

# Castles and Palaces on the Romantic Rhine

Romantischer  
Rhein



## Legendary!

On the romantic Rhine, there is a castle landscape which is unique in its density and variety. Between Bingen and Rüdesheim in the south and the Siebengebirge (Seven Hills) in the north, mediaeval knights' castles, pretty Baroque palaces and impressive fortifications unite to make up a unique cultural landscape. The variety of the buildings from various epochs is impressive: in this respect, some castles served to levy customs and were therefore important income sources for those in power. Other buildings on the other hand were constructed as safeguards against neighbouring archbishoprics or electorates and yet others fulfilled purely representative functions. How the scores of castles and palaces on the romantic Rhine appear today could also hardly be more varied. Some of them have remained preserved over the centuries through elaborate restoration and accommodate restaurants, hotels or museums. Others radiate the mystic charm of (almost) crumbled ruins and one can only divine how many wars and revolts they have seen come and go. The countless palaces, castles and ruins can be ideally experienced on foot, by bike or by ship on the Rhine and in the secondary valleys of the Rhine valley. The historical showpieces and weathered monuments are often linked by hiking paths. And it's all the same whether they're in ruined or restored condition: adventurous legends, often based on true facts, are entwined around many of the historical walls... it's simply legendary!



## Mäuseturm (Mouse Tower), Bingen



The Mouse Tower in Binger Loch is located on an inaccessible island and is, next to Pfalzgrafenstein Castle, the only defence tower and watch tower in the middle of the Rhine. Together with Ehrenfels Castle, the Tower forms an ensemble of customs buildings. According to legend, its builder, the Archbishop of Mainz, Hatto I, is said to have denied the poor access to his granaries, burned them in the barn and scorned them as “corn mice” – whereupon he was eaten alive by thousands of mice.

The Mouse Tower was indeed constructed by the Archbishops of Mainz, however only between 1298 and 1371. Today's building in Neo-Gothic style stems from the 19th century. The former grounds of the Landesgartenschau (Federal Garden Show) with a view on the Mouse Tower transformed the Rhine bank to a cultural bank – backdrop, meeting place, playground, open-air stage, park, museum, gallery and site for wine-tasting, all in one

Mäuseturm  
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Tel. 06721 – 184205-206  
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## Klopp Castle, Bingen



Klopp Castle, founded in the middle of the 13th century by the Archbishop of Mainz, Siegfried III, in Bingen, secured the mouth of the River Nahe and offered the clerics protection in the case of uprisings by the townspeople. In 1301, the Castle was severely damaged during a siege by the troops of King Albrecht I of Habsburg. As so often, the fight was about the toll rights in the region. In the late 19th century, the complex was rebuilt in the Neo-Gothic style and expanded. Today, the municipality of Bingen has its seat in the Castle, while the inner courtyard and tower are open to the public between April and October. In addition, with Restaurant Burg Klopp, fine catering has found its way in. On occasion, art exhibitions also take place here and every year, the inner courtyard of the Castle is the stage for the international jazz festival, Bingen Swings.

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## Marktburg Castle, Rüdesheim



Whoever visits Rüdesheim can easily recognise why the front castle also got the name Marktburg (Market Castle). Directly on the market square, lies the erstwhile noble seat of a side line of the powerful lords of Rüdesheim. Today, only the bergfried of the mediaeval citadel, which was constructed before 1276, has been preserved. Its building history is practically unexplained. What is known, however, is that the castle complex, together with other fortified edifices in the town area – such as Brömserburg Castle or Boosenburg Castle – once served as home to the noble lords of Rüdesheim. The favourable location at the gate to the Middle Rhine allowed the town to blossom into an important trading centre in its day, in which the nobility were able to eke out a very adequate existence. The rapids of the “Binger Loch” saw to it that the major share of trade in goods took place at that spot on the land route and therefore went through their hands.

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## Boosenburg Castle, Rüdesheim



As a still visible testimonial to the epoch of the lords of Rüdesheim, Boosenburg Castle, built around 1200, watches over the historical city on the Rhine on the western side. The bergfried, which is no longer accessible and was refurbished in 1991, is still enthroned on the banks of the river. Together with other, grand courts of the lords of Rüdesheim, an entire noble quarter had been built up on this site. These lords were ministeriales of the Archbishopric of Mainz and they benefited from the convenient accessibility of the city. Rüdesheim and Bingen were major cornerstones of the power of the Electorate of Mainz in Rheingau and still today form the gate to the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. The customs office and ferry dock were presumably in direct proximity to Boosenburg Castle. Today the Hildegard of Bingen Trail in Rüdesheim affords a view on the still preserved bergfried: the hiking path leads directly past the complex.

Boosenburg  
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Tourist Information Rüdesheim  
Tel 06722 – 90615-0  
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[www.ruedesheim.de](http://www.ruedesheim.de)

## Brömserburg Castle, Rüdesheim



Today, the lowland castle probably built in 1185 presents itself to the visitor as a fort-type, compact castle complex. It formerly served to safeguard the ferry to Bingen and later as a Ganerbenburg. For hundreds of years, the legend of the knight, Ritter Hans Brömser, who was captured by the Saracens after a successful crusade and thrown into the dungeon, has been in circulation. While imprisoned, he is said to have made a vow to build a chapel next to his castle – the selfsame Brömserburg Castle. Subsequently, he is said to have found a file with which he was able to loosen his chains. The Castle houses the Rheingau Wine Museum today.

Brömserburg  
Rheinstr. 2, 65385 Rüdesheim  
Tel 06722 – 2348  
[info@rheingauer-weinmuseum.de](mailto:info@rheingauer-weinmuseum.de)  
[www.rheingauer-weinmuseum.de](http://www.rheingauer-weinmuseum.de)

## Rossel Ruin, Rüdesheim



The Rossel Ruin in the landscape park of Niederwald near Rüdesheim represents the only artificially constructed castle ruin. Count Johann Friedrich von Ostein developed Niederwald as a hunting area from 1764; thirty years later he had artificial objects of antiquity such as the ruin built. The artful constructs served as entertainment and landscape design in the sense of late Baroque garden culture. The Rossel castle ruin stands on a nearly perpendicularly falling rocky promontory. From there, a spectacular view on Binger Loch, the Mouse Tower and the Ehrenfels Ruin opens up. The fanciful creation consists of a lightly elevated round tower and a rectangular building. The Niederwald landscape park of today can be reached from two sides, from Assmannshausen and Rüdesheim, by chair lift or cable car. In addition, the Rheinsteig trail runs directly past the ruin.

Ruine Rossel  
65385 Rüdesheim  
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Tourist Information Rüdesheim  
Tel 06722 – 90615-0  
[touristinfo@ruedesheim.de](mailto:touristinfo@ruedesheim.de)  
[www.ruedesheim.de](http://www.ruedesheim.de)

## Ehrenfels Ruin, Rüdesheim



The complex, constructed at the beginning of the 13th century by order of the Archbishop of Mainz Siegfried II von Eppstein, bears the typical features of late mediaeval castle architecture, whereby the dimensions of the shield walls and flanking towers stand out. The wall soars around 20 metres into the air, while the flanking round towers measure a proud 33 metres. Today's ruin is famous for having held the Cathedral Treasures of Mainz in 1374 as well as the election of the Archbishop of Mainz, Konrad II. Together with the so-called "Mouse Tower", Ehrenfels Castle formed an important ensemble of toll buildings and served to control Rhine navigation at "Binger Loch". In the course of the Palatine War of Succession in 1689, the striking shield wall castle was finally destroyed. Today, the ruin of the twin-towered complex can be visited from the outside; the Rheinsteig trail runs not far from the complex.

