

CHURCH SQUARE

The church square was not built until 1783, after the old walled church graveyard and adjoining house gardens were no longer used.

① Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul

Ried became an independent parish after it split from the mother parish of Mehrnbach in the 14th century. The Gothic style of the previous building can still be seen in the base of the church tower and in the buttresses of the presbytery. The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul was given its present form between 1720 and 1734. The 73-metre-high spire acquired its present form after catastrophic storm damage in 1929. The interior surprises the visitor with the wide barrel vault over the nave, which is uniformly decorated with stucco in the regency style. Each of the eight nave chapels was once dedicated to local guilds, which were also responsible for their furnishings. The interior furnishing is to a large extent the work of the Schwanthaler family of sculptors. Particularly remarkable is the "Mount of Olives Group" in the "Chapel of Suffering", which is attributed to Thomas Schwanthaler. Inside the church and on the outer south side are large numbers of remarkable epitaphs set into the wall.

② Innviertel Museum of Folklore and Sparkasse Town Auditorium

With its comprehensive collections, this museum offers all those interested in art an excellent overview of the diversity of forms created by the Schwanthaler family. There are sculptures of all generations and periods of style to be seen in the Hall of Figures. A video film (ca. eight minutes) about the works of the Schwanthaler family in Ried is offered in the foyer. The historical development of Ried is seen in the permanent exhibition "Ried Between Bavaria and Austria". The folklore collections on the first floor are divided into the spheres of arts and crafts, traditional costumes and textiles, jewellery and vessels. The collection of religious folk art goes back above all to the donation made by the priest Father Veichtlbauer, and comprises hand-painted devotional pictures, precious reliquary crosses and lavish monastery work, as well as the famous "Oberndorf Crib", before which the famous carol "Silent Night, Holy Night" was heard for the first time in 1818. In the Ried Town Gallery are exhibited above all works by members of the Innviertel Guild of Artists.

Open: Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 12 noon and 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.,

Saturday 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. • Telephone: 0043 / (0)7752 / 901 Ext. 301 and 302

Concerts, lectures, theatrical performances, etc. take place in the adjoining Sparkasse Town Auditorium. • **Museum and events area are handicap accessible!**

③ The Ancestral Schwanthaler Family Home

In 1669 Thomas Schwanthaler purchased the "half timber, half brick dwelling" in Priesterzeile (Priests' Lane). The house was owned by the family of sculptors until 1838. They worked here for over five generations and branched out from Ried to other places (Vienna, Krems, Passau and Gmunden). Two generations worked in Munich (Ludwig von Schwanthaler is the creator of the "Bavaria" statue). The most famous Ried Schwanthalers are Thomas (1634 – 1707), Franz (1683 – 1762) and Johann Peter the Elder (1720 – 1795). The commemorative frieze was put up in 1868 on the occasion of the renaming of Priesterzeile to Schwanthalergasse. Numerous Schwanthaler works can be seen not only in the church in Ried, but also in many churches in the vicinity.

MAIN SQUARE

After the total destruction of the old market town in 1364, the new main square was positioned closer to the castle. The slightly elongated and curved square reflects the architectural characteristics of an early Bavarian hall and the facades of the town houses have straight rooflines. Their partly Gothic or early Baroque original architecture was covered with new facades in the 19th century. The main square is optically divided by the Dietmar Fountain. The lower part of the square had always been a market and until 1872 there was a free-standing building used for the trade of corn, salt and linen. The market in Ried determined prices in the region. The wholesale trade reached even as far as Vienna and Nuremberg. There is still a traditional fruit and vegetable market every Tuesday morning.

⑩ Toll House

Marie Louise, second wife of Napoleon I, stayed overnight at the old toll and trade house, previously known as the "Schäfler'sches Kaffeehaus". A plaque records an historic event: on 8 October, 1813, the "Ried Treaty" was signed here in which King Max Joseph of Bavaria severed the alliance with France and joined the alliance against Napoleon.

⑪ County Judge's House (Post Office)

The post office replaced three old town houses, one of which was the district authority building. The colourful design by Wilhelm Traeger (died 1980) from Ried again emphasises this triple unification. The former Judge's House (7 Hauptplatz) was taken over in 1780 by the Imperial Treasury Department. Napoleon I stayed the night in this house. According to written records, an attempted assassination of Napoleon was barely averted.

⑫ Jesters' Fresco

Preserved beneath the oriel at the entrance to 10 Hauptplatz is a jocular fresco from 1592: two jesters embrace each other below the inscription "Unser sein Drey" (We are Three). But who then is the third? The one who is looking up.

