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AUG 2024

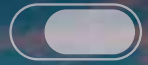
STARS AND STRIPES®

WHAT'S UP

WIESBADEN

01 : 08 : 20 : 24

● REC



European Castles ON SCREEN

Tucked in at a
Tudor Castle

Spotlight on
the Reichburg

Eating Lunch at
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A Stars and Stripes Community Publication

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by September 30th, 2024



By Katie Wells



GERMANY

Heidelberg Castle Illumination Festival | Heidelberg | June 1–Sept. 7

Medieval Festival at Cochem Castle | Cochem | Aug. 3–4

Potsdam: Night of Palaces | Potsdam | Aug. 9–10

Ludwigsburg Pumpkin Festival | Ludwigsburg | Aug. 23–Nov. 03

The Ludwigsburg Palace grounds host one of the largest pumpkin art exhibits in the world. They feature a different theme each year for artists to create sculptures out of pumpkins and gourds. Try a variety of pumpkin themed foods, and on select days, race a giant pumpkin in the water like a canoe.

Heidelberg Christmas Market | Heidelberg | Nov. 25–Dec. 20

AUSTRIA

Liechtenstein Garden Palace: Sommer Rhapsodie | Vienna | July 8–Aug. 7

Herbstgold- Music Festival Schloss Esterházy | Eisenstadt | Sept. 11–22

Klanglicht Festival | Styria | Oct. 24–26

This immersive festival is a visual and listening experience combining art, color, and music. Light installations are projected onto UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, Eggenberg Palace and throughout its surrounding gardens for a full audiovisual experience.

BELGIUM

Around the World in 80 Days | Beloeil Castle Park | July 25–Aug. 18

Stroll through the castle park and follow in the footsteps of the eccentric Phileas Fogg. You will be seated in front of a few paintings to watch the performance. You will then be guided to the next immersive scene in the park. The show features, princesses, fiery cowboys, distant lands, acrobatics and chases.

Boullion Castle- Fete du Fromage | Boullion | Sept 21–22

Gravensteen Winter Wonder Castle | Ghent | Dec. 7–Jan. 5, 2025

CZECHIA

The Book is Art Exhibit | Prague Castle | June 7–Oct. 20

This special exhibit for book lovers features some of the most unique and beautiful Czech books from the beginning of book printing through present day. A highlight from this collection are the copies from Franz Kafka's original library that will be on display.

Dvorák's Prague | Cathedral of St. Vitas at Prague Castle | Sept. 6–24

House of the Falconer Exhibit | Prague Castle | Year round

FRANCE

Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte: The Styx, River of the Underworld | Maincy | July 4–Nov. 1

This interactive underground river adventure draws inspiration from La Fontaine's text, The Love of Cupid and Psyche. You will be equipped with a head lamp and thigh boots as you experience tests of logic and agility alongside experienced actors.

Le Château de Chantilly: Equinoxe Light and Shadow Show | Chantilly | July 17–Aug. 18

Le Château de Chantilly: A Day in Paris Exhibit | Chantilly | April 7–Oct. 31

Palace of Versailles Majestic Horses at the Heart of a Civilization Exhibit | Versailles | July 2–Nov. 3

Marathon Des Château Du Medoc | Gironde | Sept. 7

Autumn at Château Fontainebleau | Fontainebleau | Oct. 21–Nov. 12

Throughout the fall season, Château Fontainebleau has a diverse program including the Saint-Hubert festival Oct. 29, which will present the chateaux's historical heritage with a trumpet concert, falconry show and return from the hunt. Explore the chateaux in period costume rentals from Oct. 22–Nov. 5. And finally, enjoy the Imperial Chocolate Fair from Nov. 10–12.

