

Guided tours

If you would like to find out even more about Brauweiler Abbey and its history, numerous guided tours offer you the opportunity to do so. Detailed information on public and individual guided tours can be found on our website at www.abteibrauweiler.lvr.de and in the current flyer on guided tours.

Accessibility

Due to the historical building stock, the choir area and the crypt of the abbey church as well as the chapter house and the winter refectory are not wheelchair-accessible.

Getting there

Public transport:

Bus line 961, 962 & 980, bus stop "Abtei Brauweiler".

Address for navigation system:

Von-Werth-Straße 2, 50259 Pulheim

Note concerning e-bikes: There is an e-bike charging station halfway between the car park and the abbey church.



Ways to the LVR:
Journey including
directions
also online.

A walk through time

Prices

Adults	€ 2.00
Children & pupils under 12 yrs.	free
Children & pupils from 12 yrs.	free
Students, apprentices	€ 1.50
People with disabilities (accompanying person free)	€ 1.50

Tues. – Fri. short tours are held at 2.30 p.m. (included in the admission price). Public holidays, carnival and the period between Christmas and New Year are excluded.
Owners of the LVR-Museumscard receive free admission.

Opening times

Abbey shop and tourist information:

Mon. – Fr.: 7.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sat, Sun and public holidays: 10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Abbey interiors & memorial: Daily 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour
(admission fee, see above)

Abbey inner courtyards: Daily 7.30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Abbey park: Open all day

Abbey church: Please enquire at the Abbey Tourist Information (Tel +49 (0) 2234 9854-0) or visit our website for current opening hours.

LVR-Kulturzentrum Abtei Brauweiler
Ehrenfriedstraße 19, 50259 Pulheim
Tel +49 (0) 2234 9854-0, www.abteibrauweiler.lvr.de

Visit us on:



Tour



Abbey

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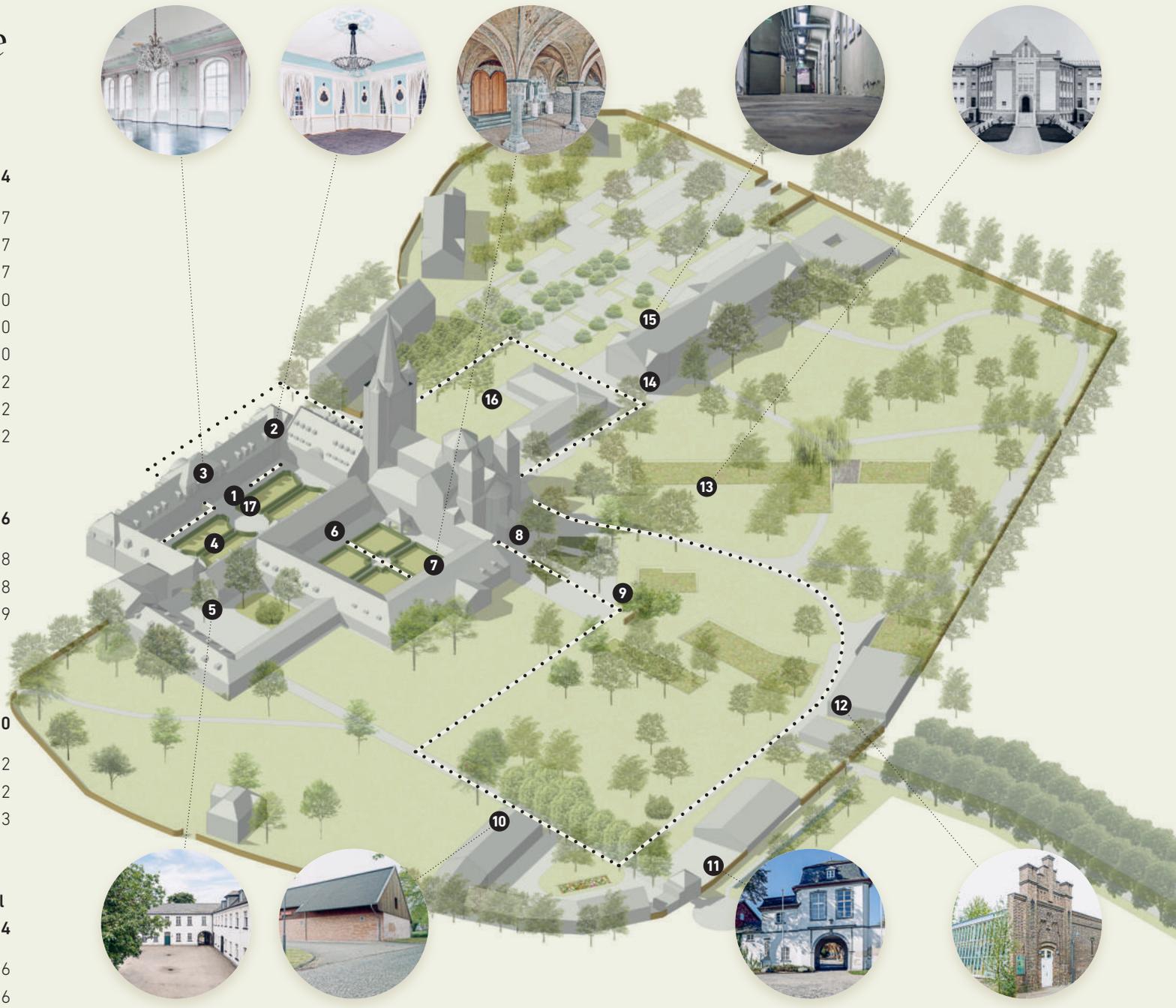
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Dear guests of the
LVR Cultural Centre
Brauweiler Abbey

on the grounds of the former Benedictine Abbey in Brauweiler, traces of almost 1000 years of history can be discovered. We have collected these for you in 17 stations. With the help of this brochure, you can explore the stations as a tour. This way, you won't miss any of the highlights and will also be provided with background information. Use the fold-out map inside the cover to find your way from station to station. Also, with our additional tips (p. 28), you can discover places in and around Brauweiler that once belonged to the abbey.

We wish you an eventful visit!



The stations on the abbey tour

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Phase one: the monastery (1024–1802)

The Benedictine Abbey in Brauweiler was founded in 1024 by the Count and Countess Palatine of Lotharingia, Ezzo and Mathilde. For this they received relics from Rome and had simple buildings erected for the monastery and church. The couple's daughter, Richeza, later Queen of Poland, expanded and modernised the monastery. Some of the monastery buildings built by her, as well as parts of the church, still stand today.

In 1547, Emperor Charles V granted the abbey the right to bear a coat of arms, which brought economic advantages. In the 18th century, Abbot Anselm Aldenhoven decided to have a magnificent baroque prelatore built. Due to the dissolution of the monastery by Napoleon in 1802, the monks were only able to use the prelatore for about 18 years.





1

The daughter of Count Palatine Richeza married Mieszko II, thus becoming Queen of Poland for several years.



Alongside the ostentatious decoration of the exterior façade, the design of the Abbot's hall seems more akin to the restrained phases of Rococo or Classicism that soon followed the Baroque.

1 Prelature court 1

Between 1780 and 1785, the baroque Prelature court was built as a result of the building measures commissioned by the last abbot from the architect Nikolaus Lauxen. The four-winged complex contained the abbot's private residence, a brewery and distillery on the north side, representative rooms such as the Abbot's and Emperor's halls on the west side, and a guest house on the south side. Only on the plans can it be seen that the main wing of the prelacy to the west was smaller than the northern wing with the abbot's flat and the coach house, which provided shelter for various carriages.

