

# Maria Zell

## Place of pilgrimage



At the beginning (Foundation 1157 A.D.) there was a cell, which a Benedictine from Sankt Lambrecht built for his loved statue of Madonna. The eldest building goes back to the margrave Heinrich of Mähren, the gothic choir was built in 1340, the longhouse – a tremendous hall with a nave and two aisles – from 1360 on. King Ludwig I. from Hungary gave a lot of sponsorship. Both outside and inside, this church is a perfect unification of gothic and baroque: two baroque towers beside a mighty gothic middle tower with his opulent stone decoration, the dome arches over the eastern part, the high windows and the terracotta coloured enclosures give a special character to this church. Along the

high hall side chapels have been enclosed, where the gallery go around which lead into the new treasury.



The Basilica of Mariazell (raised to that in 1908 A.D.) has two centres: the sacral of the chapel of grace and the artistically with the high Altair of Fischer von Erlach. The outshining thing in the church is the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary, a late Romanesque statue of godmother who wears the child on her right arm.



A lot of the Austrian and European history is connected to this Maria Zell – just up to the present and still into the future. The visits of the popes (1983 and 2007), processions of handicapped, pilgrimages by walking of parishes and groups of students, Hungarian pilgrims at the grave of Mindszentys and big demonstrations of denominations of both the apostolic layman and the clergy. (e.g. the procession of variety in September 1996), traditional masses of pilgrims and uncounted single pilgrims who want to ask them a favour or only want to thank god. All that makes Maria Zell to the number one for Pilgrims in Austria.

The basilica is open daily from 6 am to 8 pm. Masses, devotions and the hearing of someone's confession is then possible except between 12 and 14 o'clock



My visit in Austria is coming nearer. You know it: I love this country, which is in my heart from childhood – since the Sunday hike that we made with our mother in the begin of the 30ies over the Salzach-bridge to Ostermiething, to St. Radegund and other places on the Austrian side or the Salzach.

## What can there be seen in the countryside?

### Montanmuseum Gusswerk



Today you can find a museum of iron industries of Gusswerk in the official residence of the former k.k. Iron foundry. It will take you straight back to history and you will see a variety of exponents.

### Museumstramway

The Mariazeller station accommodates a very special attraction, the eldest steam tramway engine of the world. The trip with the original restored wagons will take you straight back to the end of the 19th century.



### Mariazeller Railway



Feel the pure romantic of railways on the 83 km long light railway of the Mariazeller Railway from the lower austrian state capital St. Pölten across the foothills of the alps to Maria Zell.

### Die Bürgeralpe

The Mariazeller Bürgeralpe is a woody mountain of the calc-alps between styria and lower austria. It is perfect for walking and hiking and you will have a beautiful view into the Mariazeller land and into the foothills of the alps.

You reach the Mountain restaurant directly from Mariazell by a cable cab. On the top, in the high of 1267 m you find beside the peak cross the Edelweissshütte and the "Erzherzog-Johann-Warte" which was built in 1908 A.D. by the famous lord of the land.

