Schöntal Monastery

BAROQUE GEM AND GÖTZ VON BERLICHINGEN'S BURIAL PLACE



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Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and Gardens

The Baroque Schöntal Monastery (Kloster Schöntal) is adorned with two towers – unusual for a Cistercian monastery, as this form of embellishment goes against the order's minimalist style. This architectural touch symbolizes the abbey's power and prosperity.

Schöntal, meaning beautiful valley in German, lives up to its name: The monastery sits idyllically in a loop of the Jagst river. The abbey was founded in 1157 by Cistercian monks from Maulbronn, in a location typical of the order: a valley. The land in Schöntal was provided by the Lords of Berlichingen, for which they were granted burial rights in the monastery's cloister. Thus, the grave of Götz von Berlichingen, who was made legendary through the writings of Goethe, is still located in the eastern wing of the cloister.

The most famous Berlichingen is buried here: The familiar Götz of the Iron Hand



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2

The Baroque order hall and its display of garb worn by the various orders is especially impressive

A monastery as an artistic synthesis of the Baroque

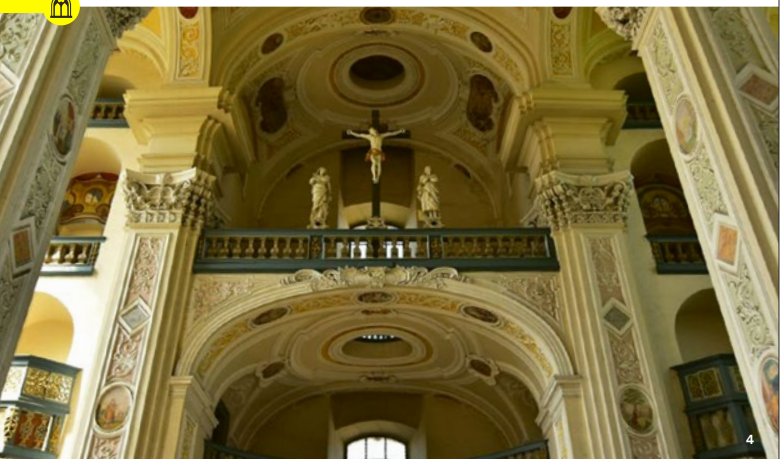
After many prosperous years, the monastery was repeatedly plundered and damaged during the wars in the 16th and 17th centuries. However, soon afterwards, it experienced a renaissance under Benedikt Knittel, who served as abbot between 1683 and 1732. He played a key role in shaping the monastery's Baroque appearance. During his term, the previously Gothic monastery church became Baroque, reshaped by architect *Johann Leonhardt Dientzenhofer* and the palas-style New Abbey with its majestic Rococo staircase and grand ceremonial hall was constructed. The order hall, with over 300 paintings of period order garb, and the cloister where *Knight Götz von Berlichingen's tomb* resides are worth seeing. The Holy Sepulchral Chapel on the Kreuzberg rounds out the artistic synthesis of the monastic Baroque. Since 1979, the New Abbey is home to the



Sweeping: The Rococo staircase in the abbey seems to dance

educational center for the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, including the Catholic Continuing Education Center Hohenlohekreis e.V. and the Rural Pastoral of Schöntal Monastery. The Schöntal area town hall and an educational nature camp for children are also located on the monastery grounds.

Anything but modest: the Baroque church



Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Monastery church	Open all year round; Visits possible with or without a guided tour
Information center in the old abbey	Open on a seasonal basis
New Abbey and Monastery Church	Guided tours, group tours and special tours at any time by arrangement with Schöntal Monastery Educational Center and as shown in the program online
Monastery Tour	Guided tours also possible any time by arrangement with the Catholic Parish Office

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

Current information

At a glance
For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see: **www.zisterzienserkloster-schoental.de/en/visitor-information**

Contact and information

Schöntal Monastery information center in the old abbey
Klosterhof 1
74214 Schöntal, Germany
Phone +49 7943 89 43 70
www.zisterzienserkloster-schoental.de/en

General information
Schöntal Town Hall
Phone +49 7943 91 00-0

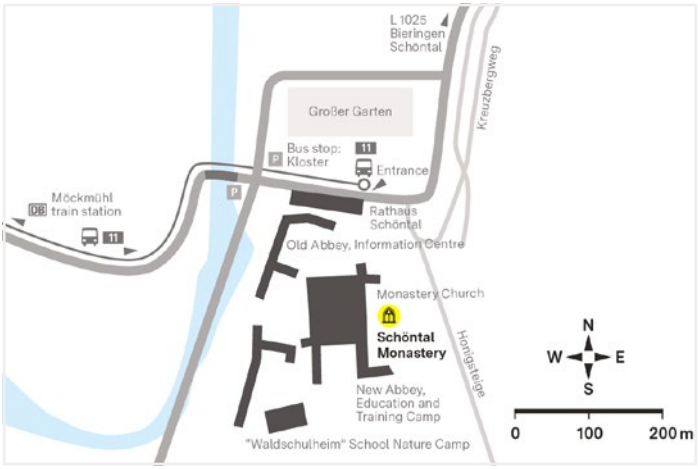
Information and group tour registration
Schöntal Monastery
Education Center
Phone +49 7943 8 94-0
bildungshaus@kloster-schoental.de
www.kloster-schoental.de

Monastery tour – Information and registration
Catholic Parish Office
Phone +49 7943 24 06

Version: 01/2025; All information subject to change!



How to find us



Take bus 11 from the Möckmühl train station and get off at the Kloster stop.

Image credit SSG / LMZ: cover photo; 2 Jürgen Besserer; 1, 3 Dieter Jaeger; 4 Karl-Heinz Schmid; 5 Armin Weischer // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

Information about all our monuments

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