2 Abbot's hall

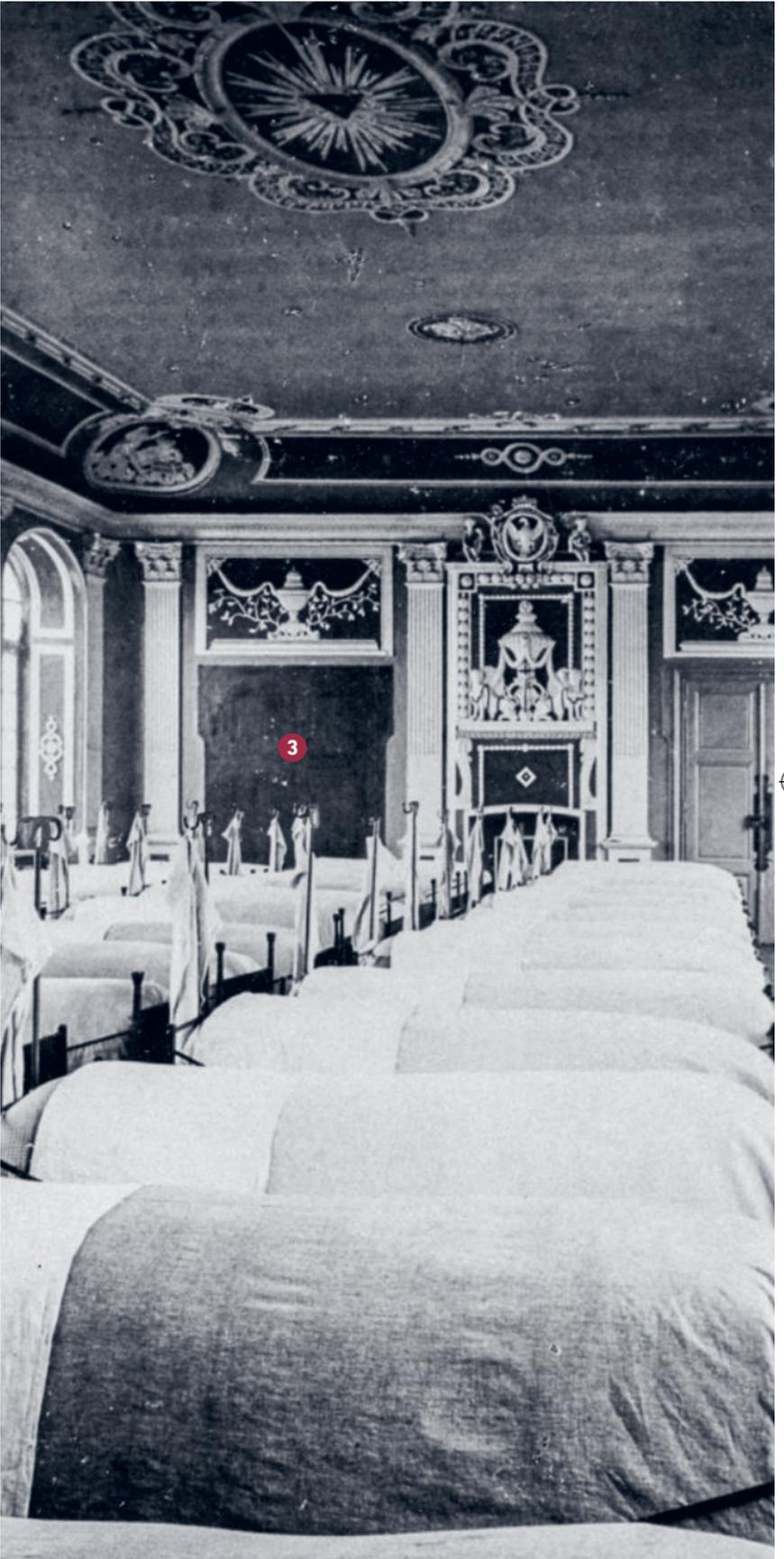
fig. 2

In the Abbot's hall, the abbot received his guests. The room therefore has a less fanciful atmosphere than the magnificent Emperor's hall. On the walls are busts of the four Church Fathers and various saints of the order. The reliefs above the doors represent the virtues of faith and hope. They are complemented by the picture of Anselm Aldenhoven, who himself is meant to represent the third virtue, love.

3 Emperor's hall

p. 8, fig. 3

The Emperor's hall was the representative ceremonial hall of the abbey. Several symbols are depicted in the stucco elements: The reliefs next to the windows show the four seasons. The four elements are depicted in the corners – they symbolise the world order. Above the central windows, the founding couple, Count Palatine Ezzo and Mathilde, can be seen. Above them is only the eye of God in a golden triangle in the centre of the ceiling.





