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RömerMuseum / Bavarian Limes Information Centre

Martin-Luther-Platz 3
T: +49 (0) 9141 907 189

Opening season: March 15th to November 15th
daily from 10.00 – 17.00

November 16th to December 30th
daily from 10.00 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 17.00

Entry: **Bavarian Limes Information Centre** – free of charge
RömerMuseum – Adults €4 Concessions €2,50
– Family ticket €8

Concessions apply to school and university students, trainees, disabled or unemployed visitors, national voluntary service volunteers and registered volunteer cardholders groups of 15 or more.

Roman Baths

Am Römerbad 17a
T: +49 (0) 9141 907 127

Opening season: March 15th to November 15th
daily from 10.00 – 17.00

Entry: – Adults 4€ Concessions 2,50€
– Family ticket 8€

Entry is free for children under the age of 6, students at Weissenburg schools, persons accompanying groups, prearranged school parties and disabled persons.



The Roman Baths

Discovered in 1977 and open to the public since 1983, the Roman Baths are a civilian bathhouse built by the military. The complex history of their construction can be divided into three main phases. The first building was erected around 100 AD; the baths then underwent a series of alterations and extensions until their destruction in the Marcomannic Wars (around 174 / 175), after which the bathhouse was completely rebuilt, only to be finally abandoned after the Alemannic incursions of the mid 3rd Century.

The bathhouses of the ancient world can be considered as communal meeting places at which pleasure was mixed with purpose, where relaxation, sports and games combined with creature comforts, such as eating and drinking. Undoubtedly, these were also ideal places to exchange news, opinions, gossip and rumour.



The Vicus (the Civilian Settlement)

It is no longer possible to reconstruct a detailed plan of the vicus of Biriciana, since a large part of it has been lost beneath new developments. Only to the south east of the Roman Baths, on the site of the present coach park, has it been possible to investigate the vicus in detail. During a two-stage excavation in 1987/88 evidence of a crowded settlement was found. Two large stone buildings, which possibly played an important role, were found to have been built on the site of four adjacent timber-frame long houses (approx. 50 x 11.5 m) which had probably been destroyed by fire. The outline drawn on the parking area is that of the northern building which was excavated in full. Somewhat further to the south east, another stone building was also exposed (the cellar of which has been reconstructed). Five deep wells that have been excavated (two reconstructed) are also likely to be associated with the stone buildings. The finds indicate that the site was most probably occupied by ironworkers.

Present knowledge leads us to suspect that a settlement comprising several thousand inhabitants once ringed the Fort. To the east, the vicus may have extended as far as the modern railway line, with a building identified as a mansio marking its western limit. To the south the settlement probably extended well beyond the present-day Gunzenhausener Strasse. Evidence of pottery production argues in favour of a more extensive industrial area (east of the railway station), probably including a brick and tile works.



Roman Weißenburg



Roman Weißenburg

The Roman place name *Biriciana* was recorded in the *Tabula Peutingeriana* (a medieval copy of a post-classical road map). It's location remained uncertain until the early 19th century, when in 1818 the historian Andreas Buchner became the first to point to Weissenburg, which view soon became accepted by others. It was, however, not until 1884 that Friedrich Ohlenschläger discovered the correct location of the garrison, which was confirmed in 1890 during excavations directed by Wilhelm Kohl. As section superintendent of the Reichs-Limeskommission (RLK) Kohl continued to investigate the site for the rest of his career.

In addition to sections of the fort, the large and small baths and parts of the civilian settlement (*vicus*) have also been excavated and studied over more than 100 years of research. This has shown that the baths and the fort were constructed in several phases during which a prosperous Civilian Settlement with several thousand inhabitants was established.



Bavarian Limes Information Centre

In 2005, the Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes – known in Bavaria as the »Devil's Wall« – was recognized by UNESCO as part of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. The Bavarian Limes Information Centre was established in 2006 as our principal information and communication centre, and is situated on the ground floor of the RömerMuseum in Weissenburg. It has since become popular with visitors as the ideal starting point for tours of the Roman monuments along the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The centre explains the history and importance of the 550 km long border separating the Roman Empire from Germania. The main emphasis is on the Upper German and Raetian Limes between the Main and the Danube, with reference also to its sister World Heritage Sites, Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall. Visitors can also learn about the principles of archaeology, the background to the study of the Limes and the other sections of the Imperial Roman frontier.



