



BASILICA

WEINGARTEN



CHRONOLOGY OF THE BASILICA

- 1056 — Monastery was founded by Guelph IV as a family monastery
- 1094 — A relic of Holy Blood was gifted by Judith of Flanders
- 1182 — Consecration of the Romanesque minster
- 1529 — Oldest reference to the Blutritt (Procession of the Holy Blood) as a custom
- 1715 — Demolition of the old church to be replaced by a new, Baroque minster
- 1724 — Consecration of the new minster
- 1753 — Largest Blutritt with 7,055 riders
- 1811 — The former monastery church becomes a parish church
- 1922 — Resettlement by the Beuron Benedictine congregation
- 1956 — Elevation to "minor basilica" by Pope Pius XII
- 1994 — 900th anniversary of the relic of the Holy Blood in Weingarten
- 2010 — The Benedictines leave Weingarten
- 2024 — 300th anniversary of the Basilica

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Tourist information

Münsterplatz 1, 88250 Weingarten
Tel. (0751) 405-232
akt@stadt-weingarten.de
www.stadt-weingarten.de
@ weingarten.erleben



A RETREAT FOR CONTEMPLATION

Alongside its impressive architecture, the Basilica offers space for **quiet contemplation**. Visitors are welcome to reflect, pray or simply enjoy the special atmosphere in this sacred place.

GUIDED TOURS

Regular guided tours provide a fascinating insight into the history, art and spirituality of this exceptional building. Special guided tours are available for groups. For more information, please see Weingarten's website or www.katholisch-weingarten.de/fuehrungen.

OPENING TIMES OF THE BASILICA:

Nov. to March: 7 am - 6 pm,
April to Oct: 7 am - 7 pm
Not open to visitors during religious services.





THE SWABIAN SAINT PETER'S WELCOME TO THE BASILICA OF ST. MARTIN AND OSWALD

Experience the splendour of this breathtaking Baroque minster whose impressive dimensions easily compete with its famous “big brother” in Rome. With a nave measuring 92.5 metres in length and 23.6 metres in height, the Basilica is the largest Baroque church north of the Alps. It was elevated to the status of basilica by Pope Pius XII in 1956 and remains a place where architecture, history, and spirituality are equally inspiring.

A PLACE FULL OF HISTORY AND FAITH

Founded in 1056 by Guelph IV as a family monastery and burial place, Weingarten soon grew into one of the most powerful monastic centres in southern Germany. Its monumental collegiate church, begun in 1100 in the Hirsau style, was already striking. Remains

of this first church can still be seen today beside the south tower. The marriage of Guelph IV and Judith of Flanders in 1094 brought precious gifts, including the **relic of the Holy Blood**, which by 1400 had drawn countless pilgrims. In 1715, during the Baroque era, Abbot Sebastian Hyller ordered the demolition of the 600-year-old church to create a “worthy shrine” for the relic. The Basilica, the only domed church of its kind in Upper Swabia, emerged as one of the finest ecclesiastical interiors of the 18th century. Blending central-plan design with the Vorarlberg architectural style, it continues to inspire visitors from around the world.

MASTERPIECES OF ARCHITECTURE

A walk through the Basilica reveals the splendid **ceiling fresco by Cosmas Damian Asam**, among the largest continuous Baroque frescoes in Europe. Its vivid scenes from the life of Jesus and the image of St. Benedict continue to fascinate visitors. The organ

by **Joseph Gabler** is a real treasure, a Baroque masterpiece with 66 registers and 6,666 pipes symbolising the six days of Creation. Its richly adorned console and wide palette of tones – from vox humana to tubular bells – unfold an unforgettable sound experience. And finally, the resonant bells of the Basilica embrace the whole town of Weingarten, accompanying worship and gently reminding us of God’s presence in daily life.

THE BLUTRITT (PROCESSION OF THE HOLY BLOOD) A TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL

The annual **Blutritt (Procession of the Holy Blood)**, held on the Friday after Ascension Day, is a true highlight of Weingarten’s spiritual calendar. Thousands of riders and pilgrims accompany the relic of the Holy Blood, venerated here for centuries. This unique procession unites age-old tradition with profound devotion, drawing both the faithful and curious visitors from across the world.

