

Parish Church St. Nicholas Bad Ischl

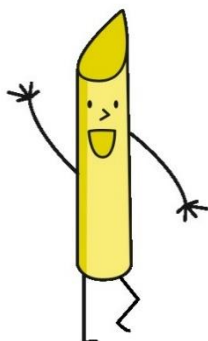
A creative church guide for exploration and interaction

Welcome!

In the city parish church of St. Nicholas, there is much to discover. The church is an important building in the history of the city. Above all, it is a place where people meet, pray, talk about their faith, attend church services and celebrate events like baptisms and weddings.

This guide provides an overview of many interesting objects, places and images in and around the church: with a map, plenty of information and pictures. Interaction is also encouraged: during an exploration of the church, by solving the puzzles and completing the colouring page.

I'm Piccolo, and we would like to introduce you to our church.

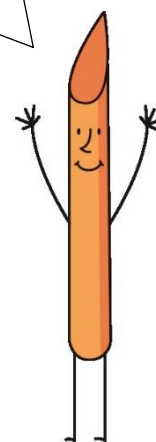


How old is the church?

The church has stood at this location since 1492.

At that time, however, the church was much smaller and built in the Gothic style. From 1770-1780, the building was renovated under Empress Maria Theresia to create this large church in the late Baroque style.

Hello! My name is Octavin, and I am an organ pipe.



How big is the church?

Total length: 52 metres
Width: 22 metres
Dome height: 20 metres

Over the entrance, you can see the church patron saint, **Saint Nicholas**. Together with several Bible verses at the entrance, Nicholas greets everyone who enters the church.

The “Roman Stone”

The “Roman Stone” is part of a gravestone from the Roman Period. It shows the image of a married couple who lived almost 2000 years ago. It tells us about history and that people have lived in Bad Ischl for a very long time.

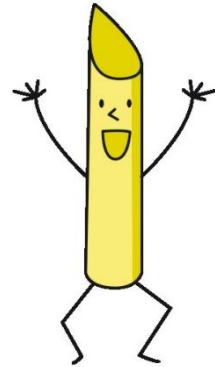
The **double eagle** on the facade shows that Empress Maria Theresia paid for most of the construction costs of the church.

The tower of the Ischl Parish Church is 72 metres high and was built almost 500 years ago for the first church.

Seven bells hang in the church tower. They vary in size and weight and have different tones. The biggest bell weighs 2374 kilos and the smallest only 143 kilos. In addition to the four clocks on the church tower, there is also a sundial on the southern outer wall.

Five doors lead into the Ischl Parish Church:

1. The main entrance
2. The entrance to the chapel
3. The entrance to the sacristy
4. The side entrance
5. The entrance to the tower



Look at the map – these things can be found inside the church:

1 Holy water font

When you enter the church, the first thing you see is the holy water font. You make the sign of the cross using the holy water as a confession of your faith.

2 Baptismal font

Through baptism, a child or adult belongs to God and to the congregation of Christians. Children, teens and adults are baptised at the baptismal font.

3 Easter candle

The candle is lit at the Easter bonfire on the evening before Easter to remember the resurrection of Jesus. The letters “alpha” (first letter of the Greek alphabet) and “omega” (last letter) tell us that Jesus is the beginning and the end.

4 Stations of the Cross

The colourful carvings of the Stations of the Cross are from the year 1895. On his way to the crucifixion on Golgotha outside the city wall of Jerusalem, Jesus also meets his mother, Mary.

5 Pulpit

In the past, the priest climbed up into the pulpit to preach. At that time, there were no microphones, so people could hear and understand him better from the pulpit.

6 St. Nicholas

The parish patron saint is recognized by his three golden apples or balls. The mitre (headpiece) and the staff show that the saint was a bishop. Additional images of Nicholas can be found at the high altar, in the sanctuary and six times in the arches of the church.

7 Sacristy

This is where the objects used during the church service are stored, e.g. the vestments, chalices, bowls and sacramental hosts. The priest and altar servers get dressed for the service here.

8 Imperial picture

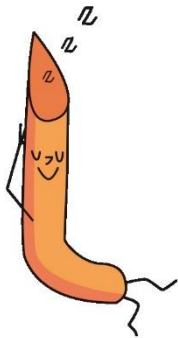
In this picture, Franz Karl, the father of the emperor, receives the sacrament of Extreme Unction – anointing of the sick. Behind him stand Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth.