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## Rheinstein Castle, Trechtingshausen



There is no doubt that Rheinstein Castle is an epitome of Rhine romanticism. Originally erected in 1316/17 by the Archbishop of Mainz as protection against the neighbouring County Palatinate to the north, Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig bought the at that time ruinous fortification in the 19th century. Shortly before, the Prussian master builder Karl Friedrich Schinkel Kurz had drawn up plans for a historicised reconstruction of the meanwhile destroyed castle. It was the master builders Johann Claudius von Lassaulx and Wilhelm Kuhn who adapted the reconstruction plans of the Prince in 1835 and, respectively, 1827 and then created the first – and after Stolzenfels Castle – most important romantic castle reconstruction on the Rhine. Likewise in common with Stolzenfels Palace, Rheinstein Castle was also created to be the summer residence of the Prussian royal family. Up to today, the complex on the RheinBurgenWeg trail offers fully furnished castle rooms. The great hall, parlour and bed chambers of the princely couple can be visited, and the chapel with the only crypt of the royal family on the Rhine is also accessible.

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## Reichenstein Castle, Trechtingshausen



The most recent reconstruction of a mediaeval castle on the Rhine is situated in Trechtingshausen: Reichenstein Castle underwent a comprehensive, strongly transformative reconstruction. Its original builder is unknown, the predecessor building dates from the first half of the 13th century. Just as Sonneck Castle, Reichenstein Castle was a notorious nest of robber barons. Illegal forays and seizures of territories, feuds and other unlawfulness were not rare. So there were sieges and destruction as a reaction to this and, in 1290, even a ban on reconstruction of both Reichenstein Castle and Sonneck Castle by King Rudolf of Habsburg. Before this, he had had the robber knights put to death after the siege and destruction of both castles. Today, Reichenstein Castle offers not only completely furnished palace rooms, but also castle catering and a hotel.

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www.burg-reichenstein.com

## Sooneck Castle, Niederheimbach



Sonneck Castle in Niederheimbach, which was built before 1271, has gone down in legend as a notorious robber barons' nest and represents the only joint building project of four Prussian princes, who used it as a hunting lodge. Alongside the robber barons' tower, the estate is known for the saga of the crossbowman, Hans Veit. He is said to have shot the quarrelsome lord of the castle, Siebold von Sooneck, even though he was blind. The ideally situated spur castle, which houses a true sea of roses in the summertime, today offers a castle bar as a cosy place to stop for a rest for visitors. The castle rooms, with their stately furnishings, can be visited as part of a tour. A special highlight for the visitor is the dining hall with the ceiling-high painting, Friedrich Wilhelm III after the Battle of Kulm, by Simon Meister.

Burg Sooneck  
Sooneckerstraße  
55413 Niederheimbach  
Tel 06743 – 6064  
0170 – 8567397  
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## Heimburg, Niederheimbach



In 1295, Archbishop Gerhard von Eppstein had the formidable Heimburg castle built in Niederheimbach. Severe war damage resulted in the castle complex falling into ruin in the 17th century. From 1836 onwards, several private owners followed in quick succession and one of these, Baron von Wackerbart, began with the development of the complex in 1866. Later the industrialist Eduard Rabeneck extended the core complex by the main residential building facing the Rhine, for instance, as well as by an administrative building in the Neo-Gothic style. During the development of the Castle in the 19th century, the orientation was not on the historical substance – instead, the owners created a landscape architecture in the style of villas. This gives Heimburg a special standing as regards the reconstructed and romanticised castle complexes on the Middle Rhine. Today, the Castle is in private ownership and not open to the public. However, the handsome walls can be admired from the RheinBurgenWeg trail which goes past.

Heimburg  
55413 Niederheimbach  
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Rhein-Nahe-Touristik  
Tel 06743 – 919303  
info@rhein-nahe-touristik.de

## Lauksburg Castle, Lorch-Espenschied



If you follow the Wisper, from the mouth of the Rhine near Lorch, upstream, you will reach Lauksburg Castle. Lying on a spur, the complex belonging to the Electorate of Mainz protected the Lauksmühle (the town's mill) and blocked the valley at a strategically convenient position. The Wisper Valley was the important entry from the northern interior to the city of Lorch in the Middle Ages and therefore of major significance. As there has been no evidence up to today that the three-storey keep once reinforced defensive fortifications, and in addition, its only slightly elevated position represented no great hurdle for attackers, the castle complex probably served primarily to protect the mill located below.

Lauksburg  
An der Laukenmühle  
65391 Lorch-Espenschied

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist-Information Lorch  
Tel 06726 – 1815  
info@lorch-rhein.de  
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## Rheinberg Castle, Lorch

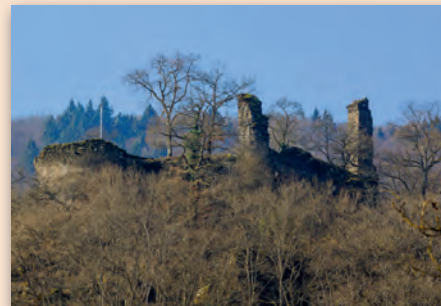


Strongly contested in the 13th and 14th centuries, repeatedly occupied and often subjected to severe destruction, in the site above Lorch, in which now only the ruin of Rheinberg Castle can be found, the frictions between Electoral Palatinate and Electoral Mainz had been played out for hundreds of years. The castle, of which there is evidence from the 12th century, drew the interest of various rulers as, due to its location in Wisper Valley as well as at an important node of several secondary valleys and traffic routes, it was strategically extremely valuable and therefore one of the first and strongest castles of Electoral Mainz in the World Heritage Site of today. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Rheinberg Castle, together with Sauerburg Castle, represented the most powerful bulwark on the land frontier to Electoral Mainz for the counts palatine reigning there in the meanwhile. It's not known, however, from what point in time they lost their importance. However, at the latest since the end of the 18th century, Rheinburg Castle was uninhabitable and fell further into ruin.

Burg Rheinberg  
65391 Lorch

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Tourist-Information Lorch  
Tel 06726 – 1815  
tourismus@lorch-rhein.de  
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## Waldeck Castle, Lorch



The remnants of Waldeck Castle take us back to a time when the Electorate of Mainz had begun its development of the region in the 11th and 12th centuries. Already built before or in the 1140s, Waldeck Castle belongs to the earliest castles ever founded on the Middle Rhine. In that era, the first half of the 12th century, the Mainz Archbishops were keenly securing the “Rheingau Gebück”: this border fortification consisted of cut up thicket from shrubs and cut back trees tightly intertwined. The bulwark made of natural materials sprawled across 100 metres. Due to its increasing impenetrability, troops and transports could only overcome it by purposely laid – and guarded – swathes. It is conceivable that Waldeck Castle served to secure a section of the “Rheingau Gebück” leading off from it towards the north.

Burg Waldeck  
65391 Lorch

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Tourist Information Lorch  
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## Nollig Ruin, Lorch



Is there any connection between Nollig Castle and the “Devil’s Ladder of Lorch”? According to this legend, the knight Sabo suffered for his peculiar inhospitable nature with the kidnapping of his daughter by dwarves. The fortification consisted of the free-standing tower and was protected by a shield wall on the mountain side. The term used for this is more a castle watch (watchtower) and less a castle. Nollig Castle was probably constructed at the beginning of the 14th century and secured the hilltop. This made it possible for the city of Lorch to protect itself from attacks from above. What is certain however – as is discernible up to today on the inner side of the preserved remains of the walls – is that a predecessor building made of wood must have existed. This had been covered by stonework at a later stage – a decidedly unusual way of construction. The Nollig ruin is in private ownership today and cannot be entered by visitors. However, the Rheinsteig trail which runs underneath permits a view of the monument.

Ruine Nollig  
65391 Lorch

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Tourist-Information Lorch  
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tourismus@lorch-rhein.de  
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## Sauerburg Castle, Sauerthal



Count Palatine Ruprecht I of the Palatinate received permission in 1355 from the Archbishop of Mainz to build one of the mightiest border strongholds in today’s World Heritage Site. Sauerberg Castle, which lies in a picturesque and isolated site by Sauerthal, stands out above all thanks to its handsome, 32-metre bergfried and high dividing wall with timber frame top. Despite the extensions and historicised upgrading in the 20th century, the complex has remarkable substance for monument protection. This is how it transmits an authentic image of a strong, late mediaeval to early modern age castle. The estate lies on an entry path from the Rheinsteig trail and is therefore of special interest for hikers.

Sauerburg  
65391 Sauerthal

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Loreley Touristik  
Tel 06771 – 9100  
info@loreley-touristik.de  
www.loreley-touristik.de



## Fürstenberg Ruin, Rheindiebach



Fürstenberg Castle in Rheindiebach, which is surrounded by romantic vineyards, was founded in 1219 by the Archbishop of Cologne, Engelbert I. With its construction, the Archbishops of Cologne attempted to restrict the growing influence of the Rhenish count palatines who, however, soon obtained signeurship. In 1314, the imposing building changed liege lords for the second time: the king of the Holy Roman Empire pledged it to the Electorate of Mainz. The front tower castle was thus under the sovereignty of three different electorates in the course of one century. After severe damage during the Palatine War of Succession, it remained in a state of ruins. Changing owners, among them the current owner, have always cultivated the surrounding vineyard. Hikers can reach the ruin through a detour from the nearby RheinBurgeWeg trail.

Ruine Fürstenberg  
55413 Rheindiebach  
Tel 06743 – 2448  
[www.schlossfuerstenberg.de](http://www.schlossfuerstenberg.de)

## Stahlberg Castle, Bacharach-Steeg



The two bergfrieds lying opposite each other are a special feature of this castle complex in Bacharach-Steeg. The upper and lower parts of the castle were respectively secured by a bergfried, and the two towers are still today a dominant feature of the ruin. Stahlberg Castle was founded shortly before 1155 by the Archbishopric of Cologne, but later came into the ownership of the count palatines of Wittelsbach from 1243. Stahleck Castle and Stahlberg Castle formed the backbone of the southern defence line of the “Bacharach Empire”. Today, Stahlberg Castle is a popular hiking destination. The complex, which is open to the public, is accessible through the Stahlberg-Schleife – a hiking path going from Bacharach through to Stahlberg and back – as well as through the Rhein-BurgenWeg trail. The untouched grounds of the ruins and unchanged mediaeval to early modern remains exercise a special fascination on all those who cast their eyes on them.

Burg Stahlberg  
55422 Bacharach-Steeg  
[www.rheinischer-verein.de](http://www.rheinischer-verein.de)

## Stahleck Castle, Bacharach



The enfeoffment of Count Hermann von Stahleck with the County Palatine of the Rhine – 1142/3 – marks the rise of the town of Bacharach and Stahleck Castle. In the following period, the Castle was developed into one of the strongest complexes on the Middle Rhine. The city of Bacharach became the focal point of command of the Rhine County Palatine. It's true that Stahleck Castle was also massively damaged in the Thirty Years' War. However, because of the Count Palatine's strong emotional attachment to it, the palas was rebuilt in 1666. During the Palatine War of Succession, the complex was finally blown up by French troops in 1689 and remained in ruins. It was only in 1925 that Stahleck Castle was rebuilt according to a historical model. Today, it accommodates one of the most attractive youth hostels in Germany.

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55422 Bacharach  
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## Pfalzgrafenstein Castle, Kaub



Its location alone explains why Pfalzgrafenstein Castle was once part of one the most profitable toll posts on the Rhine. Standing in the middle of the current, the bulwark is only accessible via ferry. The Count Palatine and later Emperor Louis IV had a five-sided bergfried built on the small Rhenish island as the first part of the fortification – much to the displeasure of the bishops of the time and even the pope, who were concerned about the profitable supremacy of the Church in the levying of toll. With the building of the curtain wall and battlements starting from 1340, Pfalzgrafenstein Castle's resistance was significantly increased. In 1504, it even withstood the 39-day siege in the Bavarian-Palatinate War of Succession undamaged. Without a doubt, “die Pfalz” is today one of the most photographed motifs in the Middle Rhine Valley. A small passenger ferry brings visitors dry-shod from Kaub to the “stony ship”.

Burg Pfalzgrafenstein  
56349 Kaub  
Tel 0172 – 2622800  
[www.gdke.rlp.de](http://www.gdke.rlp.de)

## Gutenfels Castle, Kaub



Gutenfels Castle in Kaub is regarded as an exemplary piece of castle building and determines the landscape of the area. The complex was erected in 1222 by the lords of Falkenstein-Münzenberg and served to secure the Rhine toll in the area, together with Pfalzgrafenstein Castle. In Kaub, the toll correspondence from the 16th century is also preserved. The city and the Castle were under siege for several weeks in 1504 by the troops of Landgrave Wilhelm von Hessen. It was probably then that the name "Gutenfels" became current for the Castle. The Castle is in private ownership, but visits are available for groups on request. For hikers on the Rheinsteig trail, it's only a few metres walk to Gutenfels Castle.

Burg Gutenfels  
56349 Kaub

Information can be obtained from:  
Verkehrsamt Kaub [Kaub Tourist Office]  
Tel 06774 – 222  
[verkehrsamt@kaubamrhein.de](mailto:verkehrsamt@kaubamrhein.de)

## Schönburg Castle, Oberwesel



Schönburg Castle in Oberwesel has a special place among the Middle Rhine Castles: it remained in the possession of the Empire until its destruction. It was built in the first half of the 12th century, probably by Count Palatine Hermann von Stahleck. Later the Archbishops of Trier expanded the defensive fortifications of the consolidated castle group. Among other things, the over 20-metre high shield wall as well as the extensive zwingers were constructed during this time. Despite structural interventions during the 20th century, Schönburg Castle still has a considerably sound structure, whereby the high shield wall is what stands out. Today, the complex holds a hotel with a restaurant, a Kolpinghaus (journeymen's inn) as well as the Torturm-Museum (Gate Tower Museum). Hikers can reach Schönburg Castle via the RheinBurgenWeg trail.

Schönburg  
55430 Oberwesel  
Tel 06744 – 7144803 (April to October)  
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Tourist Information Oberwesel  
Tel 06744 – 710624, [info@oberwesel.de](mailto:info@oberwesel.de)

## Rheinfels Castle, St. Goar



Built in 1245 by Count Dieter V of Katzenelnbogen in St. Goar, Rheinfels Castle today represents the largest castle and fortress ruin on the Middle Rhine. As one of the few bulwarks on the Rhine, it was unsuccessfully besieged in both the Thirty Years' War and the Palatine War of Succession, and not destroyed. So, the fortress was able to bear up against a 28,000-strong French army. It's particularly its status as a residential castle and development to an extensive fortification that make Rheinfels Castle among the most important fortified sites on the Middle Rhine. Visits to the imposing ruins and various tours are possible; tasteful accommodation can be found in the romantic hotel adjacent. Hikers can reach Rheinfels Castle directly via the RheinBurgenWeg trail.

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## Reichenberg Castle, Reichenberg



Even if it's relatively unknown nationwide due to its position in Hasenbachtal, Reichenberg Castle is one of the most important and most unusual castle complexes in the whole of Rhineland Palatinate. It has considerable fabric; many aspects of late mediaeval castle building can be deduced from this monument from the early 14th century. Especially the defining, Mannerist shield wall with the – for that time – unusually high flanking towers – the northern one only collapsed around 40 years ago – represents a special feature in castle-building of the late Middle Ages. Preserved to this day, the hall with its ceiling resting on cubiform capitals testifies to the high representative value of the complex. This is how the builders, Count Wilhelm von Katzenelnbogen and his son Wilhelm II created an architectural highlight. The ruin is in private ownership and can be visited from the outside only.

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## Katz Castle, St. Goarshausen



The continuous conflict between the Electors of Trier and the counts of Katzenelnbogen is exemplified by the “Cat” Castle, which can only be visited from the outside, as much as by its counterpart, the “Mouse” Castle. It was the local people who gave the name “Cat” to the castle in St. Goarshausen, which had actually originated as Neu-Katzenelnbogen Castle in 1371. With this castle, the counts of Katzenelnbogen wanted to secure their possessions on the Rhine and especially the toll-house in St. Goar, which lay opposite – as well as deliberately setting up a counterbalance to the Elector of Trier’s “Mouse” Castle, which threatened its customs clearance. As many of the Rhine castles, it was ultimately unable to withstand the French troops: the Castle was destroyed in 1806. It took nearly a century before a historicised reconstruction had the ruin transformed into a magnificent residence. Today in private ownership, the Castle is the central highlight once a year on the Rhine in Flames occasion when fireworks are shot out from here, and Bengal light bathes the Castle in red light.

Burg Katz  
56346 St. Goarshausen  
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## Maus Castle, St. Goarshausen-Wellmich



“Cat and mouse” behaviour is not only a popular expression: the disputes of the lords of castles of former years were also reflected in their building activity. So the “Mouse” Castle, known as Deuernburg, is ultimately a stronghold standing in opposition to “Cat” Castle, in the conflict of the counts of Katzenelnbogen with the Electorate of Trier. The Trier Archbishop Boemund II constructed “Mouse” in 1356 in St. Goarshausen-Wellmich – and it was from the beginning directed against Rheinsfel Castle which lay upstream and belonged to the said counts of Katzenelnbogen. The same counts did not stand the threat to their customs clearance in St. Goar through the new stronghold on the other side of the Rhine for long. They completed their castle Neu-Katzenelnbogen – later known as “Cat” Castle – as an unfriendly answer, even before 1371. The two bulwarks together count among the most well-known sights in the Rhine Valley. In contrast to the “Enemy Cat”, the “Mouse”, which is today open for special tours, offers an impression of mediaeval castle-building, with its reconstructed core building from 1900.

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www.burg-maus.de

## Liebenstein Castle, Kamp-Bornhofen



Liebenstein Castle, built in the 13th century, and Sterrenberg Castle, which lies directly opposite, bear the name “The enemy brothers”. The two castles were in an irreconcilable state of enmity since 1320, after Sterrenberg Castle fell completely to the Archbishopric of Trier, and the lords of Liebenstein retreated completely to Liebenstein Castle. The erection of a massive shield wall at Sterrenberg Castle provides architectural documentation of how deep the ideological trench between the two groups was. In addition, Liebenstein Castle already served as a Ganerbenburg from 1340: Ganerben were noble families who lived together in castle complexes due to the distribution of an estate. Liebenstein Castle united several small castles of around ten families living in different buildings as a consortium. The Ganerben buildings can still be made out today at Liebenstein Castle, where a hotel and restaurant have been integrated since 1977, following extensive refurbishment.

Burg Liebenstein  
Zu den Burgen 1  
56341 Kamp-Bornhofen  
Tel 06773 – 251  
info@burg-liebenstein.de  
www.burg-liebenstein.de

## Sterrenberg Castle, Kamp-Bornhofen



Sterrenberg Castle must be one of the oldest castle complexes on the Middle Rhine: its bergfried came into being at the end of the 12th century at the latest. Alongside its altar, Sterrenberg Castle also features two successive shield walls as a special feature. The outer wall is even stronger and higher than the inner one and clearly directed against the neighbouring Liebenstein Castle. The distinctive problems of the changing ownership relationship in the Middle Rhine are visible in these two, at one time bitterly hostile, castle complexes. For in the Middle Ages, various rulers’ territories often lay directly next to each other in this area. A fair amount of the hostility of princes, counts or abbots manifested itself in the strongholds securing these territories. According to the saga of the “Enemy brothers”, it was brothers in the case of Sterrenberg Castle as with Liebenstein Castle who built the well-fortified complexes in strife. Rather than family strife, today’s visitor can expect a castle with premises for functions as well as a café and restaurant.

Burg Sterrenberg  
56341 Kamp-Bornhofen  
Tel 06773 – 323  
info@burg-sterrenberg.de  
www.burg-sterrenberg.de  
www.gdke.rlp.de



## The Electoral Castle of Boppard



This important monument of the Archbishops of Trier forms one of the few still preserved mediaeval citadels on the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. The Roman-German King Richard of Cromwell presumably began its construction around 1265. The estate on the left bank of the Rhine is also named “Balduinsburg” after the builder of its western wing, Baldwin of Luxembourg. This same king had to conquer back “his” city and castle from insurgent citizens in 1327. The impressive citadel with the character of a palace functioned as an imperial castle and customs office for the Electorate. At one time, Elector John II of Baden, the founder of the University of Trier, resided here.

Kurfürstliche Burg Boppard  
56154 Boppard  
museum@boppard.de  
www.museum-boppard.de

## Liebeneck Castle, Osterspai



Although an initial predecessor to Liebeneck Castle probably already came into being around 1590, the building that lies above the little village of Osterspai is a complete new construction dating from the 1870s. The lords of Liebenstein probably moved their seat from the Liebenstein Castle to the new, representative manor house, named “Grauborn”, right after its construction at the end of the 16th century. However, in 1651 the dominion of the lords of Liebenstein, which also included Camp-Bornhofen in addition to Osterspai, came into the possession of the barons of Waldenburg. It was probably they who made a Baroque hunting lodge out of Liebeneck in the second half of the 17th century. However, the estate was no longer adequate to the living standards of the later owner, the Baron of the Empire Franz Georg Ernst von Preuschen von und zu Liebenstein – he had the estate demolished completely and replaced it. This is how the new construction designed by the architect Joseph Balthasar Fuchs in Neo-Renaissance style emerged on the Baroque foundations in the period from 1873 to 1875.

Schloss Liebeneck  
56340 Osterspai  
Tel 0173 – 4982783

## Osterspai Castle, Osterspai



The pretty Jakobuskapelle (St. James's Chapel) with its artistic wall painting belong to this former moated castle. The Castle complex once served as a noble estate and was first of all in the mutual possession of the Ganerben from Liebenstein Castle; from 1422 onwards, the lords of Liebenstein were the sole owners. Von der Burg is a three-storeyed keep with a stone and half-timber annex which has been preserved from the early 20th century. Osterspai Castle is currently in private ownership. Church and civil wedding ceremonies can be held in the chapel. The wine press house and castle garden also offer space for functions, and cultural events are likewise occasionally held in the latter.

Burg Osterspai  
56340 Osterspai  
verwaltung@burg-osterspai.de

## Philippsburg Castle, Braubach



Immediately on its construction from 1568 to 1571, the complex obtained the character of a castle and was, in contrast to later Renaissance complexes on the Rhine, protected by fortifications. Philippsburg Castle was built on portions of the mediaeval city wall of Braubach and is classified as the earliest Renaissance castle on the Middle Rhine. Philippsburg Castle, which was derelict in the 18th century and had undergone major change through the refurbishment measures carried out from 1822, is a good example of a particular trend in the Renaissance: castle complexes in a valley location were more and more favoured over the narrow – and very difficult to reach – castles built on a hill on the Middle Rhine. So it's no accident that Philippsburg Castle lies directly underneath the mediaeval Marksburg. Today, it is here that the seat of the European Castles Institute is located. The Renaissance garden of Philippsburg Castle is open to the public and can be visited at any time.

Schloss Philippsburg  
56338 Braubach  
Tel 02627 – 974156  
ebi.sekretariat@deutsche-burgen.org  
www.deutsche-burgen.org

## Marksburg Castle, Braubach



It's not surprising that, for many visitors, Marksburg Castle is the epitome of a Middle Age castle and constructed romanticism. It is unique in that its core and outer appearance have hardly changed over the centuries. In addition, there is its exposed location on a steep mountain summit on the Rhine. The lords of Eppstein built the complex, which was still called Braubach Castle into the 16th century, from around 1231 onwards, to protect the nearby silver mines. The Castle changed owners several times as a tenure belonging to the Electorate. With the dying out of the counts of Katzenelnbogen, Marksburg Castle fell to the Hessian landgraves. However, the Castle no longer corresponded to the sophisticated residential standards of the modern era, so that Philippsburg Castle was built in the valley as a widow's seat and later residence. Daily tours offer the visitor a unique insight into the only castle built on a hill on the Middle Rhine that was never destroyed.

