





## GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF THE TOWN

Our walking tour begins at the *Rathaus* (1) on the square *Pettenkoferplatz*: the town hall with its mighty hipped roof was built in 1693 by the wine merchant Georg Pettenkofer as business premises (note his family's coat of arms over the entrance gate) and has been the town hall since 1795. In front of it there is the guild fountain *Zunftbrunnen* with its symbolic figures: the bishop remembers that the town has been ruled by the prince-bishops of Eichstätt for almost 900 years, the pike refers to the legend of the „Berching's pike“, the smith symbolizes the craft and the tow horses remind of Berching's position along the old Canal *Ludwigskanal*. Cross the square, pass under a pointed arch and reach the *Ringmauerweg* (2). The fully preserved walkway of the wall is partially accessible by the stairs near the towers *Bettelvogtturm* (Beggars' Administrator Tower, previously town prison), *Dachsenturm* (3, Badgers' Tower) and *Pulverturm*, also called *Storchenturm* (4, Gunpowder's Tower or Stork's Tower, previously a warehouse for ammunitions). During the Summer the latter houses the gallery of the local art club *Kunstgilde* (free admission). Then you'll see the *Chinesenturm* (5), called „Chinese Tower“ because of its pagoda-shaped roof, and the *Zechhäusel* (6), built in the wall. On the north-western corner of the town wall stands the *Frauenturm* (7, Women's Tower): it is said that here „nasty and quarrelsome women“ have been punished by pillory.



Walking southwards you'll reach the *Biersiederturm* (8, Brewer's Tower). Now turn left in the *Probstgasse*: on your left there is the *Fürstbischöflicher Zehentstadel* (9), the barn with an impressive stepped gable built in 1464, where prince-bishops stored the corn collected as tithe. Tithes consisted on the tenth part of natural goods regularly paid from farmers both to princes and local parishes.

Walking further south you'll reach the *Reichenauplatz*, the square named after the prince-bishop Wilhelm von Reichenau, who built the town wall. On your right there is the building called *Propsthaus* (10), once seat of the prince-bishop's administrator. Right in front of you you'll see the

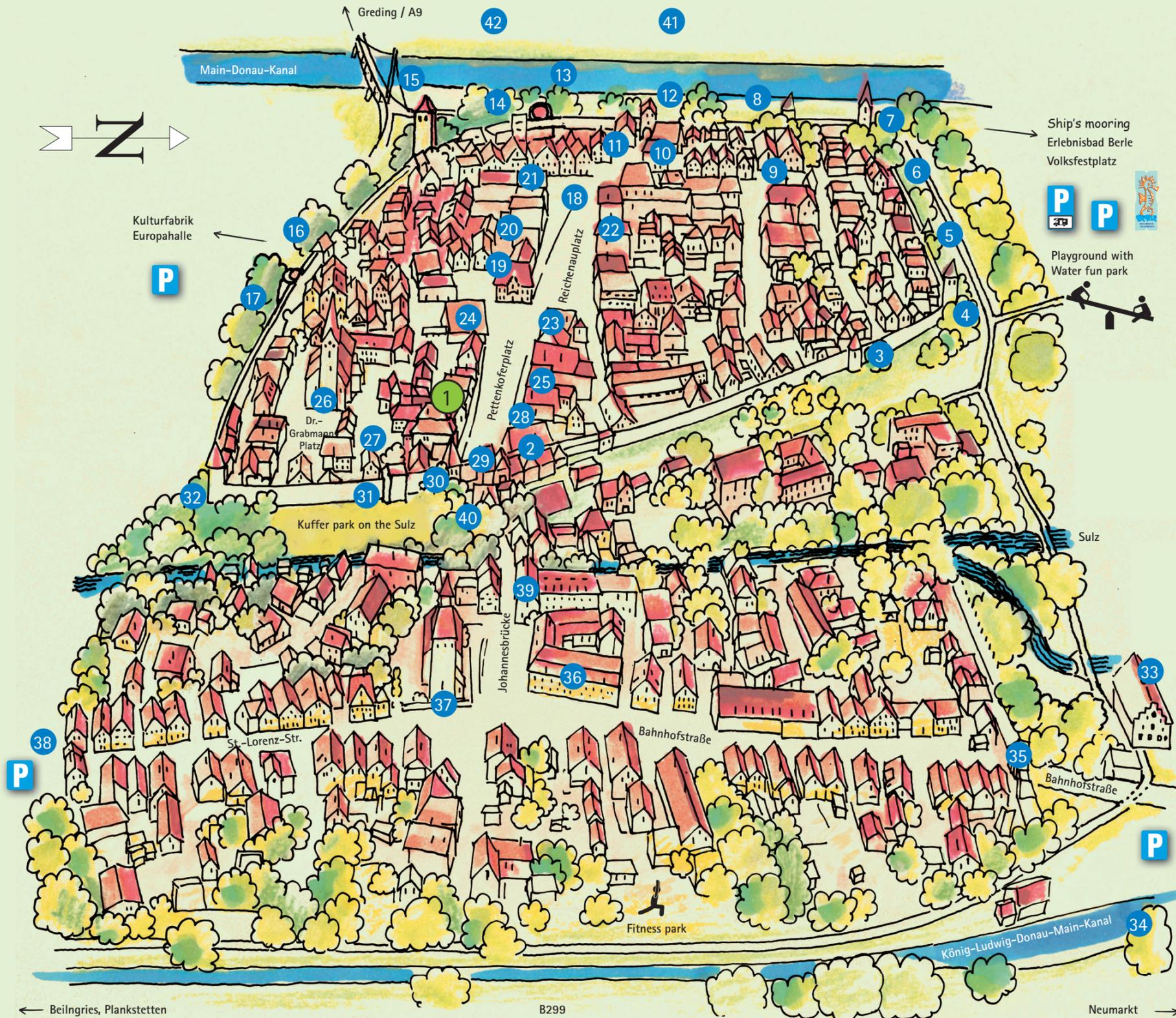
streamlet that crosses the town west to east: in the past its spring water coming from the Haarberg was not drinkable and was used for the mill *Tormühle* (11).