Magical Fairy Tale illuminations of the Château De Breteuil | Choisel | Throughout December

THE NETHERLANDS

Kasteel de Haar: Park full of Stories | Utrecht | Sundays in August

Castlefest 2024 at Castle Keukenhof | Lisse | Aug. 1–4

Mindful Muiderslot: Yoga in the Plum Orchard | Muider | Aug. 10

LIECHTENSTEIN

Garden Palace: Summer Rhapsody | Bauernfeldplatz | July 8–Aug. 7

POLAND

WYSPIA Contemporary Art at Historic Wawel Royal Castle | Wawel | Jan. 26, 2023–Dec. 31, 2024

Magnificence of Rococo Kaendler's Meissen Porcelain Figures | Wawel | May 23–Sept. 29

Orgodzieniec Castle's: An evening with Ghosts | Podzamcze | Select dates from April 26–Sept. 28

Czocha Castle: Nostitz's Bar | Lesna | May–Sept.

Extra



Scan for more events at castles across Europe. ■

MWR GO

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RHEINBLICK OPEN

Take part in this 36-hole individual stroke play championship held over two days, Aug. 3–4. Open to all eligible users with a verifiable golf handicap. Players are flighted by handicap and all places will be awarded using gross score with one net place awarded. Entry deadline is July 29. Also features a dinner, live DJ, putting contest and raffle. Rheinblick/Rhein-Main Members pay \$120. U.S. Reciprocal pay \$140. U.S. ID Card Holders pay \$160. All Others pay \$180.



BIKING CHALLENGE

Can you ride 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) before Aug. 31, 2024? Join the 2024 Army Outdoor Recreation Cycling Challenge. Ride outdoors on roads and trails. The registration fee is \$50 which includes biking jersey and safety inspection. Contact Outdoor Recreation to register.

CAREER CAFÉ

The Employment Readiness Program hosts outreach tables to help job seekers learn about local job openings and preparing for a job interview. Get your questions answered from 1:30-3 p.m. on Aug. 9 at the Hainerberg Exchange Food Court.

ADULT/YOUTH GOLF LESSONS

Youths are invited to learn the sport of golf during Youth Golf Academy lessons throughout the summer. Cost is \$15 per session. Adults can get more comfortable with the game of golf during Spice Up Your Golf lessons throughout the summer. Cost is \$25 per session. Contact Rheinblick Golf Course for full details.

FRIDAY NIGHT SCRAMBLES

Rheinblick Golf Course hosts a 9-hole scramble tournament in which you make your own 4-person team. Register up to one week in advance. Upcoming dates are Aug. 9 and 23.

COUPLES COMMUNICATION

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program hosts a Couples Communication Class every first Friday of the month. Learn how to enhance your relationship by better expressing your feelings and concerns. Couples Communication meets at ACS in Building 7790, Hainerberg Housing.

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Welcoming all students, teachers and parents back to school on Aug. 14! Stop by the BTS Park (located in between Wiesbaden Middle School and AAFES Exchange on Hainerberg), 2:20–5:30 p.m. Over 50 info booths, live performers, games and activities, and meet the principals. Hosted by Child & Youth Services.



RECREATIONAL SHOOTING COURSE

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation and the Education Program hosts Licensed and Qualifying Shooting at the JMTC Wackernheim Range from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 17. Costs \$10 per person for HFSS members, \$15 per person for non-members. Family Rate: Youths ages 16-17 plus additional family members over the age of 18 pay \$8. Contact Outdoor Recreation on Clay North to register.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MEAL

Active Duty Service Members (U.S. and Allied), Veterans and First Responders (U.S. and Local National) are invited every second Tuesday of the month for free food and soft drinks (or water) from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locations vary. Meals are courtesy of the Gary Sinise Foundation (no federal endorsement implied). See our website for full details.

LIVE BANDS IN THE LOUNGE

Enjoy another evening of dance music at the WEC Lounge on Sept. 20, courtesy of the band "Joe and Friends." Starts at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAMS

Wiesbaden features an extensive unit-level sports program, available to all active duty military, including Air Force and Marines. With leagues for basketball, volleyball, softball and soccer, the robust sports program is available year-round. Basketball runs October–February; Softball runs April–August; Soccer runs July–September. Contact your unit POC for additional information, or if you're interested in forming a league for your unit, contact the Wiesbaden Sports & Fitness Center.



THIRSTY THURSDAY KARAOKE

Why save your best songs for the privacy of your shower? Let the rest of the world in on your amazing talent by heading to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge on Thursday evenings for Thirsty Thursday Karaoke from 7 to 11 p.m.

