

Fischbachau -- An Upper Bavarian Pilgrimage

Just one town over from the country of Austria, is the [Upper Bavarian](#) town of Fischbachau. While you might not have heard about this little gem of just over 5,000 people before, trust me when I tell you, people had been making pilgrimages to it for years.

Today most people come to Fischbachau for its outdoor recreation, no matter what season it is. I guess the Alpine air will do that to you. Because it's a cool Autumn evening as I write this, let's look forward to winter — OK? You got the choice to go skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, or even take a sleigh ride.

And don't worry if you don't know how to ski, there's a ski school — and a place to rent equipment, so you don't have to worry about bringing all that stuff from home.

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The warmer months are perfect for horseback riding, or venturing off on some 140km of marked hiking trails. Whew, that's a lot. Of course, you could always choose to go mountain biking, or something.

Not me, I was on a quest to see some of Fischbachau's charming chapels and amazing churches. The most stunning of them all is the St. Martin Cathedral, a medieval church from the 11th century. You'd never know with the amazing Baroque frescoes on its ceiling. Heavenly... truly Heavenly.

As grand as it is, that's not Fischbachau's Pilgrimage Church (*Wallfahrtskapelle*). That honor belongs to the chapel in Birkenstein, whose hiking trail was used by many a pious pilgrim back in the day.

I also loved the Leonhardikapelle, an onion-domed chapel built in 1604. Ohh, I also loved the Cemetery Chapel, another one of Fischbachau's medieval churches.

These fine churches, and great outdoor activities, aren't the only thing great about Fischbachau. It's a town that's steeped in [Bavarian](#) culture, right down to its Corpus Christi Processions and *Leonhardifahrt*, or Leonhardi Ride — where the horses are so gaily dressed.

How did such a town manage to escape such attention for so long? I don't understand — but I do know that I'll be back again one day. Hopefully soon. ;-)