⑬ Town Hall

The former Gothic town hall was completely reconstructed as early as 1653, and the facade was then decorated with pictures and sayings from the days of the founding of the town. It contained a public weighing vault and a bread vault. In the latter the local bakers were permitted in turn to sell bread. A meeting room was converted in 1791 to provide a proper detention cell. In 1893 the building received a romantic style, of which only such few details such as the tower and the portal remain.

Still preserved is the council hall with the mayors' portrait gallery and the imperial portraits (Maria Theresia, Joseph II, Franz Joseph I). These remind us of the historic events of the years 1779 (Peace Treaty of Teschen – the Innviertel region ceded to Austria) and 1857 (Ried is raised to town status).

⑭ Dietmar Fountain

The former draw well was replaced in 1665 by a Baroque fountain. The stone figure of "Dietmar the Anhanger", the legendary founder of the town, is the work of the Ried sculptor, Veit Adam Vogl, a contemporary of Thomas Schwanthaler. The story of the founding of the town is based on a legendary event during the Third Crusade (1189 – 1192). The peasant's strapped boot was decisive as a replacement for the banner lost in battle.

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STELZHAMER SQUARE

The name of the square has changed often through the centuries. It was called "Am oberen Platz", then "Tandlmarkt" from 1626 (after the market stalls on the west side), later "Theaterplatz" when the deconsecrated Gothic hospice church (demolished in 1892) was used as a theatre, and then as "Holzplatz" before finally receiving its present name.

Until 1812, the area was marked by a massive round tower – used as a powder magazine – where Stelzhamer Square joins Bahnhofstraße.

18 Stelzhamerplatz is a house reminiscent in its narrowness of the little market stalls and artisans workshops built along the western part of the fortified walls. They belonged to the market town chamber and were available for an annual rent. The shops were closed down in 1790 and the plots of land sold.

④ Stelzhamer Memorial

A memorial made by the Gmunden sculptor Anton Gerhart was dedicated in 1911 to the important Upper Austrian poet Franz Stelzhamer (1802 – 1874). Born in Großpiesenham near Pramet, Franz Stelzhamer lived from 1845 to 1851 in Ried and wrote one of his main works here, "D'Ahnl" (The Ancestress). He also wrote the Upper Austrian anthem.

⑤ Old Brewery Inn

Once a much-frequented inn, and above all an important stopping place for carts coming from the surrounding countryside on market days and rural festivals, or when there were hangings, horse races or riding events in Ried. Franz Stelzhamer is also said to have taken pleasure in visiting the inn.

⑥ Braunauer Gate

This town portal was long the only westerly exit. The Braunauer Gate and the Schärdinger Gate are the only parts of the fortifications that have been preserved. The Linzer Gate was demolished in the 19th century.

The market town walls had already been destroyed during the Spanish War of Secession (1704). The moats before the portals and walls were filled in during the 18th century.

⑦ Hofmann House

The house at 5 Rainerstraße was an old wheat-beer inn, which possessed the oldest rights to the transportation trade. Above all salt from Gmunden was transported on from here.

⑧ Linen Weavers' Guild House

Owned since 1488 by the "Brotherhood of the Guild of Weavers", until 1820 it was used as a guild and inspection office to represent the extensive linen-weaving trade in Ried.

⑨ Jahn Gymnasium

The home of the "Turnverein Ried 1848" (Ried Gymnastics Association), the sports hall also serves as a public venue for large events. It stands on the former Mühlbach Meadow, which from as early as 1904 was popular as a sports field and ice-skating rink.

ROSSMARKT (HORSE MARKET SQUARE)

This place name has been used since the 16th century and is taken from the horse markets originally held here. A large horse market and procession now takes place each year on the Tuesday after Easter Sunday in the main square. The square was once closed off at both ends. Only a small portal was given for access on foot to the beginning of the market to the west. The portal was locked at night and even bricked up when there was a threat of enemies or disease. The only exit from this square was therefore the Schärdinger Gate.

⑯ Brewers' and Tanners' House (27 Roßmarkt)

Since 1790 a beautiful Baroque facade has united the tanners' house with two narrow houses, one of which possessed old brewery rights. The mash house at the confluence of the Oberach and Breitsach rivers belonged to the brewery. It is the headquarters of "Ried Brewery" today.

