

Nomination of  
**The GREAT**  
*SPAS of Europe*



for inclusion on the  
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List

Volume I: *Bad Kissingen, Germany*



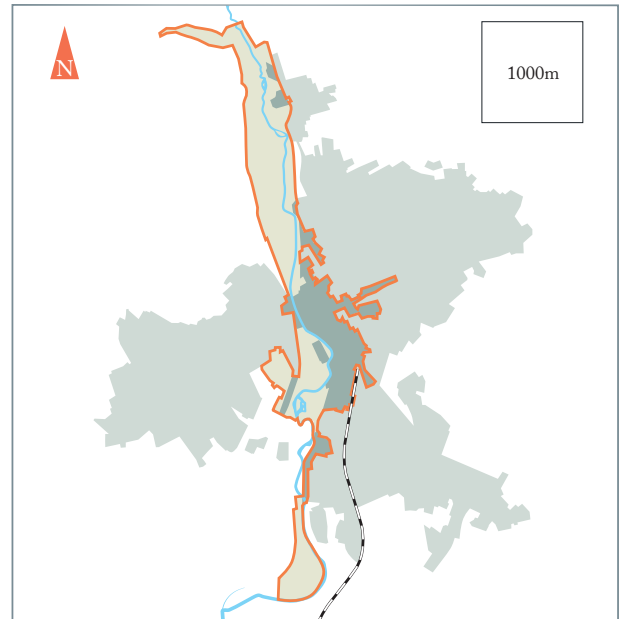
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Interior of the Wanderhalle

# 9. *Bad Kissingen* (GERMANY)

## Introduction

The German spa town of *Bad Kissingen* lies on the River Saale, at the edges of the Rhön Mountains in the state of Bavaria. Since the sixteenth century it has been noted as a spa town (“Wildbad”) and has attracted patrons nationwide. From the beginning, it offered drinking cure and bathing cure. In 1738, the Prince-bishop of Wuerzburg erected a new Kurhaus (assembly house; replacing a predecessor from 1705 and a wooden, seasonal assembly hall from 1695) and a spa garden near the springs Pandur and Rakoczy. It is the oldest spa garden purpose-built to host promenading as part of the drinking cure, as well as leisure activities. The spa town methodically developed from 1814 as a 'Great Spa'. The architecture of the central spa zone comes from two phases, first the Biedermeier period in the early nineteenth century, then from the early years of the twentieth century. Especially in England and in Russia, *Bad Kissingen* was becoming a fashionable resort from the 1830s. From 1874, the spa benefited from visits of the Imperial Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. The Kissingen Diktat of 1877 outlining Bismarck's foreign policy was drafted here. In 1913, the last year before World War I, in consideration of the high number of Kurgäste (guests taking the cure) *Bad Kissingen* was ranked third, after Wiesbaden and *Baden-Baden*.



- Boundary of the component spa town
- Urban fabric within the component spa town
- Urban fabric outside the proposed boundary of the component spa town

Together with its well preserved and carefully restored compact ensemble, *Bad Kissingen* represents the ideal spa town at the turn of the nineteenth–twentieth centuries. Design and structural implementation of the buildings designed by the architect Max Littmann (Wandelhalle, Brunnenhalle, assembly house Regentenbau point beyond the nineteenth century. The specific value of *Bad Kissingen* to the series is also founded in the exceptional examples of spa specific infrastructure of a 'Great Spa'. Primarily it is important to mention the facilities established to make use of the brine spring which had been in use since the 1830s. Another example of outstanding significance in this context is the abattoir, an industrial building which presents a specific architectural form and function which had been designed to fulfil aesthetic and representative functions which themselves clearly derive from the significance of the city as a 'Great Spa' town.

Today, *Bad Kissingen* has around 22,000 residents, of which almost 1,500 live within the nominated property. It is a Bavarian Staatsbad, one of Germany's most important health and tourism destinations.



Spa quarter (lower centre) with the old town beyond

## Location and setting

*Bad Kissingen* is located in the Bavarian region of Lower Franconia. It is situated on the Franconian Saale River, to the south of the Rhön Mountains, some 318 km north of Munich and 150 km east of Frankfurt. Here the “Fränkische Saale” River, runs in a straight line from the northwest to the southeast (in a Hercynian direction). Where this is crossed by a zone of geological disturbances the Kissingen springs rise. The location of the spa quarter is principally determined by the spa garden springs, Maxbrunnen, Pandurbrunnen and Rakoczybrunnen. Hotels were established near the spa garden and villas along new streets around the old town and the central spa quarter. Since 1840, in the north of the town near the brine spring Runder Brunnen, a second spa quarter was developed. The flat Saale Valley is covered by meadows here, whilst in the west the ground climbs to just under 400m (Staffelsberg 386m), in the east a little gentler and more valleyed to 370m (Sinnberg). The medieval town of Kissingen is situated on an alluvial fan of a tributary brook of the Saale; in this way, the town could advance far into the otherwise flood-prone valley.

## Principal features described

The description of the component part has been sub-divided into the following:

- Historic urban landscape of the ‘Great Spa’
- Springs
- Urban ensemble of the spa town
- Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape
- Spa infrastructure
- Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

## Historic urban landscape of the 'Great Spa'

The spatial plan of the nominated property can be divided into:

1. The principal spa-district, immediately to the south of the old town and on both banks of the river, with its cluster of springs and spa ensemble (including the great Luitpoldbad, Wandelhalle and pump rooms), and structures for leisure and pleasure (including kursaals, colonnades, Kurgarten, theatre and casino).
2. The northern spa quarter, around 2km north of the old town, with its early technical brine facilities of the Upper and Lower Saline.
3. The chain of parks and promenades that follow the Saale.
4. The town with sanatoria and spa accommodation including guesthouses and grand hotels, together with churches and mansions.
5. The surrounding therapeutic and recreational spa landscape, with riverside promenades, forested walks and overlooks (in the west), together with racecourse/airfield, tennis and golf.
6. The cluster of spa infrastructure in the south (including the Former Abattoir).

## 9.1 Springs

In *Bad Kissingen* there are seven mineral springs that are used today. Three are located in the spa quarter in the south, one other near the saltworks in the north of the old town and three others even further to the north. Of the latter three, two had been drilled in the twentieth century according to geological expertise and added to the other, naturally surfaced, springs. The Kissingen springs are cold, except the Schönborn (20°C), and issue acidulous thermal sodium chloride (Na-Cl) ferrous water (e.g. Schönborn, available in spas, sanatoriums and hotels) and acidulous  $\text{NaCa-ClHCO}_3\text{SO}_4$  water (e.g. Old Luitpold). They are also rich in trace elements. Four of the spring waters are drinkable: Old Luitpold (available at the original early twentieth century well-head 11 km away from the Brunnenhalle and therefore situated outside of the nominated property) and also from the Brunnenhalle and the public collection point in Kurhausstraße in front of the Wandelhalle), Rakoczy (available every day at certain times in the Brunnenhalle, and at the public collection point in Kurhausstraße in front of the foyer, as well as in the arcades in the spa garden), Pandur (available from the Brunnenhalle and the public collection point in Kurhausstraße, as well as in the arcades in the spa garden) and Max (freely available in the Maxtempel in the spa garden at all times, and at selected times in the Brunnenhalle). “New” Luitpold is only available for bathing, and the spring of the Runder Brunnen only for bathing and inhalation. Kissinger bitter water is actually Rakoczy water supplemented with sodium and magnesium sulphate and served in the Brunnenhalle.

The springs are situated in the Kissingen-Haßfurt fault zone from the upper layers of the middle Bunter, which are superposed by the Quaternary forms of the valley floodplains of the Fränkische Saale River. The Quaternary forms consist of Pleistocene crushed rocks covered by nearly impermeable, tough, black-grey clays permeated with fine sand and layered by red-brown haughs (flat alluvial land by the sides of the river). The brine springs (Runder Brunnen and Schönbornsprudel) and the two Luitpoldsprudel are also situated in an area of faults within Triassic formations. The springs draw their mineral content mainly from the Upper Permian, whilst the dissolved carbonic acid of all the springs has its origin in the volcanism of the Rhön Mountains, 30km north of *Bad Kissingen*.

Healing procedures involve both drinking cures (*Trinkkuren* in the Pump Room and Maxbrunnen) and bathing cures (*Badekuren* in KissSalis Thermal Bath and inhalation (graduation house in the north). They include irrigations and inhalations for regulation of the acid productions of the stomach, digestive disorders, cardiovascular affections, affections of the respiratory system, rheumatic issues, skin diseases, anaemia, and stress-related diseases.

What was especially important from the 1830s was the inclusion of brine springs, which had only been used in a saline way at first, into the catalogue of non-physician care. The brine springs were used in manifold ways for baths (also ‘gasbaths’) and inhalations. Today the water of the Schönbornsprudel and occasionally the water of the Runder Brunnen supply the basins of the KissSalis thermal baths. “Moor” is also used; at first mud from near the Liebfrauensee, later moor from the Red Moor in the Rhön, and today from the Bad Aibling deposit. Certain spring water, from the end of the nineteenth century, also formed the basis for pharmaceutical products such as ‘Boxberger Pillen’. The Bavarian Government declared a fourfold-graded protection area for the mineral springs in 1922.

## 9.2 Urban ensemble of the Spa Town

The location of the spa quarter is principally determined by the Rakoczy spring (discovered in the eighteenth century during the relocation of the course of the River Saale) together with the older Sauerbrunnen (later Maxbrunnen) and the Badbrunnen (Pandur) springs. Two main phases of expansion of this quarter date to the Biedermeier period, when King Ludwig I of Bavaria took an active interest, and the early twentieth century. Ludwigstraße serves as an urban pivot between the old town and the spa quarter – where the Arkadenbau, the Wandelhalle, and the neoclassical ballroom (Regentebau) mark its centre. From the ‘Krugmagazin’ (jar magazine) Kissingen mineral water was dispatched.

Although being from different periods, these buildings form an impressive harmonic western and southern front around the spa garden with its central Maxbrunnen. Younger spa buildings augment the spa quarter to the west and to the east. The Luitpoldbad with the Casino in Neo-Renaissance style were the first to cross the Saale River to the west.

### 9.2.1 Building ensembles connected to ‘curative’ waters

#### 9.2.1.1 Former Luitpoldbad (1867-71/1905-11)

Luitpoldbad, (Im Luitpoldpark 1) was built next to von Gärtner’s spa buildings, beyond the Saale River, in order to accommodate the growing number of spa patrons in the second half of the nineteenth century and to provide more bathing facilities; this third public bath was commissioned to complement the old Kurhausbad and the Salinenbad. Initially, the building was in the shape of a single-storey Neo-Renaissance structure with a central and two corner pavilions built 1867-71 by Albert Geul. After being taken over by the State of Bavaria in 1897, a few years later the leaseholder, Friedrich von



Hessing, commissioned a lavish overhaul and expansion that made it the largest bathing facility in Europe. In the first decade of the twentieth century the original three-wing structure opening towards the north was extended on the south side, had another storey added, and was connected to the kursaal (casino) building by way of a colonnade; the architect was Jean Keller. The structure has recently undergone (finished in 2017) extensive restoration and renovation work and has been converted into an administrative building with exhibition rooms dedicated to the history of the Kissingen bathing facilities and the town’s gardens and parks.

### 9.2.1.2 Former Kurhausbad

In 1823, a newly built wing of the Kurhaus provided spa patrons with the opportunity to enjoy public-owned mineral baths for the first time. In contrast to the facilities offered by the inns and hotels, the tubs were directly supplied with mineral water by way of pipelines. This early facility was replaced with a new annexe to the east of the Kurhaus in 1858. The existing Neo-Classical annexe on Prinzregentenstr. 6, built in 1927 from plans by Max Littmann, in turn replaced the 1858 building. Built on a hook-shaped ground plan, it is two and a half storeys high, with a convex central pavilion and a fine, austere-looking exterior. Out of commission since 2014, it is currently being restored and will house health-specific facilities in the future. The beautiful interior features a lobby with terracotta tiles made by Nymphenburger Porzellan Manufaktur, a staircase with stained glass by Franz Xaver Zettler, and bathing cubicles with painted tiles by Villeroy & Boch. They will all be preserved.