Marksburg  
56338 Braubach  
Tel 02627 – 206  
[marksburg@deutsche-burgen.org](mailto:marksburg@deutsche-burgen.org)  
[www.marksburg.de](http://www.marksburg.de)

## Martinsburg Castle, Lahnstein



Apart from its function as a toll castle, the Martinsburg Castle, constructed in the first half of the 14th century, served as a citadel and retreat for the Archbishops of Mainz; it was separated from the urban space by a moat. The complex, which has been extended several times, has remained entirely preserved. The Gothic donjon in the southern corner and the more recent Baroque building from the 18th century joined onto it are true eye catchers. Around 1500, residential buildings were renovated so that large parts of the complex reveal Renaissance elements. Today, the Castle houses a carnival museum in addition to private apartments and offices; in addition, the outer complex and the park can be visited. Scenic tours are offered around the castle and in the inner courtyard.

Schloss Martinsburg  
Schloßstrasse 1, 56112 Lahnstein

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist Information Lahnstein  
Tel 02621 – 914171  
[www.lahnstein.de](http://www.lahnstein.de)

## Lahneck Castle, Lahnstein



Lahneck Castle, built by Elector Siegfried III von Eppstein in 1232, represents one of the earliest buildings with Gothic features nationwide. There is a trail of legends surrounding the northernmost castle of the Archbishopric of Mainz, such as that of the twelve Temple Knights, for instance, who supposedly found a refuge here and swore not to leave the castle again alive. There is also the tragic legend of the Scottish girl Idilia Dubb, who is said to have died of thirst because of a collapsed wooden staircase. There is of course no threat of such misfortunes for the visitors to Lahneck Castle today in the 21st century. The mediaeval-looking castle on a hill offers a true treasure trove for architecture and history enthusiasts alike. The trial of strength of the great powers can be lived and breathed again at this strategic spot at the mouth of the Lahn River – Lahneck Castle once served to secure the silver mines as well as the border to the Archbishopric of Trier.

Burg Lahneck  
56112 Lahnstein

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist Information Lahnstein  
Tel 02621 – 914171  
[info@burg-lahneck.de](mailto:info@burg-lahneck.de)  
[www.burg-lahneck.de](http://www.burg-lahneck.de)

## Stolzenfels Castle, Koblenz-Stolzenfels



The scientific assumption is that the Archbishop of Trier, Arnold II, had Stolzenfels Castle built first and foremost because the Archbishop of Mainz had had Lahneck Castle built in 1232. This way, both archbishoprics on the mouth of the Lahn River were equally safeguarded against each other. However, the fate of many castles befell Stolzenfels Castle: the Palatine War of Succession reduced it to ashes. It is thanks to the Prussian crown prince, later King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, that the former castle built on a hill can today be visited as one of the most important works of Prussian Rhine Romanticism. The crown prince obtained the castle ruin in 1823 as a gift from the City of Koblenz – and had it developed to a proud residence with a regal range of rooms, by two of the most important German architects of this period, Karl Friedrich Schinkel and his student and successor August Stüler. From this time on, the Stolzenfels Castle served the royal family as a summer residence. Visitors now walk up to the Castle through the landscape park designed by the Prussian head of gardening Peter Joseph Lenné.

Schloss Stolzenfels  
Schloßweg  
56075 Koblenz  
Tel 0261 – 51656



## The Electoral Palace of Koblenz



The Second World War had severely pressed the Electoral Palace of Koblenz: in 1944, the estate constructed from 1777 onwards burned down completely. While the main building was reconstructed in 1950/51 to be entirely identical on the outside, the side wings underwent a major transformation. Nevertheless, as one of the last royal palaces built in Germany shortly before the French Revolution, the ensemble, which characterises the cityscape of Koblenz up to today, has major significance. Its history is eventful: alone in the thirty years after being built, the palace had three owners. After the flight of the Electors from the approaching army of the French Revolution in 1794, first the French and then the Prussians moved in. The classical building thereby also stands for an exceedingly changing history of use, where today it is an important site for events. Direct access to the Rhine Promenade, with its ship's quay and the cable car station as well as parks, make the contemporary palace complex a visitors' magnet.

Kurfürstliches Schloss  
Kaiserin-Augusta-Anlagen, 56068 Koblenz  
Tourist-Information Forum Confluentes  
Tel 0261 – 19433  
Touristinformation@koblenz-touristik.de  
www.koblenz-touristik.de

## Alte Burg Castle, Koblenz



Alte Burg (old castle), which is today so ideally situated on the River Moselle was once the symbol of a violent struggle between those in power and the middle classes. As, similar to the case of the people of Boppard, the Koblenz middle classes also had strong aspirations for independence, the Castle of Koblenz was directed against the city as a stronghold. With the emergence of the Moselle Bridge in 1332, the significance of the Castle increased and lasted until well into the 17th century. However, with the building of Philippsburg Castle in Ehrenbreitstein, Alte Burg Castle lost its significance, served as quarters for officials and even became a steel sheet factory. In 1897, the City of Koblenz, which had become the owner in the meanwhile, carried out modernisation and housed its municipal savings bank in the Castle. While the rooms serve, among other things, as a library and archive, the Alte Burg Castle dominates the silhouette of Koblenz on the banks of the Moselle as it has from time immemorial.

Alte Burg  
Burgstraße 1  
56068 Koblenz  
Stadtarchiv [City Archive]  
Tel 0261 – 1292641  
stadtarchiv@stadt.koblenz.de  
www.stadtarchiv.koblenz.de

## Ehrenbreitstein Fortress, Koblenz



With a more than 3000-year-old history, reaching back to the Celts, Ehrenbreitstein Fortress is already a special feature due to its long period of use. Possibly around 1000, a first castle complex was erected 100 metres above the Rhine. Under Prussian rule, Ehrenbreitstein Castle was part of a ring of fortresses, which indicates how much significance was accorded to the city as a communication junction on the Rhine and the Moselle, already since antiquity. The view of the confluence of the two rivers from the plateau of the fortress fascinates visitors, who can make their way here from Deutsches Eck (German Corner) in the most comfortable and spectacular manner, by cable car. The Prussian fortress in its current form is one of the largest fortress systems of the 19th century in Europe. The complex has been barrier-free since the 2011 Bundesgartenschau (Federal Garden Show) and offers a newly laid out fortress park, generous exhibition rooms, tours as well as catering. As a location for events, it's impossible to imagine it not being there.

Festung Ehrenbreitstein  
56077 Koblenz  
Generaldirektion Kulturelles Erbe Rheinland-Pfalz [Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage of Rhineland-Palatinate]  
Direktion Burgen Schlösser Altertümer [Directorate for Castles, Palaces and Antiquities]  
Tel 0261 – 6675 4000  
informationen.festungehrenbreitstein@gdke.rlp.de  
www.diefestungehrenbreitstein.de

## The Great Fortress of Koblenz



An entire fortification system on both sides of the Rhine effectively surrounded the City of Koblenz from the 19th century onwards. Alongside the main sites of Ehrenbreitstein, Alexander and Franz, a large number of forts and sites in between, which included to some degree underground connections, created an impassable ring around the important city on the Mainz–Cologne transport axis. Every now and again, the remains of the Prussian Great Fortress are still found. For example, remaining pieces on the southern tip of Petersberg bear witness to the stronghold Emperor Franz erected from 1816 to 1822. Fragments of the *réduits* of the Emperor Alexander stronghold and its Lion Tower can be found on the Kartäuser Berg Plateau (Charterhouse Mountain Plateau) and the ground plan of the 500 x 500 metre bulwark, once the largest in Koblenz, can also partially be made out along the road. Many will be familiar with Fort Konstantin, which also belonged to the fortress ring because it is an immediate eye-catcher with its prominent tower. However, not all preserved fortress sites have been developed and they are often inaccessible.

The Great Fortress of Koblenz (without Ehrenbreitstein Fortress)  
Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist-Information Forum Confluentes  
Tel 0261 – 19433  
Touristinformation@koblenz-touristik.de  
www.koblenz-touristik.de

## Bassenheim Castle, Bassenheim



The predecessor building to today's Bassenheim Castle was erected before 1317 in the location of the same name and was the ancestral seat of the Waldbott von Bassenheim family of ministriales. The complex, called the "Oberschloss" (upper castle), was developed into a Renaissance palace from 1575 and modernised again in the Rococo period. The banker Abraham von Oppenheim acquired the complex in 1873 and had it extensively redesigned according to the plans of the architect Julius Raschdorf. He was among the most significant representatives of German historicism; for example, he designed the Berlin Cathedral. The Waldhausen family lent a Neo-Baroque style to the residence from 1910. Today's building lies in the middle of an extensive castle and landscape park. A teahouse from the 18th century as well as the Oppenheim Mausoleum are still preserved. The complex is in private ownership and not accessible.

Burg Bassenheim  
Freiher von Waldhausen's Verwaltung  
Walpoltplatz 12  
56220 Bassenheim

## Sayn Palace, Bendorf-Sayn



Sayn Castle was first of all merely a castellan's house: in the second half of the 15th century, the barons of Reiffenberg had built it underneath Sayn Castle as a noble estate. It was only in 1757 that the palace began to be developed, a multiple-winged, Baroque complex, which was changed over to a Neo-Gothic style from 1848. For this, a certain François Joseph Girard entered into service as a planner – later he was the chief architect of the Louvre Museum. However, the Second World War demolished the entire core of the building; Sayn Palace was irretrievably destroyed, right down to the crumbling stonework. With the help of funds from the state, the Palace was restored by the princely house between 1995 and 2000.

Sayn Palace is part of the Sayn Culture Park. Here, visitors can experience a variety of sights together with the castle building. The Butterfly Gardens, iron casting house "Sayner Hütte" and a climbing forest are only some of the attractions waiting to be discovered.

Schloss Sayn  
Schloßstraße 100  
56170 Bendorf-Sayn  
Tel 02622 – 90240  
schloss@sayn.de  
www.sayn.de

## Sayn Castle, Bendorf-Sayn



Secured before 1202, probably in the second half of the 12th century, Sayn Castle emerged and actually belongs to a three-part castle group which included the Stein estate and the Mittlere Burghaus (middle castellan's house). In the 14th and 15th centuries, the defensive fortifications of the Castle were extended to include a zwinger and a turret. From here, the counts of Sayn ruled their estates reaching from Cologne right up to the Lahn River and in the Westerwald and on the Central Moselle – right until, in 1632, the Thirty Years' War also battered the official residence of the family, which was known as Sayn-Wittgenstein from 1361. Today, Sayn Castle is a venue for weddings and functions. Hikers too can enjoy the view of the old ruins; the Rheinsteig and Saynsteig trails run directly beside the partially accessible Castle.

Burg Sayn  
Am Burgberg  
56170 Bendorf-Sayn  
Tel 02622 – 7266  
burg@sayn.de  
www.sayn.de  
info@diesaynburg.de  
www.diesaynburg.de

## Weißer Turm (White Tower), Weißenthurm



The White Tower has given today's city of Weißenthurm and its association of municipalities its name and functions as an ostensive example of a late mediaeval defence tower. The free-standing 28.5 metre-high keep and defence tower was built near the Rhine by the Archbishop of Trier, Werner von Falkenstein, at the beginning of the 15th century. At that time, it served as a safeguard for the customs house and consolidation of the border line to the territory of the Electorate of Cologne in the North. The plastered drystone construction was erected in place of the Kettiger Turm, attested in 1298, and formed the beginning of a safeguarded boundary line from Weißenthurm to Mayen. The "weiße Thorn" (old German for white tower) safeguarded the customs barrier once located there together with the customs house and guaranteed the Archbishops of Trier the revenue of the customs for the land. Today, the tower serves more romantic purposes: weddings and functions can be celebrated here.

Weißer Turm  
Alte Straße  
56575 Weißenthurm  
Stadtverwaltung Weißenthurm [Weißenthurm Municipal Office]  
Tel 02637 – 92020  
info@weissenthurm.de  
www.weissenthurm.de



## Engers Palace, Neuwied-Engers



Presumably, the new foundation of nearby Neuwied Palace in 1648 and the coming into being of the palace there were the reason that the previous castle Kunostein which was built starting from 1371 had to make way for the new construction of Engers Palace in its place. Kunostein was completely demolished as a reaction to the building activities of the counts of Wied, after modernisation of the castle complex had in the meantime been thoroughly considered. A new late Baroque complex emerged from 1758 to 1762, which is well preserved today. It served the Trier electors, who lived in nearby Koblenz, as a hunting and pleasure palace. The prominent position on the banks of the Rhine as well as the magnificently decorated "Diana's hall" are among the special features of Engers Palace.

Today, this "gem of late Baroque art" is a versatile event location with a hotel and catering of outstanding reputation. In addition, since 1995 the state foundation Villa Musica, which trains young chamber musicians, has had its seat in the magnificent building.

Schloss Engers  
Alte Schlossstr. 2  
56566 Neuwied-Engers  
Tel 02622 – 9264295  
rezeption@schloss-engers.de  
www.schloss-engers.de

## Neuwied Castle, Neuwied



That the Rhine represents a thoroughly lucrative income source as an important traffic route and a major economic axis was also clear to Count Friedrich III zu Wied in the middle of the 17th century. In 1653, he obtained authorisation from the Emperor to build a city Newen Wiedt on the site of the war-destroyed village of Langendorf. In 1648, he had bought up a complex close beside Langendorf from the Metternich family, which he proceeded to develop as a bastion and already named Newen Wiedt. French troops destroyed this residence in 1694. It was only his son, Count Friedrich Wilhelm who had a new castle built in the shape of a horseshoe according to plans from 1706 in the years 1707–1711, using Versailles as an example. The joining of the two side wings to make up the main building, the Corps de logis, remained undone due to lack of funds. These side wings, built in stages, were only completed in 1756. The complex stamps the cityscape to this day. It is the residence of the Prince's family today and cannot be visited.

Schloss Neuwied  
56564 Neuwied

## Monrepos Palace – The Scientists' Palace



### Monrepos Palace – the scientists' palace

Built by the Princes of Wied-Neuwied in the year 1757, the centrepiece of the Monrepos Palace in Neuwied has today, following a controlled burning in 1969, completely disappeared. Instead, "Villa Waldheim", built as a widow's seat for Princess Marie von Nassau, is now the point of interest on the grounds. The Villa, situated on the right bank of the Rhine, houses the Archaeological Research Centre and Museum for Human Behavioural Evolution. Two annexes can be visited from the outside: the former guesthouse for the Swedish Crown Prince Gustav V and the "Kitchen House". In addition, parts of the surrounding landscape park are preserved, among them exotic trees and plants as well as individual embedded memorials. Guided visits under the motto "Historic buildings and memorial sites of the Princes of Wied on Monrepos" can be booked.

Schloss Monrepos  
56567 Neuwied  
Sitz des Archäologischen Forschungszentrums und Museums für menschliche Verhaltensentwicklung  
Tel. 02631 – 97720, monrepos@rgzm.de  
www.monrepos-rgzm.de

## Runder Turm (Round Tower), Andernach



The Round Tower in Andernach is one of the largest mediaeval defence towers in Germany and the highest defence tower on the Rhine. Construction on the mighty building was begun by order of the city council before 1440 and completed in 1453. With its substantial dimensions – 56 metres high and 15 metres diameter – it forms the northwestern corner of the mediaeval city wall. Its height made it possible to have a broad view of the Rhine Valley so that any incoming ships could be identified early and announced by sounding the horn. The Tower can be visited in the summer and, as a landmark of the city of Andernach, is brought to life during city tours. There is a special exhibition area on the lower storey of the tower.

