



Sights



Abbot and first bishop of Salzburg 696-718.

The comprehensive Christianization process in the Austrian/Bavarian settlements was strongly influenced by St. Rupert.

Following the Bavarian Duke Theodo's summons, the Rhein-Frankish bishop, Rupert of Worms, came to Salzburg around 700 as a travelling missionary.

He founded St. Peter's Church and Abbey, on the ruins of the former Roman town Juvavum.

St. Peter's remains today the oldest continuously active monastery on German soil.

He also founded the Benedictine Nonnberg Convent and appointed his niece, Erentrudis, as its abbess. This convent on the Nonnberg ("Nun Mountain") is the oldest surviving religious community for women in the German-speaking world.

St. Rupert developed a comprehensive and successful missionary program in Salzburg to spread the belief towards the east. In addition to the crozier, the interpretive arts show St. Rupert holding a salt box as a distinguishing feature since St. Rupert is directly associated with salt. St. Rupert was the first to be granted an extensive share of the salt reserves near Reichenhall from the Bavarian Duke Theodo and developed salt mining in Reichenhall and nearby Hallein, giving the economy a new upswing. St. Rupert is also the patron saint of the salt miners and mining.

The exact date of St. Rupert's death is not registered, it is generally assumed to have been in March 718.

On September 24, 774, on the occasion of the first consecration of Salzburg Cathedral, the remains of St. Rupert were brought from Worms, where he had died, to Salzburg and were ceremoniously interred in a crypt. The monumental Salzburg Cathedral bears the names of the two founders of ecclesiastical Salzburg, St. Rupert and St. Virgil.

Till today, the 24th of September, St. Rupert's Day, has remained the main public holiday in the city and province of Salzburg. As in centuries before, a fair called the "Ruperti Kirtag" is held around this date which, in former times, also had important economic relevance. The trading area for the buyers and sellers attending the fair reached from London to Constantinople.