

## Greeting Word

Rothenburg ob der Tauber is a medium-sized city of about 12,000 inhabitants – situated in the south of Germany in between the triangle of big cities like Stuttgart, Nuremberg and Würzburg. The roots go back to the year 970; it had its economical peak between 1274 and 1618:

- Rothenburg gained the privilege of being a “Free Imperial Town” from King Rudolf von Habsburg in 1274
- From the 14th century Rothenburg was one of the eight most important Free Imperial cities in Germany
- Due to its unique location above the river Tauber, Rothenburg was called the “Franconian Jerusalem” in the Middle Ages

The former wealth of the city still can be seen today at the worldwide known buildings. During the 30-year, the occupation and siege by the army of General Graf von Tilly 1631 Rothenburg sunk into poverty. Due to this fact the unique cityscape remained untouched which is dominated by more than 40 towers.

Since that time the city, whose centre is surrounded by a defence-wall, is considered to be one of the most romantic cities in Germany and became a sight-seeing highlight for visitors from all over the world. On average more than 400,000 beds are rented per year – more than 50 percent of the people staying overnight are from abroad.

Rothenburg ob der Tauber is twin-city to Athis-Mons/France since 1976 and Suzdal/Russia since 1988 and Jingjang/China seit 2004. Furtheron there are friendship-treaties with Montagnana/Italy since 1983, Czerwiensk/Poland since 1990, Teltsch/CZ since 1992 and Uchiko/Japan since 1995.

But Rothenburg does not only have an important past - today the city is also an interesting industrial location for innovative businesses.

Our efforts in the future still aim on

- attracting investors for modern industry,
- using the hotel capacity outside the main-season for business-events,
- offering young people educational challenges by the academic network with Fachhochschule Ansbach (University of Applied Sciences) , Fachhochschule Weihenstephan and the Bayerische BauAkademie .

Because of its geographical location in the center of South Germany, an optimal transport connection through the autobahn crossing A6/A7 and its own airstrip, Rothenburg offers with its ideal infrastructure a great perspective for businesses.

By this Rothenburg links the past with the future. As a cosmopolitan oriented city we are eager to exchange our know-how with others at the CMDC in Moscow – and welcome in 2011 the German-Russian Forum in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Walter Hartl  
Lord Mayor  
of Rothenburg ob der Tauber