

# Italy

## Northern Italy to the Mediterranean

### Sisi's Road in Italy

Coming from Upper Austria, travel to the Italian sector of Sisi's Road is possible either by means of Reschenpass, Timmelsjoch, Jaufenpass or Brenner Pass. **The gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle in Meran** make up the most northern location. Elisabeth of Austria spent the winters of 1870 and 1889 in the mild climate of South Tyrol. The empress lived where the museum of tourism stands today, and a permanent exhibition serves as a reminder of her visits here. The gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle impress visitors with their Mediterranean flair, for example with the most northern olive grove in Italy, and are made up of more than 80 types of gardens as well as many points of art and adventure. In 2005 the grounds – which are included in the most outstanding gardens in all of Europe – were honored collectively as "Italy's most beautiful garden." Sisi's Road leads from the castle to the Empress Elisabeth Park and the marble **statue of Sisi** in Meran.

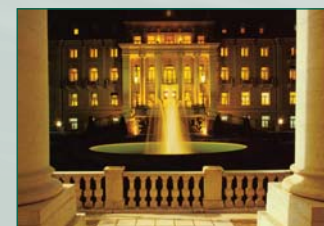
Madonna di Campiglio lies south of Meran. In her day the empress belonged to the illustrious group of visitors who loved this winter sport resort. Further south and only a few kilometers from Trent is **Levico Terme**, a gar-



**Sisi spent two winters in Trauttmansdorff Castle. Today a "Sissi Path" leads from the gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle to the center of the resort city Meran.**

den city in the style of the imperial and royal Danube monarchy. The **"Imperial Grand Hotel Terme"** served as a summer residence for the imperial family, including Empress Elisabeth. Levico Terme became a well-known health resort due to its water containing the curative ingredients arsenic and iron.

From here Sisi's Road leads by way of Padua and Venice to the Adriatic coast



**The Imperial Grand Hotel in Levico Terme was a summer residence of the imperial family during the Danube monarchy. Today one can relax in the resort city in the "Resort & Spa Principessa Sissi."**

Meran · Trauttmansdorff Castle · Madonna di Campiglio · Levico Terme · Miramare Castle · Trieste

and to **Miramare Castle**. The castle was built upon commission of Emperor Franz Joseph's brother, Maximilian, who ruled as Emperor in Mexico beginning in 1864 and was executed here in 1867. There are many indications of Franz Joseph's and Elisabeth's visits to Miramare. Between 1869 and 1896 Elisabeth stayed here fourteen times on her way to and from the Mediterranean. Not only the extremely well-preserved castle but also the castle grounds are well worth viewing. The most southern point of Sisi's Road is



**A dream castle on the Adriatic Sea – Miramare near Trieste. The empress stayed here before and after her trips across the Mediterranean.**

Trieste which lies within sight of Miramare Castle. Coming from the castle into the picturesque seaport on the Adriatic Sea, one sees the long forgotten **monument of Elisabeth**, restored in 1997 in honor of her dedication to nature and culture and placed in front of the main train station. The oysters which Sisi relished are cultivated in the Gulf of Trieste, just as in the times of the Habsburgs, but today with the aid of the EU.

# Switzerland

## Sisi's life ended on Lake Geneva



**Affectionately renovated historical paddle steamers still sail on Lake Geneva today, such as this passenger steamer in front of Hotel Beau-Rivage where Empress Elisabeth died on September 10, 1898 by the hand of an assassin.**

### Sisi's Road in Switzerland

Geneva was the last station of Sisi's life in 1898. After a stay in the Kaiservilla in Ischl, she arrived in Territet near Montreux on **Lake Geneva** on August 30. Along the way she visited family members in Bavaria. Lake Geneva (French: Lac Léman) is the second largest inland lake in surface area in Europe after Lake Balaton and even the largest in volume. The most important tributary of this lake is the Rhone River and, on its banks lie the Swiss cantons Geneva, Vaud and Valais while the main part of the southern bank belongs to France.

Steamboats have been sailing on Lake Geneva since 1823, paddle steamers since 1875. The empress was aboard one of these ships on September 9, traveling from Montreux to Geneva, the city on the south end of the lake.

She was invited to lunch by Baroness Rothschild.

Empress Elisabeth spent the night in **Hotel Beau-Rivage**, and from here she departed in the early afternoon of September 10 together with her lady-in-waiting Countess Irma Sztáray to reach the liner "Genève" (which can still be seen in Geneva) for her return to Montreux. She had declined Baroness Rothschild's offer to use her yacht. Only a few steps from the ship, Sisi was stabbed with a sharp file by the Italian anarchist Luigi Lucheni.

In spite of the attack, Sisi was able to board ship, but the seriousness of her injury was not realized until the ship had cast off – a bleeding wound to the chest was discovered. Because no



**In the Genevan Hotel Beau-Rivage, Suite 120 contains reminders of the empress' day of death including a dress, a book and other personal items belonging to Elisabeth.**

doctor was on board, the ship turned around and returned to the dock. Elisabeth, 61 years old, was transported to Hotel Beau-Rivage on an impro-

vised stretcher and here she died at 2:40 pm after an hour of agony.

Halfway between Pont du Mont-Blanc (the Mont-Blanc Bridge) and the crossover to Rue des Alpes, a small bronze plaque on the railing of the lakefront and a statue of Sisi in Rotonde du Mont-Blanc serve as reminders of the assassination in Geneva. In the suite of the empress in Hotel Beau-Rivage, some of Elisabeth's personal items and reminders of her day of death, including a silk ribbon stained with blood, have been preserved. In the Notre-Dame Basilica a colorful church window with an inscription and date com-



**The "Flower Clock" in the center of Geneva, city of watchmaking: The second hand (2.5 meters) is the longest in the world.**

memorates Sisi's death with compassion: The portrayed saint Elisabeth displays the features of the Empress of Austria.

Tip: Following in the footsteps of Empress Elisabeth includes an overnight stay in **Hotel Beau-Rivage**. The luxurious house on Quai du Mont-



**A church window in the Notre-Dame Basilica commemorates the death of the empress in Geneva.**

Blanc, founded by the Mayer family in 1865, has been in the family's hands for four generations.

**Small photos above, from left: view across Lake Geneva of Hotel Beau-Rivage, a passenger steamer and the glass window in the Notre-Dame Basilica**



### Tourist Information

· Stadt Aichach  
Stadtplatz 48, D-86551 Aichach  
Tel.: +49 82 51/9 02-0  
www.aichach.de

· Tourismusverband Starnberger Fünf-Seen-Land  
Wittelsbacherstrasse 2c  
D-82319 Starnberg  
Tel.: +49 81 51/90 60-0  
www.sta5.de

· Kaiserin Elisabeth Museum in Bahnhof Possenhofen  
Schlossberg 2, D-82343 Pöcking  
Tel.: +49 81 57/92 59 32  
www.kaiserin-elisabeth-museum-ev.de

· Fürst Thurn and Taxis Museums  
Emmeramsplatz 5, D-93047 Regensburg  
Tel.: +49 9 41/50 48-133  
www.thurnundtaxis.de

· Kaiservilla Bad Ischl  
Jainzen 38, A-4820 Bad Ischl  
Tel.: +43 61 32/2 41 20  
Fax: +43 61 32/2 82 85  
www.kaiservilla.com

· Schloss Schönbrunn  
A-1130 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/8 11 13-0  
www.schoenbrunn.at

· Tiergarten Schönbrunn  
Maxingstrasse 13b, A-1130 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/8 77 92 94-0  
www.zoovienna.at

· Wagenburg  
Schloss Schönbrunn, A-1130 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/5 25 24-34 70  
www.khm.at

· Hofmobiliendepot  
Andreassgasse 7, A-1070 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/5 24 33 57  
www.hofmobiliendepot.at

· Hofburg  
Sisi Museum & imperial apartments  
Hofburg/Michaelerkuppel, A-1010 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/5 33 75 70  
www.hofburg-wien.at

· Schloss Laxenburg  
Betriebsgesellschaft m.b.H.  
Schlossplatz 1, A-2361 Laxenburg  
Tel.: +43 22 36/7 12 26-0  
www.schloss-laxenburg.at

· Königliches Schloss Gödöllő  
Postfach 406, H-2100 Gödöllő  
Tel.: +36 28/4 10-124  
www.kiralykastely.hu

· Die Gärten von Schloss Trauttmansdorff  
St.-Valentin-Str. 51a, I-39012 Meran  
Tel.: +39 04 73/23 57 30  
www.trauttmansdorff.it

· Schloss Miramare  
Viale Miramare, I-34014 Trieste  
Tel.: +39 0 40/22 41 43  
www.castello-miramare.it

· Agenzia di Informazione e di Accoglienza Turistica  
Piazza dell'Unità d'Italia, 4/B  
34121 Trieste  
Tel.: +39 0 40/3 47 83 12  
www.triesteturismo.com

· Genf Tourismus & Kongressbüro  
Rue du Mont-Blanc 18  
CH-1211 Geneva 1  
Tel.: +41 41 22/90 97 00 0  
www.geneve-tourisme.ch

### Sisi Hotels

· Hotel Drei Mohren  
Maximilianstrasse 40, D-86150 Augsburg  
Tel.: +49 8 21/50 36-0

Hotel Bischofshof am Dom  
Krauterermarkt 3, D-93047 Regensburg  
Tel.: +49 9 41/5 84 60  
www.hotel-bischofshof.de

Golfhotel Kaiserin Elisabeth\*\*\*\*  
Tutzinger Strasse 2, D-82340 Feldafing  
Tel.: +49 81 57/93 09-0  
www.kaiserin-elisabeth.de

· Best Western Premier Kaiserhof Vienna  
Frankenberggasse 10, A-1040 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1/5 05 17 01-0  
www.hotel-kaiserhof.at

Hotel Sissi  
Angyal utca 33, H-1094 Budapest  
Tel.: +36 1/2 15-0082  
www.hotelsissi.hu

Erzsébet Királyné Hotel\*\*\*  
Dózsa György út 2, H-2100 Gödöllő  
Tel.: +36 28/81 68 17  
www.erzsebetkiralynehotel.hu

Imperial Grand Hotel Terme\*\*\*\*  
Via Silva Domini 1,  
I-38056 Levico Terme (Trent)  
Tel.: +39 04 61/70 61 04  
www.imperialhotel.it

Hotel Beau-Rivage  
Quai du Mont-Blanc 13,  
CH-1201 Geneva  
Tel.: +41 41 22/71 66 66 6  
www.beau-rivage.ch

### Cultural route from Bavaria to the Adriatic

## Sisi's Road

Sisi's Road leads to many places which played a significant role in the life of Elisabeth, born in Bavaria into the House of Wittelsbach and lovingly called "Sisi" in her childhood and youth. Through her marriage to Emperor Franz Joseph I of Habsburg, she became Empress of Austria which included rule over much of modern-day Italy. Only a few years later she was also crowned Queen of Hungary. The un-



**Several museums along Sisi's Road pay homage to the life of the empress - from the Wagenburg in Schönbrunn (Sisi road in the coronation carriage) to the Sisi Museum in the Hofburg.**



### Publisher details:

**Publisher:** Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH  
**Management:** Director of Tourism Götz Beck and cooperative partners of "Sisi's Road"

**Project management:** Astrid Buchwieser

**Concept, text, design:** www.concret-wa.de  
**Photography:** Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and Album Verlag Vienna (5)/Title, Martin Kluger (13), Hansi Ruile (3), Wolfgang B. Kleiner (2), Lois Lammerhuber (1), Gerhard Kellner (1), concret Werbeagentur (1) and partners of "Sisi's Road"

conventional Elisabeth, especially fond of horseback riding and traveling, was long considered the most beautiful woman of her time.

Sisi's Road is a European route leading to castles and cities which were a part of the monarch's life. Its highlights are recommended for individual tourists as well as groups: large cities, castles, monuments, museums, gardens and parks.

When the German TV-magazine HÖRZU presented "The most beautiful dream roads in the world" in 2003, Sisi's Road was among the 12 touristic routes and one of four in Europe. Today Sisi's Road leads to Bavaria, through Austria and Hungary, since 2004 through Italy to the Adriatic coast, and since 2008 also to Geneva in Switzerland where the life of the Austrian Empress and Queen of Hungary ended in 1898. But Sisi's legend lives on...

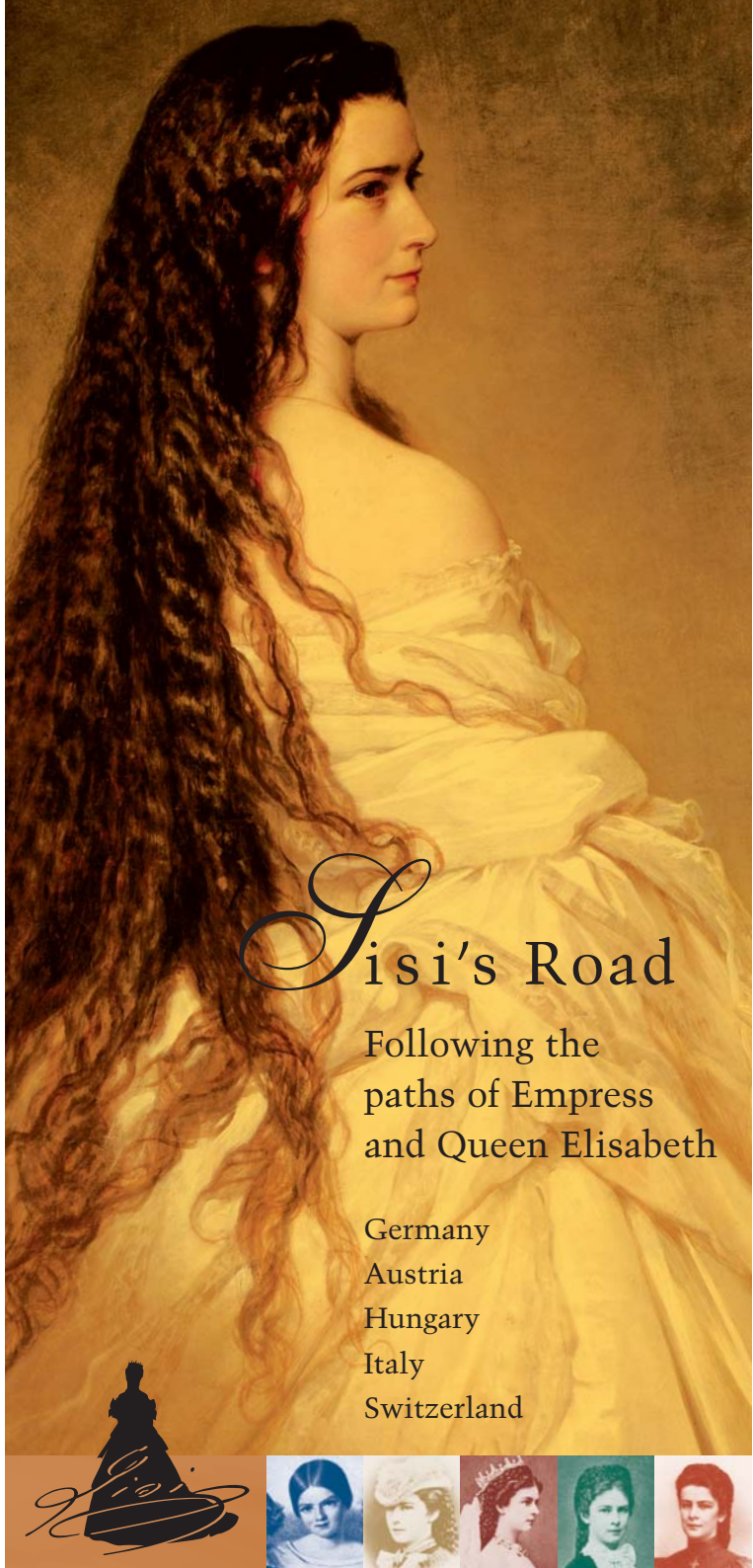
### Information about Sisi's Road:

Regio Augsburg Tourismus GmbH  
Schliessgrabenstrasse 14  
86150 Augsburg  
Telephone +49 8 21/5 02 07-0  
sales@regio-augsburg.de  
www.augsburg-tourismus.de

## Sisi's Road

Following the paths of Empress and Queen Elisabeth

Germany  
Austria  
Hungary  
Italy  
Switzerland





# Bavaria

## Between Augsburg and the Alps



Sisi's brother Duke Ludwig lived on Maximilianstrasse in Augsburg. His daughter Marie Louise, who played a significant role in the tragedy from Mayerling, was born here.

### Sisi's Road in Bavaria

The western point of Sisi's Road is Augsburg, city of the Fuggers. Elisabeth's brother, an officer, lived on Maximilianstrasse in Augsburg. Here Duke Ludwig met the Jewish actress Henriette Mendel and married her in 1859, a scandal for that time. The first (and also illegitimate) daughter from this marriage led a life like one out of a Hollywood script. Marie Louise Elisabeth of Larisch-Wallersee was Sisi's favorite niece. But she was also the catalyst in the tragedy from Mayerling in which Elisabeth's only son Rudolf committed suicide.

She was banished from court, fled to America and later returned to Augsburg where she died a pauper in 1940. Young Sisi enjoyed care-free childhood days only a few

kilometers from Augsburg in "Wittelsbach country" around Aichach. The "Sisi Estate," which was the favorite summer residence of Sisi's father Duke Max in Bavaria from 1838 to 1850, can be found in the small district Unterwittelsbach. The nearby castle in Kühbach and the hunting lodge Rapperzell also belonged to Sisi's father who owned a huge hunting ground in "Wittelsbach country." In the exhibitions in the country estate the portrait of Duke Max, which he gave to a guesthouse hostess of Aichach, can be seen. It is said that Sisi roared her pony on the estate grounds. In nearby Oberwittelsbach history abounds: a pilgrimage church, a monument to the House of Wittelsbach and the remains of the fortress wall around the castle destroyed in 1209 after which the family took its name.

From Augsburg or Aichach it takes less than one hour by car to arrive in Munich, the birthplace of Elisabeth of Austria, as well as at Lake Starnberg.



The country estate in Unterwittelsbach was owned by Sisi's father as of 1838.

Augsburg · Aichach · Unterwittelsbach Estate · Lake Starnberg · Possenhofen Castle Pöcking · Rose Island · Feldafing

Here in the municipality Pöcking Possenhofen Castle can be found. As of 1834 it served as the summer residence of Sisi's ducal family (and is privately owned today). Since 1998 the Kaiserin Elisabeth Museum, established from a privately owned collection, provides information about Empress Elisabeth and her family in the historical rooms of the splendid waiting salons in the Possenhofen train station. Here there is especially emphasis on Lake Starnberg and its roll in the family's lives. Within ten minutes walking distance is Possenhofen Castle in which young Elisabeth and her parents spent the summer



The historical train station in Possenhofen houses the Kaiserin Elisabeth Museum.

Possenhofen is located across from the Castle of Berg where in 1886 King Ludwig II mysteriously drowned in the lake – a case not yet solved today.