9 Imperial bench

Emperor Franz Joseph often attended church services in the St. Nicholas Church. For him and his family, there was special seating near the altar.

10 Angel mosaic

A mosaic isn't a painting, but a picture made of many small stones put together. The mosaic behind the high altar shows three angels: Gabriel, Michael and Raphael.



11 Eternal flame

Jesus promised to always be with us in the Eucharist. Therefore, the eternal flame burns next to the tabernacle.

12 High altar

The high altar used to be the main altar of a Catholic church. This is where you will find the tabernacle.

13 Tabernacle

The tabernacle is the artistically designed, small cabinet where transformed hosts from the Eucharist celebration are stored for the communion to the sick or for worship.

14 Ambo

The ambo is a special place in the sanctuary where the Word of God is proclaimed. It is also called the "Table of the Word".

15 Lectern

From here, the congregation is welcomed, and prayers and intercessions are spoken.

16 Processional cross

At the start of each church service, the processional cross is carried into the church by an altar server and then placed here for everyone to see.

17 Altar

The table in the sanctuary is where the Christian congregation gathers to celebrate the Eucharist or the Lord's Supper. Here the priest transforms the bread and wine. The altar servers bring the offerings to the altar.

18 Presider's chair

This is where people who lead or have a role in the church service sit.

19 The Virgin Mary

This particularly beautiful statue from the Baroque period shows Mary with Jesus and is also called the Madonna. The Baroque art style can be seen in the dynamic curves, gold and colour.

20 Candles

A candle is lit as a visible sign of a prayer. You take the time to pause for a moment and have a talk with the Holy Mother – with Mary – Jesus or God.

21 Benches

On almost all of the benches, you can pull out an additional seat. In this way, more people can sit during the church service.

22 Saints

St. Elisabeth of Thüringen, who was originally a Hungarian princess, is often shown with a basket full of bread because she found it very important to help the poor and sick. On the walls you will find many other saints.

23 Gallery

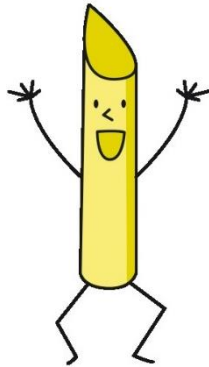
In the gallery, you can find the Imperial Jubilee Organ. There is also plenty of room here for musicians from the choir and orchestra who perform the music for the ceremonial church services. And of course, you have a great view from here.

The Imperial Jubilee Organ

The Imperial Jubilee Organ has 59 registers (= organ pipes with matching sounds) with around 4000 organ pipes. The organ can be heard during church services and concerts. The organ is often called the "queen of the instruments". It is the largest, deepest, highest and loudest of all instruments and can sound like an entire orchestra. However, it can also be played quietly, because the individual organ pipes can be switched on or off depending on the musical piece or organist's playing. The organ in Bad Ischl is not just royal but also imperial: the original instrument built in 1887-1888 by Matthäus Mauracher was greatly expanded in 1908 and then rededicated as the "Imperial Jubilee Organ" in 1910 for Emperor Franz Joseph's 80th birthday.

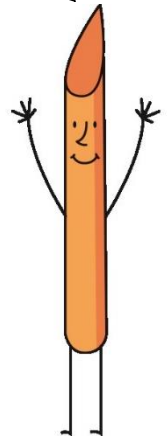
Organs were invented over 2000 years ago in the ancient city of Alexandria in Egypt.

The sounds are created when air is blown through pipes of different sizes.



The remote organ console

One very special feature of the Imperial Jubilee Organ is the remote console, a “small organ” in the attic of the church. It was installed during the expansion of the organ in 1910, shut down in the 1960s and then rebuilt during the organ renovation in 2023. A 14-metre-long sound channel carries the sound from the small organ to a sound hole in the ceiling of the church, from which sounds travel down to the people “as if from heaven”. The remote console is played from the same console as the large organ.



The church patron: Saint Nicholas of Myra

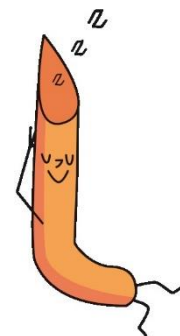
Even the first Christians found it important to think about people who lived a good life and helped others according to their faith. Many of these people are called saints by the Catholic Church, and churches today are named after them in remembrance.