At the western edge of the *Reichenauplatz* is the *Gredinger Tor* (12): this gate was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, while its door dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1819 the 7 members of the family that lived here perished in the fire caused by a lightning strike. The tower was then rebuilt, but not so high as it originally was in order to prevent similar tragedies to happen again. The *Main-Donau-Kanal* (13, Main-Danube Canal) of 171 km length flows just outside the gate – it was opened in 1992. Walking northwards along the Canal side you'll reach the ship's mooring and the Berching's adventure pool centre *Erlebnisbad BERLE*. Walking southwards you'll see the new symbol of the town: the one-pier suspension footbridge, which lies 2 km before Berching's locks. The 800-year-old Benedictine abbey of Plankstetten lies further south (4 km).

Follow the Canal side southwards and turn left before the footbridge. From here you'll have a beautiful sight of the *Schmidweberturm* (14), a round tower once provided with catapults. The tower called *Amtsknechtsturm* (15) at the south-western corner of the town wall was previously a prison: here the remains of a double moat once ringing the whole town are easily recognizable. Heading back from here you'll reach the town centre through a small gate.

After the gate turn right into the *Landsknechtsweg*. Here you'll see several small and modest buildings that were day labourer houses and show the town's social structure clearly: the mighty warehouses of brewers, traders and merchants stood on the market square *Marktplatz*, the houses of workmen on side lanes (i.e. *Kupferschmiedgasse* and *Schmiedstraße*, named after smiths and coppersmiths), while the small houses of day labourers were built next to the wall. Walk past the *Bildhauerturm* (16, Sculptor's Tower) and the *Pfeiffenschneiderturm* (17, Pipe Carver's Tower) and head back at the gate *Marientor* towards the town centre to the square *Reichenauplatz* (18). On your left is the *Hutterhaus* (19) with a rectangular bow-window supported by consoles on the first floor and a pear tree on its façade. Among the many splendid middle class buildings to be visited on this square we remember the house at street number 4 (20) with a Gothic hipped gable and the house at no. 6 with a Renaissance roof.

The monks of Plankstetten abbey live and work strictly following the Rule written by St. Benedict. They practice organic farming and process their products obtaining only high-quality natural foods for their monastery, guesthouse and tavern.



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|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Town Hall (built in 1693)   | 8 Tower Biersiederturm              | 17 Tower Pfeiffenschneiderturm              | 26 Parish church Mariä Himmelfahrt     | 34 Ludwig-Donau-Main-Canal                  |
| 2 Accessible defensive wall and tower Bettelvogtturm (once town prison) | 9 Zehentstadel (tithe barn)         | 18 Square Reichenauplatz                    | 27 Cultural centre Kulturhaus Schranne | 35 Gate Neumarkter Tor                      |
| 3 Tower Dachsenturm   | 10 Propsthaus                       | 19 Hutterhaus                               | 28 Tourist Office                      | 36 Hotel zur Post                           |
| 4 Tower Pulverturm (Storchenturm)                                       | 11 Mill Tormühle                    | 20 House with hipped gable                  | 29 Gate Mittleres Tor                  | 37 St.-Lorenz-Church                        |
| 5 Tower Chinesenturm  | 12 Gredinger Tor (upper gate tower) | 21 Wohnhaus des Kastner (treasurer's house) | 30 Tower Ziegelturnm                   | 38 Gate Beilngrieser Tor                    |
| 6 Zechhäusel  | 13 Main-Danube-Canal                | 22 Gasthof Winkler                          | 31 Tower Schießturm                    | 39 Bürgerspital (former hospital)           |
| 7 Frauenturm  | 14 Tower Schmidweberturm            | 23 War memorial/former town hall            | 32 Tower Badturm                       | 40 Museum Berching with exhibition on Gluck |
|   | 15 Tower Amtsknechtsturm            | 24 Pharmacy Stadt-Apotheke                  | 33 Historic mill Stampfermühle         | 41 Historic mill Gewürzmühle                |
|   | 16 Tower Bildhauerturm              | 25 Gasthof „Blaue Traube“                   |  | 42 Protestant Church                        |

### ABTEI PLANKSTETTEN – THE GREEN ABBEY

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