

ITB Berlin 2019 press release

WORLD HERITAGE AND MUCH MORE

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey surrounded by complementing topics

The UNESCO World Heritage Site Lorsch Abbey, the former imperial abbey of Charlemagne, has recently developed into a centre of medieval research due to the immersive nature of the experience on offer and has grown due the award-winning expansions. In accordance with the in 2014 built Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology Lauresham, a life-size model of a Carolingian manor, not only the aristocrats are the centre of attention, but also the monastic life styles of the serfs and rural inhabitants. Visitors and researchers alike are entwined in experimental archaeological methods to answer open questions of medieval research. The so-called theme days, but also with thematically organized tours, interested participants are being informed and included in the methods and the status of research.

Taking over the archaeological findings from over 200 years excavation history into the newly created exhibition depot, the tithe barn, not only the exciting architectural history but also the life of the monks became plastic. When in 2017, in cooperation with the Reiß-Engelhorn-Museums in Mannheim, the face of a former friar of Lorsch was reconstructed with the aid of a skull was found in the monks cemetery, this was the beginning of whole new researches: For the first time the living beings of the “lost monastery” built the centre of the scientific questioning. Now there are interesting insights and breakdowns about the living conditions, diseases, nutrition, physical activities etcetera, characterising human life 1250 years ago. In a specially created seminar room only for visitors, they can immersively get in contact with the research along with anatomical educational materials and original finds.

One step further is the medieval cooking and baking courses in the Laboratory for Experimental Archaeology, Lauresham. Medieval dietetics and preparation methods are conveyed as well as table manners, the usage of herbs and weeds, grinding corn with a stone mill, preparing dough in troughs, operating ovens that are heated by fire. It is less a case of scientific findings than making your own experience.

The fascinating highlight of the UNESCO World Heritage in the South of Hesse is and will remain the picturesque King’s Hall. As the whole monastery was a victim of fire, robbery, war and total destruction, this mysterious building survived all these dangers unscathed. Any interpretations of its original cause and usage cannot be proved. The small chapel-like building from the 10th century today is known as the best received



building of the Carolingian architecture north of the Alps.

The Tobacco-Museum

The fragment of the powerful Basilica on the other side owes its existence only to one reason, which is one of the side-topics of this world heritage. Hardly damaged, the farmers knew to use the trunk of the main-ship for drying the in Lorsch cultivated tobacco – this saved the former monastery church from its final demolition. Today the town dedicates this topic a huge Exhibition in the museums centre about tobacco processing and smoking culture. Additionally in 2017, the last remaining tobacco barn on the area of the world heritage site was opened as a Museum for Tobacco cultivation. – An exciting cultural-anthropological topic typical for the whole region.

The Peony Garden and the Herb Garden

A plant of a completely different type is cultivated next to the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the ground of the evangelical church: The Peony, as well known as Benedictine Rose. Once brought over the Alps by the Benedictines to northern Europe, it is an important element of many recipes mentioned in the Lorsch Pharmacopeia (UNESCO World Documentary Heritage since 2013). This unique educational as well as show garden gathers over 160 types and varieties and is best to visit from beginning of April to beginning of June. The monastic herb garden on the other hand shows the whole range and thereby over 200 different medicinal herbs, with the monastic medicine that was used.

Drop in and see us at counter 18 in the CULTURE LOUNGE.

Information

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