At the time of the workhouse, the Emperor's hall was used as a dormitory.



4 Prelature court 2

fig. 4

The central building to the east of the Prelature court actually dates back to the monastery's medieval period and was fronted with a façade as part of the Baroque building measures. This can be seen on special days when the folding shutters are opened to reveal the Romanesque architecture. Among other things, this building housed the monastery kitchen and the winter refectory, the monks' dining room.

5 Farmyard

Goods such as food and other supplies were delivered to the farmyard. Accordingly, the wings of the building there housed storage and utility rooms, among other things. The original 36 monks living in the abbey supported themselves with the aid of landholdings and farms. The farmyard was completed somewhat later than the prelature.

6 Marienhof – cloister

The buildings around the cloister are among the oldest in the monastery. In the quad, i.e. in the middle of the cloister, there was originally a chapel which was to serve as a burial place for the Count and Countess Palatine Ezzo and Mathilde, the founding couple of the abbey. Above the chapter house in the east of the cloister was the dormitory, the monks' sleeping quarters, from which they could access the choir of the abbey church directly. When the abbey was converted after it was taken over by the French in 1802, two of the cloister wings were demolished because maintenance was considered too costly.



The east wing of the prelatore was originally the front of the medieval monastery building. The Romanesque construction can still be seen under the Baroque façade through a window.

7 Marienhof – chapter house

fig. **5**

The chapter house, the monks' meeting room, is one of the only remaining 12th century monastery rooms in the abbey. The depictions in the vaults are among the most significant examples of Romanesque painting in the Rhineland. The numerous scenes depict martyrs and saints of the Old and New Testament. The breakthrough to the adjacent Benedictine Chapel was not carried out until the 19th century to create a place for Protestant services.

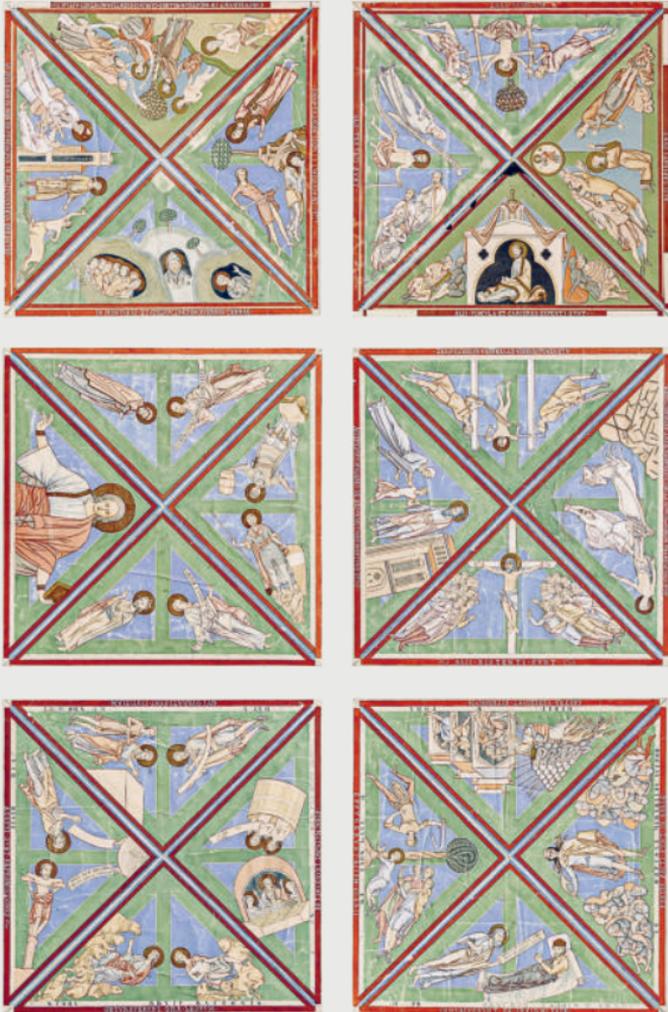
8 Choir of the abbey church

After the abbey was founded in 1024, a rather insignificant church construction was started, but then completely redesigned under the direction of Queen Richezain 1048. In the 12th century, the church was once again rebuilt and largely converted to the condition we see today. In the southern choir area is the burial place of the Count and Countess Palatine. In the crypt, besides tombstones of deceased abbots, a relic of the daughter of the monastery's founders and later Queen of Poland, Richeza, is kept. Today, the burial place is in Cologne Cathedral.

9 Historic mulberry tree

p. 14, fig. **6**

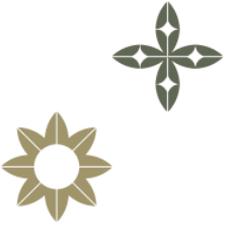
There is a legend about the founding of Brauweiler Abbey, which says that Mathilde and Ezzo stopped at their estate in Brauweiler on their way to Cologne. Mathilde then fell asleep under a mulberry tree and had the divine inspiration to build a monastery on the spot. The mulberry tree which can be seen here is, after all, known to be at least 700 years old.



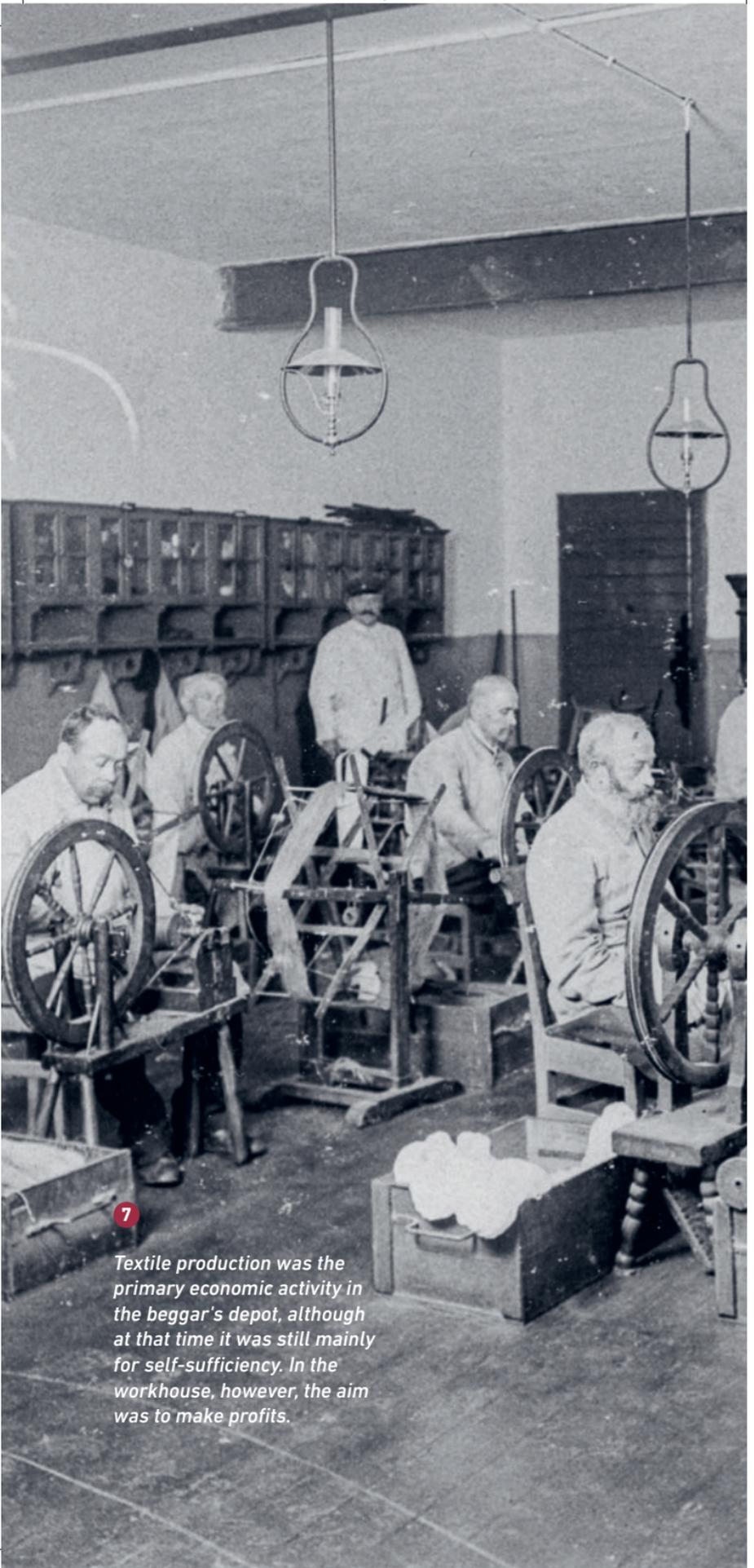
5

The beginning and end of the motifs, which are to be read clockwise, is the depiction of Christ as the judge of the world (image centre left). It is located directly opposite the entrance in a central position. The abbot was seated below it.

The tree was badly damaged by a storm in 1896. This drew new attention to it and a well-filled file from that year is now in the archives.







7

Textile production was the primary economic activity in the beggar's depot, although at that time it was still mainly for self-sufficiency. In the workhouse, however, the aim was to make profits.





Phase two: the workhouse

(1802–1969)

After the conquest of the Rhineland by the French, from 1815 the Prussian administration restructured the beggars' institution to form the "Rheinischen Provinzial-Arbeitsanstalt Brauweiler" (Rhenish provincial workhouse Brauweiler). In the workhouse, homeless people, "vagrants", prostitutes and gambling addicts were imprisoned and were meant to be disciplined through work and re-educated to become productive members of society. In addition, there were sometimes special wards for alcoholics, the mentally ill, the rural poor and young people with behavioural problems.

In 1873, after the foundation of the German Reich, the institution passed from the Prussian state into the possession of the Rhineland provincial association. Around 1910, the institution was almost fully occupied with 1100 male and about 200 female inmates. The occupancy rate grew during times of economic crisis and declined during the world wars, when many male inmates had to serve in the military.

The workhouse was known for its strict house rules, very harsh conditions and punishments. Deterrence and economic exploitation dominated over the actual project of social reintegration of marginalised social groups.



10 Farm

fig. 8

Since the 19th century, this building has been used to house animals, agricultural equipment and agricultural products. It was built in 1821 as agricultural buildings with stables and repeatedly extended over the years or rebuilt after bombing raids during the Second World War.

The farming business existed until the end of the psychiatric state hospital in 1978. Today, the building houses the archive for artists' estates of the federally owned art fund foundation Stiftung Kunstfonds.