The extremely eccentric Bavarian king met with his beautiful cousin Elisabeth on Rose Island near Feldafing, and today the island is open for viewing. Empress Elisabeth visited her home on Lake Starnberg regularly in the summer. On Rose Island, she and King Ludwig II withdrew from the ceremonial court and the public – it was one of their favorite places. In 1853 King Maximilian II of Bavaria bought this island from a family of fishers. Planned by the most distinguished German landscape gardener of the 19th century, Peter Joseph Lenné, a park was created around the Rose Garden after



Rose Island in Lake Starnberg was a beloved retreat for King Ludwig II and Sisi.

months regularly. Rose Island is just a thirty minute walk south, the place of retreat where Sisi met with her cousin King Ludwig II. The museum displays pictures and printed matter along with mementos, literature and documents related to the empress and her family. Exhibits pertaining to King Ludwig II and Lake Starnberg can also be viewed.

Small photos above, from left: pilgrimage church in Oberwittelsbach, the castle in Kühbach and the house on the Maximilianstrasse in Augsburg in which Marie Louise Countess of Larisch-Wallersee was born

St. Emmeram Castle in Regensburg · Neuschwanstein Castle

which the island is named. Both the park and garden were restored and tours of the island and in the casino are available (crossing with the ferry from Glockensteg in Feldafing Park). "Rose Island concerts" are held in the summer.

Today the greatest reminder of King Ludwig II is the Neuschwanstein Castle in Schwangau near Füssen.

From Augsburg the "Romantic Road" leads to the dream castle of the Bavarian king.

Originally the empress' older sister, Helene, was to become the wife of Emperor Franz Joseph; however, Joseph



Empress Elisabeth spent 24 summer vacations in today's Golfhotel Kaiserin Elisabeth in Feldafing.

chose Elisabeth. Helene married in Regensburg and stayed in Bavaria. In 1858 she moved to Regensburg with her husband, the Hereditary Prince Maximilian Anton of Thurn and Taxis.

The empress' sister lived and worked in the St. Emmeram Castle, still today the main residence of Thurn and Taxis. She left her mark here and also in the



Elisabeth's older sister Helene lived and died in the St. Emmeram Castle in Regensburg.

administration and the city. Elisabeth often visited her sister and stayed in the castle. The close family relationships were revealed in hunting trips and summer stays which the emperor and empress spent with the Hereditary Prince Maximilian and his wife. Helene died in 1890 in the St. Emmeram Castle in Regensburg with Elisabeth at her side. In 1893 the room in which Helene passed away became a private chapel.

Tip: Sisi spent the summer relaxing in the Golfhotel Kaiserin Elisabeth in Feldafing as often as 24 times. In 1900 the hotel was permitted to carry Elisabeth's name. The terraces and stabling of this time have been retained in their original form. The hotel offers a "Sisi Suite" with original furniture and "Sisi Dishes" from the menu of the empress.

Small photos above, from left: Possenhofen Castle in Pöcking, Neuschwanstein Castle in Schwangau and the private chapel in St. Emmeram Castle in Regensburg



# Austria

## Between Bad Ischl and Laxenburg

### Sisi's Road in Austria

Sisi met her Franz Joseph in Bad Ischl, where the 23-year old emperor and the 15-year old native of Wittelsbach were engaged in 1853. The Kaiservilla or Imperial Palace became the beloved summer residence, and Franz Joseph



The Kaiservilla in Bad Ischl was the summer residence of the imperial couple.

resided here for a period of 60 years. The desk on which the emperor signed the proclamation "An meine Völker" (to my nations) which led to World War I can still be seen. The Kaiservilla and the "Marmorschloss" (Little Marble Palace) designed for Elisabeth on the palace grounds high above the resort city are special authentic reminders of the imperial couple.

From Bad Ischl, Sisi's Road leads to Vienna which was the focus of glamour in the life of the empress. Sisi spent her first night in Vienna in Schönbrunn Palace and remained in this imperial summer residence during her newlywed days. During a number of summer months, Empress Elisabeth

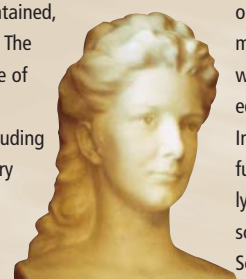


The apartments of Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth were furnished in the western wing of the Schönbrunn Palace, a site of cultural heritage.

resided in the apartments of the baroque palace on the west side and later on the first floor.

Wagenburg, located in the palace park, is well worth seeing: Here the stages of Sisi's life can be followed with her carriages – from her bridal carriage to the coronation carriage of Budapest to her travel carriage from Geneva and her hearse. Robes of the empress, her saddle and pictures of her horses are also displayed. Nearly 50 carriages, sleighs, sedan chairs as well as liveries can be viewed.

The zoo in Schönbrunn, the oldest in the world still maintained, was founded in 1752. The historical park is a site of cultural heritage with newer attractions including a rainforest house. Very rare animals such as pandas and koalas can be seen here.



# Hungary

## To Budapest and Gödöllő

### Sisi's Road in Hungary

Leaving Vienna, a drive of two and a half hours on the expressway is necessary to reach Budapest where Elisabeth was crowned Queen of Hungary in the Matthias Church. Inside, a statue of Elisabeth serves as a reminder of her coronation. In the castle district and in the opera reminders of



Elisabeth was crowned Queen of Hungary in the Matthias Church in Budapest.

the empress can also be found. At the Elisabeth Bridge one finds the monument dedicated to Sisi, a woman still admired by Hungarians today. A "must" is a visit to the legendary Café Gerbeaud, frequented by the empress and queen.

Gödöllő Palace, a gift from the Hungarians to Franz Joseph and Elisabeth on the occasion of their coronation, lies 28 kilometers east of Budapest. This "Hungarian Versailles" – the

largest baroque palace in Hungary – was the queen's favorite palace. The palace, the palace grounds, the riding arena and the baroque theater (the only theater in Europe maintaining its



At the Elisabeth Bridge one finds the monument in memory of Elisabeth.

original stage technique) all serve as reminders of this time. The outstanding renovations were recognized with an international award. Along with the large stateroom, a commemorative exhibition in memory of Queen Elisabeth can be viewed in the royal chambers. A painting hanging in the museum recalls a hunt around the castle in which Lord Spencer, an ancestor of Lady Diana, participated.

In 1877, Marie Louise Elisabeth von Wallersee, the empress' favorite niece who was banished from court after the tragedy of Mayerling, married Count Larisch in the palace chapel in the presence of the imperial couple. The residents of Gödöllő erected a monument to Elisabeth in Elisabeth Park, long before the first monument was erected in her honor in Vienna. Today,



Budapest · Matthias Church · Castle District · Gödöllő Palace · Domonyvölgy · Herend



Elisabeth's favorite Hungarian palace is found in Gödöllő, 28 kilometers east of Budapest.

a commemorative plaque in the park is a reminder of Elisabeth's favorite place there.

Five kilometers from the palace, the Lázár Riding Park in Domonyvölgy reminds one of the empress' enthusiasm for equestrian sport with riding and dressage shows as well as carriage rides.



The baroque theater of the Gödöllő Palace is unique in Europe due to the originally retained furnishings.

An excursion to Herend can also be enjoyed – to Hungary's oldest and the world's largest manufacturer of porcelain. Because Emperor Franz Joseph was also a connoisseur of Herend porcelain, the "white gold" of this manu-

facturer can also be seen in the silver collection of the Hofburg and in Sisi's Gödöllő Palace.

Tip: An overnight stay near the Danube and centrally located in Budapest is available in the exclusive Hotel Sissi. The "Sissi Room" in this modern hotel can be booked upon request. Parking



In Elisabeth-Park in Gödöllő one finds the touching monument to the Hungarian queen.

is available in a spaciouly proportioned underground garage. The river and downtown Budapest are within walking distance of the hotel. Right next to the Imperial palace in Gödöllő one can stay overnight and dine in the noble Erzsébet Királyné Hotel\*\*\* designed in Jugendstil.

Small photos above, from left: view of the Hungarian Parliament from the Fishermen's Bastion, of the Budapest castle in which Franz Joseph and Elisabeth were crowned, and a look at the exhibition in the royal Gödöllő Palace