



# Salem Monastery and Palace

ONE OF THE MOST MAJESTIC IMPERIAL  
MONASTERIES IN SOUTHERN GERMANY



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.



**Baden-Württemberg**  
State Palaces and  
Gardens



The powerful abbots of the imperial monastery had a fitting residence built for them in the 18th century

## The oldest Cistercian monastery in the Lake Constance region

From powerful imperial monastery to the residence of the Margrave of Baden to a boarding school, Salem has had a checkered, eclectic, and glorious past. Salem Monastery and Palace still wows visitors with its picturesque location, impressive size, and exceptional beauty. Surrounded by an idyllic cultural landscape, the collection of Gothic church, Baroque monastery complex, and various outbuildings, including the wine cellar, help visitors to delve into the lives of the Cistercians. The prelatore, where the abbot resided, and valuable exhibits, including the eminent *winged altar by Bernhard Strigel* featuring paintings and sculptures by sculptor and stuccoist Joseph Anton Feuchtmayer (some of the first examples to depict night), bear witness to the abbey's wealth and appreciation of art. The prized exhibits are displayed in the Monastery Museum, a branch museum of the Baden State Museum.

Alongside the masterpieces, the *Fire Brigade Museum* is a very special attraction within the monastery complex. Following a devastating fire in 1697, the monks researched fire prevention and fire-fighting equipment in great depth. The exhibition features one of the most significant collections of historic fire pumps in Germany and provides information on the history of fire prevention from the Middle Ages to today. The collection includes two rarities: large fire pumps purchased by the monks post-1700. Their openness toward the technical advances of the time, and in which they were ahead of their time, still shine through to this day.

A museum café, tours for people of all ages, themed days, a courtyard garden with labyrinths and a playground add to the family-friendly atmosphere and transform a day in Salem into an unforgettable experience.

**Salem, the former Cistercian monastery (Kloster und Schloss Salem), is among the most important and beautiful cultural monuments in the Lake Constance region. Gothic elegance, Baroque splendor, playful Rococo, and noble Classicism come together in a unique ensemble.**

Picturesquely situated in Linzgau, the Cistercian monastery, established around 1134, created an extraordinary cultivated landscape with orchards, vineyards, forests and fish ponds. The monks gave Salemswilare, the site where their monastery was founded, the spiritual name Salem in reference to the biblical Salem as a place of peace and the heavenly Jerusalem.

The birth of Christ on the Strigel altar in the monastery museum, set apart by the fact that its scene is set at night (left)  
The abbot's parlor in the prelatore (right)



The Gothic cathedral is adorned with shimmering alabaster dating back to the 18th century

### Gothic elegance and Baroque grandeur

Salem prospered during the Middle Ages. The imposing Gothic monastery is a visible symbol of the time. From the outside, its architecture is austere and simple, as dictated by the rules governing the Order of Cistercians. A devastating fire in 1697 almost completely destroyed the medieval monastery and convent buildings, but the Cistercians turned this catastrophe into an opportunity: They quickly rebuilt the monastery buildings in the grand Baroque style. The need for representation and the self-conception of the imperial monastery in Salem are reflected in the splendidly rooms decorated with stucco and paintings.

# Visitor information

## A lively ensemble: monastery, palace, school, winery!

As imperial prelates, the abbots once again developed Salem into a center for art in the 18th century. Renowned painters, sculptors, and stuccoists descended upon Salem to decorate the monastery buildings.

The abbots' unique artistic sensibilities are apparent as visitors enter the cathedral. One of a kind in southern Germany, the alabaster embellishments dating back to the late 18th century borrow from French Classicism. The Margrave of Baden came into possession of the abbey in 1802, during secularization. Prince Max of Baden and Kurt Hahn founded the world-renowned boarding school *Schule Schloss Salem* in 1920.

Within the expansive ensemble that is Salem Monastery and Palace, visitors can still find the residence of the margrave's family as well as the Weingut Margrave von Baden winery. To this day, wine culture is maintained in the monastic tradition in Salem. Visitors can enjoy a good meal at the palace in the traditional Gasthof Schwanen hotel, the wine cellar or the museum café. The monastery complex is also home to craftsmen and a range of shops.

Marvel at rarities, such as the historical fire pump in the Fire Brigade Museum



## Opening hours and guided tours

### Monastery and Palace

Open on a seasonal basis;  
The interior of the prelatore and the cloister (Bernhardusgang) can only be visited by taking a guided tour; the rest of the ensemble can be visited without a guided tour; winter in Salem Monastery and Palace: Guided tour "Through the centuries"

### Monastery Museum

Open all year round;  
Visits possible without a guided tour

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

## Current information



### At a glance

For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see:  
[www.salem.de/en/visitor-information](http://www.salem.de/en/visitor-information)

## Contact and information

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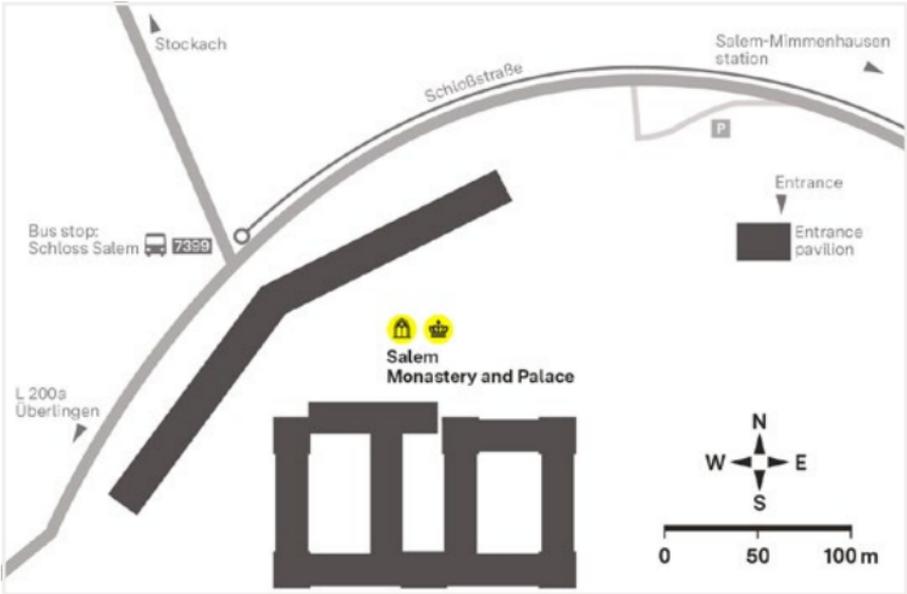
## Make your visit a truly special one



Simply download the free “Monument BW” app. Select a monument in the app. Tap on “Tours” to download the tour of your choice.



## How to find us



By public transport: During the main season there is a regular Adventure Bus service which links Salem Monastery and Palace to Salem railway station (district of Mimmenhausen) and Unteruhldingen harbor.

Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

## Information about all our monuments

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