

Braunau am Inn

Braunau am Inn (German pronunciation: [ˈbʁaʊnaʊ am ˈɪn] (listen); German for "Braunau on the Inn") is a town in Upper Austria on the border with Germany. It is known for being the birthplace of Adolf Hitler.

Geography

The town is on the lower river Inn below its confluence with the Salzach, where it forms the border with the German state of Bavaria, halfway on the road between the state capital Linz and the Bavarian capital Munich, about 60 km (37 mi) north of Salzburg. Braunau is connected by bridges over the Inn with its Bavarian counterpart Simbach am Inn. A traditional port of entry, all border controls have been abolished since the implementation of the Schengen Agreement by Austria in 1997.

The town gave its name to the administrative district (*Bezirk*). The population of Braunau am Inn was 16,182 in 2011. The municipal area comprises the cadastral communities of Braunau am Inn, Osternberg, and Ranshofen.

History

While the abbey of Ranshofen was already mentioned in the course of the deposition of Tassilo III, Duke of Bavaria, in 788, Braunau itself first appeared as *Prounaw* in an 1120 deed. The Innviertel region then was part of the Duchy of Bavaria.



St Stephen's Church

Braunau received **town rights** in 1260, one of the first in present-day Austria. It became a fortress town and important trading route junction, dealing with the **salt trade** and with ship traffic on the Inn. As a major Bavarian settlement, the town played an outstanding role in the **Bavarian uprising** against the Austrian occupation during the **War of the Spanish Succession**, when it hosted the **Braunau Parliament**, a provisional Bavarian Parliament in 1705 headed by **Georg Sebastian Plinganser** (born 16 April 1680 in **Pfarrkirchen**; died 7 May 1738 in **Augsburg**).

The **Late Gothic** Braunau parish church dedicated to **Saint Stephen** was built from 1439 to 1466, replacing an older chapel. Its 87 m (285 ft) high spire is one of the tallest in Austria and the town's landmark. The remains of the fortress today house a museum and parts of the former town walls can still be seen. Another museum is housed in refurbished 18th-century public baths.

Within 40 years, Braunau changed hands three times: In 1779, it became an Austrian town under the terms of the **Treaty of Teschen**, which settled the **War of the Bavarian Succession**.

Braunau am Inn

Municipality



Braunau town centre



Coat of arms



Location within Austria

☒ Show map of Upper Austria

☐ Show map of Austria

☐ Show all

Coordinates: 48°15′30″N 13°2′6″E﻿ / ﻿https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Braunau_am_Inn¶ms=48_15_30_N_13_2_6_E_type:city(17095)_region:AT-4

Country	 Austria
State	 Upper Austria
District	Braunau am Inn

Government

• Mayor	Johannes Waidbacher (ÖVP)
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Area^[1]

• Total	24.84 km ²
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During [War of the Third Coalition](#), the [Nuremberg](#) bookseller [Johann Philipp Palm](#) was arrested at the Braunau fortress by [French](#) troops and executed for high treason by personal order of [Napoleon](#) in 1806. Under the terms of the 1809 [Treaty of Schönbrunn](#), Braunau became Bavarian again in 1809. In 1816, during reorganisation of Europe after the [Napoleonic Wars](#) at the [Congress of Vienna](#), the [Kingdom of Bavaria](#) ceded the town to the [Austrian Empire](#) and was compensated by the gain of [Aschaffenburg](#). Braunau has been Austrian ever since.

	(9.59 sq mi)
Elevation	352 m (1,155 ft)
Population (2018-01-01) ^[2]	
• Total	17,095
• Density	690/km ² (1,800/sq mi)
Time zone	UTC+1 (CET)
• Summer (DST)	UTC+2 (CEST)
Postal code	5280, 5282A
Area code	07722
Vehicle registration	BR
Website	www.braunau.at (http://www.braunau.a t/)

Braunau remained a [garrison](#) town of the [Austro-Hungarian Army](#) and became the site of a large [prisoner of war](#) camp in [World War I](#). After the Nazi [Anschluss](#) to [Nazi Germany](#) in 1938, Ranshofen, which at that time had one of Austria's largest aluminium plants, was incorporated into Braunau. Since 1992, the annual [Braunau Contemporary History Days](#) initiated by [Andreas Maislinger](#) concentrate on accounting for the past; the town's administration awards the [Egon Ranshofen-Wertheimer Award](#), named after native diplomat [Egon Ranshofen-Wertheimer](#), to honour committed Austrians abroad. Several [Stolpersteine](#) were installed in Braunau by the artist [Gunter Demnig](#).

Adolf Hitler's birthplace



Hitler's birthplace with memorial stone

[Adolf Hitler](#) was born on 20 April 1889 in Braunau am Inn where his father [Alois Hitler](#) served as a customs official. He and his family left Braunau and moved to [Passau](#) in 1892.^[3] Hitler was born in an

apartment building recorded at Salzburger Vorstadt 15 in an 1890 register, which housed a [craft brewery](#) and several rental flats, one of them occupied by Alois Hitler, his third wife [Klara](#), their son Adolf, and his elder half-siblings [Alois Jr.](#) and [Angela](#).

In April 1934, the Passau *Donauzeitung* published a commemorative article, marking the room where Hitler was born.^[4] In April 1938, Braunau renamed *Salzburger Vorstadt* to *Adolf-Hitler-Straße*, and its town plaza to *Adolf-Hitler-Platz*,^[5] but the building itself remained a [Gasthaus](#), with a sign advertising beer on tap.^[6]

After Hitler's personal secretary [Martin Bormann](#) purchased the house where Hitler was born for the [Nazi Party](#), it became a cult centre containing an art gallery and a public library. [Occupied](#) by US troops at the end of [World War II](#), the building temporarily housed a documentary exhibition on [Nazi concentration camps](#). In 1952, it was restored to its original owners and thereafter used as a city library, a technical college and a day-care centre for disabled people. Since 2011, the house remains vacant. In 2014, the Austrian Ministry decided to open in the house a "House of Responsibility"—a museum dedicated to Hitler's crimes during the existence of the Third Reich.

In the course of the process of coming to terms with the history of [Austria in the time of National Socialism](#), the Braunau mayor [Gerhard Skiba](#) in April 1989 — two weeks before Hitler's centenary — took the initiative and placed a [memorial stone](#) in front of the building. The stone, commemorating the victims of World War II, is made of granite from the quarry at the [Mauthausen concentration camp](#). It states, *Für Frieden, Freiheit und Demokratie. Nie wieder Faschismus. Millionen Tote mahnen* ("For peace, freedom and democracy; never again fascism: millions of dead remind us"). The memorial also serves as a disincentive to "Hitler tourism". In 1972 the Austrian government took over the main lease on the building to further discourage any notion of making it a pilgrimage site, and continues to pay its current owner approximately 4,800 euros in monthly rental.^[7] Austria's government has since announced that the house would be torn down and replaced with a new building that has no association with Adolf Hitler. The demolition was recommended by a government-appointed commission and the plan still required formalization via legislation and a parliamentary vote.^[8] On 18 October 2016, Austrian [interior minister Wolfgang Sobotka](#) said the building would instead be changed to the extent that it "will not be recognizable."^[9]

In October 2016, the Austrian government approved a plan to move or demolish the building at Salzburger Vorstadt 15. In July of the same year, the Austrian Parliament passed a law to expropriate the house with its last private owner, Gerlinde Pommer, being compensated for the property. Following the emptying of the building in 2011, Pommer had received €4,700 (\$5,200) per month in rent from the Austrian government as it had taken over the main lease. Interior Minister

Wolfgang Sobotka lobbied for replacing the original building with an entirely new structure.^{[10][11]} In June 2020 it was announced that the building would be remodeled and serve as a police station.^[12]

In 2011, the Braunau town council voted to revoke any honorary citizenship that may have been conferred on Hitler in 1933. The action was described as "precautionary" as no archival evidence could be found to confirm that he had received it in the first place.^{[13][14][15][16]}

Population



Braunau am Inn bridge and customs checkpoint c. 1910

Historical population		
Year	Pop.	±%
1869	4,553	—
1880	5,078	+11.5%
1890	5,584	+10.0%
1900	6,021	+7.8%
1910	6,340	+5.3%
1923	6,678	+5.3%
1934	6,998	+4.8%
1939	7,850	+12.2%
1951	12,013	+53.0%
1961	14,457	+20.3%
1971	16,436	+13.7%
1981	16,318	−0.7%
1991	16,264	−0.3%
2001	16,337	+0.4%
2011	16,182	−0.9%
2015	16,380	+1.2%
2021	17,438	+6.5%

Economy

Braunau has a full range of [industries](#) including [electronics](#), [metal](#) (AMAG), [woodworking](#), and [glass](#). The town also has the largest aluminium works in Austria.

Education

The [BHAK Braunau](#) is the oldest educational establishment in the [Innviertel](#).

The [HTL Braunau](#) (<https://www.htl-braunau.at>) has been awarded "Most Innovative School in [Upper Austria](#)" 7 times, in the years 2012-2014 and 2017-2020.

Sport

After two successful seasons, the local football team, [SV Braunau](#), reached the [Austrian 1st Division](#) before suddenly going bankrupt in 2000. The team was re-founded as [FC Braunau](#).

Notable residents

- [Hans Staininger](#) (1508–1567), burgomaster (mayor) of Braunau, the man with a very long beard, which caused his death
- [Franz Xaver Gruber](#) (1787–1863), teacher and musician, composer of the [Christmas carol](#) *Stille Nacht*, known in English as "[Silent Night](#)"
- [Josef Reiter](#) (1862–1939), composer
- [Edmund Glaise von Horstenau](#) (1882–1946), a military historian, [Vice Chancellor](#) in the Cabinet [Seyss-Inquart](#)
- [Franz Jetzinger](#) (1882–1965), Jesuit priest, professor of theology in Linz, editor, Social Democratic politician (1919–1934 Member of Parliament; 1932–1934 member of the regional government), author of *Hitler Youth* (1958)
- [Angela Hitler](#) (1883–1949), half-sister of Adolf Hitler, second wife of Martin Hammitzsch
- [Adolf Hitler](#) (1889–1945), [Führer](#) of [Nazi Germany](#)
- [Egon Ranshofen-Wertheimer](#) (1894–1957), diplomat, journalist, law and political scientists, Emigrant and adviser to the US government during World War II
- [Willi Schneider](#) (1903–1971) and [Rudi Schneider](#) (1908–1957), the brothers were famous in the [parapsychology](#) scene during the interwar period
- [Gerhard Skiba](#), (1947–2019), mayor of Braunau
- [Wilfried Scharf](#) (born 1955), zither player
- [Susanne Riess-Passer](#) (born 1961), politician (FPÖ), 2000–2003 Vice Chancellor (Austria)
- [Albert Hainz](#) (born 1964), cyclist, born in Ranshofen
- [Gero Miesenböck](#) (born 1965) neurophysiologist
- [Dominik Landertinger](#) (born 1988), biathlete
- [Markus Hammerer](#) (born 1989), football player

Climate

Braunau am Inn has an **oceanic climate** (Köppen climate classification: *Cfb*) or, following the 0 °C isotherm, a **humid continental climate** (*Dfb*) with warm summers and quite cold winters.

Climate data for Aspach, Upper Austria													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	16.2 (61.2)	19.9 (67.8)	23.6 (74.5)	26.4 (79.5)	29.7 (85.5)	32.2 (90.0)	35.3 (95.5)	34.4 (93.9)	31.4 (88.5)	24.5 (76.1)	21.6 (70.9)	16.6 (61.9)	35.3 (95.5)
Average high °C (°F)	1.9 (35.4)	3.9 (39.0)	8.9 (48.0)	13.0 (55.4)	18.7 (65.7)	21.1 (70.0)	23.4 (74.1)	23.0 (73.4)	18.9 (66.0)	13.4 (56.1)	6.3 (43.3)	3.3 (37.9)	13.0 (55.4)
Daily mean °C (°F)	−1.9 (28.6)	−0.6 (30.9)	3.7 (38.7)	7.4 (45.3)	12.8 (55.0)	15.7 (60.3)	17.7 (63.9)	17.1 (62.8)	12.9 (55.2)	7.9 (46.2)	2.6 (36.7)	−0.1 (31.8)	7.9 (46.2)
Average low °C (°F)	−5.1 (22.8)	−4.0 (24.8)	−0.3 (31.5)	2.4 (36.3)	6.7 (44.1)	10.1 (50.2)	12.0 (53.6)	11.5 (52.7)	8.5 (47.3)	4.0 (39.2)	−0.4 (31.3)	−3.2 (26.2)	3.5 (38.3)
Record low °C (°F)	−33.2 (−27.8)	−23.1 (−9.6)	−22.4 (−8.3)	−6.9 (19.6)	−5.2 (22.6)	1.0 (33.8)	2.2 (36.0)	−2.1 (28.2)	−2.1 (28.2)	−7.6 (18.3)	−25.0 (−13.0)	−25.6 (−14.1)	−33.2 (−27.8)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	57.5 (2.26)	44.9 (1.77)	66.8 (2.63)	71.2 (2.80)	76.6 (3.02)	104.9 (4.13)	113.2 (4.46)	91.8 (3.61)	74.7 (2.94)	58.9 (2.32)	64.6 (2.54)	68.0 (2.68)	893.1 (35.16)
Average snowfall cm (inches)	9.8 (3.9)	8.9 (3.5)	5.0 (2.0)	2.3 (0.9)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	4.6 (1.8)	11.2 (4.4)	3.5 (1.4)
Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm)	9.2	8.1	10.0	10.2	8.7	11.7	10.9	8.8	8.4	7.6	9.6	10.6	113.8
Average snowy days (≥ 1.0 cm)	14.1	9.6	4.9	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.0	9.6	3.7
Mean monthly sunshine hours	55.3	86.0	126.0	158.3	221.5	204.8	234.1	226.9	164.8	119.1	60.0	44.9	1,701.7
Source: ^[17]													

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External links

- [Official website](http://www.braunau.at/) (<http://www.braunau.at/>)
- Books by Anna Rosmus contain multiple photos of Braunau in 1945: *Valhalla Finale*, 350 pp, Dorfmeister, Tittling, 2009, (hardcover) [ISBN 3-9810084-7-2](#). and *Ragnarök*, 464 pp, Dorfmeister, Tittling, 2010, (hardcover) [ISBN 3-9810084-8-0](#)



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