

Kempten<sup>Allgäu</sup>

ENGLISH

# Discover Kempten

A Walk Through its  
History and Culture

## **i** Tourist Information, Rathausplatz 24

### **1** Burghalde

One of the oldest residential parts of the town, once surrounded by the River Iller; late Roman fort, in medieval times residence of the monastery prefects, incorporated into city walls 1488, tower from this period, razed 1705, open-air theatre since 1950.

### **2** Bäckerstrasse

Group of buildings from 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries; leading into romantic Ankergässle lane with Ankertörle, only surviving town gate.

### **3** St. Mang-Platz: Gothic St. Mang Church,

built 1426 - 1428 on Romanesque foundations. 216-foot tower, Romanesque to level of clock. **Art Nouveau fountain**, 1905.

**Mühlberg**, medieval buildings; No. 12: Kempten's oldest stone house (1289), until 1501 "Seelhaus zum Steg" (Church at the Steps); Nos. 10 and 8: built 1354 and 1356, half-timbering added 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

**Rotes Haus**, two joined late medieval buildings, common facade 1730, beautiful wrought-iron grille at entrance.

### **4** Rathausplatz: Former market street of Imperial city, imposing patricians' residences, rebuilt 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> cent. on late medieval foundations.

**No. 2, Londoner Hof**, loveliest Rococo facade in Old Town, 1764.

**No. 3, Altes Zollamt**, interior with Gothic frescoes, today City Archive.

**No. 5, Neubronner Haus**, late Baroque facade 1796, today City Archive.

**No. 10, Ponickauhaus**, patrician's residence built from 2 older houses, facade 1740, with Baroque staircase and ceremonial hall.

**Rathaus**, built as half-timbered granary and council hall 1368, rebuilt in stone 1474, most recent renovation 1987.

**Rathausbrunnen**, fountain column from 1601 (replica 1993).

Detour to **Vogtstraße** and **Sigmund-Ullmann-Platz** with **Müßiggengelzunfthaus**,

Renaissance facade and richly ornamented entrance, around 1600.

**5** **Kronenstraße:** König'sche Häuser Nos. 29 and 31, built 18<sup>th</sup> cent. on older foundations, unique Baroque facade, murals mid-18<sup>th</sup> cent. and 1771, restored 20<sup>th</sup> cent.

**6** **Residenz:** Former Residence of Prince-Abbots of Kempten, Benedictine monastery 8<sup>th</sup> cent. to 1803, Baroque double courtyard by Michael Beer and Johann Serro 1651 - 1674, stucco **Fürstensaal** and well-preserved **ceremonial apartments** with magnificent rococo interiors (unique in Southern Germany).

**7** **Orangerie:** Built 1780 as northern boundary of the **Hofgarten** in its original three-terrace design; today City Library.

**8** **Marstall (Stables):** Built 1730, with **Alpine Museum** - "Man and the Mountains - From Prehistory to Present" and **Alpine Gallery** - late Gothic religious art from Allgäu, Upper Swabia, Tyrol and Vorarlberg. Both branches of Bavarian National Museum.

**9** **Basilica of St. Lorenz:** First major church in Southern Germany after Thirty Years' War, parish and monastery church (started 1652), designed by M. Beer and J. Serro, magnificent double towers (spires 1900), mighty dome over choir, imposing interior incl. carved choir stalls with rare Scagliola panels.

**10** **Kornhaus:** Around 1700, Baroque facade, three-storied curved gables, today ceremonial hall and site of **Allgäu Museum** with ornamented vaults.

**11** **Residential and artisans' quarter of former monastery city**, with quaint lanes, half-timbered buildings, inns and farmhouses. **Seelenkapelle** - cemetery chapel of monastery city till 1804. **Fürstenschule** - built 1750 as institution, later a wine merchant's, district court, children's nursery, school from 1838. Curved gables.

**12** **Hildegardplatz:** Southern boundary of Baroque square around St. Lorenz Basilica. **Landhaus** from 1732 with stuccoed hall. Note the fine continuity from Residenzplatz, Hildegardplatz, Stiftsplatz through to Kornhausplatz, set in a typically Baroque stepped line.

**13** **Zumsteinhaus:** Finest classical style town house of the city; built 1802, with Roman Museum and Natural History/Geological Museum. Adjacent gate with rare perspective-effect grille, from 1830.

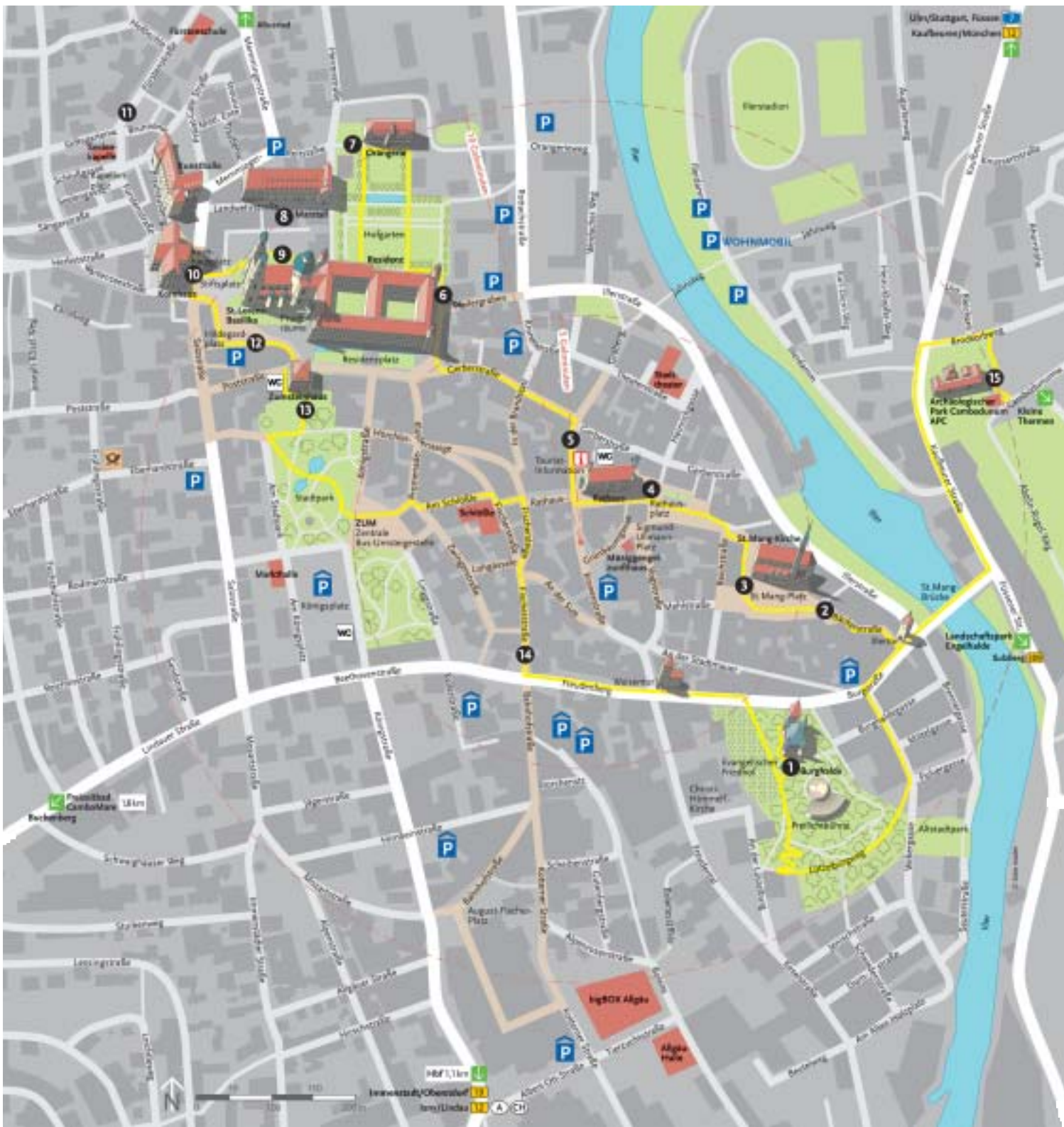
**14** **Fischerstraße:** Today a pedestrian zone, some protected merchants' residences from 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> cent.; **Schlössle:** built 1593, elegant residence and business premises. **Freitreppe** (steps) constructed 1903/1904, view of Rathausstraße and Rathausplatz. Note also the beautiful facades of No. 5 Rathausstraße (oriel window) and No. 8 Fischersteige (neo-rococo). From foot of steps view of half-timbered gables in **Fischersteige**.

**15** **Archaeological Park Cambodunum - APC:**  
First Phase: "Gallo-Roman Temple Precincts" of Roman city of Cambodunum, partially reconstructed on original foundations.  
Second Phase: "Small Thermae" of city governor's palace, original ruins under cover. Third Phase: Parts of the Forum and Market Basilica, marked and signposted in park area with free access all year round. Magnificent view of the city from APC.