Spotlight On



The Reichburg

By Kat Nickola

The Reichburg looms large. Perched on a hill above the town of Cochem along the Mosel River, this medieval castle has a long story to tell.

Typical of a walled fortification built in the Middle Ages, the Reichburg was constructed by a local count to establish legitimacy and to require taxes from trade along the Mosel River. Originally founded in the early 1000s, it was passed within family dynasties until the area was subsumed into the Holy Roman Empire in the 1300s. The castle was given to the Archbishop of Trier and managed by a series of lords. Sadly, it was destroyed during the Wars of Palatinate Succession in the late 1600s and left to ruin.

It may have remained a ruin had it not been for a wealthy Berlin businessman named Louis Frédéric

Jacques Ravené. In the 1800s, castle-building became popular across Europe as aristocrats romanticized their own medieval histories. Ravené dove deep into the trend by purchasing the Reichburg ruins in Cochem to excavate and rebuild. His son continued the work after Ravené's death, but the beautifully restored castle then fell into Nazi hands and was used as a lawyer training base. It is now owned by the city of Cochem and managed by a private company.

The Reichburg is open daily from March to November, with guided tours available six times daily. There is a tavern with a scenic outdoor patio offering drinks and meals during summer months. All year, the castle holds special events like themed medieval knight's meals, festivals, and Christmas celebrations. Dogs are permitted at the castle, in its restaurant and on tours. ■

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Eat • Stay • Love

Heidelberg Castle

By Tamala Malerk



EAT Visiting Heidelberg is a feast for the senses, offering the unique opportunity to savor a meal amidst the enchanting backdrop of historic and medieval ruins. Imagine the aroma of freshly baked pretzels and sizzling bratwursts as you explore the **Heidelberg Castle** grounds. Whether you're indulging in a snack or a casual dining experience, the castle has several places on-site for you to eat.

Outside the courtyard, next to the ticket shop is a place where you can get beer, hot drinks, pretzels and bratwursts. Inside the courtyard, the area featuring one of the world's largest wine barrels has a snack bar with pretzels and, of course, local and regional wines. **The Historisches Backhaus** features traditional German favorites such as Flammkuchen and Kaesespaetzle. While the food in the Backhaus was good, my recommendation on a warm summer day is the eiskaffee, which is essentially a coffee milkshake. There is also a wine bar and **Scharff's Restaurant Schlossweinstube** if you want more of a formal eating experience. With breathtaking views and a rich tapestry of history surrounding you, dining at Heidelberg Castle transforms a meal into a memorable journey through time and taste.



STAY

Heidelberg is my go-to for a staycation. It is roughly 90 minutes down the road from the KMC area and my spouse and I enjoy driving down for a quick overnight or two. The **Hotel am Schloss** is near the central train station that takes you to the castle. For ease of travel, this could be your best bet. However, I have two go-to places in the old town section of Heidelberg: **The Hotel-Restaurant Hackteufel** and **Hotel Zum Ritter St. George**. Both hotels are about a 20-minute walk to the castle (which I will forewarn you is a lot of “up”) or about a 10-minute train ride to the castle.

Hackteufel has a variety of rooms and suites to cater to families of all sizes. Room 12, the twin deluxe, is my favorite because it has a beautiful view of the castle. It’s good to note that it is only accessible by stairs. Hackteufel is also conveniently located next to **Vetter’s Brauhaus** which features a variety of beers, and traditional German food, for the ultimate German drinking experience. **Zum Ritter** dates back to the 16th century and has 37 rooms for you to choose from; you can bring your dog for only an extra 10 euros per night with advance notice. The restaurant at Zum Ritter has no less than 10 different varieties of schnitzel on its menu.



LOVE

Without even paying for a ticket, you can walk around the exterior of **Heidelberg Castle**, which is absolutely lovely on a sunny day. You can enter the grounds of Heidelberg Castle with either the train ticket you purchased to get to the grounds or by purchasing a ticket at the shop for nine euros. Once in the grounds, you have access to one of the world’s largest wine barrels, the **Germany Pharmacy Museum** and views of the sundial clock and gorgeous exterior statues.

