



Portrait of Emperor Karl VI (left); Emperor's Reception Room (top right); Knights' Hall (bottom right)

View of the upper chapel (top left); Lower chapel with a view of the chancel (bottom left); Crucifix by Veit Stoß (right)

## Imperial Castle Nuremberg

The Imperial Castle of Nuremberg is one of the most important imperial residences of the Middle Ages. On this rocky elevation Emperor Friedrich I Barbarossa (1123–1190) and his successors built one of the largest and most magnificent castle complexes of the empire. Between 1050 and 1571 it hosted the Diets and juridical sessions of all the German emperors and kings of the Holy Roman Empire.

The Imperial Chapel dates from the time of the Hohenstaufens in around 1200, the earliest period of construction from which buildings have been preserved. It is hence the most important room of the castle and one of the most impressive rooms from the era of the Hohenstaufen emperors. It consists of a lower chapel for the lesser nobility in the emperor's retinue, and an upper chapel for the higher-ranking royal household. The two chapels are joined spatially and liturgically only by an opening in the ceiling. The west gallery in the upper chapel was the separate section for the imperial family. With these elements the Nuremberg Imperial Chapel thus represents a unique synthesis of two architectural forms: the double

chapel (upper and lower chapel) and the ruler's chapel (imperial gallery on the west side). The hierarchy of the rooms and their users is clearly underlined by the squat proportions of the crypt-like lower chapel and the high, well-lit upper chapel. The Romanesque ornamental sculpture featured in both sections includes an outstanding eagle capital on one of the sandstone pillars in the lower chapel. On the main altar is a crucifix made of limewood by Veit Stoß, one of the most famous sculptors and woodcarvers of the late Gothic era.

Other historic rooms in addition to the Imperial Chapel can also be visited by participating in the guided tour. In the Palas, originally containing the residential apartments of the castle and a hall, are the Imperial Castle's two main rooms, the Knights' Hall and the Emperor's Hall, which are located one above the other. In the 15th century the Imperial court sat in the Knights' Hall, while the Emperor's Hall, which has a moulded wooden ceiling in the old imperial colours of black and yellow, was the setting for banquets attended by the highest dignitaries of the empire. In the three imperial residential and state rooms adjoining this hall the original wall panelling and ceilings have also been preserved; the eagle ceiling in the so-called Emperor's Living Room,

## IMPERIAL CASTLE NUREMBERG

Burgverwaltung Nürnberg · Auf der Burg 13 · 90403 Nürnberg  
Tel. (09 11) 2 44 65 90 · Fax (09 11) 2 44 65 93 00  
burgnuernberg@bsv.bayern.de

### OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm  
October – March: 10am – 4pm

Guided tours only

Tour of the entire castle: ca. 1.5 hours

The Imperial Castle Nuremberg is closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday and 24, 25 and 31 December.

♿ The upper rooms are only accessible via stairs  
Toilet for the disabled available

### OTHER MUSEUMS

Kaiserburg-Museum (Branch of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum)  
Tel. (09 11) 2 00 95 40 · www.gnm.de

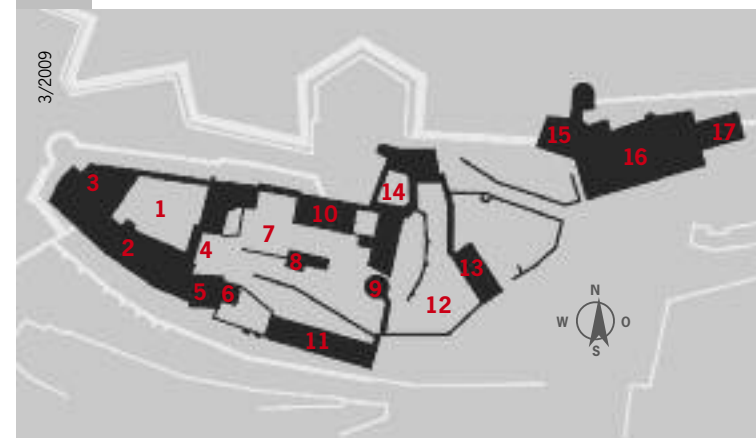
### TRANSPORTATION

By train to Nuremberg main station, and by underground to "Lorenzkirche" or tram no. 4 to "Tiergärtnerortplatz"

The Knights' Hall and the Emperor's Hall in the Imperial Castle can be hired for occasions such as banquets, receptions and concerts.

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



- |                     |                         |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Inner Courtyard   | 7 Forecourt             | 12 Sanctuary         |
| 2 Palas             | 8 Deep Well             | 13 Wallburgis Chapel |
| 3 Bower             | 9 Sinwell Tower         | 14 Vestner Gate      |
| 4 Inner Castle Gate | 10 Secretarial Building | 15 Pentagonal Gate   |
| 5 Imperial Chapel   | 11 Heavenly Stables     | 16 Imperial Stables  |
| 6 Heathens' Tower   |                         | 17 Luginsland        |



View of the bailey with the Secretarial Building (left), Well House (centre) and Sinwell Tower



Altar shrine with a depiction of St Veronica's veil held by two angels, Nuremberg, early 16th century

which dates from the end of the 15th century, is particularly impressive.

