

Nomination of
The GREAT
SPAS of Europe



for inclusion on the
World Heritage
List

Volume I: *Baden bei Wien, Austria*



The Undine-brunnen (Undine Fountain) in the Kurpark

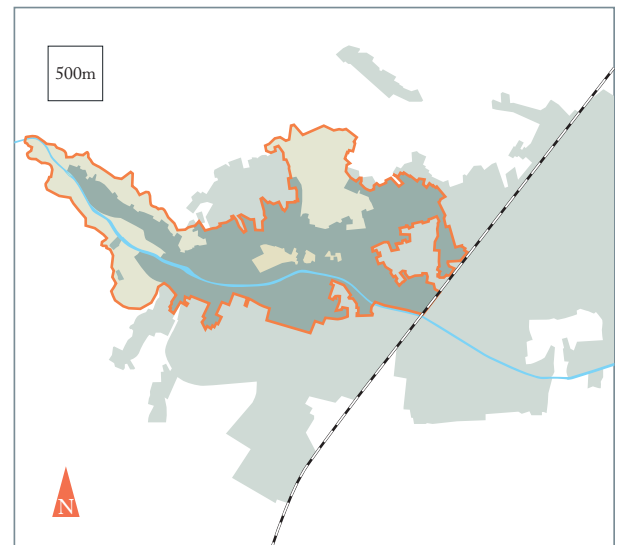
1. *Baden bei Wien* (AUSTRIA)

Introduction

Baden bei Wien takes its name from the springs (German Baden=Baths). It is distinguished from other “Badens” with “bei Wien” (near Vienna), located only 25km south of the Austrian capital - and European metropolis - of Vienna.

The thermal springs of *Baden bei Wien* were used by the Romans in their ‘Aquaе Pannonicae’, and the town continued through the early Middle Ages as “Padun”. From the fifteenth century the town was popular with the Habsburg Emperors and more so from 1793 with Emperor Franz II. Imperial patronage made Baden the centre of Enlightenment in Austria by 1810 when the town had become the leading spa for the Habsburg Emperor’s family and attracted many fashionable guests and visitors. The Sauerhof, built in 1820, is the first freestanding great spa hotel in Europe. By 1870 *Baden bei Wien* emerged as a world class spa resort. In a unique way, Baden’s golden architectural age combines the architecture of the beginning of the nineteenth century (“Biedermeier” style, following a fire in 1812, when Joseph Kornhäusel became its leading architect) with the architecture and infrastructures of the early twentieth century.

The town has around 26,000 residents (more than 7,000 of which live in the nominated property) and, in addition, since the crowning glory of the entertainment provided at the resort was its outstanding musical programme, the 'great spa' has a rich musical heritage linked to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Strauß.



- Boundary of the component spa town
- Urban fabric within the component spa town
- Urban fabric outside the proposed boundary of the component spa town



Aerial view of the centre of *Baden bei Wien*, showing the spa quarter and the hill to the north that hosts the Kurpark and its seamless transition into the therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

Location and setting

The Austrian spa town of *Baden bei Wien* lies in the state of Lower Austria. It is located in the Vienna Basin at a strategically significant entrance to the Helenental valley on the eastern edge of the northern limestone Alps. Through this valley runs the most important east-west connection through the Vienna Woods from the Bavarian region to Hungary.

The town, founded in the thirteenth century, developed beside - and not above - the actual source area of the mineral springs, which already had been owned by the Dukes of Austria and some noble families. The thermal springs were the town's most economically significant asset at all times. The number of visitors to *Baden bei Wien* reached their peak in the inter-war years with, for example, 43,000 guests recorded arriving in 1926. The modern town is oriented broadly east-west (north and south of the River Schwechat) and occupies a comparatively flat plain that rises to the north. The nominated property comprises the historic town and its spa quarter, 'therapeutic' surroundings including the hill that hosts the Kurpark in the north, parks and landscape gardens in Helenental Valley, and an important belt of villas. Setting, in particular selected appropriate elevations of the green and heavily wooded hills (Wienerwald range) to its north and west are protected in the buffer zone.

Principal features described

The description of the component part has been sub-divided into the following:

- Historic urban landscape of the 'Great Spa'
- Springs
- Urban ensemble of the spa town
- Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape
- Spa infrastructure
- Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

Historic urban landscape of the 'Great Spa'

The spatial plan of the nominated property can be divided into:

1. The spa-districts with the thermal baths, structures for leisure and pleasure and representative hotels (some of them with baths)
2. the parts of the city, where bathing guests were hosted at least since the eighteenth century (the centre, that had been enclosed by ramparts until about 1800, the former suburbs along Antonsgasse and Wassergasse, and, up to 1850, the independent Village Gutenbrunn)
3. Spatial development of 1790/1800, with a mixture of town houses, hotels and villas.
4. The villa belt surrounding the town.
5. Kurparks and spa related landscape gardens and therapeutic spa landscape.

