

## **Erding -- Bavarian Culture, Modern Amenities**

Originally a township in the Wittlesbacher Duchy, the town of Erding was founded in 742. It was not until 1886, however, that Johann Kienle first produced the beer for which the town is now known.

Today the town is famous for the Erdinger brewery, which proclaims itself to be the world's largest wheat beer brewery. You can take a tour of the brewery when visiting Erdinger. You can even join its fan club, launched in 1995! ;-)

If you go to Erding to take in the history of the area then you must visit the parish church of St. Johann. Most of the building dates from the 14th and 15th centuries, although the interior was largely redone in the 19th century. St. Johann's bell tower is in fact separated from the church, and was connected for 300 years to the old Town Hall.

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The Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Blood, on the outskirts of Erding, was extensively remodeled in 1675-77 by the famous master mason Kogler. A cruciform crypt is, however, a remaining part of the earlier building. Stucco decorations inside the church are definitely worth seeing.

The municipal museum in Erding is another must-see. The museum's exhibits range from pre-history to modern paintings. You will want to look at the large collection of historic and contemporary photographs of Erding and its environs.

If you are still game for more history then visit the *Landshuter Tor* which is the only remaining one of the first four city gates. The Gothic tower was constructed in 1500.

For the bicycling enthusiast, there are many miles of bike trails in the area, and you can even ride

them all the way in to Munich. While, for those who have had enough sightseeing and want to relax, there is a world-famous health spa in the town.

In other words, Erding has something for everyone.