



The castle complex between Wöhrsee (left) and the Salzach (right)

## Burghausen Castle

Burghausen Castle is the longest castle complex in Europe. Picturesquely situated, it extends over 1,000 metres along a rocky spur between the Salzach river and Wöhrsee above the town of Burghausen. With its mighty towers and walls, ditches and drawbridges, enclosing many substantial buildings, it is still today an impressive monument to the art of castle building in the Middle Ages, and a demonstration of the power and importance of the Bavarian Dukes.

In 1180 the castle passed into the ownership of the Dukes of Wittelsbach. For a quarter of a millennium – from 1255 to 1503 – it was the second residence of these dukes of Lower Bavaria, their main residence being in Landshut. It served as a court for the Dukes' consorts, a home for ducal widows, a grand gaol and as a stronghold for gold and silver treasures. In 1255, under Duke Heinrich XIII, work commenced on the buildings in the main part of the castle. During the 14th century the fortifications were extended right around castle hill. From 1475 onwards Duke Georg the Rich set about turning the castle into the strongest fortress in the region.



Madonna of Mercy, a painting from the outer court chapel



Second outer courtyard (top); inner courtyard (bottom left); "Duke Georg the Rich" (below middle), Georg's Gate (bottom right).

## The castle and its courtyards

The extended castle complex comprises a main part, with inner courtyard, plus five outer courtyards. Each of these sections fulfilled an important function and constituted a separate line of defence, with its own gatehouse, ditch and bridge.

The first outer courtyard, closest to the main part of the castle, was important in protecting and supplying the innermost areas. Still visible here today is a once highly secure entranceway leading up from the town. The brewery and bakery (now the castle café) is the only historic building to survive in this courtyard. The second outer courtyard, housing the mighty arsenal and the master gunsmith's tower, was the castle's armoury. It is the best preserved of all the courtyards. The courtyard is dominated by the monumental Georg's Gate, built in 1494. The third outer courtyard with Grain Tower and Grain Measurer's Tower was once used for stabling and as a store for animal feed. In the fourth outer courtyard is a jewel of late Gothic architecture, the outer castle chapel, also known as Hedwig's Chapel, erected under Georg the Rich between 1479 and 1489. Living and working space for the court officials and craftsmen was located in the defensive towers in the ring walls around the fifth outer courtyard.

## BURG ZU BURGHAUSEN

Burg Nr. 48  
84489 Burghausen  
Tel. (0 86 77) 46 59  
Fax (0 86 77) 6 56 74

### INFORMATION

Burgverwaltung Landshut  
Burg Trausnitz 168  
84036 Landshut  
Tel. (08 71) 9 24 11-0  
Infoline (08 71) 9 24 11-44  
Fax (08 71) 9 24 11-40  
burgverwaltung.landshut@bsv.bayern.de  
www.burg-trausnitz.de

### OPENING HOURS

April – September: 9 am – 6 pm  
October – March: 10 am – 4 pm  
Closed on: 1.1., Shrove Tuesday, 24.12., 25.12., 31.12.

⚠ The rooms within the castle are only reachable via staircases. The courtyard areas are largely single level. Access to the castle from the old town is via steep paths and steps.

### OTHER MUSEUMS

Historical Town Museum  
Tel. (0 86 77) 6 51 98  
Fax (0 86 77) 87 88 28  
www.burghausen.de

House of Photography – Dr. Robert-Gerlich-Museum  
Tel. (0 86 77) 47 34  
Fax (0 86 77) 91 11 27


### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Train to Burghausen · Bus to the castle complex  
Parking spaces are available at the castle

### REFRESHMENTS

Burgcafé  
Tel. (0 86 77) 8 77-3 40  
Fax (0 86 77) 8 77-3 41

Information on all places of interest:

 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen  
Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München  
Tel. (0 89) 17 90 80 · Fax (0 89) 17 90 81 90  
info@bsv.bayern.de  
www.schloesser.bayern.de

Knight saint, Master of the Blütenburg Apostles





Corner room in the "Palas" (above); Lansquenet Tapestry (bottom left); "Dürnitz" (bottom right)

St Elisabeth's Chapel, first courtyard, choir with winged altar-piece (left); "Saint Vitus refuses to go to the banquet" (right)

## The main castle

The accommodation for the ducal court towers over the inner courtyard at the south end of castle hill. The earliest parts here date back to the days of Duke Heinrich XIII. Much extension work was done under the Rich Dukes of Bavaria-Landshut, particularly after 1475 under Duke Georg the Rich. His consort, Hedwig, daughter of the Polish king and the bride in the famous Landshut Wedding, resided here. At the outermost point is the "Palas", or Great Hall, containing the Duke's private accommodation. On the side of the courtyard facing the Wöhr is the section which once housed the apartments of the Duchess and her court. Today this is occupied by the municipal museum of Burghausen. On the town side is the "Dürnitz" building, or Knights' Hall, with its two impressive vaulted halls, formerly the wine cellar and the dining room for the ducal court. The hall on the ground floor is now a visitors' centre, with a display of archaeological excavations. The gatehouse, fortified wall and keep form the bulwark to the first outer courtyard. From on top of the fortifications there is an impressive view around the main part of the castle. Access to the outer fortifications at Eggenberg is also via these walls.



Late mediaeval chest

## Castle museum in the "Palas" with ducal apartments and State Gallery in Burghausen

On the main floor of the "Palas" visitors can view the mediaeval apartments of the Lower Bavarian dukes. The rooms with their mighty beamed ceilings are appointed in the style of a prince's apartment at the beginning of the 16th century, with typical furniture, tapestries, paintings, sculptures and weapons on display. The castle chapel, dedicated to St Elisabeth and a donation of Heinrich XIII, was fitted with a Late Gothic vaulted ceiling under Georg the Rich. The viewing platform on the roof offers a unique panorama of the entire castle complex and the surrounding countryside.

On the second floor of the "Palas" is a gallery belonging to the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings. Displayed here are Late Gothic paintings of the 15th and 16th centuries, from the region of southern Germany, in particular Bavaria and neighbouring Austria.

On the third floor are six monumental paintings from a cycle on the history of the Bavarian Dukes, painted by Hans Werl after 1600 for the old Hercules Hall at the Residenz in Munich. A selection of late mediaeval sculptures rounds off the exhibition.

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