Runder Turm Andernach  
Ecke Konrad-Adenauer-Allee/Kölner Straße  
56626 Andernach  
Tourist Information: Tel 02632 – 987948-0  
info@andernach.net, www.andernach.de

## The Electoral Castle of Andernach



The citadel of Andernach was built by the Archbishopric of Cologne in the 12th century to secure the position of the city. On the one hand, it strengthened the defence power of the city on the outside and, on the other, secured the sovereignty of the Archbishopric over the city against insurgent citizens. It did not always succeed in the latter, however: in 1359 and again in 1365, a “Storm on the citadel” raged as the citizens occupied and took over the complex. During the Thirty Years’ War, there was an invasion of Swedish troops here before the electoral castle was finally destroyed in the Palatine War of Succession in 1689. The top floor of the keep is now used as a romantic wedding chamber. And there is a special feature growing in the shadows of the Castle walls: fruit and vegetable beds run all around the Castle. The garden belongs to the town and therefore to all citizens. Picking is expressly allowed here. This idea gave Andernach the appendage, “the edible city”.

Kurfürstliche Burg Andernach  
56626 Andernach  
bsa@gdke.rlp.de  
www.gdke.rlp.de

## Burg Namedy Castle, Andernach-Namedy



The location of Burg Namedy Castle in a flat plain on the Rhine near Andernach makes this noble seat founded by the Hausmann family stand out from most of the other castle and palace complexes. At the same time, the original moated castle probably built in the 14th century is scarcely recognisable. In the 16th century, among other things, three round towers were added to Namedy Palace. After the destruction by Swedish troops in 1633, a Baroque reconstruction followed, which underwent remodelling in 1896 and then again between 1907 and 1911 modified rearrangements, in which the main building was heightened by a complete storey and a north and south wing added to Namedy Palace. Burg Namedy Castle presents itself as a historicised complex with a mediaeval core and offers a unique setting for weddings, celebrations and concerts.

Schloss Burg Namedy  
56626 Andernach-Namedy  
Tel 02632 – 48625  
info@burg-namedy.de  
www.burg-namedy.de

## Marienburg Castle, Leutesdorf



This late Baroque manor house emerged from a castle originally from the Middle Ages and stamps the city silhouette of Leutesdorf until now. Its front side facing the Rhine is reminiscent in this way of the Engers Castle only a few kilometres away. Between 1750 and 1760, the building of Marienburg Castle was commissioned by the privy councillor of the Elector of Trier as his representative residence and finally planned and executed by the Trier court architect Johannes Seiz. Leutesdorf Castle was completely demolished for the construction of the late Baroque grand house. Marienburg Castle is in private hands today and divided into several apartments. It cannot be visited.

Schloss Marienburg  
56599 Leutesdorf

## Hammerstein Castle, Hammerstein



First mentioned in 1020, the Hammerstein Castle of the Empire in the town of the same name represents the oldest verifiable castle complex of the Middle Rhine Valley. Historians even assume that a previous building was already erected in the 10th century. The ruin, located on the Rheinsteig trail, served as a depository for the Imperial Regalia. These regalia of the Holy Roman Empire – among other things, the Crown, Imperial Orb and Holy Lance – were finally transferred to Trifels Castle in 1125. Furthermore, Hammerstein Castle is the showplace of the legend – historically founded – of the marriage between Otto I and Irmingard von Verduns: as Otto and Irmingard were related to each by fourth degree, an objection to the marriage was raised through pressure by Erkanbald, the Archbishop of Mainz – following which the couple was excommunicated in Nijmegen in 1018.

Burg Hammerstein  
56598 Hammerstein

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist-Information Bad Hönningen  
Tel 02635 – 2273  
info@bad-hoenningen.de



## Brohleck Castle, Brohl-Lützing



The palace-like complex in the village of Brohl-Lützing is no longer in any way reminiscent of the former castle from the early 14th century: the transformations carried out on the building from 1888 were extensive. Written sources name Johann Burggraf von Rheineck as free proprietor of the noble estate. With the acquisition of suzerainty over Brohleck castle, Baldwin of Luxembourg finally forced a wedge between the sites of the Palatinate of Cologne, Sinzig and Bad Breisig in the North as well as Andernach in the South. In the middle of the 16th century, the Castle was reconstructed by Friedrich von Metternich and his wife Anna von Düsternau, who is remembered on the coat-of-arms chiselled in stone at the entrance to the Tower. Today, Brohleck Castle presents itself as a multiple-winged, palace-like property in the style of historicism.

The complex, which is in private ownership, offers rooms for weddings, celebrations and concerts. Every year, a romantic Christmas market in the middle of the castle walls attracts a host of visitors.

Burg Brohleck  
Burgweg  
56656 Brohl-Lützing  
Tel 02633 – 1816  
uli.liebsch@t-online.de  
www.burgbrohleck.de

## Rheineck Castle, Bad Breisig



The building history of the first Rheineck Castle, which appeared shortly before 1115, is by and large unknown. The sources name the count palatine Otto I of Salm as the founder. After his death, King Konrad III seized his estate and transferred it to his brother-in-law, Count Herman of Stahleck. This endeavour resulted in a bitter fight for the County Palatine of the Rhine – a conflict that culminated in the complete destruction of Rheineck Castle by the troops of the King in 1151. Rheineck Castle was rebuilt by the Archbishopric of Cologne by 1164 at the latest but did not, however, withstand the Palatine War of Succession in the 17th century. The Prussian politician von Bethmann-Hollweg inherited the ruin in 1832 and had the main building reconstructed together with the castle chapel. The latter represents a special feature, with its eight-sided design, which is reminiscent of the Carolingian Octagon of Aachen Cathedral. Today, the Castle is in private ownership and cannot be visited.

Burg Rheineck  
53498 Bad Breisig  
Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist Information Bad Breisig  
Tel 02633 – 4563-0  
tourist-info@bad-breisig.de  
www.bad-breisig.de

## Arenfels Palace, Bad Hönningen



Arenfels Palace owes its current appearance to a prominent master builder: Ernst Friedrich Zwirner was Karl Friedrich Schinkel's student. Zwirner, who was commissioned to complete the Cologne Cathedral, in turn commissioned the Imperial Count Friedrich Ludolf von Westerholt-Gysenberg with the modernisation of the palace from 1849 to 1858. Already around 300 years before the Neo-Gothic reconstruction, there had been extensive transformation work: instead of Arenfels Castle, which stemmed from the 13th century, the new build of the three-winged Renaissance palace occurred in the second half of the 16th century. Friedrich Ludolf would have gladly preserved the style of the complex in the 19th century. However, the cathedral master builder Zwirner followed through with his new language of form. During the fight for the bridge of Remagen in the Second World War, the building structure was considerably damaged. The war damages have been done away with today, and with its location in the midst of vineyards, Arenfels Palace is an attraction as a romantic site for events.

Schloss Arenfels  
Schlossweg  
53557 Bad Hönningen  
Tel 02635 – 9233090  
info@schloss-arenfels.de  
www.schloss-arenfels.de

## Sinzig Castle, Sinzig



The Sinzig Castle of today, which is located in the town of the same name, is a complete new construction from the 1850s. However, this stands on the foundation walls of a mediaeval moated castle belonging to the margraves of Jülich. The Castle park was designed according to the plans of the master in horticulture Peter Joseph Lenné. At one time, the complex is said to have been haunted: according to the legend, a virgin is said to have appeared at the old moat and in the ruins several times. Among other things, she is said to have saved children from drowning. One of the castle's eye-catchers is – haunting aside – its unusual layout design with the high prominent tower. The municipal museum is housed in the upper floor rooms, and the former tower room is used as a wedding chamber. In the Castle and the surrounding park, various events are held.

Schloss Sinzig  
Barbarossastr. 35  
53489 Sinzig  
Tel 02642 – 400142

## Dattenberg Castle, Dattenberg



Dattenberg Castle, which was probably built in the first half of the 13th century by the family who gave it its name, had already fallen into ruin in the 19th century. The Archbishopric of Cologne acquired the complex between the years 1306 and 1331 and enfeoffed it from then on to alternating noble families. This is how the electorate consolidated its position on the Middle Rhine, as nearby Linz formed the second most important command centre of Cologne, after Andernach, in the South. The complex's mediaeval bergfried has been preserved up to today and can be visited from the outside to a limited extent.

Burg Dattenberg  
53547 Dattenberg

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourist Information Linz  
Tel 02644 – 2526  
[info@linz.de](mailto:info@linz.de)  
[www.linz.de](http://www.linz.de)

## Linz Castle, Linz



The four-winged Castle complex was erected in 1365 as the seat of the Bailiff of the Electorate of Cologne by Archbishop Engelbert von der Mark in Linz am Rhein. Next to Andernach, the city and castle of Linz were the two most important power centres of the Cologne archbishops on the Middle Rhine. Similar to the situation in Boppard, the city castle in Linz was secured against the city and its own citizens, among other things by a moat. The three-storey western wing was added in 1707. At the level of the foundations as well as on the northwestern tower, the late Gothic features can still be made out today. Since the Baroque modernisation, Linz Castle is a closed complex surrounding an inner courtyard. Today, catering is provided in the interior rooms as well as the historical courtyard. A glass-blowing workshop and the torture chamber make Linz Castle a special tourist attraction.

Burg Linz  
Burgplatz 4  
53545 Linz  
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[www.linz-burg.de](http://www.linz-burg.de)

## Ockenfels Castle, Linz



“Eventful” is no exaggeration for the utilisation of Ockenfels Castle. It was the lords of Leyen who probably erected the core complex in Linz am Rhein in the first half of the 13th century. In the course of the Cologne Diocesan Feud, the Castle was severely damaged in 1475 but then restored shortly afterwards. During the Thirty Years’ War, Ockenfels Castle was finally completely destroyed. From then on, stone thieves carried off the ruins right down to the base walls. It was only between 1924 and 1927 that something sensible was begun again with the remains, as the Cellitinnen of the Holy Mary in Kupfergasse in Cologne came upstream from the Rhine and erected a residential and commercial building on the mediaeval fragments. Since 1998, Ockenfels Castle has been the administrative headquarters of a shoe company. Up to today, it is questionable what the original design was, as the rebuild of the Castle plot in the 1920s as well as insufficient research on the mediaeval remains do not allow clear conclusions.

Burg Ockenfels  
53545 Ockenfels  
Tel 02644 – 565333

## Marienfels Castle, Remagen



Marienfels Castle, built in 1859, owes its name to the legend of the “Devil on the Castle Hill”: according to this, Lucifer lived in a cave on the hill on which it stands. As the sugar producer Eduard Frings acquired the 100,000-square metre surrounding hillside area near Remagen and commissioned the military engineer Karl Schnitzler with the construction of a representative summer seat, the activity drove the devil away. Frings had a larger than life Madonna figure built – as an antidote against the spook and protection against the devil coming back. The Castle is a magnificent testimonial of Prussian Rhine romanticism, to which the architect Schnitzer even added a mediaeval-looking bergfried. With the tower, Karl Schnitzler – who as fortress architect was just as significant for the construction of the Prussian fortress Ehrenbreitstein – wanted to simulate a long history for the castle, entirely in the sense of romanticism. Marienfels Castle is in private ownership and cannot be visited.

Schloss Marienfels  
53424 Remagen



## Ernich Castle, Remagen



The planning and construction of the three-winged Ernich Castle was carried out between 1906 and 1908 and was in the hands of one of the most important architects of German historicism: the industrial magnate Arnold von Guillaume had commissioned Ernst von Ihne, Kaiser Friedrich Wilhelm III's architect to the imperial court, to build his new family home in Remagen. In addition to a landscape park, additional living and commercial buildings are part of the complex. Further adjacent buildings were added in 1949 as the castle was used first of all as the seat of the High Commissioner of the French occupation forces after the Second World War and then, from 1955, as the Embassy of the French Republic. Today, the estate is privately owned by a film producer, who bought it from France in 2006 after the country moved its embassy to Berlin.

Schloss Ernich  
53424 Remagen

## Rolands's Arch (Rolandseck Castle)



Rolandseck Castle was founded near Remagen in the first half of the 12th century as a princely castle of the Palatinate of Cologne. In conjunction with Drachenfels Castle and Wolkenburg Castle, which is no longer in existence today, on the right bank of the Rhine, it secured the southwestern borderline of the territory belonging to the Palatinate of Cologne. After an earthquake, the window arch was the only thing that remained of Rolandseck Castle and from then on became a trademark of Rhine romanticism. The "Rolandsbogen" (Roland's Arch) had already become a tourist destination early in the 19th century, offering a view on the Rhine Valley, Siebengebirge (the Seven Hills) and the Rhine Islands, Grafenwerth and Nonnenwerth. According to Alexander von Humboldt, you have "one of the seven most beautiful views in the world" from here. The "arch" is still extremely popular today as a motif for photographs, because of the restaurant of the same name, but also because of its direct connection to the Rhein-BurgenWeg trail. The tragic love story of the knight, Ritter Roland and his beloved Hildegund is famous.

Rolandsbogen  
53424 Remagen-Rolandswerth  
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info@rolandsbogen.de  
www.rolandsbogen.de

## Löwenburg Castle, Bad Honnef



Löwenburg Castle near Bad Honnef is a castle ruin which remains preserved in terms of its foundation walls and is one of the few complexes on the Rhine, which formed the centre of a distinct dominion. The core complex was built by the counts of Sayn around 1200 and served as a safeguard against the neighbouring Archbishopric of Cologne. In the 13th century, the Castle was acquired by the counts of Sponheim-Heinsberg from whom the line of the lords of Löwenburg emanated. From this time on, the estate formed the centre of a small autonomous dominion. After the extinction of the line of the lords of Löwenburg, the Castle was finally added to the Jülich-Berg Duchy in 1463. The Castle ruin is now a popular hiking destination and easily accessible via the nearby Rheinsteg trail.

Löwenburg  
53604 Bad Honnef

Information can be obtained from:  
Tourismus Siebengebirge GmbH  
Tel 02223 - 9177-11  
info@siebengebirge.com  
www.siebengebirge.de

## Drachenfels Ruin, Königswinter



Drachenfels Castle would not carry this name if it did not stand in connection with fire-spitting mythical creatures. According to legend, a lindworm, to whom the Pagan inhabitants are said to have brought human sacrifices, lived in a cave here. The fact is that Drachenfels Castle was designed in the 1140s by the Archbishop of Cologne, Arnold I. The castle, built on a hill in the natural conservation area of today, once served as a border fortification and today forms a popular destination, which above all acquired its popularity as a part of the legendary world of the Rhine and because of its prominent location on the 321-metre high cliff in Siebengebirge (Seven Hills). The climb to the Drachenfels ruin, which is steep in parts, can be easily managed using the Drachenfels Railway. Children can even clamber up on the backs of donkeys "stationed" in the valley station. Refreshments are waiting at hand in the restaurant on the cliff, for hikers too who come by on the Rheinsteg trail, directly running past.

Ruine Drachenfels  
53639 Königswinter  
Information can be obtained from:  
Tourismus Siebengebirge GmbH  
Tel 02223 - 9177-11  
info@siebengebirge.com  
www.siebengebirge.de



The construction of the railway lines in the middle of the 19th century made quicker and more comfortable travelling possible – on the Rhine too, and the middle class of Bonn and Cologne were happy to take advantage of this. Those especially well-to-do aspired towards representative buildings in the newly developed local recreational area. Just as did Baron Stephan von Sarter: he chose a spectacular location underneath Drachenfels Castle on the elevation with the same name near Königswinter for his palace, Drachenburg, constructed in 1882. This was among the most important settings for the Rhenish world of legends. Already in 1903, Sarter's nephew opened the Palace to the public and offered visits for 0.50 Deutschmark. The Second World War led to severe destruction of the Palace. It was only a comprehensive restoration programme that enabled the complex to shine in its old glory once again. The large building adorned with monumental wall paintings draws tourists to this day. The large landscape park is an invitation to stroll and linger.

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The following parties are involved in the Castles Network Project – The Romantic Rhine:

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## Copy

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