

Nuernberg History



The city of Nuernberg, Germany is located in "Mittel Franken", Middle Franconia, the region from which many of Frankenmuth's early settlers originated. The St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth is named after St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Nuernberg. This is an impressive two-spired stone church located in the "Alstadt", old city of Nuernberg. Lorenz was a deacon of the early church who refused to turn treasures over to the emperor. Instead he passed them out to the poor. He died a martyr's death in 258 AD. There are a number of churches that are named after this saint.

Nuernberg, the commercial capital of Bavaria, was once the greatest and wealthiest of all the free imperial cities of Germany. It is located on the Pegnitz River, 93 miles northwest of Munich. The "Altstadt" is partially surrounded by an ancient wall flanked with towers and pierced with 10 gates; the encompassed area is enclosed by a dry ditch 100 feet wide and 50 feet deep. The Pegnitz, stretching from east to west, divides the city into two nearly equal parts, the Sebalderseite and the Lorenzerseite. The most prominent feature in each side is a church, St. Sebald and St. Lorenz. There are numerous bridges connecting the two parts.

Although many modern improvements have been made, Nuernberg remains a quaint and interesting city with many medieval features. The royal palace (Kaiserschloss), built between 1024 and 1158 by Conrad II and Frederick Barbarossa, commands a glorious view of the surroundings, and is rich in paintings and wood carvings. The town hall (Rathaus) is an Italian three-story building. The walls are decorated with oil paintings, many of them by Albrecht Duerer. The Germanic National Museum was founded in 1852 within the 14th century Gothic Carthusian Monastery.

The museum contains an extensive display of arts and industries from the Middle Ages. The most remarkable edifice is St. Sebald's Church. It is a Gothic structure of great elegance, both outside and inside, parts of which date back to the 10th century. It contains the shrine of St. Sebald, a tomb of bronze by Peter Vischer, who with his five sons, labored at it for 13 years. It is adorned with nearly 100 figures, which include statues of the apostles conspicuous for their size and beauty. The church of St. Lorenz also stands out as a remarkable edifice. It contains a monument by Adam Kraft, 64 feet in height, and exquisitely sculptured in white stone. There are several public fountains; the main one is the "Schoene Brunnen". It is a graceful 63 foot high Gothic cross, adorned with figures. Statues of Duerer, Hans Sachs, Melanchthon, and others are found throughout the city.

Before discovery of the passage to the East Indies by way of the Cape of Good Hope, Nuernberg was the market for the products coming from the East. These products were then distributed throughout Europe. In 1219, it was designated a free city but suffered greatly during the great European wars. In 1806, Nuernberg was formally annexed by Bavaria. Many distinguished individuals were born in Nuernberg, among them the poet Hans Sachs, the painter Albert Duerer, and sculptors, Peter Vischer and Adam Kraft. After Adolph Hitler became head of the German government in 1932, Nuernberg became a national shrine of the Nazis, who held numerous rallies in the city. At the end of World War II, the Allies selected Nuernberg as the site of trials for all surviving Nazi leaders.

Annual events held in Nuernberg include the International Toy Fair in February, castle serenades at the Kaiserburg during the summer, Hans Sachs plays during the summer, and the "Christkindelsmarkt" (Christmas Fair) in December.



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