1.1 Springs

14 thermal artesian springs in *Baden bei Wien* issue at a temperature between 22° and 36°C and contain a cocktail of mineral salts including calcium carbonate compounds, calcium chloride and magnesium sulphate (Epsom Salt). Cold meteoric water infiltrates into the Northern Limestone Alps and descends into deep tectonic faults within the Vienna Basin where they are heated and mineralised. Sulphates are derived from gypsum-rich Tertiary Raibler Strata. All but one spring were in use by the nineteenth century; the fourteenth spring, the Marienquelle (“Mary Spring”) in the bed of the Schwechat River, was tapped in 1924 and is today the most productive source. The spring field is located in the northern central part of the town, in an area broadly 0.75km (north-south) by 0.25km (east-west) that lies at the foot of Mount Calvary (Kalvarienberg) and below the river area. The spring field is bisected by the Schwechat River, more than 1km from the mouth of its river valley (Helenental), after flowing east from the Vienna Woods (Wienerwald) Range, forested highlands that form the northeastern foothills of the Northern Limestone Alps. The Ursprungsquelle (“Original Spring”) issues from Triassic limestone elevations of the Aninger and Hohen Lindkogel in a natural cave in the calcium conglomerate rocks at the bottom of the Kalvarienberg. Used since the time of the Romans, the Ursprungsquelle flows from a crevice under what is today the Sommerarena. The spring used to feed the Herzogbad spa and the baths which existed in the Kurpark until the construction of the Kurhaus in 1885. Today, the water from the original spring is fed into the communal mineral water supply. The Art Deco spring faucet from 1928 has been preserved. All other springs permeate the Tertiary sediments and gravelly Schwechat River bed before reaching the surface. Originally, at these places where the thermal water reaches the surface, pits were dug and surrounded by heaps and covered by bath houses. The mineral water filled these pools naturally in about three hours.

Protected access to the original source of the Ursprungsquelle, below the Sommerarena.



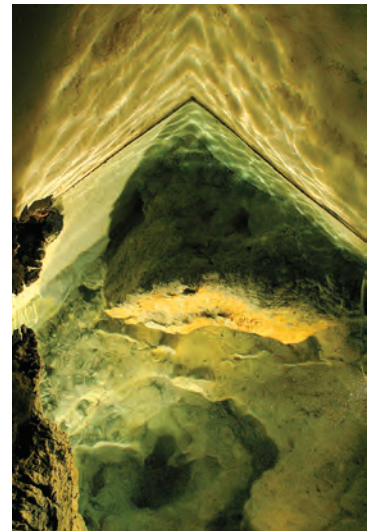
Three springs serve baths at their source and water from the others feed a late nineteenth century network of pipes to various institutions, baths, hotels and sanatoria. As well as bathing and drinking, the spa offered the whey cure, cold and hot water and air therapies. From 1900 mud treatments were available. The Baden mineral waters have traditionally been applied to a great variety of diseases, affections and deficiencies, either by bathing or by drinking (Napoleon Bonaparte tasted the Baden thermal waters on 15 October 1809). In 1923, Dr. Emil Raab, a Baden doctor specialising in water cures, set up the following list of maladies treated with mineral waters: Rheumatism-induced affections of joints, muscles and nerves; gout; nervous disorders, neuralgias (sciatica) and neuroses; diseases of the sexual organs, especially for the absorption of exsudates; sexual debilitation; consequences of injuries, fractures or stiffness of the joints; chronic skin diseases; inveterate cases of syphilis or diseases of the backbone marrow; kidney and bladder diseases; chronic metal poisoning; and heart and vascular diseases, artery calcification.

Today, treatments include bathing, packs, body-wraps, inhalations, drinking cures, and underwater massage. These are aimed at treating rheumatism and arthrosis, chronic inflammation, and regeneration of connective tissue and cartilage.

Only the waters of the Engelsbad, Mariazellerhof and Peterhof are put to direct use in special clinics built on the top of, or nearby, their spring, whereas all the other thermal waters are distributed to consumers by means of a supply network. Institutions benefiting from this network are the Städtische Kurhaus (Municipal Spa), the Römertherme (Roman Spa), the Thermalstrandbad, two big special sanatoria and several spa hotels. Mud and CO₂ are also used for therapeutical purposes.

Today all springs are tapped deep down at their exit points from the bedrock that underlies the river gravel. Defined protection zones currently refer exclusively to the outflow point of the individual source and primarily comprise the spring house.

A proposal in progress for the protection of all medicinal springs in *Baden bei Wien* covers the entire town.



Ursprungsquelle

1.2 Urban ensemble of the Spa Town

Baden bei Wien's spas are situated in three areas: 1). In the Kurpark at the foot of the Kalvarienberg - Ursprungsquelle, originally providing the Theresien-, Antons- and Herzogbad, as well as Mariazeller-, Peregrini- and Leopoldsquelle; 2). In the surroundings of the former Frauenkirche (today Josefsplatz) - Frauen-, Karolinen- und Josefsquelle; 3). In the area of the former municipality of Weikersdorf - Sauerhof-, Engelsbad-, Peterhof-, Franzensbad-, Johannes- and Ferdinandsquelle as well as the Marienquelle.

1.2.1 Building ensembles connected to 'curative' waters

Bathing was, and is, the most important spa activity in *Baden bei Wien*. On the whole, the mineral water is unpleasant-tasting - sulphur-rich - and mostly suitable for external applications. Hence, drinking is subordinate as compared to baths which represent particularly noteworthy features.

1.2.1.1 Frauenbad baths (1821)

This classical bathing temple was built in 1821 according to plans by Charles Moreau and was mainly visited by high aristocracy; even the Kaiser used to bathe here. It replaced the old bath facilities of the Frauenquelle and Neuquelle springs whilst utilising the land of the Marien (= Frauen) - pilgrimage church demolished in 1812. The building's interior was extensively remodelled in 1878, and since 1994 has served as an exhibition centre. In 2009, the old bath facilities became the home of the Arnulf Rainer Museum.



1.2.1.2 Josefsbad baths

The Josefsbad, once known as the Rohrbadel am Anger (literally 'pipe baths by the Anger'), was the property of the Augustinian hermitage until 1650. Since then the baths have been in the town's possession. In 1804 the dominating circular temple of Vesta was added to the Baroque edifice. The building is attributed to Louis Montoyer, court architect of Kaiser Franz. The building has served as a restaurant since the 1970s.



1.2.1.3 Leopoldsbad baths (1812)

The Leopoldsbad (also called the Heiligenkreuzer Bad, literally ‘Baths of the Holy Cross - Abbey’) was newly built by the town fathers in 1812. The architect is unknown.

It served as a spa until 1939, before being used by a mineral-water company as a bottling facility until 1972. Since 1995, the neo-classical building has been home to the City of Baden’s tourist board.



1.2.1.4 Franzensbad baths (1827)

The Franzensquelle spring was tapped in 1827. The government of Lower Austria erected the baths above the spring and named them after the governing Kaiser of the time, Franz I. The facility served as baths for the poor, in particular for guests of the Wohltätigkeitshaus charitable sanatorium. Most recently renovated in 2004, the baths are currently home to a hammam.



1.2.1.5 Engelsbad baths (1821)

Erupting in 1755, the Engelsbadquelle spring was newly tapped by Joseph Kornhäusel in 1821 and covered with the spa building still in use today. The baths, constructed beside and contemporary with, the remodelled Sauerhof, are part of the Engelsbad sanatorium, for use by public-sector workers in receipt of health insurance.



1.2.1.6 Sauerhof hotel (1822)



From 1820 to 1822, Joseph Kornhäusel remodelled the medieval castle complex on behalf of Baron von Doblhoff-Dier, creating the Grand Hotel Sauerhof as it still exists today. The hotel was the first free-standing spa hotel in Europe and, due to the lack of adequate models for the building project, Kornhäusel based his designs on the palace architecture of his time. It features its own spring (first recorded

in the twelfth century) that is covered by Roman-style baths which are one of the outstanding examples of neo-classical architecture in Austria. The building will be restored by its new owner in the foreseeable future.

1.2.1.7 Hotel Badener Hof

In 1805, at the Mariazellerhof (now Hotel Badener Hof), Kaiser Franz sponsored the Wohltätigkeitshaus charitable sanatorium for poor people in need of spa treatments. There is a mineral water spring at Mariazellerhof estate. The sanatorium and spa was extensively expanded in 1825 and this social institution is preserved as part of the Hotel Badener Hof, renovated since 2005 but keeping historic structures.



1.2.1.8 Trinkhalle ('drinking hall') pump room (1928)

The Art Deco-style Trinkhalle pump room was built in 1928 as an annexe of the Kurhaus. Incorporating the original spring, a large foyer was built which today serves as the restaurant of the casino.



1.2.2 Buildings for leisure and pleasure

Thanks to its proximity to Vienna, *Baden bei Wien* offered first-class entertainment. The theatre tradition that dates back to the beginning of the eighteenth century continues to this day, as does a wide range of music. In the nineteenth century, this offer not only extended to the spa houses, theatres, cafés and hotels, but also to numerous salons in the private sector. Open-air events complemented, indeed coined, the intellectual and cultural life of *Baden bei Wien*.

1.2.2.1 Kurhaus (1886)

The Kurhaus was built by Eugen Fassbender in 1885-86 on the spot of the former Theresienbad baths, Ursprungsbad baths and old pump room. In terms of its function, it replaced the ballroom which was demolished in 1908 to make way for the new municipal theatre. Today the Kurhaus serves as the Congress Casino, first established in 1934 as the country's first year-round casino, and moved to the present Kurhaus location in 1968. Renovated in 2007 it is currently the second largest casino in Europe. The ballroom, which was remodelled in 1934, was returned to its original design in 1999.



1.2.2.2 Sommerarena (1906)

Built in 1906, in record time of less than four months, by the architect Rudolf Krausz in lavish Art Nouveau style, Baden's 'summer arena' replaced the previous timber edifice of 1841. The Jugendstil iron structure with retractable glass roof (it can be removed automatically) makes it possible to hold performances under the open skies in fine weather, something which operetta aficionados have been enjoying for over 110 years now.



1.2.2.3 Stadttheater (1908-09)

The history of *Baden bei Wien's* theatre dates back to 1716 and thus it has one of the oldest theatrical traditions in Lower Austria. The Art Nouveau style Stadttheater, or municipal theatre, is the fourth theatre to stand in this place since 1770 and was built by the architecture firm Helmer und Fellner in 1908 to replace its dilapidated predecessor erected by Joseph Kornhäusel in 1812. It opened to Beethoven's *The Consecration of the House* which was composed in *Baden bei Wien*, and Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, premiered in Vienna in 1874, and a supreme example of Viennese operetta. The Art Nouveau interior, with a total of 816 seats on the ground floor and in two tiers, has been lovingly restored.



1.2.2.4 Music pavilion in the Kurpark (1894)

The music pavilion dates from 1894 and was erected by Joseph Schubauer. It is the venue for regular spa concerts and a central meeting point on the Kurpark's main avenue.



1.2.2.5 Rollett Museum

The building which now houses the Rollett Museum (one of two museums founded in *Baden bei Wien* for the educated middle classes) is based on the collections of the spa doctor Anton Rollett which were made accessible to the public in 1810. It was built between 1903 and 1905 as the town hall of what was then still the independent municipality of Weikersdorf. It was designed by the architect Rudolf Krausz and built by the municipal master builder Josef Schmidt. Following the incorporation of Weikersdorf into Baden in 1912, the building was adapted for the Rollett Museum.



1.2.2.6 Thermalstrandbad lido (1926)

The Thermalstrandbad lido comprises over 5000m² of pools, built in Art Nouveau Deco style, on the banks of the Schwechat River to the southwest of the Doblhoffpark. Construction took place between early April and mid-July 1926 according to plans by master builder Alois Bohn. The main building, measuring a total length of 160.8m, was *Baden bei Wien's* second-largest building. The mineral water is supplied from the Marienquelle spring. The lido's sandy beach can accommodate around 2,000 people.



1.2.3 Accommodation

Originally, to accommodate bathing guests was a privilege of the full citizens of *Baden bei Wien*. The small castles in the east and south of the city were not part of the jurisdictional district of *Baden bei Wien*. This is the reason why the first hotels were established in the Peterhof (1670, demolished 1818), the Sauerhof (1741, new edification in 1821-23) and the Schloß Gutenbrunn (1782/1902/1970).

During the nineteenth century, it was still possible to rent a room at a citizen's house. Besides, there was the development of villas, representative town houses and hotels as new offers to accommodate bathing guests. Building, buying or renting was a question of status and wealth of the guest who wanted to stay for bathing sojourns. Today the town houses and most of the hotels are situated within the city centre, while the villas form a wide belt around it. The first villa districts were erected in the 1840s, the last ones during the last years before World War I between 1900 and 1914.

1.2.3.1 Magdalenenhof

This building has a similar history as the Beethovenhaus. Beethoven lived and worked here in 1822. In this house he composed the Overture *Die Weihe des Hauses*.



1.2.3.2 Residences of the Habsburg Family: Kaiserhaus Baden (1792)

This town house built in 1792 was adapted for Duke Nikolaus Esterhazy by Charles de Moreau between 1808 and 1812, and purchased by Kaiser Franz I in 1813 for his spa sojourns in *Baden bei Wien*. During World War I (from January 1917), this building housed Emperor Karl I and his Supreme Command Headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian army. The town house, which has been in the possession of the City of Baden since 2008, is being gradually revitalised. Since 2013, the Imperial Rooms on the first floor have been open to the public as an exhibition centre.



1.2.3.3 Residences of the Habsburg Family: Florastöckl and Augustinerkloster

The Florastöckl was built in 1817 by the French architect Charles Moreau and hosted Emperor Francis's children the later Emperor crown prince Archduke Ferdinand, Archduke Franz Carl and his wife Archduchess Sophie and their little son, the later emperor Franz Josef, Archduchess Marie Luise, formerly the wife of Napoleon I and Empress of France and her son Francis Napoleon. The Augustinerkloster (Augustine Hermitage) had earlier been used for German Emperors' bathing-sojourns until the buildings were burned in the great fire of 1812. After this the Emperor bought the Kaiserhaus and moved there.



