history, including the magnificent Evangelium longum with Tuotilo's ivory carvings (around 895), as well as the capitals from the Gozbert Minster (around 830).

Original- monastery plan from the 9th century

The famous St.Gallen monastery plan from the 9th century has been on display for the public to see in its original form since April 2019. The exhibit will be presented in the new exhibition hall. The parchment is the earliest representation of a monastery district from the Middle Ages. It was probably created between 819 and 826 in the monastery of Reichenau at Lake Constance and is in the possession of the Abbey Library of St.Gallen. In addition, there are other treasures to be discovered from the monastery archives and library, such as the oldest professed book from the Carolingian period of the monastery. It contains the vows that monks made upon entering the monastery. The title of the exhibition is: The Miracle of Over-delivery - The St.Gallen Monastery Plan and Europe in the Early Middle Ages.