 **Central shopping area**

 **Historical walking tour**







City Park



Rathausplatz

**Kempten, metropolis in the Allgäu** with a population of 68,000 and a catchment area of over half a million people, is the city of new encounters.

**The city on the River Iller** is a versatile destination - for a day excursion or city holiday, or "just to live". Bustling, yet intimate and cosy, Kempten is a harmonious fusion of business, industry, education, culture, art and hospitality, and it knows the value of leisure and recreation. The city's "green lungs" and nearby recreation areas of Engelhaldepark and Schwabensberger Weiher tempt visitors to stay a while.

**Be yourself** - whatever you do, wherever you go. In summer, meet for a chat in a traditional beer garden or street café. The city has a lot to discover - from trendy bars and fascinating pubs to elegant restaurants. What'll it be - international cuisine, or regional specialities - perhaps the famous Allgäu "Kässpatzen" (cheese noodles)? Whatever you decide, the evening will be a special one. And in the balmy summer evenings, the street cafés on Rathausplatz are crammed with guests and locals enjoying the city's Mediterranean flair.

## **A great place to live - for all ages.**

Allgäu people are adept at combining brisk industriousness with an easy-going savoir-vivre. That's what makes a stay in Kempten so delightful, in this ancient yet youthful city with its air of carefree optimism.



Hildegardplatz Market

**Wallowing blissfully in warm, bubbling water**, racing the kids down the lengths or whooping down the water slide. CamboMare is the perfect holiday thrill for all the family. Its water fun is rounded off by spacious sauna facilities with eleven different saunas, set in delightful grounds.

CamboMare Water Experience





Basilica of St. Lorenz



Church of St. Mang



Residence of Prince-Abbots

**KAMBODUNON (GREEK) -  
CAMBODUNUM (LATIN) - KEMPTEN.  
CELTIC IN ORIGIN,  
MEANING: FORTRESS OR SETTLEMENT  
AT THE BEND OF THE RIVER**

The former Celtic and Roman town can look back on 2000 years of history. Mentioned by the Greek geographer Strabonus, it is the oldest recorded German city. Kempten was divided for nearly 600 years; the hostile rivalry between the Free Imperial City, governed by the citizens, and the principality of the abbey, under the rule of the Prince-Abbot, ended only in 1818 by order of the King of Bavaria.

**around 18/23 A.D.** Cambodunum first mentioned by the Greek geographer Strabonus. Cambodunum is among the major Roman settlements in the province of Rhaetia, at times probably even its capital.

**3<sup>rd</sup>. cent. A.D.** Settlement, now known as Cambidano, moves from the Lindenberg plateau to the foot of Burghalde hill in the Iller valley.

**around 740** First mission cell and church erected by Monks Magnus and Theodor of St. Gallen.

**around 752** Audogar appointed first Abbot of Kempten Benedictine monastery, with great support from the Carolingian rulers.

**from 12<sup>th</sup> cent.** Title of Imperial Prince conferred on the Abbots of Kempten.

**1289** Privilege conferred on city by Rudolf of Habsburg, marking the start of its development as Imperial city.

**1379** Burghalde purchased by Prince Abbot.

**1525** "Great Purchase": the Imperial city takes over the last territorial rights of the monastery; Kempten now truly a "free Imperial city".

**1527** Imperial city joins Reformation.

**1632/33** Monastery and Imperial City engage in mutual destruction, backed by Imperial and Swedish forces.

**1651/62** Reconstruction of Residence and St. Lorenz Basilica begins; the latter the first major church built in Southern Germany after Thirty Years' War.

**1728** City privilege conferred on Prince-Abbot Rupert of Bodman for the monastery settlement; now two cities named "Kempten" exist side by side.

**1738** The Monastery of Kempten is the first German city to open a land and mortgage register for farmers' landholdings.

**1802/03** Imperial City and Monastery become part of Bavaria. Imperial city and monastery city are united (1818).

**1898** World's first industrial diesel engine put into operation in Kempten's match factory.

**1949** First Allgäuer Festwoche festival held.

**1972** City expands considerably with the absorption of the outlying districts of Sankt Mang and Sankt Lorenz.

**since 1978** Kempten becomes a university city with foundation of Technical University.

**1987-2003** All three phases of Archaeological Park Cambodunum - APC completed.

**1999** Newly designed Allgäu Museum opens in Kornhaus.

**2003** CamboMare Water Experience opens.

The elegant rococo state apartments in the **Residence** were used by the Prince-Abbot on ceremonial occasions. The impressive apartments include the waiting-room and audience chamber, day salon and bedrooms, all in late Regency style, and the exquisite rococo Throne Room.



