



The main courtyard at Neuburg Palace, with arcades and sgraffito decoration on the façade

Neuburg Palace

Neuburg Palace on the banks of the Danube was once the residence of the Counts of Pfalz-Neuburg, a principality founded in 1505. This impressive palace complex with its four mighty wings enclosing an arcaded courtyard, was built on the site of a late-Gothic ducal castle. Work started on the three splendid Renaissance wings in 1530, under Ottheinrich (1502–1559), the first of the Counts Palatine of Pfalz-Neuburg and later Palatine Elector. His successor, Count Palatine Wolfgang von Zweibrücken, commissioned the Dutch master Hans Schroer to decorate the courtyard façade. Carried out between 1560 and 1569, these Biblical scenes in sgraffito technique are one of the special attractions of the palace. Count Palatine Philipp Wilhelm of Pfalz-Neuburg added the Baroque east wing and the two dominant round towers between 1664 and 1668, turning the palace into one of the very first Baroque palaces in Germany. Other highlights include the wall and ceiling paintings (1543) by Hans Bocksberger in the palace chapel, the first ever Protestant church interior, the Renaissance Knights' Hall with its wood panelling and the Baroque palace grottos.



Knights' Hall (top); Count Palatine Ottheinrich (above, l.); writing chair (above, centre); Philipp Wilhelm (above, r.); porcelain cup (below)

The principality of Pfalz-Neuburg

The main floor in the Baroque east wing of the palace is dedicated to the art and history of the principality of Pfalz-Neuburg. Emerging in 1505 out of a dispute over succession between the Palatine and the Bavarian Wittelsbachers, this tiny principality went on to play a remarkable role over the course of the following centuries. Under the Renaissance Count Palatine Ottheinrich it was a centre for the arts and for the nascent Reformation movement. In the 17th century, after the addition of the Dukedoms of Jülich and Berg of the Lower Rhine, it became an important Baroque court with connections throughout Europe. Counts from Neuburg were also Palatine Electors with residences in Heidelberg, Düsseldorf and Mannheim. In 1806 Neuburg became a part of the Kingdom of Bavaria. The former residential and state rooms of Neuburg Palace now host an impressive display of the history of this principality. 550 works of art – portraits and valuable tapestries, weapons, furniture and precious craftwork – bear witness to this exciting chapter in Palatine-Bavarian history.



NEUBURG PALACE

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm
Closed Mondays
Closed 1 January, Shrove Tuesday, 24, 25 and 31 December

♿ Ramp to entrance
Lift, toilet for the disabled

HOW TO GET THERE

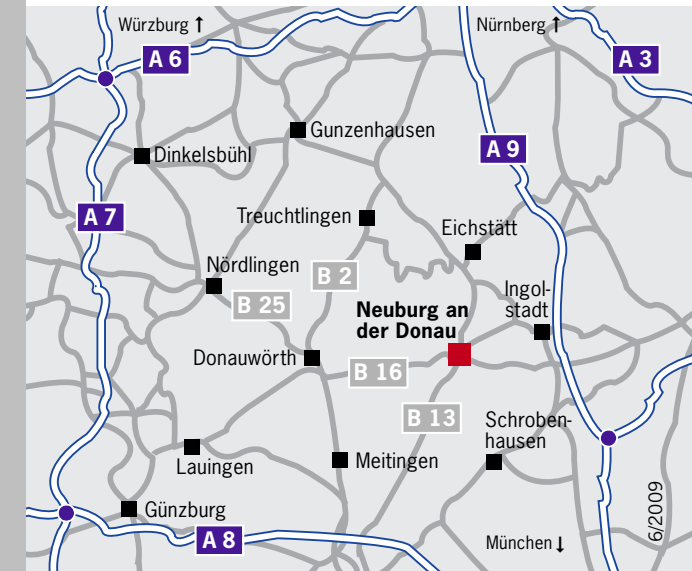
Train to Neuburg, bus no. 3 to "Spitalplatz", change to bus no. 4 to "Amtsgericht" or "Karlsplatz"; no parking at the palace

Information on all places of interest:



Bayerische Verwaltung der
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Main room in the State Gallery with a portrait of Count Palatine Wolfgang Wilhelm in the foreground

State Gallery of Neuburg – Flemish Baroque Painting

Affiliated to the Bavarian State Painting Collections

This gallery is dedicated to Flemish Baroque painting. It contains around 120 works of art, among them two paintings from a series of three by Peter Paul Rubens, commissioned by Wolfgang Wilhelm von Pfalz-Neuburg for the altars in the court church in Neuburg. The “Adoration of the Shepherds” and “The Descent of the Holy Ghost” are now displayed in the main room of the gallery. Six other paintings by Rubens and his workshop are also on display. Paintings and portraits by Anthonis van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens, two outstanding contemporaries of Rubens in Antwerp, are also featured here. In the 17th century all styles of painting were pursued in Antwerp – history painting, portraiture, landscapes, still lifes, hunting scenes and genre painting. Important examples of all of them are contained in this collection, each represented by their best exponents – Hendrik van Balen, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Jan Cossiers, Frans Francken the Younger, Frans Snyders, David Teniers, Paul de Vos, Jan Wildens and others.



Altar antependium (top); Prophet Habakkuk in the palace chapel (above, l.); coelacanth (above, r.); silver clasp, Roman (below)

Sacred Baroque – The Ecclesiastical Paraments of the Ursuline Foundation

Among the most precious treasures housed in Neuburg Palace are the ecclesiastical textiles from the Ursuline Monastery of Neuburg, founded by Elector Johann Wilhelm von der Pfalz in 1698. These sumptuous sacred vestments and important altar antependia with Biblical scenes were embroidered in silk, silver and gold by the Ursuline nuns in the 18th century. They are of outstanding artistic quality. Rounding off this display on the third floor of the east wing are sacred works of art from the period of the Counter-Reformation in Pfalz-Neuburg and religious folk-art.

Archaeology Museum in Neuburg Palace

Affiliated to the Bavarian State Archaeological Collection



The rooms on the second floor of the east wing contain an exhibition of archaeological finds from the Neuburg region spanning from the Ice Age to the Middle Ages. Also here is a small geological display.

Neuburg Palace