### 9.2.1.3 Maxbrunnen (1911)

The Maxbrunnen (Am Kurgarten 4), its wellhouse built in 1911 by Max Littmann in the style of a Neo-Classical temple, is considered to be *Bad Kissingen's* oldest well in use (first documented in 1520, as “Sauerbrunnen”). Its modern name refers to the overhaul of the facility under King Max I Joseph in 1815. The sandstone building, open towards the Kurpark, is notable for its cubic shape and slightly convex (on the outside), large-windowed side-walls, mansard roof and two porticos supported by columns. The well shaft itself is in front of the building and fenced off with a balustrade. The closed rear wall is fitted with a pump for the use of local people.



### 9.2.1.4 Brunnenhalle (Pump Room, 1911)



The pump room (Am Kurgarten 10) was added to the grand foyer in 1911, the architect being Max Littmann who had also built the foyer itself. In the shape of a single transept, it houses the Rakoczy and Pandur springs. Even today their water, along with that of the other medicinal springs, is still conducted to the taps by way of phosphor-bronze pipelines (which maintain high hygiene levels) and poured out by pump room waitresses during the morning and afternoon “pump hours”.

The predecessor building of 1842, the “Iron” wellhouse, is considered the model or prototype of numerous later cast-iron spa buildings, among them the colonnades of Marienbad (*Mariánské Lázně*, built 1888-89) and *Vichy* (1900). Twice a day, the traditional ceremony of water-pouring takes place. The so-called Brunnenfrauen pour out curative water, and provide advice on how to use the waters, a vivid testimony to the strong living tradition of *Bad Kissingen's* drinking cure.

### 9.2.1.5 Wandelhalle (Grand Foyer, 1910-12)

The grand foyer (Am Kurgarten 10) is the largest of its kind in the world and to an extent represents the culmination in the development of this type of building. The basilical structure is built on a cruciform ground plan and attracted nationwide attention due to the undisguised use of the innovative building material of reinforced concrete; a very early use and application of this modern construction material. With a view to the establishment of a year-round spa business at *Bad Kissingen*, the hall was designed to be closed on all sides to be heatable, and offering direct access to the new pump room. Thoroughly restored in 1999, but with its austere but tasteful Neo-Classical décor unchanged, the hall still serves its original purpose.



Today it is also used for conventions and other large functions.

## 9.2.2 Buildings for leisure and pleasure

### 9.2.2.1 Kursaal (1834-38)

The Kursaal (Am Kurgarten 8), formerly also Konversationssaal and called today Rossinisaal, was built in 1834-38 by Friedrich von Gärtner and redecorated 1910-13 by Max Littmann. It is part of the Kurgartenensemble, its interior layout is reminiscent of a three-aisled pillar basilica with a coffered ceiling and semi-circular apse. It is directly connected with the arkadenbau (see below). It serves today as concert hall and meeting centre.





### 9.2.2.2 Arkadenbau (1834-38)

The Arkadenbau (Am Kurgarten 8) is a neoclassical semi-circular style three-wing colonnade situated on the west side of the Kurgarten and extending from the central Kursaal originally called Konversationssaal, see above). Built in the Neo-Romanesque “Round Arch” style, Arkadenbau and Kursaal were the origin and core of the spa district laid out under King Ludwig I. The Arkadenbau was, and is, connected with the former (respectively today’s well-house). The stately structure, built by Friedrich von Gärtner, provide spa patrons with sheltered walks, and the associated Kursaal serves as a social venue.



### 9.2.2.3 Casino (1880)

The Casino (Im Luitpoldpark 1), a detached structure in the grounds of the Luitpoldbad, was built from plans by Heinrich von Hügel and Wilhelm II von Doderer, and opened in 1880. The Neo-Renaissance building with a basilical layout features an elevated, three-axis central pavilion; the wings connecting it with Luitpoldbad were added later. The Casino provided rooms for catering, games, dancing and concerts. Since 1968 it has been home to the gambling casino.



### 9.2.2.4 Regentenbau (1910-13)

The Regentenbau (Ludwigstraße 2) is the most recent of Kissingen’s kursaal buildings. Built on a rectangular ground plan with a transept at either end, the Neo-Baroque/Neo-Classical structure features two curved façades fronted by monumental columns at the ends. The interior décor, as magnificent as it is eclectic, was designed to correspond to the intended use of the respective rooms. The building is remarkable not only for the sheer quality of its architectural detail but also for the skill of its architect, Max Littmann, in fitting it seamlessly into the older colonnaded buildings by von Gärtner and the wider surroundings. The main hall, with most of its original décor intact, is among the best concert halls in Europe. Using the highest grade, as well as the highest quality material, the interior of the concert hall was completed in cherry wood. The wooden panelling all over the concert hall is the reason for the fact that still today this concert hall is said to be, as far as acoustics are concerned, one the best concert halls in the world. Grand and renowned orchestras have a preference for this hall for concert recordings. The Regentenbau still serves its original set of functions today. It underwent a thorough restoration in the years 2003-05.



### 9.2.2.5 Kurtheater (1904-05)

The Neo-Baroque theatre (Theaterplatz 1), built from plans by Max Littmann and replacing an earlier structure from 1858 on the same site, initiated the overhaul and expansion of the spa facilities in Prince Regent Luitpold's time. The exquisite little theatre combines reformist features such as the steeply rising stalls with traditional elements like proscenium boxes as a concession to its aristocratic patrons. Today it is run as a theatre for guest appearances.



### 9.2.2.6 Orchestra shell (1910-12, part of Wandelhalle)

The orchestra shell is part of the Wandelhalle foyer and is equipped with a revolving stage. It represents the very first assembly and installation of a rotatable conchiform orchestra (orchestra shell). Depending on the weather, the spa orchestra plays towards the hall or towards the kurpark outside. It hosts spa concerts exclusively for spa guests twice a day. The orchestra with salaried musicians has existed since 1837.



