HÖCHSTÄDT PALACE

I wish you a fascinating visit to Höchstädt Palace!

Dr. Markus Söder, MdL

Bayerischer Staatsminister der Finanzen, für Landesentwicklung und Heimat

Aerial photo of Höchstädt Palace

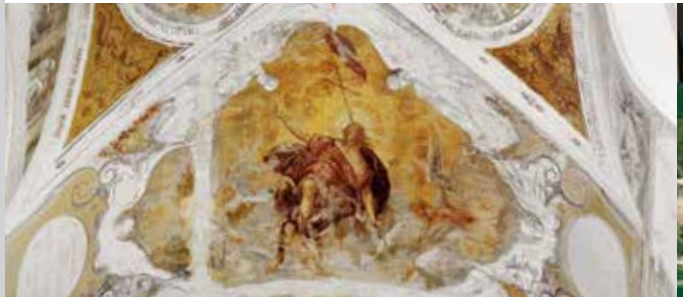
Höchstädt Palace

Höchstädt Palace is one of the outstanding monuments of the former Principality of the Palatinate-Neuburg. It was built following the marriage of Philipp Ludwig, Count Palatine of Neuburg, to Anna of Cleves (daughter of the Duke of Jülich-Cleves-Berg) in 1574. In the marriage settlement, the Count Palatine agreed to build an appropriate dowager's residence for his spouse. In 1589–1602, masons from the canton of Grisons in Switzerland erected the new building in late Renaissance style, based on designs by Lienhart Grieneisen and incorporating the Gothic tower of the earlier castle. Duchess Anna lived as a widow in Höchstädt from 1615 to 1632. Although her son Wolfgang Wilhelm enforced the Counter-Reformation in Neuburg for political reasons, she continued to hold fast to the Protestant faith in the Palace – as can still be seen from the fresco paintings in the vaulting of the Palace Chapel, which are among the finest artistic achievements of southern German Protestantism before the Counter-Reformation. After 1632, the Palace was only used for less important purposes, so that much of the original appearance of a late Renaissance princely residence has survived.

Museum of German Faience
Beyond the potter's wheel...

The Bavarian Palace Administration established the Museum of German Faience in Höchstädt Palace at the end of April 2010. Visitors can enjoy a unique museum that reveals the world of German faience in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The exhibition includes some 1000 exhibits in a space of nearly 900 square metres, providing a lively overview of the history and technique of faience.
There is information about the manufactories' production methods and the items they made, and the importance of faience for the dining style and domestic décor of the period is explained. Visitors can appreciate why faience was so widely used and valued at that time.
What is faience and how is it manufactured? Answers are available all round a replica kiln. Other faience items are presented in the settings in which they were originally used – for example, on a magnificently laid banquet table and in the display kitchen, with crockery and original cooking recipes. Children and adults can join in – there are entertaining and sensory elements and demonstrations that encourage careful inspection and experimentation.

Ceiling fresco in the Palace Chapel



Exhibition rooms in the Museum of German Faience

INFORMATION

SCHLOSS HÖCHSTÄDT

Herzogin-Anna-Str. 52 · 89420 Höchstädt
Tel. (0 90 74) 95 85-7 00 · Fax (0 90 74) 95 85-7 91
www.schloss-hoechstaedt.de

INFORMATION

Schlossverwaltung Neuburg
Residenzstr. 2 · 86633 Neuburg/ Donau
Tel. (0 84 31) 64 43-0 · Fax (0 84 31) 64 43-44
svneuburg@bsv.bayern.de

ÖFFNUNGSZEITEN

April–September: 9am–6pm
Closed on Mondays (except when public holidays)
October–March: closed

Guided Tours for groups on request

♿ Tours for wheelchair users are possible

On the ground floor of the Palace, the District of Swabia presents temporary exhibitions on the history and cultural history of Swabia. Other cultural events are held in the Palace Chapel and the Great Hall.

TRANSPORTATION

By rail (DB) to Höchstädt station, 15 minutes' walk
Car parking is available in the vicinity of the Palace

Bayerische Verwaltung der
staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen
Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München
Tel. (0 89) 1 79 08-0 · Fax (0 89) 1 79 08-1 90
info@bsv.bayern.de · www.schloesser.bayern.de

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The Battle of Blenheim, Huchtenburgh, after 1704

Duke of Marlborough (left); King Louis XIV (right)

The Battle of Blenheim, near Höchstädt, 1704

Höchstädt became famous due to a battle that changed the course of history in Germany and Europe. Within sight of the Palace, the Bavarian–French alliance was defeated by British and imperial armies led by the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy on 13 August 1704. The victory at Blenheim ('Blindheim' in German) was a turning-point in the War of the Spanish Succession – the first global conflict among the European powers. France was left on the defensive after the battle, and Britain's rise to become a world power began. The principle of the 'European balance of power' emerged and was to shape the policies of Europe's great powers thereafter. However, the outcome of the battle brought Bavaria a decade of oppression under Austrian occupation, and the Elector of Bavaria, Max Emanuel, went into exile.
The permanent exhibition provides a fascinating and powerful account of the battle and its political context. It describes the great powers' struggle for dominance in Europe around 1700, when for a moment Bavaria was on the verge of world power. Relics from the battlefield make clear the scale of the slaughter, in which 25 000 were killed or wounded. In addition to the events of the battle, the exhibition also focuses on the conventions of warfare in the eighteenth century, the importance of weapons technology, and the organization and supply of the armies. It also inquires into the fate of individual soldiers and of the local population in Swabia and Bavaria, who suffered greatly under the armies that were marching through and from the demands made by the occupying forces. Finally, the exhibition outlines the prospects for a system of peaceful coexistence in Europe, an idea that first emerged after these deadly military engagements and is only becoming a reality in our own times.
Höchstädt Palace and the exhibition provide an ideal starting-point for excursions to the battlefield. In the expanses of the Danube countryside, the scale of the events can be appreciated and the tactical movements of the troops can be clearly followed.

Model canon, c. 1720

Death on the battlefield (Detail)

Höchstädt Palace

Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung