

## Part 15 Europe 2025 for Cathy's blog

**Saturday 19th April, 2025.**

### **Durnstein**

We had free time in Durnstein this morning. It is such a pretty little town. Once again, I am sure the locals get annoyed by the tourists, but then we are the ones buying touristy things in their shops.

We walked past the vineyards, with the vines just showing leaves. The ruins above the town were once Durnstein Castle and once held Richard the Lionheart, as a prisoner of Leopold V of Austria. This was the year 1192 (some say 1193).

His ransom was 35 tons of silver which was split between Leopold V and the Emperor Heinrich VI of Germany. (Leopold also wanted Richard's niece Elenor of Aquitaine to marry his son Frederick, but it never happened).

Leopold V was excommunicated by the Pope (Celestine III) because he held a crusader captive.

Leopoldo's foot was crushed by his horse and was amputated by his servants (it took three swings of an axe!) and he died of gangrene in 1194. His share of the money was used to start a mint in Vienna and build the city walls in Vienna.



**Grape vines and the Durnstein castle ruins on the hill.**



**We found a tiny church, so little and humble after the huge cathedrals we have been in. We even saw the neat stacks of bones in the crypt below the church.**



**Inside the little church at Durnstein. No stained glass here.**



**The altar.**





**Bones below the church.**





**The church and the neatly tended graves of more modern members of the community.**





**Shopping in Durnstein. What is the fascination with ducks?**





**The Main Street of Durnstein.**





**Path beside the Danube (the Donau) at Durnstein.**



**In the square by the larger church (Abby Church, formerly the Monastery of the Augustinian Canons), there is a large mirror which lets you take selfies.**



**Interesting carvings depict Heaven...**







... and Hell.



**There were pretty wildflowers in the grass on the walk back to the boat.**











**Then it was back on board, sailing to Krems where we took a tour to Gottweig Abbey.**