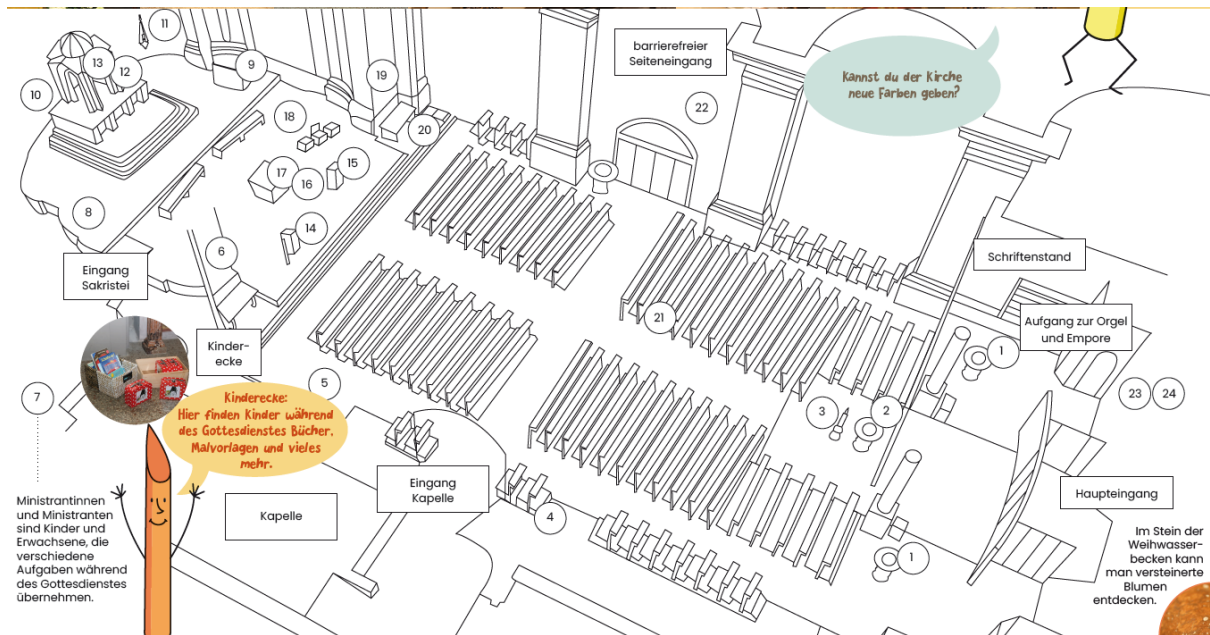
In Bad Ischl, you will find St. Nicholas in statues and pictures all year round. He is the patron saint of the church. Over 1600 years ago, Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, which was located in today’s Türkiye. Many stories tell how he helped people in need with their problems. The paintings on the ceilings of the church show Nicholas saving people on a ship during a storm, giving poor people food or money, and organising grain during a famine.

You will find something special on the ceiling: The 12 zodiac signs symbolise the 12 apostles.

The church is always open during the day if you need a moment of quiet or want to light a candle.

The Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote down the Good News from Jesus “for us”. These texts can be found in the New Testament of the Bible.





Kapelle – Chapel

Kinderecke – Children’s corner

Eingang Sakristei – Sacristy entrance

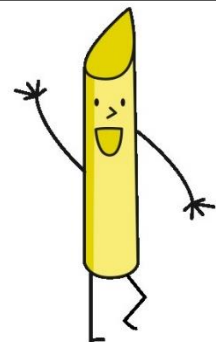
barrierefreier Seiteneingang – Barrier-free side entrance

Schriftenstand – Literature stand

Aufgang zur Orgel und Empore – Entrance to gallery and organ

Haupteingang – Main entrance

Children’s corner: Here children can find books, colouring pages and much more during the church services.

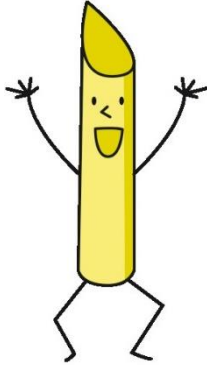


There are guided tours through the church, of the organ and into the attic. Simply call the parish office.

Contact for question or interest in guided tours of the church:

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