Throne Room in the Residence



Allgäu Museum in Kornhaus



Alpine Museum in Marstall

Visit **Archaeological Park Cambodunum (APC)** and experience the living past of the Roman city of Cambodunum. It was here, 2000 years ago, that the people worshipped their gods. The excavations relate the story of daily life: the "**Gallo-Roman Temple Precincts**" with temple buildings and altars, the "**Small Thermae**" under a protective canopy and the **foundations of the Roman city's forum** - a kind of town hall, church and market square in one, surrounded by public buildings. The most impressive of these was the basilica, which was as large as the present St. Lorenz Basilica. As well as the "Small Thermae", the baths of the Roman governor, there was a much larger public bath, the "Large Thermae" with swimming pool, sauna and sports area. Prosperous citizens, merchants and restaurateurs lived in the central areas; to the south and north of the city were two considerably poorer outlying areas where artisans lived.

The stone city of Cambodunum has gradually come to light in years of excavations; the Roman city is brought to life in two accompanying exhibitions in the APC.

Gallo-Roman Temple Precincts in APC



**Mountain climbing with a difference** - in Kempten's **Alpine Museum**, the largest museum of Alpine history in Europe. It documents the development of the Alpine region and the toilsome lives of its settlers. Displays present flora and fauna of the region and trace the history of Alpine mountaineering - from Edward Whymper to Reinhold Messner. Skis, snowshoes and sports sledges and toboggans bring the history of winter sports to life.

**The Alpenländische Galerie** in the Marstall (Royal Stables) houses a remarkable collection of exquisite late medieval pictures, votive art and winged altars from the Alpine region.



Concert in bigBOX Allgäu

Some great events foreshadow their coming: August is the time of the **Allgäuer Festwoche** festival, the highlight of the region's economic year. The event includes an extensive trade fair with over 400 exhibitors and a comprehensive programme of culture, sports and entertainment.



Allgäuer Festwoche



Jazz Spring

**There's always something going on in Kempten; the Allgäu people really know how to celebrate!**

And there are certainly plenty of occasions for celebration all year round; city and street festivals, concerts, theatrical events and performances in the Burghalde open-air theatre.

**The Jazz Spring**, one of Germany's largest festivals featuring international artists, is a must for all jazz fans, with an annual week of top-class jazz at the start of May.

The Archaeological Park Cambodunum is the site of a fascinating programme of quality culture. From June to September, the "**APC Summer**" offers a wide range of evening events in a unique atmosphere of historical flair, with readings, theatre, music from classical to jazz, and much more.

**bigBOX Allgäu** is Kempten's unique multifunctional venue, featuring state-of-the-art technology and seating up to 9,000. The location for top events of all kinds.

**Shopping** is so much fun in Kempten. From Hildegardplatz and Residenzplatz at the northern city centre to Forum Allgäu in the south, Kempten's spacious shopping streets provide everything to make a shopper's heart beat faster.

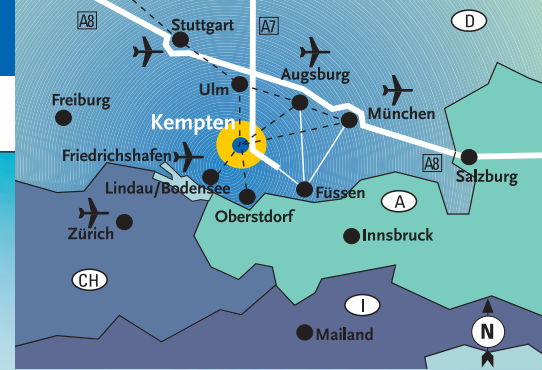
**Kempten's Christmas market** is the largest in the Allgäu and one of the loveliest in Bavaria, and will enchant young and old with its traditional Christmas atmosphere.



Christmas Market

# Heart of the Allgäu

**Kempton lies in Southern Germany**, at the heart of Europe, and is the business centre of Southern Swabia. The city is surrounded by mountains, lakes and forests, and the immediate area offers a host of opportunities for hiking, swimming, sailing, golfing, climbing, cycling and skiing. Lake Constance and the Allgäu Alps, or the popular Royal castles including world-famous Neuschwanstein, are all within easy reach.



**Kempton is the region's traffic hub.** IC and EC trains stop in Kempton, and the city has direct motorway access to the A7.

**Kempton is a vibrant and many-faceted city** with a well-balanced economic structure, the location of choice for well-known companies in the industrial, commercial and service sectors. And it naturally houses a modern Dairy Farming Centre with the "Southern German Butter and Cheese Exchange".

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