The RömerMuseum

Following the acquisition of the Weissenburg Roman treasure by the Archäologische Staatssammlung München in 1980, the RömerMuseum was created and opened in 1983. Since then the treasure, which was discovered in 1979 by a gardener laying out an asparagus bed, has formed the centrepiece of the display. The find comprises 114 objects, including 17 statues of gods which are of unique quality and condition, as well as votive tablets, sacred vessels, household goods, pieces of parade armour, finely worked metal fittings and various figurines. The treasure is likely to have been hidden during the incursions by the Alemanni in the mid-3rd c. AD.

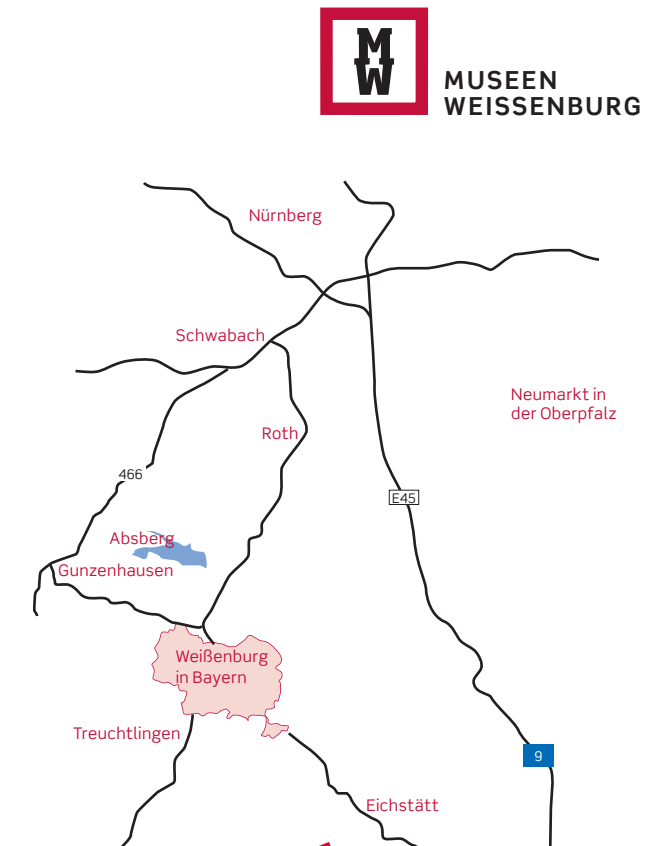
In addition to the treasure, the RömerMuseum also has a range of exhibits reflecting both military and civilian life along the Roman frontier. The display depicting the land beyond the Limes shows visitors life outside the Roman Empire at the time of the Roman occupation of Raetia. The Museum displays Germanic and Roman finds side by side in order to provide a direct comparison between the different cultures.



Biriciana Fort

The earliest fort at Biriciana covered roughly 2.8 ha and consisted of a wooden palisade and earthen embankment, which dates from around 90 AD, when the Roman Empire was defining its borders. The task of the garrison at this strategically important site was to secure the newly conquered territory north of the Danube. In the mid-2nd Century, the wood and turf fort was replaced by an almost square stone fortress covering 3.1 ha. The Fort and the *vicus* (civilian settlement) were then destroyed in 253/254 during the Alemannic incursions. With only a brief interruption, the *Ala I Hispanorum Auriana* was stationed here throughout the period the fort was garrisoned. There are also indications that the *cohors IX Batavorum equita millaria exploratorum* was present for a short time.

The North Gate (*porta decumana*), which was reconstructed in 1989/90 in the Archaeological Park established at the same time, has come to symbolize »Roman« Weissenburg, and represents a significant phase of research history.



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