

Press Release

Once Upon a Time

Southwest Germany's Most Magical Castles & Fortresses

STUTT GART - Magnificent halls, secret passages, dark dungeons, and beautiful gardens - whether it be Götz von Berlichingen's Hornberg Castle in Odenwald, the romantic Lichtenstein Castle in the Swabian Alb, or maybe the historic Meersburg Castle on Lake Constance, the castles and palaces of Baden-Württemberg evoke an atmosphere of bygone eras, where the magic of the past comes alive and fairytale moments unfold.

Celebrate Like a Knight: Hornberg Castle

Sitting above the scenic Neckar Valley, Hornberg Castle near Neckarzimmern is a picture-perfect example of a medieval noble fortress; with its impressive towers, fortified walls, and sweeping views of the Odenwald. Still home to the baronial Gemmingen-Hornberg family, the castle's most famous resident was the knight, Götz von Berlichingen, immortalised by Goethe in his celebrated drama. Visitors can admire Götz's original armour and even experience authentic medieval charm by enjoying a feast or spending the night within the ancient walls.

burg-hornberg.de; burgenstrasse.de/uk

Timeless Nostalgia: Heidelberg Castle

Baden-Württemberg's most famous castle began as a mighty fortress before being transformed into a magnificent Renaissance residence. Though heavily damaged during the War of the Palatinate Succession in the late 17th century, the castle's majestic ruins later captivated poets and painters of the Romantic era, turning Heidelberg into a place of yearning and inspiration. Today, the castle is one of the state's most popular attractions with entertaining costume and dialect tours that bring its rich history to life.

schloss-heidelberg.de/en

Where Historic Gardens & Horsepower Meet: Langenburg Castle

The end of the Middle Ages saw the decline of defensive castles and the rise of elegant noble palaces. And Langenburg Palace, still home today to the Hohenlohe-Langenburg family, was transformed into such a residence between 1610 and 1616. Each year, on the first weekend of September, Stately Garden Days invite flower lovers and garden enthusiasts to celebrate colourful displays, whilst car aficionados can explore classic vehicles and ground-breaking innovations in the German Automobile Museum in the former royal stables.

schloss-langenburg.de/en

Baroque Splendour: Ludwigsburg Palace

In the early 18th century, Duke Eberhard Ludwig commissioned a magnificent residence, inspired by the grandeur of Versailles, to be built just outside Stuttgart. Ludwigsburg Palace, which gives its name to the surrounding town, remains one of Europe's largest preserved Baroque palaces and offers visitors a glimpse into the opulent life of the historic royal court. In the enchanting Blooming Baroque, or 'Blühendes Barock', gardens, fairytales come to life: the Frog King, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, and many more transport visitors of all ages away to spectacular worlds.

schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en

A Landmark with a View: Hohenzollern Castle

Its striking silhouette and commanding position on the edge of the Swabian Alb makes Hohenzollern Castle a defining symbol of the region. The Hohenzollern family rebuilt the fortress on the site of their ancestral home from 1850 onwards, and it remains in their ownership to this day. Throughout the year, the castle welcomes visitors with captivating guided tours and atmospheric events – from open-air cinema nights to 'Royal Winter Magic', where sparkling lights, mulled wine, and waffles create a festive wonderland. In autumn, the castle's goats - its "landscape gardeners" that help preserve the castle's scenic grounds - parade to the delight of visitors.

burg-hohenzollern.com/en

Fairytale Setting: Hohenzollern Castle in Sigmaringen

Rising proudly above the Danube, the ancestral seat of the Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen family impresses with its towers, bay windows, and grand gates - a castle that seems lifted straight from the pages of a fairytale. Its charm has also captivated national and international film crews, who have chosen Germany's second-largest city palace as the setting for numerous historical and fantasy films. Young visitors can also experience the magic of history first-hand on special tours where, dressed as noble ladies and brave knights, they can explore the palace's halls and courtyards and bring centuries of legends and adventures to life.

hohenzollern-schloss.de

Straight Out of a Storybook: Lichtenstein Castle

Perched dramatically on a steep cliff, Lichtenstein Castle - with its round tower and drawbridge, is a breathtaking sight from afar. The castle's romantic appearance is owed to poet, Wilhelm Hauff, whose 1826 novel 'Lichtenstein' inspired the Count of Württemberg to purchase the rocky outcrop and, in 1840, built a new fortress inspired by the story. Today, visitors can step into the pages of literature and explore a castle that feels like it belongs in a fairytale. And for those seeking further excitement after their visit, the nearby adventure park offers eleven climbing courses promising lofty thrills and stunning views of the Swabian Alb.

schloss-lichtenstein.de/en

Medieval Castle Meets Youth Hostel: Wildenstein Castle

Wildenstein Castle dates back to the 13th century, but welcomes visitors today as the beautifully preserved early-modern fortress it was transformed into in the 16th century. The impressive murals adorning its dining hall - now part of the on-site youth hostel - also originate from the era, offering visitors a glimpse into the castle's rich past. Surrounded by deep moats, and accessed only by bridges, the castle's dramatic setting also adds to its timeless charm. Once an important lookout point for noble residents, the fortress now rewards visitors with sweeping views across the Danube Valley, inspiring countless excursions into the scenic landscape below.

burgwildenstein.de

Living History: Waldburg Castle

Waldburg Castle in the Ravensburg district not only boasts centuries of fascinating history but also offers sweeping views over Upper Swabia, Lake Constance, and the Alps. Inside, visitors will discover the ancestral seat of the Waldburg family is anything but a dusty museum. The digitally enhanced castle experience includes talking portraits of historic figures, an interactive app that guides visitors through the halls, and a photo room – complete with an Insta selfie point on the rooftop – perfect for capturing unforgettable moments. Throughout the year, special events and exhibitions bring heritage and innovation to life.

schlosswaldburg.de

Fortress on the Lake: Meersburg Castle

Behind the ancient walls of Meersburg Castle on Lake Constance lies more than a millennium of captivating history. According to legend, the Merovingian King, Dagobert I, laid the foundation stone for the fortress in the 7th century on a rock overlooking the lake. Over the centuries, kings, emperors, and bishops have lived and ruled from within its walls and, although often besieged, the castle was never conquered or destroyed - a rarity that allows visitors to experience history throughout the ages. An interactive children's quiz makes Meersburg Castle a destination for the whole family.

burg-meersburg.de/en

A digital version of this press release - as well as more detailed information on Southwest Germany - is available on our website <https://www.visit-bw.com/en/press>

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