

Cisterscapes

Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe

A new look at monasteries and their impact: The Cistercian order has left its mark on landscapes since the Middle Ages. From Burgundy, the Cistercians settled all over Europe, built monasteries in the solitude of swampy valleys, cultivated and settled land. The monastic landscapes still show many features today that recall the influence of the monks. Due to the influence of the Cistercians, landscape and settlement structures are similar in far-flung areas of Europe. They are signs of the togetherness of European identities over centuries.

The European cooperation project „Cisterscapes – Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe“ brings this network to life again.

European networking since the Middle Ages

The County of Bamberg is the sponsor and coordinator of the transnational LEADER cooperation project „Cisterscapes – Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe“. Starting from the former Ebrach Monastery near Bamberg, which in 1127 was the first settlement of the emerging and powerful Cistercian Order east of the Rhine, the county of Bamberg networked 17 monastic landscapes in 5 countries. Together, the sites are striving to apply for the transnational European Heritage Label in order to communicate Cistercian monastic landscapes as a common and transnational cultural heritage in Europe.

A transeuropean „Cistercian Way“ will connect the sites as a long-distance hiking trail. The measures for researching, valorising and communicating the Cistercian cultural landscape are financed with funds from the EU, the state of Bavaria, numerous funding bodies and the support of the project partners. Below we present the sites chronologically according to the date of their foundation.

Cradle of the Cistercians

In 1098, the Benedictine Robert of Molesme founded the Cistercian monastery of Citeaux in Burgundy with the intention of leading a life strictly devoted to prayer and work: *ora et labora*. This reform idea was followed by an innovation in the structure of the order. The four primary monasteries of La Ferté (1113), Pontigny (1114), Clairvaux (1115) and Morimond (around 1117) were the nucleus of the Europe-wide Cistercian movement; by 1300 there were already 742 subsidiaries linked by the three essential features of the order – general chapter, filiation and visitation. Through their constitutionally regulated self-sufficiency, the monasteries shaped the landscapes in a uniform way throughout Europe. By adapting to local conditions, each monastic landscape also bears individual traits: this „diversity in unity“ can still be “read” in the cultural landscape today.

Characteristics of the monastic landscapes are:

- an elaborate hydraulic engineering system for the supply and disposal of water to the monastery and for energy generation (mills)
- extensive pond management due to the fasting regulations
- granges, specialised farmyards with correspondingly large plots of land for agriculture and livestock breeding as the economic basis of the monastery economy
- Large forests for the supply of timber and firewood
- Viticulture for religious purposes, but also for trade, including fruit and hop growing
- Town mansions as marketing places for the surpluses

Ebrach

Filiation: Morimond

Foundation: 1127 Resolution 1803

Ebrach monastery, founded as Morimond's daughter in the Middle Ebrach Valley, is the oldest Cistercian monastery on the right bank of the Rhine and plays a key role in the order's eastern movement. The monastery was one of the wealthiest in Franconia, with the prince-bishopric of Würzburg as sovereign. Viticulture and silviculture as well as fish farming shaped the monastic cultural landscape in the wooded area of the Steigerwald.

Die Abtei Ebrach, als Tochter Morimonds im Tal der Mittleren Ebrach gegründet, nimmt als ältestes rechtsrheinisches Kloster der Zisterzienser eine Schlüsselrolle in der Ostbewegung des Ordens ein. Das Kloster gehörte zu einem der wohlhabendsten Klöster Frankens mit dem Fürstbischof Würzburg als Landesherrn. Wein- und Waldbau sowie Fischzucht prägten die klösterliche Kulturlandschaft in der waldreichen Gegend des Steigerwalds.