11 Gate house (immunity wall)

fig. 9

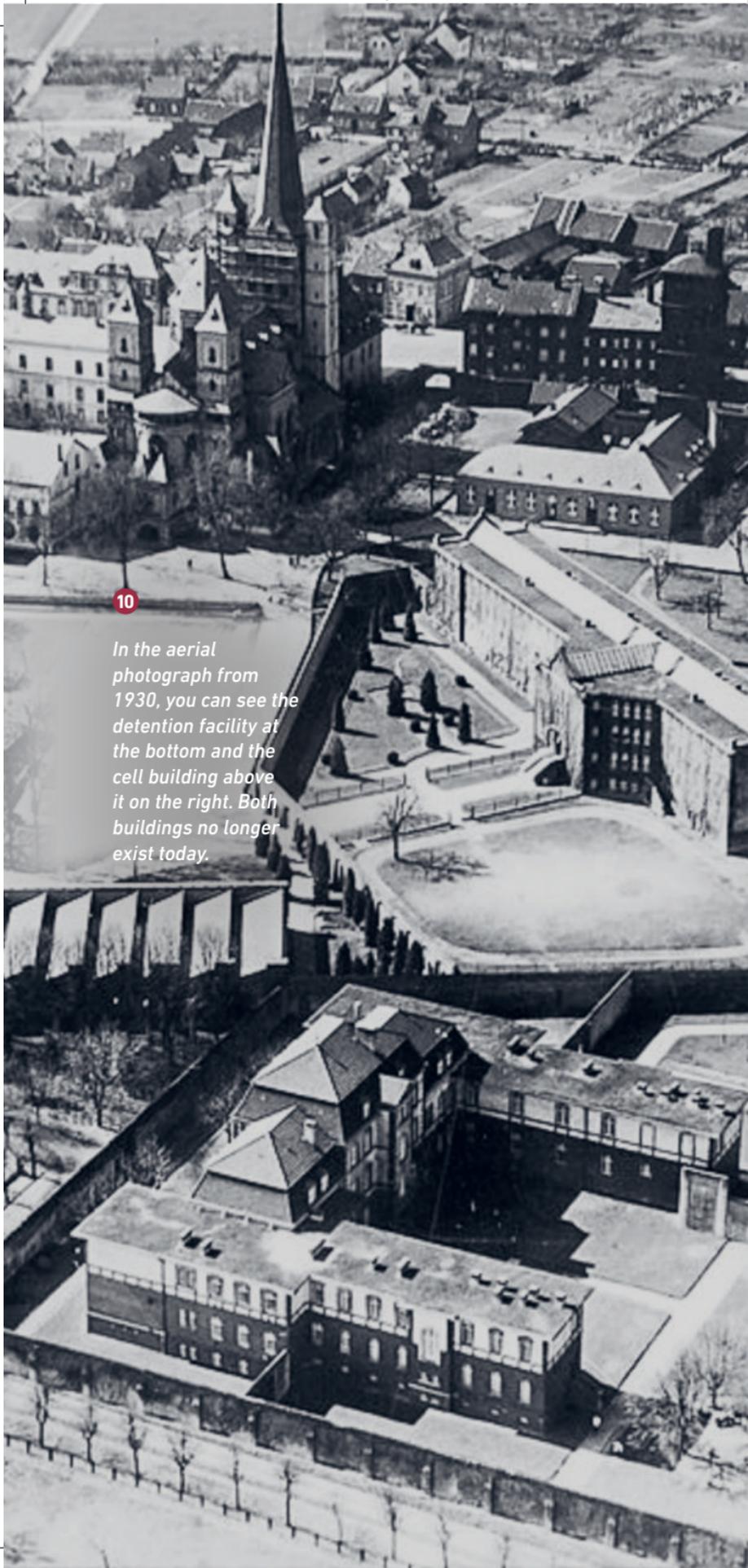
The gate house forms the only passage through the immunity wall in the south-eastern corner of the grounds. An immunity wall demarcates a self-contained area that has its own jurisdiction. For monasteries in particular, this signified that the order

was autonomous. All goods entered the monastery through the gate and later the inmates left the workhouse through this gate for their daily forced labour. The gate house was built between 1756 and 1778, whereas the originally much higher immunity wall was already built in the 16th century.

12 Workshops

The inmates of the workhouse who were subjected to forced labour, the so-called correctees (Korrigenden), had to work in the various workshops during their stay. The various workshops included a carpentry workshop, locksmith's, bakery, tailor's, gun factory and the brickworks with clay and gravel pit. In addition, the correctees were "rented out" to the Brauweiler population as labourers or had to work in road construction for the Rhineland Provincial Association.





10

In the aerial photograph from 1930, you can see the detention facility at the bottom and the cell building above it on the right. Both buildings no longer exist today.



Phase three: the abbey under National Socialism (1933–1945)



From 1933 onwards, individual buildings of the Brauweiler workhouse were also used to house prisoners of the Nazi regime. To start with, a so-called protective custody camp was set up, in which mainly opponents of the regime were imprisoned. This early "Brauweiler concentration camp" was already closed down again in March 1934. The prisoners were transferred to other concentration camps. In November 1938, the buildings served as a transit camp for Jews from the Rhineland who were deported from here to Dachau.

During the war years, Brauweiler was a place of detention for various resistance groups, such as the Cologne Edelweiss Pirates. Two special commandos of the Cologne Gestapo headquarters were stationed in Brauweiler. Many prisoners were mistreated in Brauweiler, several died of the related consequences. Others were transferred to Cologne or other camps for execution.

The most well-known inmate of the Gestapo prison was Konrad Adenauer, who was imprisoned here for two months in 1944. Auguste Adenauer, his wife, was also imprisoned in the women's house in Brauweiler for 10 days.

