

BAYREUTH
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Press release

Jewish Bayreuth

Jewish history in Bayreuth reaches back over 800 years. After having survived persecution, deportation and the holocaust, the Jewish community, whose roots are in the 13th century now consists of around 500 members.

The 1760 baroque synagogue that was originally built as a comedy house for the margravian court in 1714/15 is the oldest still functioning synagogue in Germany. It has recently been renovated by the renowned architecture firm Wandel, Hoefler, Lorch + Hirsch from Saarbrücken, who are known for the outstanding renovations of the Dresden and Munich synagogues.

Wall to wall with the Margravian Opera house, a UNESCO world heritage site, a new building complex around the synagogue has been created: There is the modern Mikwe, the ritual bath for immersions. The Mikwe's water is supplied by an artisan well and is hence hailed as the "purest Mikwe in Europe" by the London expert Rabbi Meir Posen. Opposite, in the former building of the mint from 1778 a new Jewish culture and community presently is under construction to become a museum and community centre, the opening is planned for 2024. The Genisa that was discovered in 2010 during renovations to the roof framework of the synagogue bears findings that date back the 16th century - these will be shown in the currently developing Jewish culture centre and museum.

The Bayreuth Jewish cemetery with its nearly 1000 graves was established 1787 and has been used and maintained without interruption by the Jewish Community. Belonging to the cemetery is a remarkable art nouveau Tahara. The cemetery is only publicly accessible on the 9. November due to the annual commemoration event that is linked to a tour. Thanks to a three-year survey and research work by the Salomon-Ludwig-Steinheim-Institute of the University of Essen all graves are listed online with a picture and description in the universities epigraphic databank.

Links:

Jewish Cemetery Bayreuth (since 1786):

<https://web.archive.org/web/20220706101524/http://steinheim-institut.de/cgi-bin/epidat?id=bay>

Genisa Bayreuth deposited between 1760 and 1780 and found in 2010:

<http://genisa.ikgbayreuth.net/>

Guided tours:

Mikwe and baroque synagogue tours for groups can be booked after prior registration with the Jewish Community (phone +49-(0)921-64389, ikgbayreuth@freenet.de). Regular and public tours to the Jewish past and present of Bayreuth are offered by the Bayreuth Marketing & Tourismus GmbH (phone +49-(0)921-88588). Information on jewish history can be found in the free city map titled "Jewish Bayreuth" and in the book going by the same title. The city map "Jewish Bayreuth" is also available online under www.bayreuth-tourismus.de/english

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