Wiege der Zisterzienser

1098 gründete der Benediktiner Robert von Molesme das für die Zisterzienser namensgebende Kloster Citeaux in Burgund in der Absicht, ein streng dem Gebet und der Arbeit gewidmetes Leben zu führen: *ora et labora*. Dieser Reform-Idee folgte eine Innovation der Ordensstruktur. Die vier Primarabteien La Ferté (1113), Pontigny (1114), Clairvaux (1115) und Morimond (um 1117) waren Kern der europaweiten Bewegung der Zisterzienser, um 1300 gab es bereits 742 Niederlassungen, die durch die drei Wesensmerkmale des Ordens – Generalkapitel, Filiation und Visitation – miteinander verbunden waren. Die Klöster prägten durch ihre verfassungsmäßig geregelte Selbstversorgung, die Eigenwirtschaft und die Landschaften europaweit auf einheitliche Weise. Durch die Anpassung an örtliche Gegebenheiten trägt jede Klosterlandschaft zudem individuelle Züge: Diese „Vielfalt in der Einheit“ ist heute noch in der Kulturlandschaft ablesbar.

Charakteristische Merkmale der Klosterlandschaften sind:

- ausgeklügeltes wasserbauliches System zur Versorgung des Klosters und zur Energiegewinnung (Mühlen)
- umfangreiche Teichwirtschaft aufgrund der Fastenvorschriften
- Grangien, spezialisierte Wirtschaftshöfe mit entsprechend großen Grundstücken für Ackerbau und Viehzucht als wirtschaftliche Grundlage der Klosterwirtschaft
- große Wälder für die Versorgung mit Bau- und Brennholz
- Weinbau für religiöse Zwecke, aber auch für den Handel, einschließlich Obst- und Hopfenbau
- Stadthöfe zur Vermarktung von Überschüssen

Rein

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach

Foundation: 1129

In 1129, Margrave Leopold I of Steyr founded Rein monastery, which was settled by Ebrach monks. The monastery site in the Gratwein basin offered the monks good conditions for building a monastery in seclusion. Of particular importance for the supply of the monastery were forestry, terraced south-facing slopes for viticulture, chains of ponds, mills along the rivers and salt mining. A special feature is the gallery in the Ulrichsberg.

Im Jahr 1129 gründete Markgraf Leopold I. von Steyr das Stift Rein, das mit Mönchen aus Ebrach besiedelt wurde. Der Klosterstandort im Gratweiner Becken bot den Mönchen gute Voraussetzungen zum Aufbau eines Klosters in Abgeschiedenheit. Von besonderer Bedeutung für die Versorgung des Klosters waren Waldbau, terrasierte Südhänge für den Weinbau, Teichketten, Mühlen entlang der Flüsse sowie Salzabbau. Eine Besonderheit ist der Stollen im Ulrichsberg.



Langheim

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach

Foundation: 1132/33 Resolution 1803

As a branch of Ebrach monastery, founded in 1127, Langheim was at the beginning of the Cistercian expansion movement in Europe. Subsidiary foundations included Plasy in the Czech Republic. Situated in the valley of the Leuchsenbach, the monastery focused on forestry, fish farming and trade with important city courts in Bamberg and Kulmbach. The construction of the Vierzehnheiligen pilgrimage church created a landmark in the Upper Main Valley.

Als Filiale der 1127 gegründeten Abtei Ebrach stand Langheim mit am Anfang der zisterziensischen Expansionsbewegung in Europa. Tochtergründungen waren u.a. Plasy in Tschechien. Die im Tal des Leuchsenbaches gelegene Abtei fokussierte sich auf Waldbau, Fischzucht, Handel mit bedeutenden Stadt Höfen in Bamberg und Kulmbach. Mit dem Bau der Wallfahrtskirche Vierzehnheiligen entstand eine Landmarke im Obermaintal.



Waldsassen

Filiation: Morimond-Kamp Foundation: 1133

Resolution: 1803, Cistercian nuns convent since 1863

Around 1133, Margrave Diepold III founded the Waldsassen monastery and endowed it with extensive foundations. Clearing led to a closed high medieval settlement landscape. The carp ponds are still particularly characteristic of the landscape today: The monks used the swampy landscape for fish farming and created one of the largest pond areas in Europe.

Um das Jahr 1133 gründete Markgraf Diepold III. das Kloster Waldsassen und stellte es mit umfangreichen Stiftungen aus. Rodungen führten zu einer geschlossenen hochmittelalterlichen Siedlungslandschaft. Besonders landschaftsprägend sind bis heute die Karpenteiche: Die Mönche nutzten die sumpfige Landschaft zur Fischzucht und legten eines der größten Teichgebiete Europas an.