The former monastery of the Augustine Hermits (founded 1285), meanwhile a private estate, was sold to the Emperor in 1826 for lodging the court during the imperial sojourns. It is still owned by the Republic of Austria, and today hosts a senior high school.

1.2.3.4 Schloßhotel Gutenbrunn (1712/1782/1902/1970)

The baroque style palace of Gutenbrunn has been used as a hotel since 1782. By using the old edification, the palace was widened into a cold water sanatorium in 1902. Again modernised in the early 1970s, the Schloßhotel was renovated in 2010 in an exemplary manner and nowadays its interiors show a wonderful example of a nineteenth century spa hotel.



1.2.3.5 Hotel Herzoghof (1909)

Built in 1908-09, the Hotel Herzoghof stands on the site of the old Herzogbad (meaning 'ducal bath') which, since medieval times, had served as a bath house and (since 1717) as a hostel that was used by the nobility for bathing. The hotel features remarkable Art Nouveau interiors.



1.2.3.6 Hotel Esplanade (1912)

The Hotel Esplanade was built by Eduard Prandl in 1912, and expanded by Wladimir Walter in 1925-26. The four-storey building is dominated by an impressive two-storey semi-circular double-sided colonnade. Located in this impressive avant-corps on the southern side is the main dining hall with large windows on the ground floor, whilst another dining hall is located on the courtyard side. The former hotel is today let to permanent guests.



1.2.3.7 Carl Michael Ziehrer Haus (1912)

In 1912 the Carl Michael Ziehrer Haus was built in the spa park near the Sommerarena under the patronage of Archduke Rainer as accommodation and a rest-home for musicians and artists. This is an example of profession-specific spas that were added to the mix at the turn of the century. To this day the guest house offers discounts to artists.



1.2.3.8 Villa Erzherzog Rainer (1867)

The villa by the Rainerweg at the foothills of St Helena was built in 1867 by Otto Wagner for the banker Gustav Ritter von Epstein. Following the stock-market crash of 1873, Archduke Rainer and his wife, the Archduchess Maria Karoline, purchased the property as a Habsburg residence and a chapel and spacious stable were built. The Rainer villa has been restored to an exemplary standard in recent years, revealing Otto Wagner's original colour scheme.



1.2.3.9 Villa Erzherzog Wilhelm (1886) - today the Eugen villa

Built between 1883 and 1886 by Franz von Neumann for Archduke Wilhelm, this splendid villa is an important example of the Neo-Renaissance style in Austria. Following the death of Archduke Wilhelm, the villa was inherited by his nephew Archduke Eugen, after whom the property is still named to this day. The villa and adjacent building with its large carved stables was restored in 2000.



1.2.3.10 Villa Hauser (1844)

The villa, including the stables and pavilions, was erected in 1843-44 by Josef Fellner, son-in-law of its commissioner, master stonemason Franz Hauser. It was built on land belonging to the lords of Weikersdorf and parcelled up by Joseph Kornhäusel. It is assumed that Hauser was also responsible for planning the villa, at least for its year of completion.



1.2.3.11 Villa Strecker (1846, formerly Mautner Markhof)

The villa, named after its last commissioner, the composer Heinrich Strecker, was built in 1846 by Baden's master builder Johann Schmidtberger as a summer residence. In 1873 the famous veranda – a relic of the Vienna World Exhibition – was added. Today the City of Baden owns this villa where, during summertime, Operetta-concerts are hosted.



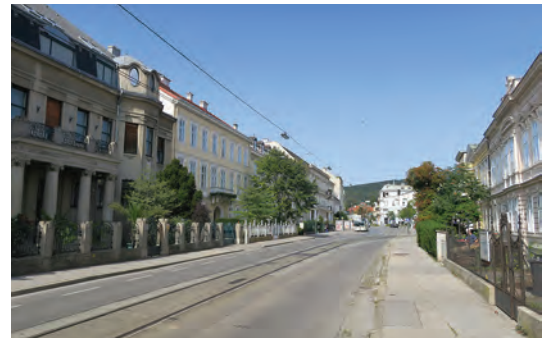
1.2.3.12 Villa Hahn (1887)

Designed by Otto Wagner for Samuel Ritter von Hahn, the General Director of the Österreichische Länderbank, this villa was erected between 1885 and 1887. It replaced an older villa built for Countess Rzewuska in 1810. From 2013 to 2015, the building was restored in collaboration with the Federal Monuments Office.



1.2.3.13 Kaiser Franz Josef Ring

In the years around 1800, the spa town started to grow in the surrounding landscape, the first major urban expansions since the late Middle Ages. The beginning of this development, which created today's villa-belt, was the Neugasse (since 1906 Kaiser Franz Josef Ring) situated in the formerly unused flood plain of the River Schwechat. This boulevard lined by representative town houses and villas connects the train station with the central Josefsplatz, where the Josefsbad and the Frauenbad are located. Narrow plots in front of the buildings were delivered by the city ordering the new owners to plant flourishing front gardens. The special rule still exists.



1.2.4 Religious buildings and facilities

Until the end of the eighteenth century, despite the spa stays of numerous Jews from Vienna and neighbouring countries, as well as of many non-Catholic diplomats, it was only allowed to provide Catholic worship in *Baden bei Wien*. The religious needs of the Catholic guests were sufficiently taken care of. Since the large parish church in the summer did not provide enough space, in 1826 Emperor Franz opened his church of the court (Frauenkirche) to the spa guests. Herzoghof, Wohltätigkeitshaus, Schloß Gutenbrunn and Sauerhof had their own chapels, some of which are still preserved today. In 1849, the first Jewish prayer house existed. In 1871, the synagogue, which is still preserved in a modified form, was built. A Protestant church did not follow until 1887.

1.2.4.1 Frauenkirche church

Until 1812, the Frauenkirche ('Church of our Lady') was the church of the Augustinian hermitage dissolved in that year. Mathias Öttl was the master builder who oversaw the

construction of the main nave in around 1700. Kaiser Franz purchased the former hermitage in 1826 and designated the church as the court church, which was remodelled in 1830 according to plans by the imperial architect Johann Aman. The church was made publicly accessible to spa guests.



1.2.4.2 Evangelical church (1887)

The evangelical church was erected in the new villa district by the Wilhelmsring in 1887. It is in the historicised Neo-Romantic style according to plans by municipal master builder Anton Breyer. The church was restored in 2016-17.



1.2.4.3 Herzoghof Kapelle (1908)

There was a chapel of the Herzogbad since the medieval times. When the Herzoghof was new built in 1908 the old chapel was demolished and rebuilt on the current place. It is an outstanding example of sacral art nouveau architecture in Austria.



1.3 Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

Baden bei Wien features many parks for guests to carry out their prescribed walks in, as well as for their edification. The biggest and most important park is the Kurpark, whose various stages of development and expansion can be traced back to 1756: the Theresiengarten in 1756, the Stadtpark ('municipal park') in 1796, the Lang'sche Anlagen gardens in 1808-34, the Neupark ('new park') in 1853, the Mauthner von Markhof-Anlagen gardens with the Rudolfshof in 1880-1900, and finally the "Krupka gardens" in 1924. Even before the creation of the Kurpark, *Baden bei Wien* possessed several small private kurgardens nearby and inside the city walls, especially in the surroundings of the thermal springs. By the 1820s these gardens had gone. With the beginning of the nineteenth century some private parks nearby the city were opened to the public, especially for the use of spa guests. Created in the Baroque period and opened to the public in 1816, the Weikersdorfer Hofgarten ('Weikersdorf court garden', now the Doblhoff Park) – today home to the Rosarium – and the Gutenbrunner Park, which was transformed into a landscaped park in the nineteenth century, have been preserved to this day. Many of the publicly accessible green spaces of the country houses dating from the early nineteenth century today exist in an overgrown state (the

Alexandrowitsch park, Schönfeld park and Weilburg park). The park of the Villa Hudelist is today part of the Kurpark; that of the Villa Ossolinki, what is today the Schloss Braiten town house, can still be traced. The small garden of the Kaiserhaus was restored according to the 1808 plans by Charles Moreau during the revitalisation work of 2015. West of the spa district, a finely designed landscape reaching Helenental emerged, which added considerable value to the health resort. This type of green space development began at an early stage in Baden, and pathways to the Helenental Valley include the Wegerl im Helenental walking trail (1809) and the Helenentalstraße with the UrteIstein road tunnel (1826). Along the River Schwechat an early parkland villa district (Weilburgstraße and Helenenstraße) was commissioned by Baron Doblhoff and designed by Joseph Kornhäusel with the express purpose of developing the River Schwechat's flood plain into an extensive landscaped park (1842/26).

1.3.1 Kurpark (1796)



The Kurpark, one of Austria's most beautiful historic gardens, was created in 1796 according to plans by Jean Baptist Barbé. At the time, the end of the main avenue was marked by the Asclepius temple erected by Kaiser Franz II/I, which was moved to its current location during the course of the park's expansion in 1853. The park's large avenues dating from 1796 were completely relayed, thus preserving the impression of the tree grove. The park stretches from the town centre into the adjacent woods and features oak, chestnut and palm trees (the latter transferred to greenhouses in winter), gazebos, fountains, a spa café and music pavilion, and numerous decorative buildings for spa guests.

1.3.2 Kurpark – Krupka gardens and Beethoven temple (1927)

The municipal director of gardens, Josef Krupka (an internationally-known garden-architect of the early twentieth century), created the gardens bearing his name between 1924 and 1927 on the newly purchased Löwenstein estate. The most important decorative building is the Beethoven temple, erected in 1927 by the architect Wilhelm Luksch to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the composer's death.



1.3.3 Weikersdorf court garden – Doblhoff park

The grounds of the Doblhoff park date back to the Renaissance. From 1694 to 1740, the park was laid out in the Baroque style. In 1816, Baron Doblhoff commissioned this green space to be transformed into an English landscaped garden, which can still be traced in the park's layout today. Since 1968, the park has been owned by the City and is home to Austria's largest rosarium (area 8 hectares) with more than 30,000 rose plants in over 800 varieties.



1.3.4 Helenental parklands; Ruins of Rauhenstein Castle

Together with Rauhenneck Castle (also in ruins), Rauhenstein guarded the gateway to the Helenental Valley from the twelfth century. The castle ruins were restored around 1809 and made accessible via an extensive network of paths, which are part of the famous therapeutic and recreational spa landscape that exists in this valley, which was a model for the similar therapeutic spa landscape in other spa towns such as *Bad Ems*. The ruin's venerable walls remain one of the town's attractions.



1.3.5 Alexandrowicz Anlagen gardens (1812)

The Alexandrowicz Anlagen is a well-preserved example of the landscape gardens and parklands surrounding the Helenental valley since the turn of the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries. In 1812 the Polish countess Marcelline Alexandrowicz bought some vineyards at the entrance of the Helenental valley and planted a small English style landscape garden with wonderful viewpoints. Her gardener was Joseph Striebl, who was also responsible for the Lang'schen Anlagen and the famous Braun'schen Gardens at Schönau near Baden. Today the Alexandrowicz Anlagen is a wildered public garden, owned by the city of Baden. The viewpoints still are in use. As LIDAR surveys prove, the old network of paths still survives in the woodland.



1.4 Spa infrastructure

It was always necessary to meet the needs of the bathers. In the eighteenth century, considerations included the prohibition on leaving geese and chickens on the streets, and no longer tipping the slaughter into the city ditches, whilst in the nineteenth century transport and social issues came to the fore. Water supply and disposal was upgraded and the water pipe from 1832 (planned since 1720) still exists; the water pipe from 1902 still meets the needs of the city. Connection to the railway network was in 1840 and the tram connection to Vienna from 1900; these continue to be part of public transport. For the care of the parks, a garden administration was established in the early nineteenth century.

1.4.1 Tunnel Urtelstein (1826/27)

From 1824 to 1827, on the orders of Emperor Franz, the road through the Helenental was recreated for the convenience of the spa guests. The Urtelstein forming a short ravine was tunnelled under. It is the second oldest road tunnel in the area of the former Monarchy.



1.4.2 Kinderbewahranstalt Marienkindergarten (1841)

Under the patronage of Empress Dowager Caroline Augusta, the eldest nursery outside Vienna was set up to look after the children of spa resort staff. This kindergarten is still in operation today.



1.4.3 Kurpark – Glasshouses

The garden administration is in charge of all parks and gardens held by the City of Baden. In 1885, the new glasshouses were built nearby the existing house of the city-gardener. The palm trees are still nursed there during winter time.



1.5 Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

Frequent stays in *Baden bei Wien* by Habsburg Emperors underline the importance of *Baden bei Wien* as a spa town. Emperor Leopold I invited August the Strong to *Baden bei Wien* in 1697 (who converted at *Baden bei Wien* to the Catholic faith for being allowed to be elected as King of Poland) and Tsar Peter the Great in 1698. From 1793, Emperor Franz II chose *Baden bei Wien* as his residence for summertime “Badeséjours” (bathing sojourns) so that it became the leading spa for fashionable society when the Emperor mixed freely with residents and guests. *Baden bei Wien* hosted side discussions from the Congress of Vienna from 1814-15. Prince Metternich had his residence in *Baden bei Wien* where he received foreign diplomats. After the death of Franz II in 1835, *Baden bei Wien* remained the most important ‘Sommerfrische’ and spa resort for “bathing sojourns” of the Habsburg family. With this, Viennese fashionable society built their villas for the summer season and the salons of Fanny Arnstein and Karoline Pichler hosted diplomats from the Congress of Vienna and celebrities of the Austrian Enlightenment including, from the Congress, Prince Clemens von Metternich, Friedrich von Gentz, Count Karl Nesselrode, Prince Karl von Hardenberg, Wilhelm von Humboldt, together with celebrities, Archduchess Marie Louise, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte and former Empress of France, Karl Varnhagen van Ense, Carl Prince of Liechtenstein, the composers, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Maria Von Weber, Karl Czerny, and artists, Jean Baptist Isabey, Eduard Gurk, Johann and Thomas Ender, and Jacob Alt.

The infrastructure for entertaining guests was expanded ever further. There was a surge in investment in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, initiated by Kaiser Franz:

Baden bei Wien was certainly the preferred spa town of the Imperial Court. It was not only during the Congress of Vienna that the political, artistic and scientific elite of the Enlightenment met here. There were (illegal) games of chance at the inns, grand balls and dances at the so-called casino and the ballroom, theatrical performances, and parties at the newly erected private country houses of Ossolinsky, Scheibers, Rzewuska, Alexandrowitsch, Rollett, Aichelburg and Schönfeld. These were all as much an ideal complement to the spa facilities as the newly created parks and landscaped gardens preferred by Ludwig van Beethoven. Beethoven, whose sponsors included the Emperor, the aristocracy and bourgeoisie, had numerous lodgings in *Baden bei Wien*, his favourite spa close to home where he came for extended stays to heal in the waters and to concentrate on his work. He enjoyed not only the spa, but was inspired during regular visits in the early 1820s by the idyll of the river valley, its flanking vineyards and wooded hills where he loved to wander.

He said of this inspiration for his musical genius: “No-one can love the countryside as much as I do. For surely woods, trees and rocks produce the echo which man desires to hear.” His *String Quartet No.15 in A minor, Op.132*, written in 1825, shows a palpable connection between his curing and composing. His “Home of the Ninth” (Symphony) is since 2014 the Beethovenhaus Baden Museum. Joseph Lanner and Johann Strauß the Elder and Younger performed for guests at many different venues throughout the town. Even Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in 1791, composed *Ave verum corpus* whilst with his pregnant wife staying at *Baden bei Wien’s* spa. In *Baden bei Wien’s* Catholic Church of St Stephen, he premiered the piece that he dedicated to Anton Stoll, a friend who was the church’s musical director.

In 1917-18 *Baden bei Wien* hosted the supreme command of the Austro-Hungarian army under Emperor Karl I. After 1918 the rise of *Baden bei Wien* continued until 1938.

1.5.1 Beethovenhaus Baden (fourteenth to the nineteenth century)

Ludwig van Beethoven worked, and lived, in this property during the summers of 1821 to 1823. In this house, he composed major parts of his *Symphony No.9*. Beethoven came to work, and live, in *Baden bei Wien* at least sixteen times; and in the same accommodation, a rare occurrence. The composer’s apartment still remains in the state of the early nineteenth century and is now conserved as a museum.



1.5.2 Landhaus Ossolinski – Schloß Braiten (1810)

The Polish intellectual and Director of the Court Library (today the National Library of Austria), Joseph Max Ossolinski, Count of Tenczyn, had this country house and adjacent building constructed by municipal master builder Anton Hantl from 1809 to 1810. Together with his home in Vienna, the owner turned this generously proportioned property into a meeting place for the intellectual world. Today it is home to the Federal Institute for Social Pedagogy.



1.5.3 Landhaus Schönfeld

In 1805, the publisher Baron Johann Ferdinand von Schönfeld had a large country house built at the entrance to the Helenental Valley. A park offering fine views was built immediately on the cliff behind the house in 1808. On 15 October 1809, this was visited by no less a person than Emperor Napoleon during his brief sojourn with his troops stationed in *Baden*. The Schönfeld country house was a meeting point for intellectuals and artists. There was a small theatre built by the famous Austrian architect Joseph Kornhäusel under the roof. Since the late nineteenth century the country house is called Villa Bavaria and is divided into rental apartments.



1.5.4 Townhouse Attems

Townhouse Attems, since 1909/1914 has been the Café Central (façades are newly restored). The Townhouse was the summer residence of Prince Metternich before and at the beginning of the Congress of Vienna in 1814. This building also hosted the former Empress of France Marie Louise in 1818 and 1823, as well as the son of Napoleon I, Napoleon Francis Duke of Reichstadt in 1828.



1.6 Continuing spa tradition

Baden bei Wien is the biggest tourism destination in nowadays Province of Lower Austria. There are about 440.000 overnight stays and more than two million daily visitors each year, the latter coming from Vienna and the surrounding area. Health tourism still is the most important sector of Baden's tourism, providing more than 60 percent of all overnight stays. Balneological treatments are offered by the city-owned Kurhaus, four Spas run by big national health insurances and one private Spa. More than 2 million litres of curative sulphurous water bubble up every day from Baden's 14 natural thermal springs.

Spa guests are offered an extensive and diverse program of entertainment and culture, amongst others including: Congress Casino, two theatres (Stadttheater and Sommerarena), the parks and landscape gardens, six museums (Arnulf Rainer Museum, Beethovenhaus, Kaiserhaus, Rollettmuseum, Kaiser Franz Josef Museum and Puppenmuseum), Strandbad-Lido, and the traditional horse-harness course. International events attract high-quality guests from all over the world, including the traditional Festival of Operetta (existing for more than 120 years), the colourful Festival of Roses, and the biggest pan-European Fotofestival: LaGacilly-Baden-Photo.



Retractable glass roof of the historic Sommerarena enables seasonal performances under open skies