### 9.2.2.7 Bazare (1889)

These boutique shops, on Balthasar-Neumann-Promenade, date from 1889 when the *Bad Kissingen* council commissioned two rows of boutiques to be built on Salinenpromenade. The one on the "town" side is still in use today, featuring both shops and cafés. Somewhat set back from the rest is the exhibition pavilion of art dealer David Kugelmann with its custom-designed skylighted dome. In the nineteenth century numerous shops in the Kurgarten vicinity and lining the promenades were open during the season only, and dealing in fairly upmarket goods. Some were housed in simple wooden stalls, but there were also solidly built premises such as the "Bazar" on Bismarckstraße 23, designed by Wilhelm II von Doderer or the bazar building at the Lindesmühlpromenade (Kurhausstrasse 10).



## 9.2.3 Accommodation

*Bad Kissingen* never featured a purpose-built mansion district; rather, the entire town was geared towards the spa business: around 1900, every third house offered accommodation. The Royal Guesthouse and the row of hotels on Kurhausstraße, beginning with former Hotel Kaiserhof and Victoria, form the eastern partition of the Spa garden. The prevalent building type in the spa town is, however, that of the Kurvilla where the landlord and lodgers resided under the same roof. It is characterised by high ceilings and balconies with cast-iron railings. The mansions dating from the mid nineteenth century are built in the Biedermeier style, frequently in red sandstone; later, Historicist styles gained ground. The large houses are surrounded by gardens often featuring a summerhouse used as a breakfast room, known as a "Salett". The housing shows the specific status of *Bad Kissingen* in the circle of *The Great Spas of Europe*. Upper middle class mansions are rather rare, whilst smaller spa houses, guesthouses as well as bed and breakfast hotels are predominant. They served the spa purposes of the lower middle class, less those of the "Großbürgertum" (bourgeoisie/upper middle class). There were some

luxury hotels, which were used by nobility, often high nobility. Spa doctors were often owners of guesthouses; an early example of this type of a doctor's house being the Ballinghaus. The oldest buildings are south of the spa quarter along the historical route to Würzburg (today Kurhausstraße). Here, the Biedermeier hotels that were partly expanded later, were the noblest hotels of the town (Grand Hotel Kaiserhof and Victoria, Hotel de Russie), followed by mansions such as the Villa Hailmann. Simultaneously with the putting down of the town fortification between 1820 and 1830 a belt of new streets was put around the old town.

Ludwigstraße in the south of the Ring has a special function, connecting the spa quarter with the historical centre of the town and thus becoming a main traffic- and business-street. Grand business houses, mostly from the heyday of the spa around 1900, dominate. The Biedermeier housing of the western Ring axis, the Theresienstraße, has been partly preserved, with grand former spa hotels and spa houses from around 1910 at the western part of the street, especially at the backside, facing the river. After the erection of Ludwigsbrücke (1838) mansions and hotels were built on the western bank of the Saale too, for example the Fürstenhof Hotel (1856). Spa mansions and sanatoria are also located in Prinzregentenstraße, Menzelstraße, Frühlingsstraße and towards the two salines, mostly in the various forms of historicism, mostly by local architects, but also by architects known all over Germany and beyond, for example Bruno Paul, Paul Schultze-Naumburg and Heinrich Möller.

The medieval core – the Old Town – of *Bad Kissingen* has a square ground plot, formed by the city walls and almost a grid raster in its interior. It corresponded thus to the type of medieval settlement after 1200, which was also laid out for the strategic securing of the respective territory. In this old centre a number of buildings still betray their origins as eighteenth century spa hotels. They are characterised by having three storeys and facing the street with their eaves, rather than the traditional gabled front. The centre still features the characteristically large range of shopping facilities aimed at visitors (in contrast to the merely seasonal “bazaars”), and of restaurants and inns. Residential areas were subject to much densification over the course of the nineteenth century, due to the need to house not only newly arrived residents but also spa patrons' servants. Newly developed areas were earmarked for spa-specific building with the exception of an area northeast of the old centre.

### 9.2.3.1 Hotel Kaiserhof Victoria (c.1835-40/1873)

Today's Hotel Kaiserhof Victoria (Am Kurgarten 5) started life as two separate Neo-Classical buildings. Johann Gottfried Gutensohn built the southern Hotel “Carl von Hess”, and another storey was added in 1873; it was considered to be the best hotel in town at times. In 1888 both buildings were connected and upgraded to become the “Grandhotel”. Around 1900 another building, the former Hotel Hailmann adjoining to the north, was acquired and renovated to match the exterior of the other parts; a symmetrical facade broken up by towers and a central pillared portico were added. In 1936 this building was sold. The southern part retains the interior décor of the years around 1900: the former entrance lobby, staircase, dining hall, winter garden, and former Palmengarten (today forming the lobby).



### 9.2.3.2 Ballinghaus (1836)

The house (Martin-Luther-Straße 3) was built from plans by Johann Gottfried Gutensohn for Dr. Franz Anton von Balling, who settled at *Bad Kissingen* in 1834 as the town's first physician in private practice. The three-storey cuboid's pilaster strips and cornices testify to its Biedermeier origins; it also features a large balcony supported by columns, and a low-angle hipped roof. By taking in-house patients, Dr. Balling founded a local tradition. Today the house is part of a sanatorium.



### 9.2.3.3 Villa Hailmann (1903)

The Genevan architect Antony Krafft built a sandstone mansion (Kurhausstraße 26) for Kommerzienrat Philipp Hailmann, who worked in the spa and hotel business. The stately Neo-Renaissance building with its fine interior (including a skylighted staircase with a gallery all round) houses the water management office (Wasserwirtschaftsamt) today. Set in a spacious park and situated prominently on a slope overlooking the Saale valley, it features central projections with characteristic Neo-Renaissance décor on all sides; the main façade's projection is further emphasised by an aedicula.



