

Naturally Imperial – Imperial Palace and Abbey



In the 10th century, Memleben irrevocably became a part of European history. King Henry I and his son, Emperor Otto I, visited Memleben more than once. Being the place of King Henry's death († 936) and of an imperial palace, Memleben stands both for the beginning as well as for the end of Otto's imperial rule since Otto I died himself in Memleben in 973. In commemoration of his father, Emperor Otto II and his wife Theophanu founded a Benedictine monastery in Memleben that evolved into an important abbey in the shortest of times. At this distinguished place of medieval history you can still see original wall fragments of two churches – the remains of a monumental church from the 10th century and an Early Gothic ruin going back to the first half of the 13th century. The Late Romanesque crypt that had been part of the younger of the two churches is still preserved in its original condition.

In its exhibition, the Monastery and Imperial Palace Museum of Memleben focuses on the location's historic importance, the monastery's architectural background and everyday life in the Benedictine Order.



Foto: Mirko Schlender



MUSEUM
KLOSTER UND KAISERPFALZ
MEMLEBEN



Monastery and Imperial Palace of Memleben

Opening hours

15th March – 31st October: every day 10.00 – 18.00

1st November – 14th March: estate only, every day 10.00 – 16.00,
closed on public holidays

Guided tours on arrangement only



MUSEUM
KLOSTER UND KAISERPFALZ
MEMLEBEN

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Layout: a. konzept (www.oe-konzept.de)



Overview of the Monastery and Imperial Palace Museum of Memleben



Reception (1)
Main entrance to the monastery, ticket sale, information, baby-changing facilities, pram parking, WC, lockers, indoor bike rack **(2)**



Monastery Garden (3)
The recreated monastery garden gives you an idea of the design and the plants used and grown in monasteries in the High Middle Ages.



Crypt (6)
Preserved undercroft, around 1200

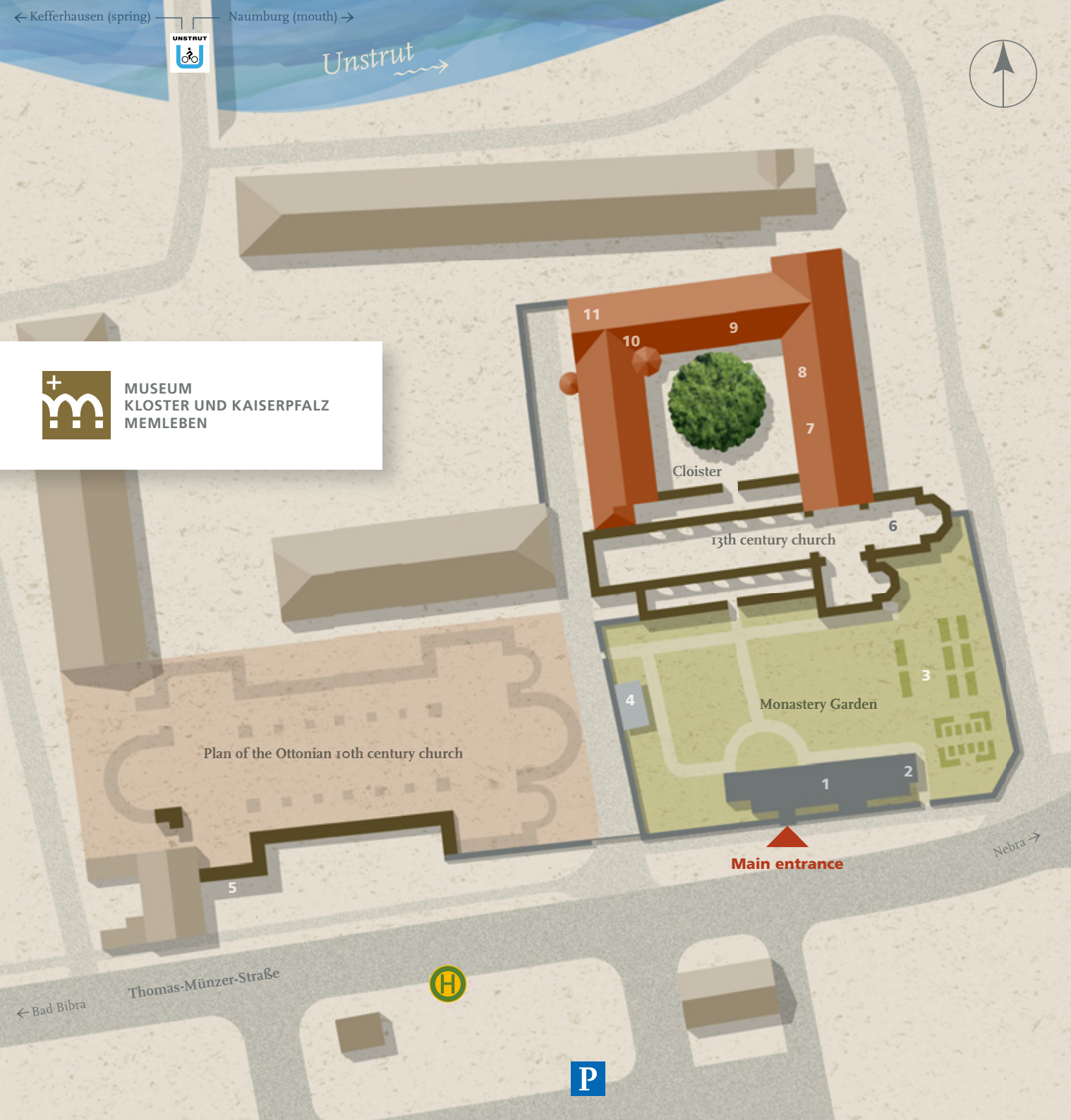


Sacristy (7)
Here, vestments and other church furnishings were kept. It now houses the **exhibition on the monastery's building history.**



Cloister East Wing (8)
Memleben – Place of Death of Otto I, Holy Roman Emperor
The historic exhibition illustrates the history of Memleben and follows the monastery's fate through the centuries.

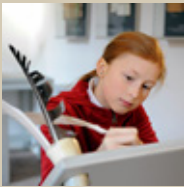
&
Special Exhibition
In the monastery's gallery – the former dormitory – we hold several special exhibitions over the year.



Cloister North Wing (9)
Everyday life in the Benedictine Monastery of Memleben
The exhibition shows the everyday life of medieval Benedictine monks.



&
Book Production in the Ottonian Era
The scriptorium, which is the place where books were made, was an essential part of a medieval monastery. The exhibition space in the northern cloister allows a glance on the processes of book production in the Middle Ages.



Cloister North Wing – Upper Floor (10)
The Emperor is Dead – Royal Death in the Middle Ages

This part of the exhibition provides answers to many questions such as:
What does the soul look like? Where does the soul travel after death? What could an Ottonian Emperor do to save his soul?
(Enter via the stair tower)



Shop (11)
Souvenirs and regional products, coffee, cakes and refreshments