13 Cell building

Abb. 11

In 1913, the so-called cell building of the workhouse was completed. It was a prison with about 150 individual cells. Originally built to house correctees of the workhouse, it served as a Gestapo prison during the Nazi era. Konrad Adenauer was also imprisoned here for a few weeks. After the closure of the workhouse in 1969, the building remained empty; it was not suitable for use as a provincial hospital and was demolished in 1972.

14 Women's house

The former women's house (now an office building) is the last surviving accommodation building from the days of the Prussian workhouse. It was completed in 1864 and was intended to house so-called rural poor, but after its completion - contrary to the original plan - the inmates of the workhouse were accommodated here, and during the Nazi era also women who were



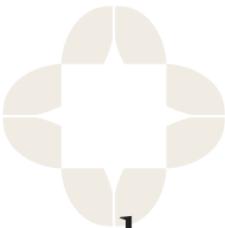


imprisoned by the Gestapo. Among them was Auguste Adenauer, who was forced to reveal the whereabouts of her husband Konrad and was imprisoned here for 10 days. The building was later used as the women's ward of the psychiatric hospital and now houses offices and the Brauweiler memorial.

15 Memorial

fig. 12

Since 2008, the LVR Brauweiler Memorial has been housed in the basement of the former women's house (now an office building). This informs about the years of National Socialism in Brauweiler. Here you can not only find out about the early protective custody camp for political prisoners, but also about the use of the workhouse by the Gestapo and the people imprisoned there. You can find further information at www.gedenkstaette-brauweiler.lvr.de.



Phase four: DP camp and psychiatry

(1945–1949, 1969–1978)

Displaced Persons (DPs) were people who were deported from their home countries to Germany during National Socialism and the Second World War, for example as prisoners of war or forced labourers. Conditions in the DP camp were bad and there were disagreements, thefts and arguments between the Brauweiler population and the DPs. The camp was shut down immediately after the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949.

After resuming operation for a few years, the workhouse had to be shut down following a reform of the penal system in 1969. A state hospital for psychiatry moved in, where attempts were made to integrate the former prison staff through retraining. Brauweiler continued to have a bad reputation. A series of deaths triggered a scandal that was cleared up with the help of the Sozialistischen Selbsthilfe Köln (SSK). Under these conditions, the state hospital was forced to close in 1978.



13



16 Laundry

In 1885, the boiler and engine house was built, with a four-storey water tower rising from its centre. Four wings around the water tower housed, among other things, a steam laundry, the women's and men's baths and the canteen kitchen. After several rebuilds and the demolition of the water tower in 1956, which was no longer in use, the boiler and machine house was transformed into a modern large-scale laundry. However, this was already shut down in the 1980s and a large part of the building was demolished. What remains is the L-shaped part that is still visible today.

17 Prelate's hall 3

fig. 14

Between 1969 and 1978, the entire ensemble housed the Brauweiler state hospital for alcohol and drug addicts as well as the mentally ill. This was due to the change in values and the subsequent reform of the penal system at the end of the 1960s. However, the various managers of the clinic were unable to sufficiently counter the deplorable staffing situation, which ultimately led to fatal situations for the patients. The buildings were then extensively rebuilt, restored and put to cultural use.



After the closure of the hospital, the abbey was restored. At the time, this meant restoring the abbey to the state it had been in during monastic times.



Tips in and *around Brauweiler*

Numerous farmsteads, parish churches and estates west of Cologne were among the holdings of Brauweiler Abbey. Many were transferred to the monastery by the Palatine Counts of Lotharingia shortly after its foundation. Here we present a selection of the properties that are worth a visit.

The destinations can be combined in a leisurely bike ride or an extended hike with a length of 15 km. For this, simply scan the QR code or enter the link. In addition, you will find information and visual material on the individual stations there. The round trip starts and ends at Brauweiler Abbey, where you can enjoy a coffee afterwards. Enjoy!



The exact location of all the **tips** can be conveniently found online on Google Maps.

<https://bit.ly/3eBMHDA>

Please note that some of the stations are located on private property.

Legal references of hist. pictures

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<https://bit.ly/3yxPt4y>