Maulbronn

Filiation: Morimond-Belleval

Foundation: 1138/1147 Resolution: 1648

After a first attempt by the Cistercians to found a monastery in Eckenweiher (Mühlacker), they moved to Maulbronn (Mulenbrunnen) in the upper Salzach valley due to a lack of water, pastureland and building materials. Bishop Gunther of Speyer supported the new foundation with land so that Maulbronn could rise to become one of the largest and richest cistercias in southwest Germany. Water, wine and fruit growing characterise the landscape.

Nach einem ersten Gründungsversuch der Zisterzienser in Eckenweiher (Mühlacker) erfuhr aus Mangel an Wasser, Weideland und Baumaterial der Umzug nach Maulbronn (Mulenbrunnen) am oberen Salzachtal. Bischof Gunther von Speyer unterstützte die Neugründung mit Ländereien, so dass sich Maulbronn zu einem der größten und reichsten Zisterzen in Südwestdeutschland erheben konnte. Wasser-, Wein- und Obstbau prägen die Landschaft.



Zwettl

Filiation: Morimond-Heiligenkreuz

Foundation: 1138

Hadmar I. of Kuenring founded Zwettl Monastery after the Mother of God had shown the place of foundation by means of an oak tree greening in winter. Zwettl still has an exemplary cultural landscape character, which is ideally depicted in the foundation book of the early 14th century as a circuit with the monastery as the centre – surrounded by a ring of granges. The landscape is characterised by pond farming and silviculture.



Wągrowiec / Łekno

Filiation: Morimond

Foundation: 1143 Resolution: 1835/36

Łekno Monastery is considered the oldest Cistercian foundation in Poland. It was settled for centuries by monks from Altenberg Monastery and thus counts among the Cologne monasteries.

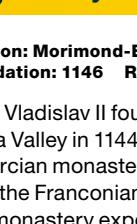
Originally situated on Lake Łekno (Colmar Lake District), it was moved in the 14th/15th century to the site of the monastic grange in Wągrowiec.

The monks shaped the landscape through mills, agriculture, livestock and viticulture.



Cisterscapes

Samošanské pokračina
Klasický kláštor
Monastické landskápe
Klosterlandschaften



connecting Europe

Landskápe

Cistercián

Plasy

Plasy

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach

Foundation: 1146 Resolution: 1785

Duke Vladislav II founded Plasy monastery in the Střela Valley in 1144/1146 as one of the oldest Cistercian monasteries in Bohemia. Monks from the Franconian Langheim settled Plasy. The monastery experienced a second period of prosperity after the Thirty Years' War: the baroque new buildings of the monastery, the large four-sided courtyards and the pilgrimage church of Mariánské Týnice are still characteristic of the landscape today – as are extensive agricultural areas for grain and fruit cultivation.

Vévoda Vladislav II. založil v letech 1144/1146 jeden z nejstarších cisterciáckých klášterů v Čechách, klášter Plasy, v údolí řeky Střely. V Plasích se usadili mniši z francouzského Langheimu. Klášter zažil období druhého rozkvětu po třicetileté válce: díky tomu jsou dodnes pro krajinu charakteristické barokní budovy kláštera, velké čtyřtakté hospodářské dvory či poutní kostel Mariánská Týnice. Stejně jako velké lány s obilím či ovocné sady.



Loccum

Filiation: Morimond-Kamp Foundation: 1163

Resolution: 1585

Continued existence as a Protestant convent

The foundation of the monastery was based on a donation by Count Wilbrand of Hallermund, and in 1183 the Pope subordinated the monastery under the Cistercian Order. The monastery's spatial influence extended far beyond the village of Loccum to Oedelum northeast of Hildesheim and south to the Weser. The most important city courts were in Hanover and Minden, Bad Münder and Herford.

Grundlage der Klostergründung war die Schenkung des Grafen Wilbrand von Hallermund, 1183 unterstellt der Papst das Kloster dem Zisterzienserorden. Die Raumwirkung des Klosters reichte weit über das Dorf Loccum bis nach Oedelum nordöstlich von Hildesheim und südlich bis an die Weser hinaus. Die bedeutendsten Stadthöfe lagen in Hannover und Minden, Bad Münder und Herford.



Kostanjevica na Krki

Filiation: Morimond-Villers

Foundation: 1234 Resolution: 1785

The Kostanjevica na Krki monastery is nestled in the plain between the Krka River and the Žumberak Mountains. The abbey is a subsidiary of Vrkoslavice Abbey in Carinthia, which in turn comes from the Morimond filiation via Villers-Bettnach. The Cistercian viticulture was particularly influential in the landscape. Today the monastery houses a museum complex, its arcaded courtyard is one of the largest in Central Europe.

Samostan Kostanjevica na Krki leží na ravnini med reko Krko in Gorjanci. Opatstvo je hčirinski samostan samostana Vetrinj na Koroškem, ki pa izvira iz filiacije Morimond prek samostana Villers-Bettnach. Kulturno krajino je zaznamovalo zlasti cistercijansko vinogradništvo.

Danes samostan nudi zatočišče muzejskemu kompleksu, njegovo dvorišče z arkadami spada med največja v Srednji Evropi.



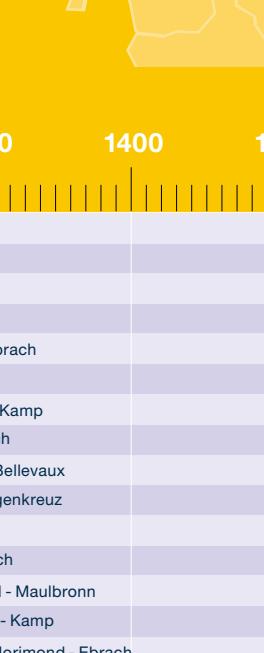
Vyšší Brod

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach Foundation: 1259

Resolution: 1941, revival 1991

Vyšší Brod Monastery (Vyšší Brod) was founded by the Bohemian Colonel Marshal Vok I of Rožemberk. The abbey is located in the Vltava valley, west of the confluence of the Menší Vltavice. Since its foundation it has been a spiritual and cultural center of South Bohemia and has shaped the region through silviculture, fish farming and mining. A special feature is the continuation of the landscape in the 20th century through the construction of the railway.

Klášter Vyšší Brod založil český zemský maršálek Vok I. z Rožmberka. Opatství se nachází v údolí Vltavy, západně od soutoku s Menší Vltavici. Od svého založení je duchovním a kulturním centrem jižních Čech a formoval region pěstováním, chovem ryb a těžbou. Zvláštností je pokračování krajiny v 20. století výstavbou železnice.



Bronnbach

Filiation: Morimond-Maulbronn

Foundation: 1151 Resolution: 1802

The Bronnbach Cistercian monastery was relocated to the water-rich valley of the Tauber in 1157. The abbot and founding convent came on a temporary basis from Waldsassen instead of the mother monastery of Maulbronn. The Bronnbach Cistercians mainly promoted viticulture in the region. Despite the manageable size of the area, typical elements of the cultural landscape are essentially represented. The monastery's town courts were located in Wertheim, Würzburg, Frankfurt, Aschaffenburg and Miltenberg.

Die Zisterze Bronnbach wurde 1157 in den wasserreichen Talgrund der Tauber verlegt. Abt und Gründungskonvent kamen aushilfsweise aus Waldsassen statt aus dem Mutterkloster Maulbronn. Die Bronnbacher Zisterzienser förderten vor allem den Weinbau in der Region. Trotz der Überschaubarkeit des Gebiets sind typische Elemente der Kulturlandschaft im Wesentlichen vertreten. Die Stadthöfe des Klosters lagen in Wertheim, Würzburg, Frankfurt, Aschaffenburg und Miltenberg.



Velehrad

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach Foundation: 1205

Resolution: 1784, 1890–1950, revival 1990

The first Moravian Cistercian monastery was founded with the support of Margrave Vladislav Jindřich in the valley of the Sázava River at the southern foot of the České Švýcarsko. The Slavic apostles Cyril and Methodius acted in this place in the 9th century, to whom the monastery owes its current glory as the most important pilgrimage basilica in the Czech Republic. The Cistercians in the Morimond line brought economic wealth, knowledge of fishing and the cultivation of fruit, wine and hops.

První moravský cisterciácký klášter byl založen s podporou markraběte Vladislava Jindřicha v údolí řeky Sázavy na jižním úpatí České Švýcarsko. V 9. století zde působili slovanští apoštoli Cyril a Metoděj, kterým klášter vděčí za svou současnou slávu jako nejvýznamnější poutní bazilika v České republice. Cisterciáci v linii Morimond přinesli ekonomické bohatství, znalosti rybářství i pěstování ovoce, vína a chmele.



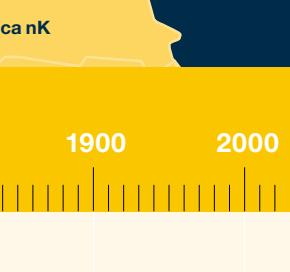
Žďár nad Sázavou

Filiation: Morimond-Ebrach

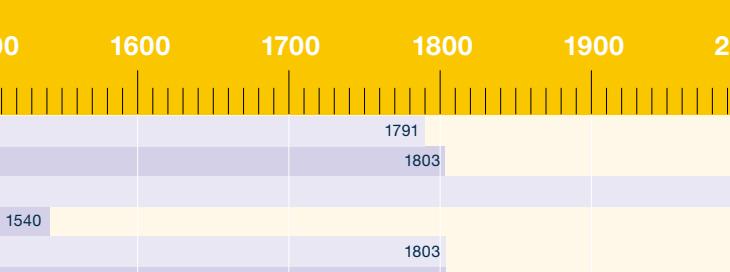
Foundation: 1252 Resolution: 1784

Žďár monastery was founded in 1252 in the Bohemian-Moravian border area between the Sázava and Svratka rivers on the Libice trade route. Dozens of ponds and pond chains were created around the monastery and its courtyards, as well as numerous hammer mills for metal processing. The monastery flourished in the 18th century, which is particularly evident in the Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora.

Klášter Žďár byl založen v roce 1252 v česko-moravském pohraničí mezi řekami Sázavou a Svratkou na Libické obchodní stezce. Kolem kláštera a jeho nádvoří byly vytvořeny desítky rybníků, soustav rybníků a četné hamry pro zpracování kovů. Klášter vzkvétal v 18. století, což je patrné zejména v poutním kostele sv. Jana Nepomuckého na Zelené hoře.



Medieval Cistercian landscape



Zwettl, Manuscript of Foundation „Bärenhaut“, 1302 (StiZ)

Cistercian landscapes connecting Europe



Timeline of Cistercian Filiations:

Date	Filiation	Location
1115	Morimond	
1127	Ebrach	Filiation: Morimond
1129	Rein	Filiation: Morimond
1132	Pforte	Filiation: Morimond - Kamp
1132/34	Langheim	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1133	Altenberg	Filiation: Morimond
1133	Waldsassen	Filiation: Morimond - Kamp
1136	Stična	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1138/1147	Maulbronn	Filiation: Morimond - Bellevaux
1138	Zwettl	Filiation: Morimond - Heiligenkreuz
1143	Wagrowiec	Filiation: Morimond
1146	Plasy	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1151	Bronnbach	Filiation: Morimond - Maulbronn
1163	Loccum	Filiation: Morimond - Kamp
1205	Velehrad	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1234	Kostanjevica na Krki	Filiation: Morimond - Villers
1252	Žďár	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1259	Vyšší Brod	Filiation: Morimond - Ebrach
1540		
1585		
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1803		
1863		
1898		
1890		
1950		
1941		
1990		

LEADER TNC-Projekt

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Projektträger:

Stadt Lichtenfels

Stadt Altenfurt

Stadt Marktredwitz

Stadt Neustadt an der Waldnaab

Stadt Zwettl

Stadt Geras

Stadt Leobendorf

Stadt Pöggstall

Stadt Mauer

Stadt Zwettl an der Rodl

Stadt Waidhofen an der Ybbs

Stadt Wels

Stadt Wels-Lichtenegg

Stadt Wels-Lichtenegg</p