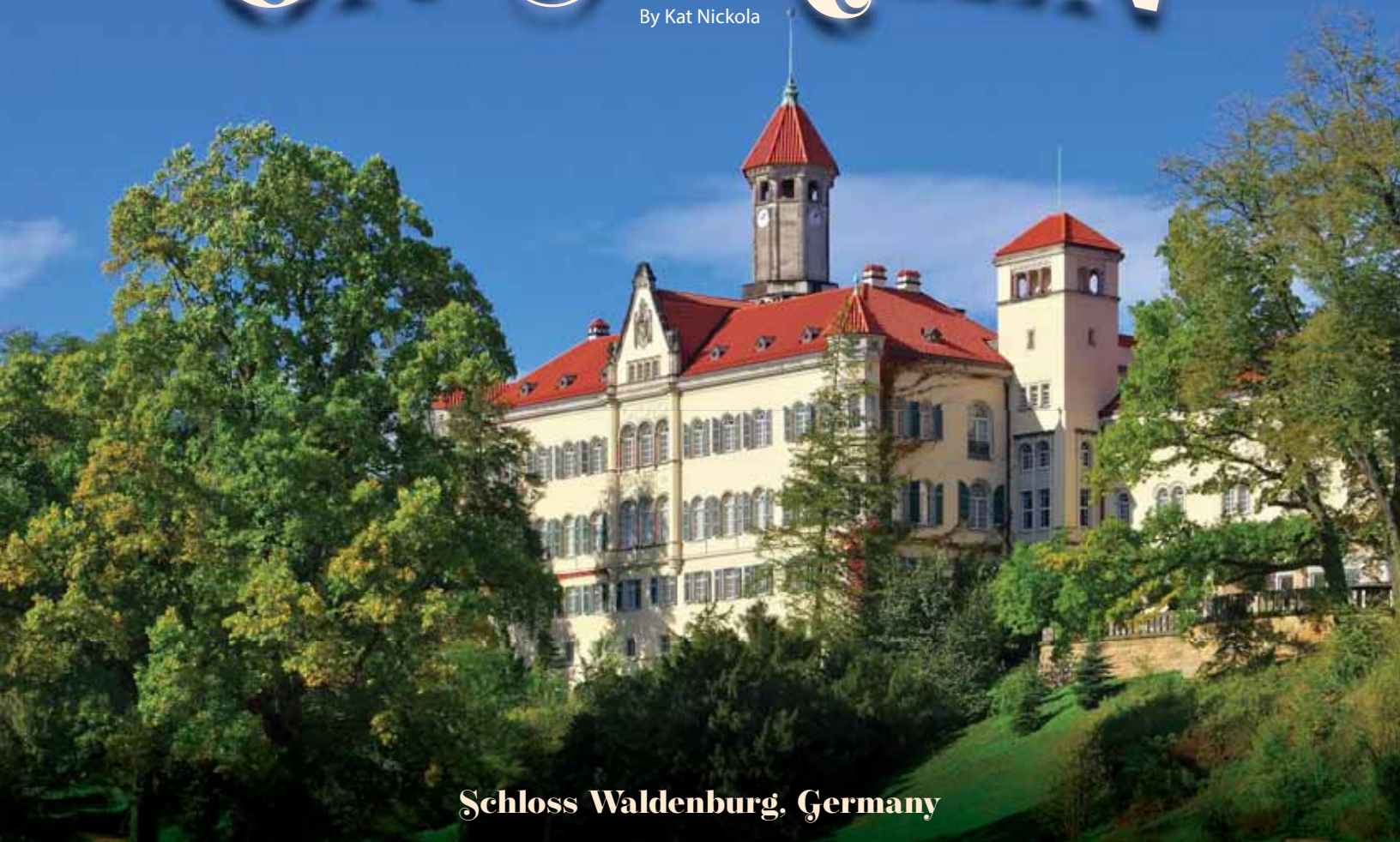
You can only see the interior of the castle with a guided tour. Don’t worry, they offer tours in English several times a day. It is only an additional six euros for the guided tour, and it is well worth it. On the guided tour, I learned the many reasons behind why the castle’s exterior is in constant repair. **Hint:** It’s not just from war, but also some powerful lightning strikes. For added fun, you can hop back on the train, then on a cable car, to **Königstuhl**, which, like its name suggests, features a “kingly chair.” More importantly, this 568-meter-high hill provides a gorgeous view of the city (and even France in the distance), a falconry area, restaurant/hotel and hiking trails. There is fun for the entire family waiting for you at Heidelberg Castle. ■



Plenty of films have been shot across Europe, but iconic castles are hard to miss. Here are some incredible castle filming locations to visit.

European Castles ON SCREEN

By Kat Nickola



Schloss Waldenburg, Germany

Castle (Schloss) Waldenburg, in Saxony, has one of the moodiest, most authentic wood-paneled interiors from medieval Europe. It has been used for numerous German period films and shows, but you may recognize it best for its use in "The Grand Budapest Hotel." In the film, the dark hallways, staircases and parlors of Madame Desgoffe-und-Taxi's (Tilda Swinton) Schloss Lutz were filmed in the interior of Castle Waldenburg.

When young Gustave (Ralph Fiennes) and Zero (Tony Revlori) steal the painting, it is from above the fireplace in Waldenburg's shadowy library.

Castle Waldenburg was built in the 1100s and has undergone numerous updates and remodeling since that time. The town and castle were ruled over by the Hohenlohe dynasty, who's descendent, Prince Felix zu Hohenlohe-Wald-

enburg-Schillingsfürst, still owns the property. Inside the castle are museum spaces dedicated to its history. In addition, there are two restaurants on the grounds offering both café fare and fine dining. When not in use for events or film projects, the interior rooms of the castle can be toured with an informational app. You can also do a virtual tour on the website at www.schloss-waldenburg.de.





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Schloss Frohnburg, Austria

Situated on the southern outskirts of Salzburg, Castle Frohnburg shot to fame in the 1960s as the Von Trapp family villa in the movie, "The Sound of Music." The bright yellow façade, gated entrance and scenic tree-lined access road provided an elegant depiction of the family's country estate in five scenes. When Maria (Julie Andrews) sings "I Have Confidence," she makes her way along Frohnburg's yellow wall before being awestruck at the iron gates and rushing across the entry courtyard.

Built in the late 1600s, Castle Frohnburg was used by counts and barons as one of the many country estates built just outside of Salzburg. After World War II, it was confiscated by the U.S. government, but later acquired by the Republic of Austria. Since then, it has been used by the Mozarteum University as the location of the Orff Institute for the study of elemental music and dance.

It is not open to the public, but you can walk Maria's path along Hellbrunner Allee to the gates at number 53.

“

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Prague castle is the largest castle complex in the world.

”

Prague Castle, Czechia

The Prague Castle complex, or Pražský hrad, sits atop a steep hill and the many stairways on its western edge were used for multiple scenes in "Spider-Man: Far From Home" when Peter (Tom Holland) and his class visit Prague. Later in the film, Peter and MJ (Zendaya) share a charged moment on the beautiful stone Charles Bridge that connects the city's old town with the castle-side of the Vitava River. "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol" was also filmed at Prague Castle. In the film, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and Benji Dunn (Simon Pegg) sneak into the Kremlin and pass through a courtyard, two severely stark rooms and an ornate hall. In reality, these were all filmed inside the Prague Castle.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Prague castle is the largest castle complex in the world. It was first built in 880 and became a seat of power for princes, kings and, later, Holy Roman Emperors. It is currently the official residence of the Czech president. A walled village grew below the castle, which is connected to the old town of Prague via the Charles Bridge. Like Peter and MJ, you can walk across the bridge and explore the Prague Castle grounds. There are also ticketed options, so you don't need to sneak around like Ethan Hunt to enter the castle buildings and exhibitions.



• Doune Castle, Scotland

This Scottish castle has been in many films and shows, but it was “Monty Python and the Holy Grail” that put it on the film industry map. Originally it was one of many castles slated for filming, but when the National Trust for Scotland revoked their permission for all but Doune, it became the filming location for nearly all castle scenes in the movie. It was later used as Winterfell in the “Game of Thrones” pilot episode and Castle Leoch in the “Outlander” series.

