

## WFWP Stuttgart, Germany - Day Trip to Biberach in Upper Swabia, Germany

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The Stuttgart branch of the Women's Federation for World Peace Germany organized an excursion to Biberach in Upper Swabia. We were a small group of nine.

From the thirteenth century until 1802, Biberach had been a free imperial city. Our tour took us into the old part of the town, directly to the town parish church of St. Martin. The origin of this church dates back to the 7th century. We admired its splendid interior, which is designed in rococo and baroque, and learned that this church has been used as a place of worship by both Protestants and Catholics alike since the reformation, despite the wars of religion, from 1548 up to this day. Thus, it is the oldest interdenominational used church building in Germany and can be held as a symbol of Christian ecumenism. Even all the council and administrative offices in the town were staffed on a basis of parity.

After lunch, we continued our tour of the old town with its magnificent patrician houses and historical timbered houses. We learned much about the artisanry and the early cultural life of the town in the Middle Ages and in Modern Times. Weaving and tanning were crafts that were of significance in the town. The oldest German theater association, the oldest amateur orchestra and the oldest children's theatre in Germany, were established in Biberach.

On our tour we also passed the museum of the prominent poet and writer of the Enlightenment, Christian Martin Wieland, a native of the town of Biberach. Wieland, after an eventful period in his life, was appointed in 1772 as a tutor for the sons of the Duke of Sachsen-Weimar, where he is counted among the classical four stars of Weimar, along with Herder, Goethe and Schiller.

We rounded off our trip with coffee and cake in a pleasant café in the old town, well pleased with and very impressed by our excursion to Biberach.

Reported by Ute Lemme  
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