### 9.2.3.4 Obere Saline (1767–72)

The Upper Saline was, in the eighteenth century the Kurquartier of Prince Bishop Adam Friedrich von Seinsheim of Würzburg, and in the nineteenth century of Chancellor Otto Prince of Bismarck and the German Empress Auguste Victoria. Originally built as a residential building for the craftsmen working in the saltworks, von Seinsheim adapted the building for his purposes and gave it a castle-like appearance. After completion of salt production in 1869, the premises were set up in 1875 as a spa accommodation for Bismarck. These rooms were also inhabited by the Empress, and the chapel was reactivated for them. The living quarters of Bismarck have been preserved unchanged and are today part of the *Museum Obere Saline* with the Bismarck Museum.



## 9.2.4 Religious buildings and facilities

### 9.2.4.1 Erlöserkirche (1845–47)

In the 1840s, spa patrons appealed to King Ludwig I for permission to build a Protestant church as the rooms in the Altes Amtshaus set aside for services in Catholic Kissingen had become too small. The King did not just grant permission, he paid for the building out of his own pocket. The plain Neo-Romanesque hall (Prinzregentenstraße 9) was built by court architect Friedrich von Gärtner and, from the outset,



was designed to form a visual terminus in the new grid-work of streets. In 1864 the Protestant prayer house became a parish church, although it remained a modest and unobtrusive structure - in keeping with the wishes of the community, who had asked for a building that would not be immediately recognisable as a church. This changed when August Thiersch added towers and an apse in 1890. The church has been called by the name of Erlöserkirche since the most recent renovation in 1980.

#### 9.2.4.2 Russian Orthodox Church (1898)

Building the Russian Orthodox Church (Salinenstraße 20), to accommodate the large numbers of spa patrons from the Russian Empire, only started in 1898; there had been plans to build one as early as the mid-nineteenth century. Victor Alexandrovich Schröter of St Petersburg designed the central-plan, Neo-Romanesque structure, with Byzantine elements such as the five onion domes. Until then, Russian Orthodox services had taken place in the Luitpoldbad Casino. Today there is a Russian Orthodox community attached to the church, no longer made up of spa patrons but of local residents. A confraternity and a friends' association maintain the church, with its fine original décor.



#### 9.2.4.3 Herz-Jesu Kirche (1881)

A new and ambitious parish church (Von-Hessing-Straße 8) was built on the outskirts of the old town; the former parish church of St. Jakobus in the old centre could no longer handle the growing numbers of spa patrons from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. It was built from plans by Karl von Leimbach. The Neo-Gothic basilic, with a single tower surmounting the entrance, provides seating for 4,000. Most of the décor has survived although the original stained-glass windows have been replaced with glass by Robert Rabold in the choir and two Georg Meistermann cycles in the nave.



#### 9.2.4.4 Kapellenfriedhof



This cemetery (Kapellenstraße), next to the chapel dedicated to St. Mary, hosted burials of numerous eminent local spa physicians, hoteliers and other notable individuals connected to the spa business, as well as several eminent spa patrons. Today the cemetery, which dates back to the fourteenth century, is a public garden.

#### 9.2.4.5 Jewish cemetery

This cemetery (Bergmannstraße 26) is the burial place of *Bad Kissingen's* Jewish community, as well as that of several Jewish spa patrons.



### 9.3 Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape

The space of the Saale valley following the narrower spa area is also the starting point of the horticultural sites that contribute to the therapeutic and recreational spa landscape. These areas date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and include the original spa area (near the spa buildings east of the Saale), the area south of the Ludwig Bridge (which was expanded to the Saale meadows as the “Luitpold Park”), and the northern part (“Rose Garden”). In addition, there are further horticultural areas that form “satellites” of the principal “spa landscape” around the town, for example the “Altenberg” and the “Ballinghain”. The inclusion of the surrounding landscape as part of the spa landscape dates from the second half of the eighteenth century, for example Prince-bishop Adam Friedrich von Seinsheim’s valley of cascades (‘Kaskadental’) that used the natural stairs formed by calcareous tuff. Natural monuments, and historical ones, were used from the eighteenth century as points of attraction that also offered lookout points, for example the Botenlaube ruin, the ruin of the monastery Aura, and the Trimbürg ruin. Promenades (1840s) run north and south along the banks of the Saale River from the Kurgarten at the layout’s core, as well as into the surrounding hills, and the network of footpaths lined with shady trees was considerably expanded at the behest of the Bavarian King Ludwig I, with Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell providing the plans, and maintained in pristine condition by the spa’s gardening office afterwards. The Kissingen promenades do not merely lead up to the popular idyllic foresters’ lodges and mills, picturesque rock formations, memorial stones or natural sights, ruins and former monasteries: they are also embellished with small buildings in the prevailing taste, among them pavilions (Pavillon on the top of the Altenberg 1848) and shelters, lookout towers and inns that boast panoramic views, such as the Ludwig Tower (1883), Wittelsbach Tower (1907) and the Bismarck Tower (1914/1926). Of the many restaurants for excursionists in the spa the oldest is likely the ‘Klaushof’ from the mid-eighteenth century. All these elements of the spa landscape are connected by a large and graded grid of walkways, from promenades bordered by avenues to simple paths in the forest, in total 130 km; nowadays 110 km of these are still maintained and well-tended. Towards the end of the nineteenth century these walkways were classified as ‘Terrainkurwege’ (“terrain spa promenades”) according to Dr. Max Joseph Oertel.

Monuments along the paths are to well-known spa guests (Bismarck 1877, Heinrich Manger; Empress Elisabeth of Austria Österreich 1907, Emanuel Gerhart). The Kissingen sports venues are located along the green belt of the Saale meadows - from the tournament place in the north, that even today hosts the Rakoczy horse show by the Tattersall, and the tennis court to the golf course at the southern end which has occupied this site since 1911.

Another attraction (from 1877) for the spa guests was the boat line that connects the Rose Garden with the Untere Saline (Lower Saline); it still exists today.