⑯ Market Town Judge's House (29 Roßmarkt)

Originally called the Soldiers' House, and purchased in the late 17th century by the Market Chamber, the house was occasionally the residence of the physician and market town judge.

The town library has been on these premises since 1979.

⑰ Schärdinger Gate

Together with the Braunauer Gate, the Schärdinger Gate is the second preserved town portal of the old fortifications.

The Erl Gate (named after the "Erlen", the alder trees at the moat), and the Münsterer Gate were the only exits from the town to the north. Official gate guards, who lived on an upper floor, controlled the traffic of people and goods until 1808.

⑱ Capuchin Monastery

The Capuchin Order has existed in Ried since 1641. The monastery and church were consecrated in 1644. A turbulent period followed when the monastery was dissolved by Joseph II, which almost led to the church being blown up during the French Wars. The building was used as a munitions depot and then as a military hospital. The Capuchins returned in 1862.

⑲ Castle – today a hospital

Ried Castle was a medieval fortification. In the 12th century the masters were called "de Riede". At around 1250 the castle was the property of the Bavarian Dukes, and they had stewards administer it. The fortifications were repeatedly destroyed during the battles between Bavaria and Austria, and finally during the Spanish War of Succession in 1704.

Following the unification of Innviertel with Austria, the castle accommodated the newly created district authorities until 1849, and then the offices of the regional authorities.

The former castle has been a hospital since 1902, and was given public status in 1912 as the "Emperor Franz Joseph Jubilee Hospital". It was sold in 1954 to the Order of the Sisters of Mercy, who extended the hospital in several stages to its present size and efficiency.



A Brief History of the City of Ried im Innkreis

Ried was first mentioned in 1136, and the citizens of Ried ("urbani") around 1180. At around 1200 the market town became the property of the Bavarian Dukes and from the 14th century was the seat of a county court. Only one and a half hours travelling distance from the fortified Austrian border on the Geiersberg, the flourishing market town was for centuries a buffer in the feuds between Bavaria and Austria. In 1266 Ried Castle, which was defended by the Bavarian Dukes, was besieged by King Ottokar of Bohemia and in 1307 by Frederick the Handsome. The castle and the market town were subsequently conquered and destroyed by Rudolf the Founder in 1364. The market town of Ried was then rebuilt close to the protecting castle. Although Ried and Landshut were awarded ducal town rights, and both towns sent representatives to the Bavarian provincial parliament, contrary to Braunau and Schärding, this market town of considerable size was to wait long before being raised to the status of a town.

In 1379 an agreement signed at Ried Castle ended the border disputes between Austria and Bavaria and thus ensured a more peaceful economic development. This was largely supported by Ried's heyday when there were about 100 workshops of the linen weaving industry and the linen trade.

In 1435 Ried received the coat of arms of a market town from Duke Heinrich VI. The border disputes were repeated in the wars of succession in Spain (1701 – 1714) and Austria (1740 – 1745). Innviertel (the region between the Inn river and Hausruck Wood) was joined to Austria in 1779 through the Treaty of Teschen. Due to its central location Ried became the main district town for the newly acquired region. In the Treaty of Schönbrunn forced upon Austria by Napoleon, Innviertel was again returned to Bavaria from 1810 to 1816, and was even a French province for a short period. Napoleon stayed twice in Ried. Although Bavaria joined the alliance against Napoleon in the "Ried Treaty" on 8 Oct., 1813, it conclusively lost Innviertel to Austria. What was then the largest market town in Austria was raised to the status of a town in 1857. Due to enduring peace and the fact that the town was no longer in a border region, rapid economic development got underway.

Agricultural exhibitions have taken place every second year since 1867, which as an "International Agricultural Trade Fair" in the 20th century attracted up to a million visitors.

The importance of Ried for agriculture today is seen in the international sales events run by the Simmental Breeding Association.

The development to a school town began when the grammar school was built in 1872 – the first high school in Innviertel.

Ried became a traffic and transport junction with the building of the Neumarkt – Simbach (1870) and Attnang – Schärding (1877) railway lines.

To be mentioned in the industrial sphere is a factory for solid wood furniture, a ski manufacturer of international fame and the production of highly technical facilities. But Ried also enjoys its greatest significance as a centre for trade and shopping in the region.

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E-mail: tourismus@ried.com • www.ried.com

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Information: 0043 / (0)7752 / 901 Ext. 301 & 302 Culture Dept.
0043 / (0)7752 / 85180-35, Fax 85180-20 Tourist Information Office
E-mail: tourismus@ried.com • www.ried.com

