


WHV – Restoration and maintenance of a medieval monastery's historical water management system

Maulbronn Monastery Complex, Germany

◆ Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1993

14/08/2016 - 27/08/2016

 Founded in 1147, the Cistercian Maulbronn Monastery is considered the most complete and best-preserved medieval monastic complex north of the Alps. Surrounded by fortified walls, the main buildings were constructed between the 12th and the 16th centuries. The monastery's church, mainly in Transitional Gothic style, had a major influence in the spread of Gothic architecture over much of northern and central Europe.



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Project objectives: The project mainly focuses on a so far less visible aspect of the cultural landscape such as the monks' water-management system and irrigation canals and reservoirs, which had been out of use and abandoned during the last centuries. It also aims to raise awareness of the site among the volunteers and local community and promote the site by involving them in the on-going restoration work in the field.

Project activities: The volunteers will participate in various maintenance and restoration activities. They will survey the historical ditches; remove the deposits; install leaf litter rakes; remove undergrowth and repair damaged dams with natural materials under supervision of experts. The volunteers will study on medieval monasteries' life, local history, and environmental topics to deepen understanding about the site and share it with local community. They will also make an information panel and discuss with local residents on the site as well as participate in publishing an article in a local press.

Partners: European Heritage Volunteers, Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Baden-Württemberg, Internationale Begegnung in Gemeinschaftsdiensten e.V., Forstamt



Enzkreis, and Ministerium für Kultus, Jugend und Sport des Landes Baden-Württemberg.