The Trip to Regensburg

The WIB Group in front of the Hall of Liberation

Each year, the "16 Federal States" group of *Welcome to Berlin* organises a journey to a different region of Germany. From 22 to 24 April 2026, the destination was Bavaria and the historically significant city of Regensburg, whose importance dates back to the Middle Ages.

Organised in cooperation with Bayern Tourist, the trip proved highly rewarding, with Regensburg presenting itself in glorious sunshine as a city well worth visiting: a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Germany's best-preserved large medieval city, rich in historic landmarks and architectural treasures.

STONE BRIDGE AND TOWN HALL

After arriving by train, the 21-member group first enjoyed a light luncheon in a historic tavern beside the medieval Stone Bridge, Germany's oldest surviving bridge. Built in 1135, it remained the only bridge crossing the Danube between Ulm and Vienna until 1935. The programme continued with a reception hosted by the city's designated mayor in the Old Town Hall, followed by a guided tour of the 750-year-old building, whose Imperial Assembly Hall is regarded as a forerunner of the German parliament, the European Union and even the United Nations. WIB member H.E. Alice Mashingaidze, Ambassador of Zimbabwe, signed the city's Golden Book.
A lively beer seminar later offered entertaining insights into the German Beer Purity Law, drinking customs, traditional toasts and drinking songs.

WALHALLA

In perfect excursion weather, the group travelled by coach the following morning to the Walhalla memorial, dramatically situated high above the Danube. Built in 1830 and clad inside and out in marble, the temple is one of Germany's most important national monuments of the 19th century, commemorating outstanding artists, statesmen and scholars, as the expert guide explained.

WELTENBURG ABBEY

A boat trip through the so-called Danube Gorge brought the group to Weltenburg Abbey, picturesquely located within a bend of the river. In the courtyard of the abbey tavern – renowned, among other things, for its own brewed beer – a hearty Bavarian lunch awaited the travellers. Afterwards, the group visited the church of the Benedictine abbey, considered one of the most significant Baroque sacred buildings in Europe, before continuing to the imposing Liberation Hall towering above the Danube.

THURN UND TAXIS

On the final day, the itinerary included a guided tour of the city and a visit to St Emmeram Palace, residence of the princely Thurn und Taxis family and home to Princess Gloria. With well over 500 rooms, it is the largest privately inhabited castle in the world.

Filled with lasting impressions, the WIB travel group returned to Berlin after this memorable and thoroughly enjoyable excursion.

TEXT Ursula Braumann

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On the way to the Walhalla

The WIB Group in Regensburg's Old Town