Doune Castle is now maintained by Historical Environment Scotland as a tourist destination, and tickets can be booked online at historicenvironment.scot. You can explore on your own, pretend to heckle the guards or present your own Trojan rabbit at the front gate, dance with the knights in the great hall, or escape temptation in the kitchens like our favorite Monty Python actors.

“
*You can visit
Matera, stay in
a cave house
hotel and wander
the streets in
the footsteps of
Daniel Craig and
Gal Gadot, up the
winding stairs
and alleyways
for a view from
the Castello
Tramontano.*
”

Castello Tramontano, Italy

This Italian filming site is not simply the Castello (castle) Tramontano, but also the entire ancient town (Sassi) of Matera that stair-steps down the hills below it. The ancient look of the slightly unkempt stone buildings stacked upon each other has been used in many films set in biblical landscapes. It is where Jesus (Jim Caviezel) carries his cross and is crucified in “The Passion of the Christ,” it doubles for Bethlehem in “The Nativity Story” and, most recently, is a stand-in for Jerusalem in “The Book of Clarence.”

Castello construction began in 1501 by the Count of Matera to assert feudal control, but he was assassinated by overtaxed and disgruntled townsfolk in 1514 and the castle was left to ruin. It is still closed for repairs that began in 2008. The town below the castle is largely made of cave-dwellings dug into the hillside which are reported to have been occupied since the Paleolithic. The deep interiors are not apparent from the stacked house-like exteriors, a look that helped to create the town of Themyscira in “Wonder Woman.” The tiny streets were also subject to the opening shot car chase in the James Bond film “No Time to Die.” You can visit Matera, stay in a cave house hotel and wander the streets in the footsteps of Daniel Craig and Gal Gadot, up the winding stairs and alleyways for a view from the Castello Tramontano. ■

Tucked in at a Tudor Castle

By Tamala Malerk



“Divorced. Beheaded. Died. Divorced. Beheaded. Survived.” These six words are synonymous with King Henry VIII’s six wives and how their marriage to ol’ Harry ended. I have been obsessed with these women since I was a senior in high school and once gave an unprompted 45-minute-long lecture on them while waiting to see the crown jewels at the Tower of London. I’ve read as many books and seen as many movies and documentaries as I can about them, and even wrote my master’s thesis on Queen Catherine Parr (wife six). Recently, I had a dream-come-true-moment when I spent the night in Hever Castle and Gardens: the childhood home of Queen Anne Boleyn (wife two) and divorcee present to Queen Anne of Cleves (wife four).

We arrived about 10:30 a.m. knowing that it was too early to check in to the bed-and-breakfast, but we were simply hoping to drop off our luggage. Much to our surprise, arriving early allowed us special access to the castle. We had 30 minutes to tour the castle with only fellow patrons of the bed-and-breakfast. This was advantageous for us because heavy rain brought the regular visitors swiftly past the gardens and straight into the shelter of the castle, which became crowded.

Throughout the castle, there are various re-creations of Tudor-era rooms. The Aster family spent 10 million dollars in the early 20th century to make the rooms as accurate as possible. Of course, modern amenities such as electricity have been put in the castle, but you get a real sense of how it was back in the 1500s and 1600s.

The castle is filled with painted portraits, furniture, tapestries and personal items of King Henry, Queen Anne Boleyn and Queen Anne of Cleves. My personal favorite was nerd-ing out over Anne Boleyn’s music book and Book of Hours. There are several knowledgeable employees scattered around the castle to provide basic information for newcomers and niche information for longtime Tudor-obsessed fans such as myself.

There are plenty of places to eat while visiting the castle and gardens. The Moat Café offers an opportunity to sit down and enjoy a meal, offering a variety of sandwiches and cakes, plus hot and cold drinks. If you want to eat and meander around the gardens, several kiosks offer a variety of foods from barbecue to ice cream and macaroni and cheese (depending on the season). The deluxe hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows made walking the gardens in the cool air even more enjoyable.

If you are seeking a true English pub experience, the King Henry VIII pub is just a five-minute walk from the castle. The menu is small, but you cannot go wrong with your choices. My spouse and I enjoyed it so much that we went for lunch and dinner. Your admission ticket to Hever Castle and Gardens is good all day, so feel free to see the castle, grab a bite to eat at King Henry’s and then return to walk the gardens and grounds.

After lunch, we returned to the grounds where we walked around the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Military Museum.

It’s a small museum included with admission and worth checking out.

There is a large playground for children to enjoy onsite as well as the “space walk,” where model planets hang from the trees. I recommend doing the space walk at night for the best experience.

After spending all day at the castle and the surrounding area, it was time to call it a night. We initially booked a standard room but were surprised when upon our arrival, we were upgraded to a larger room. Each room is named after a historical figure. We opened the door which revealed an entryway with a table against the left wall featuring a folder with information about local things to do and restaurants. Further down was the entrance to the bedroom featuring a spacious area and a large bed to rest our tired bodies. The entry also leads to a bathroom with a giant shower and a bathtub to relax in. Thankfully, no royal ghosts haunted us as we slept that night.

There is plenty going on at Hever Castle no matter what time of year you visit. In the spring, enjoy the daffodils, craft fair, ECO week and Easter fun. During the summer, enjoy car shows, jousting events, falconry displays and more. The autumn brings fall color displays, a triathlon, craft fair, and Halloween events. During the winter, enjoy a castle light show and various hot chocolate vendors. Note that the castle is closed for most of January, so, plan accordingly. ■

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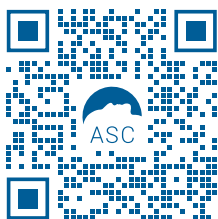


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EATING LUNCH AT MY

Backyard Castle

By Tamala Malerk



I should begin with the fact that the castle isn't really in my backyard, but it definitely feels like it. Just a short seven-minute drive from my home, a 30-minute drive from Ramstein and less than a 20-minute drive (or just under an hour on public transportation) from Baumholder is Burg Lichtenberg.

BURG LICHTENBERG is the largest castle in the Rheinland-Pfalz and one of the largest castle complexes in Germany. It is over 800 years old and offers plenty to do for the entire family.

The castle began as two separate complexes that expanded so much that they simply combined the structures. The castle has never been captured by enemy forces. Today, you benefit from its preservation. Climb up the winding medieval steps and look out onto the hills, which are covered in beautiful rapeseed in the summer. There are plenty of open areas to explore the stone ruins and plenty of photo ops. I even had my graduation photos taken there.

There are two museums onsite that make the castle a great place to visit even on a rainy day. The **Pfälzer Musikantenland-Museum** is a hands-on museum: featuring exhibits, instruments, mosaics and infographics about the musical scene in the area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The **Prehistoric Museum Geoscope** takes visitors back to the age of the dinosaurs in the Pfalz. The museum features rotating exhibits so you can see something new throughout the year. They also have adorable axolotls onsite.

After all that exploring and learning, you will work up an appetite. Fear not; there is a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, and the food there is delicious! We have gone to the castle simply to have lunch. I had the fried goat cheese with vegetables, and my spouse had the gnocchi and vegetables in white sauce. Both were amazing! When I say my spouse had the gnocchi, what I really mean is that I ordered the smaller goat cheese dish because I wasn't that hungry and then 'helped' eat a quarter of the gnocchi because it is just that tasty. The restaurant also features a daily cake special, and our berry cake was just as fantastic as everything else. Prepare to leave full.

The castle hosts various events throughout the year and it's worth your time to check them out. They hold seasonal markets. As well as semi-annual medieval markets. I attended last year's and there were tasty treats, animal exhibits and, of course, medieval wares vendors. It is also home to a medieval Christmas market in the wintertime. This is a great opportunity to warm up with gluhwein, shop for presents and buy a tiara for yourself (I plan on buying one this year.)

For those interested in an extended stay at the castle, there is a **youth hostel** on-site as well as camper van parking. The youth hostel is family-friendly, and they offer opportunities for family vacations and children's birthday parties. There is also a small coffee shop for a quick fuel up.

The museums and restaurant are open every day except Monday. I recommend calling ahead at +49-6381-9987236 and getting a reservation for the restaurant. The castle grounds are accessible 24/7. ■

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