### 9.3.1 Kurgarten (1738/1834)

In 1738, the Würzburg court architect planned and oversaw the building of the Baroque Kurhaus and a garden laid out to complement it in both design and function - the oldest example of a spa garden dedicated to promenading as part of the drinking cure, as well as recreational purposes. The “spa square” was created as a sort of a parlour in the open-air and as a meeting spot for the spa guests. This square combined the functions of the preceding places and locations of a “Spielwiese” (playing field or playground) and of an “Allee” (avenue or boulevard). The Kurgarten acquired its current size in 1834 during a large-scale expansion of the spa district including the building of a ring road around the old centre and the replacement and relocation of the Saale bridge from plans by the Bavarian court architects and garden supervisors. The Rakoczy and Pandur springs were incorporated into the layout. Today’s planting scheme is still based on that designed by King Ludwig I of Bavaria, and the square still functions as the core of the spa district.



### 9.3.2 Luitpoldpark

The landscape park in the Saale meadows, expanded from 1857 onwards, encompasses 15ha today. Originating from a small garden, the “Neue Anlage”, next to the old bridge and the characteristic tree-lined promenades, it was gradually developed into today’s park following a general plan by the Royal Bavarian garden authorities, implemented by the court and later the spa gardeners. It features spacious lawns and old trees including exotic specimens, the Saale River meandering in their shade (and occasionally flooding the valley), together with tree-lined avenues, numerous carefully designed prospects, and colourful flowerbeds.



### 9.3.3 Rosengarten (1913)

The rose garden was commissioned by the town of *Bad Kissingen* to complement the state-financed new buildings of Regentenbau (Regent's Building and Wandelhalle (the grand foyer)). It was designed by the young municipal gardener, Friedrich Dessauer, who created both a classical parterre for the palatial Regentenbau and a state-of-the-art rosarium, with the shapes of the flowerbeds and the detail of a modern Jugendstil garden. The Fächerbrunnen (fan fountain), added in 1959 as part of a redesign, has since become one of the landmarks of *Bad Kissingen*. The most recent reconstruction of the flowerbeds reverted to the original, austere geometric layout.



### 9.3.4 Altenberganlage (1828)

As early as 1794, two princes on a spa break, George Friedrich Karl of Sachsen-Meiningen and Leopold Friedrich Franz of Anhalt-Dessau, created a lookout featuring a stone bench and a hedge on the solitary rise. The hill's transformation into a garden began in 1828 when a footpath was laid out and a pavilion built on the hilltop. Today, it is partly wooded and partly laid out as an English garden. The footpaths are lined with small buildings such as the circular pavilion (1848), the Walhalla (1849) and the Sonnen-Salett (1848), and monuments commemorating Empress Elisabeth of Austria (1907) and the royal court gardener Jacob Ickelsheimer (1882) who was active at Kissingen.



### 9.3.5 Kaskadental (1760s)

The Kaskadental was laid out as early as the 1760s, as a Rococo garden with water displays and sculptures for spa patrons to enjoy. The nineteenth century saw a redesign along Romantic lines. The footpath along the valley leads to Klaushof, once a forester's lodge but by the eighteenth century already a day-trip destination and meeting point for spa patrons from Kissingen and nearby Bad Bocklet - a function it still serves today.



### 9.3.6 Bismarck monument (1877)

In 1875, a year after the assassination attempt on Imperial Chancellor Otto Fürst von Bismarck, who was then staying at Kissingen, a committee was formed with the aim of raising a monument to the Chancellor. By Heinrich Manger and financed by donations, with spa patrons contributing generously, it was unveiled two years later as the first Bismarck monument in Germany. Otto von Bismarck spent a total of 15 spa breaks at *Bad Kissingen*, causing considerable international interest in the resort. The monument is situated at the northern end of the promenade "Salinenpromenade" close to the pumping plant at the Untere Saline.



### 9.3.7 Salinenpromenade



The promenades along the banks of the Saale River to the north and south of the town, Salinenpromenade and Lindesmühlpromenade have been preserved unchanged from the 1840s, even with some original trees surviving. They are still in use.



### 9.3.8 Lindesmühlpromenade

This tree-lined promenade begins south of the Kurpark, on the east bank of the Saale, cutting off a wide meander of the river to lead to the historic Tennis Court and beyond, to re-join the Saale near the mill and Former Abattoir.



### 9.3.9 Tennis court (Tennisplatz) - since 1907

Earlier to this date, and since 1887, the tennis court being maintained by the state, was situated at the place where the Regentenbau (Regent's building) is located today; in its basic nucleus, the respective sports building erected on the tennis court, goes back to the architect Max Littmann;

### 9.3.10 Golf course (since 1911)

The 18-hole course, located at the southern end of the nominated property, is one of the oldest (1911) in Bavaria. The Saale River meanders along and through the parkland-style green.



### 9.3.11 Tattersall (1911)

The Neo-Baroque Tattersall Hall (Reithausplatz 2) was commissioned by the Kissingen Equestrian Club, and built by Franz Krampf. As well as an indoor arena it housed horseboxes for spa patrons who chose to bring their own horses to *Bad Kissingen*. By 1987, the club's requirements had outgrown the building, and the club moved its premises to Obere Saline. Today the structure is used as a municipal venue for cultural events.



### 9.3.12 Turniergebäude (1922)



The unpretentious terrace structure was initially built to accommodate horse-racing spectators. Soon after, the grounds were also used as an airfield. During the 1920s, it provided the venue for very popular air shows featuring, among others, the renowned aviator Ernst Udet. In 1928 it was the landing site for a gliding record that heralded the era of long-distance gliding. In 1972,

the control tower was built on to the southern end; today it is both the venue of the annual Rakoczy Reitturnier (horse show) and an official airfield, too - as it has been since 1934.

## 9.4 Spa Infrastructure

The spa centre in the north dates from the 1830s when brine and carbonic acid were included into the catalogue of non-physician care. The Saline Bath (1840-1964) with its constant extensions was located near the “Runder Brunnen”. The saltworks did not only serve the concentration of cold brine for the salt production, but has been used until today as an open air inhalatory. Two pumping stations transported the cold brine along pipelines to the graduation works and into the spa houses in town. Along with the medical function this spa quarter hosted the Rindencafé and therefore functioned as attractive destination for leisure and pleasure purpose within the spa landscape. The northern spa quarter marks the end of the Salinenpromenade.