In the 19th century, in the age of romanticism, the Imperial Castle was "rediscovered", but the new furnishings introduced as a result were removed again in the 1930s. When the badly damaged castle was restored after the Second World War, the Palas was furnished with paintings, furniture and tapestries from the 16th and 17th centuries, to show how it would have looked in the Renaissance era.

The Deep Well and the Sinwell Tower can also be visited by participating in a guided tour. The well house with the Deep Well is in the centre of the Forecourt. The well shaft, which goes down 47 metres into the castle rock, is probably as old as the castle itself and was first mentioned in a document in the 14th century. The round Sinwell Tower ("sinwell" is Middle High German for round) was built in the second half of the 13th century as the keep of the Imperial Castle. From the viewing platform 385 metres up there is a panoramic view of the city of Nuremberg.

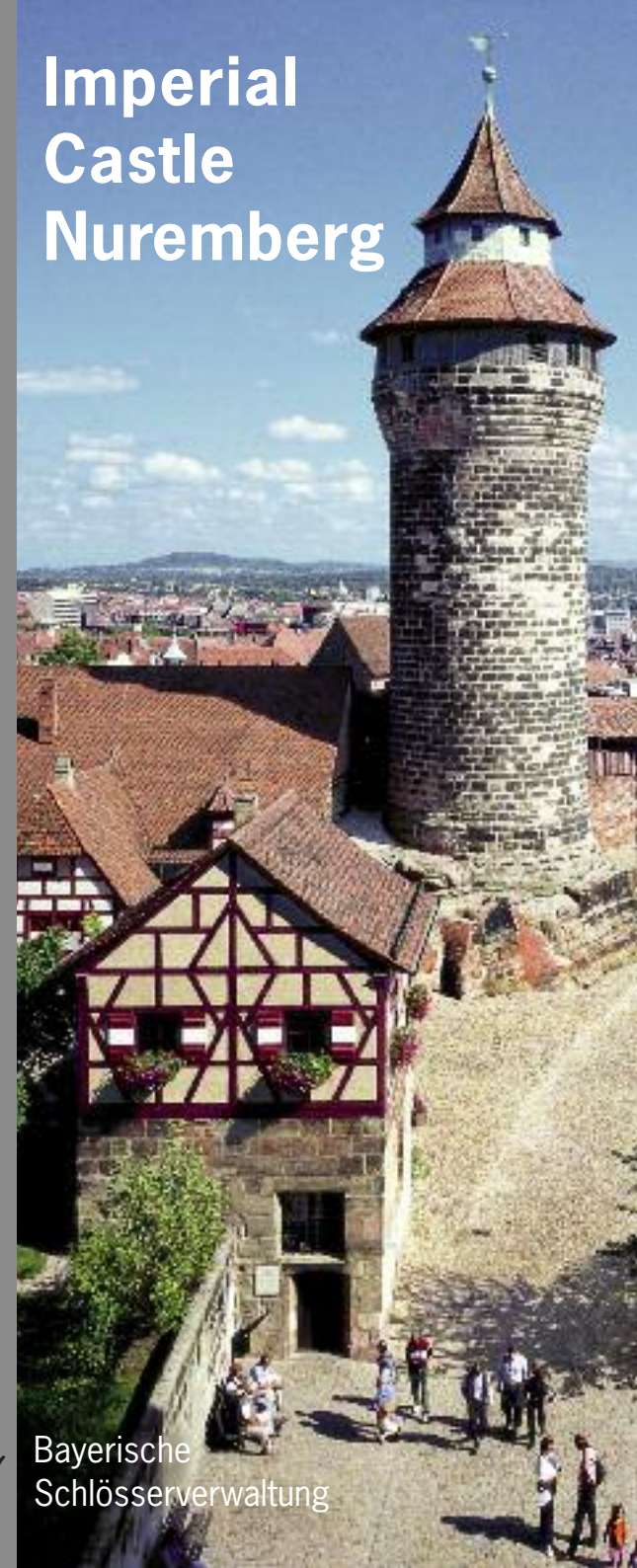


The famous "Kunigunde lime tree" in the Inner Courtyard, which was several hundred years old, had to be replaced several times by a young tree in the 20th century, most recently in the 1980s. It is named after the Empress Kunigunde (ca. 980–1033/39) who was canonized in 1200 and was the consort of Emperor Heinrich II; she is said to have planted the first lime tree on this spot.

A castle garden was first mentioned in the 15th century. The present Imperial Castle Gardens are located on the bastions built from 1538 to 1545 to protect the castle, which had become more vulnerable with the advent of firearms. In the mid-19th century Carl Effner sen. (1791–1870) landscaped the existing garden; outlines of this design can still be seen. After 1945 a rose bed was laid out on the main bastion. On the lower bastion there is a central flower bed surrounded by a ring of common maple trees. In the former Bower is the Imperial Castle Museum (a branch of the German National Museum) where weapons, armour and other exhibits illustrating the history of the castle and its defence are on display.

Empress Kunigunde, carved figure from the altar originally donated by Emperor Friedrich III, 1487, upper chapel

# Imperial Castle Nuremberg



Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung