

«In the rock»

An underground shrine, a smiling Madonna, the calming sweep of Swiss countryside, and a working community of Benedictine monks – these are just some of the features that make Mariastein Abbey such a special place of pilgrimage.



Benediktinerkloster
Mariastein



«In life»

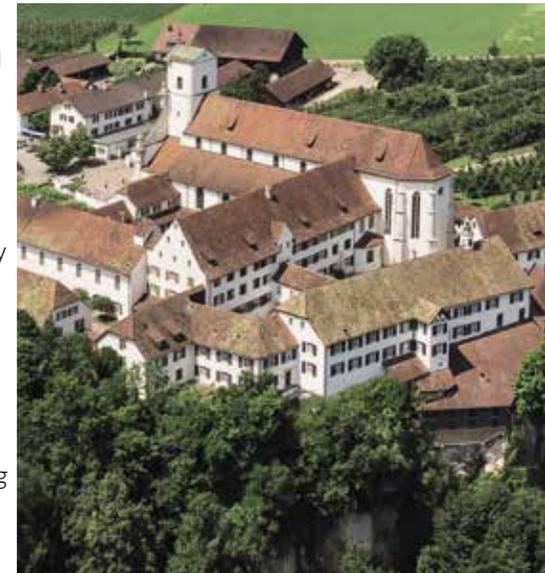
«Receive the power»

For more than 700 years, people have flocked to Mariastein in the hope of finding rest and succour, peace and tranquillity, and a source of renewed hope and strength.

Mariastein is in the commune of Metzerlen-Mariastein in the canton of Solothurn. Nestled in the sweeping, pastoral landscape of the Leimental, the Abbey lies 15 kilometres southwest of Basel and only a few hundred metres from Alsace, France. This place of pilgrimage and Benedictine monastery is steeped in legend. It is said that the first pilgrims came to the original Mariastein ('St Mary in the Rock') after

reports began to spread that Our Lady had saved the life of a young boy who had fallen down a cliff. First, a small shrine to Mary was erected in the cave, the site of the miraculous deed. Later, a pilgrimage chapel was built. The monastery, as it is today, was established in the mid-17th century and became home to a community of Benedictine monks from Beinwil Abbey.

The monastery complex also includes a guesthouse – the former pilgrims' hostel Klosterhotel Kreuz with its beautiful grounds and impressive herb garden – the monastery shop Pilgerlaube, and a working farm.





«*In peace*»

«*In search of God*»



The monks of Mariastein still live according to the Rule of St Benedict. Several times a day, they are called to the Abbey Church to pray together and to receive the Word of God.

The monks consider the abbey a 'house of God', the foundation and cornerstone of which is Jesus Christ. The daily life of the Benedictine community is given over entirely to work and prayer, communal meals and the reading of the Holy Word.

Members of the Benedictine order renounce the right to marry and own property. They are supported in their worldly work by external staff.

Taking care of ageing and poorly members of their community and receiving visitors are an important part of the monks' work in Mariastein. This is why the Abbey has its own guesthouse and offers various courses, breaks and spiritual retreats.





Gnadenskapelle Mariastein

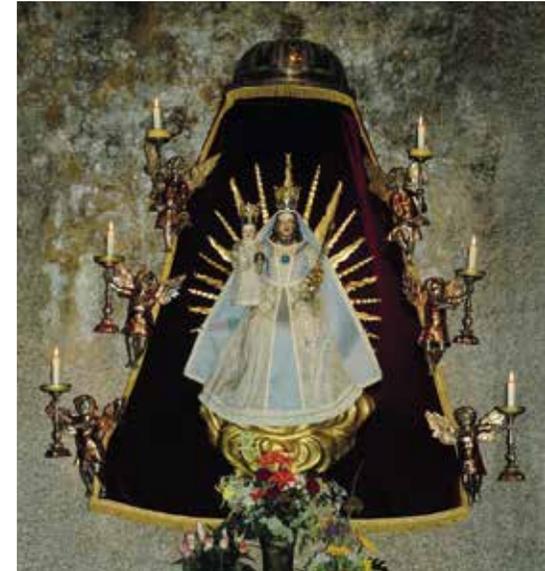
Deep underground stands the Chapel of Grace, the beating heart of Mariastein Abbey. It is here that the smiling Madonna with the Christ Child welcomes the pilgrims as they arrive at their final destination.

To reach the Marian shrine, visitors must walk through a long corridor, past the monks' burial plot, and down a flight of 59 steps (a lift is available for the mobility-impaired).

Legend has it that a child fell from the cliff, down into the valley. Amazingly, the child survived, unharmed. He recounted

that a lady, dressed all in white, had saved him. The miracle was ascribed to Mary, the Mother of God. Very soon, the faithful began flocking to the cave to offer up their sorrows and prayers of thanks to the Blessed Virgin.

The earliest written record of the Chapel of Grace dates back to 1434. By then, Mariastein was already a popular place of pilgrimage. 'St Mary in the Rock' continues to attract believers from near and far, seeking the intercession of Mary, Mother of Sorrows.



«Im Herzen»





«Sharing life»

The day-to-day life of the Benedictine monks of Mariastein Abbey is one of serenity and of communal prayer and work.



«Opening hearts»

Visitors gain an insight into daily monastic life, and our guesthouse, Klosterhotel Kreuz, provides them with a place of rest and spiritual renewal.



«Giving strength»

Visitors find renewed strength and hope through Mass in the Abbey Church, the tranquillity of the Chapel of Grace, and the calming sweep of Swiss country-



«A time to pray and give thanks»

Whether their stay is short or long, visitors come to Mariastein to find the space and fortitude they need to embark on a new path or simply to give thanks for the wondrous works of the Lord.



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