### 9.4. Untere Saline (1870)

In the area of the Lower Saline, salt production is attested for the first time in 823. *Bad Kissingen* was one of the smallest but at the same time one of the oldest salt production sites throughout Central Europe. The south wing of the three-wing complex from 1788 served with the three buildings of brewhouse, magazine building and residential building of the saline manager of salt production. After the abandonment of commercial salt production at the end of 1868, a new one was built in 1870 on the foundations of a previous brewhouse in order to be able to continue to prepare mother liquor. The house was still used for employees of the spa administration. Mother liquor is a by-product of salt preparation and was a significant therapeutic agent for Kissingen. It served as a bath additive. The brewing copper and brewhouse interior are the only original preserved evidence of historical evaporated salt production in southern Germany. In connection with the salt production can also be seen the eastern so-named “salt reservoir” (evaporated brine reservoir) from the second half of the eighteenth century.



#### 9.4.1 Pumping plant at Untere Saline

The pumping plant contains two cast-iron turbine-powered piston pumps: one (Freipumpe, 1848, Klett & Co. Nürnberg) freestanding, the other (Hauspumpe, 1883) encased. Both were used for lifting brine. They supplied the graduation tower, took the graduated brine to a reservoir, and sent brine on its way to the town's bathing facilities. Both are still functional, the encased pump still supplies the graduation tower but the free-standing pump is not in use. The building has been partially rebuilt to its previous appearance after suffering storm damage in 1993. the pedestals of the quarrrystones that are still preserved *in situ*, give an impression of the original length of the graduation buildings. It is still used as an open-air inhalatorium.



#### 9.4.2 Krugmagazin (1838)

Friedrich von Gärtner built this former bottle warehouse (Schlossstraße 4). It is notable for its radical simplicity, emphasised by a very few design elements such as the narrow belt

courses and regular arrangement of the triple windows. The shipment of local mineral water saw a major upswing in the nineteenth century. In the Krugmagazin cellars, large numbers of ready-filled bottles could be stored for shipping in the winter months. The first floor still houses the equipment of the former chemical-balneological state laboratory, which, until 1967, was responsible for every medicinal spring in northern Bavaria.



### 9.4.3 Infrastructure for Steamboat line

In order to create a better connection between the spa district of Untere Saline (Lower Saltworks) and the old town, a steamboat line was established in 1877 to complement the horse bus already in operation. It still operates on the original route although the boats, one of them dating from 1930, are motor-driven today. The Bootslinie (boat route) is both a characteristic feature and peculiarity and represents a variation of the touristic infrastructure whereas in other spa resorts funiculars are to be found. Both, the landing stages (two) as well as wharfs as well as the fortifications and reinforcements of the river banks are historic. The shipping route was established as a tourist attraction as well as a comfortable means of transportation for the spa guests. Today, boats continue to operate as a scheduled service during the summer season.



### 9.4.4 Former Abattoir (1923-25)

In 1925, the new slaughterhouse of the city was opened (Würzburger Straße 4 – 6) which guaranteed the adequate supply of the inhabitants and spa guests by its size and thus replaced the old inner city slaughterhouse of 1833. During the season, the number of inhabitants of *Bad Kissingen*, including spa guests, was several times higher than the number in winter. The new slaughterhouse should not appear as an industrial building, so it was built as a high hall, similar to a basilica, with the roof raised so high that it concealed the tall chimney. It was equipped with galleries inside, so that interested guests could be assured of the exceptional hygienic conditions. Thus, a distinctive site-specific architectural language was developed for an industrial building set within the context of a Great Spa.



## 9.5 Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

Social meeting and entertainment have always been part of a spa break. At *Bad Kissingen* several consecutive Kurhäuser (1705/1738/1880/1913) were built for dancing and game playing. In the eighteenth century, gaming was played primarily with cards; there was gambling from 1797, and Roulette by 1800. In Bavaria gambling was prohibited in 1849. From the last third of the eighteenth century, audiences could watch plays; the first proper theatre was built in 1858. In 1904/05 it was replaced by the present one by Max Littmann, a

small but representative house with an elaborate and original presentation in neo-baroque style.

Luxury goods had been available from seasonal shops (called “Bazar” in Kissingen) since the eighteenth century. Nowadays part of the town’s Bazar (built in 1889) near the Rosengarten and at Lindesmühlenpromenade are used for their original purpose. In the time of the Prince-Bishops, military bands played to entertain patrons; a spa orchestra was established in 1837, and is still going strong (Staatsbad Philharmonie Bad Kissingen). A traditional water pouring ceremony, including consulting service on the waters, is still provided.

In keeping with the spirit of the time, the spa administration provided sports facilities, including tennis and croquet courts in 1888, and a golf course and horse-riding venues in 1911. Religious needs were met by Catholic (Herz-Jesu Kirche, 1882-84, Karl von Leimbach), Lutheran (Erlöserkirche, 1847, Friedrich von Gärtner/Erweiterung 1891 August Thiersch), Anglican (1862), Russian Orthodox (1898-1901, Viktor Schröter) and Jewish (Synagoge, 1900/1902, Carl Krampf) places of worship. Some guests were buried at the old Christian cemetery (Kapellenfriedhof) and at the Jewish cemetery. Today they represent physical testimony of the vast number of international spa guests of various denominations within the urban structure of the city. In the Obere Saline (upper saltworks), there has been preserved in its authentic state, the lodging where a prominent spa guest, Otto Fürst von Bismarck, used to have accommodation during his stays for spa treatments. Among other equipment, telegraph office is also preserved in parts; it had been installed comparing this office with others in Bavaria at a very early time and particularly for Bismarck, and it was managed and run by respective operating staff during Bismarck’s stays for spa treatments.

Bismarck purposefully profited from the special cultural conditions of a ‘Great Spa’, like the extraordinary tolerance for informal political meetings and talks with diplomats and scientists. These talks taking place in the Upper Saline resulted in, among others, the worldwide exemplary social insurances (health insurance in 1883, accident insurance in 1884, disability insurance and old-age insurance in 1889), the verbalisation of a European peace framework (“Kissinger Diktat” in 1877) and the political support of Heinrich Schliemann’s archaeological excavations in Troy. The living quarters of Bismarck have been preserved unchanged and are today part of the Museum Obere Saline with Bismarck Museum. They represent a tangible proof of cultural and political achievements within the series of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

### 9.5.1 Former Hotel Adam Hailmann (today: Haus Collard)

In 1856, while staying in this house (Am Kurgarten 6; Ludwigstraße 4), Gioacchino Rossini began to compose again after a 27-year break. Documents (preserved for example in the *Bad Kissingen* archives, in New York, Paris, Naples and Forli) exemplify the intense preoccupation with his late work, the “*Péchés de vieillesse*” (Sins of Old Age) and the “*Petite messe solennelle*” (little solemn mass). Rossini was impressed by the music played in a spa; it was the first time he heard music by Richard Wagner in concert.



## 9.6 Continuing spa tradition

*Bad Kissingen's* function is primarily described as a health and cure destination. Principal spa buildings (pump houses and spring houses, arcade building, Wandelhalle and assembly halls) and many of the historic bazaar buildings are still being used in their original function.

Historic gardens, parkland and the therapeutic and recreational spa landscape are still being used in their original functions (hiking paths lead from the principal spa district into the surrounding landscape, with panoramic viewpoints). However, viewing towers are rarely used as touristic destinations, just as many of the restaurants in the surrounding setting are not in use anymore (and not included in the nominated property). The Cure gardens (Luitpoldpark, Kurgarten and Rosengarten) are still in use in their original functions, offering a regenerative function, and a promenade and recreation area (the Kurgarten provides also modern open-air chess boards and hosts the cure orchestra, whilst Luitpoldpark provides modern sunbeds, a modern kneipp-water-treading basin which nonetheless demonstrate their continuity in traditional functions until today). The promenades and walking paths are still used for medical treatments and for leisure activities. The therapeutic and recreational spa landscape/surrounding greenery contains an extensive network of outdoor training and hiking trails in the woods, including those for the classical terrain cure that are still being used for leisure, pleasure and medical purposes.

The traditional knowledge about spring waters and their usage in the drinking cure, bathing and inhalation (graduation works) is still being applied in a vibrant manner and passed on to the next generations; in spite of a noticeable decline in use. Peat treatment has been reduced, the local peat production has been stopped and today peat treatments are only available in the modern Kissalis Therme (modern spa). Brine baths are still available, e.g. at the Kaiserhof Victoria Hotel and the modern Spa Kissalis Therme; the latter uses local mineral water in several pools, the water for medical brine treatments being enriched with non-local brine.

### Medicine

Until today *Bad Kissingen* remains a popular tourist/spa guest/rehabilitation patient destination: 1.611.688 overnight stays and 255.369 guest arrivals in the year of 2017. There are 168 accommodation facilities, 7,002 beds, 2 camping sites (100 tent sites + 36 parking positions for caravans), per year approximately 1 million day visitors. As a health destination, especially rehabilitation patients are being treated in 19 rehabilitation clinics. There is a new open-air inhalatorium which is smaller than the historic one, but shows continuity in function at the historic site. The drinking cure is available year-round, twice a day in an historical-based schedule (evening and morning) when water is served traditionally by so called Brunnenfrauen (well-women) who give advice on which waters to drink, and for which purpose. Inhalation, bathing, drinking, and hydrotherapy are still being offered in *Bad Kissingen*.

Many other modern treatments are offered in rehabilitation clinics, several hotels and the modern spa, which today do not have anything in common with the historic and traditional spa medicine. They are, however, intangible proof of the development of the

modern spa and wellness tradition in *Bad Kissingen*, as well as its continuous function as a health destination.

## Diversions

The rich offer of leisure time activities exists until today, and includes a number of sports and cultural events: There is a famous Spa orchestra with 13 salaried musicians in the cure orchestra, playing twice a day either in the cure garden or in the Wandelhalle. There is gambling, with the Casino attracting numerous guests (from 1849-1955 gambling did not take place). There is a rich offer of cultural events (music, arts, theatre), gaining *Bad Kissingen* the title “Kulturstadt” (City of Culture). Entertainment at the Regentenbau offers a vast range of concerts and shows, whilst Kissinger Sommer is an annual high quality, international, music festival. Modern art exhibitions and events, such as “open ateliers days” (Tage des offenen Ateliers) and others, are a current link to the historic past when *Bad Kissingen* used to be a popular meeting place for artists. Entertainment and plays at the theatre include performances by guest theatre companies on a regular basis. The offer of (luxury) goods is still popular at numerous shops at the bazars, as well as in the city centre, offering a wide variety of quality products.

Sports remain tangible proof of the former effort to keep up with the spirit of time, and this is well preserved in the town’s urban structure. Still significant elements include:

Tattersall, erected in 1911, and one of only a few Tattersalls ever erected in Germany. Nowadays, this location has been rebuilt and refurbished as a hall for events and public functions in *Bad Kissingen*, however the equestrian sports hall with its open construction of an iron roof has still been preserved in its basic form. Tennis and the golf course are still in use, and equestrian sport is still being practiced, but in different locations.

The steamboat line is still in use on the river, with two boats, including one historic boat from 1930. It remains a popular tourist attraction.

Management is also a continuing tradition, today the responsible bodies of the cure activities, principal cure buildings and cure gardens and parks are the Bavarian State and the city of *Bad Kissingen*, just as in the flourishing “Great Spas” period. The Cure Nursery (Gardeners) comprises a specific and historic institution for gardening activities and maintenance of the greenery used for cure purposes.

Internationality also prevails, with the presence of various denominations and nationalities. Tangible proof of the former situation is well conserved in cemeteries and the various Churches. Today, whilst the number of international guests is lower than it was in around 1900, internationality is still eminent.



A traditional water pouring ceremony, including consulting service on the waters, is still provided