The Residence of Ansbach originated as a medieval complex. The large Gothic Hall with its ribbed vault, in which the largest collection of faience and porcelain from the former Ansbach Manufactory is now on display, was built in the late 16th century. The medieval complex was redesign as a modern residence between 1705 and 1732. The Ansbach Residence is primarily famous for its outstanding interiors, most of which were designed by the architect Leopoldo Retti and completed between 1734 and 1745. It is no accident that the furnishings are so well preserved and stylistically consistent: in 1791 the last margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach abdicated and handed over his lands to the kingdom of Prussia. The palace was now no longer the seat of the ruler and there was seldom cause to modernize the state apartments. From the former margravial gallery is now on display, and above all the stucco work by Franz Joseph Roth from 1718 to 1720. Of the interior decoration and the ceiling fresco by Carlo Carlone in the Festival Hall, the art gallery with works of art from the rococo period and paintings from the former margravial gallery, and the collection of Meissen porcelain in the Mirror Cabinet. The Court Garden of Ansbach was already being written about at the beginning of the 16th century, when it featured in the famous herb book of Leonhart Fuchs. Between 1723 and 1760 the garden was extended to form a large Baroque garden, and towards the end of the eighteenth century it was redesigned in the landscape style. Following the severe damage that took place during the Second World War, it was possible to restore the original design in the central areas. The colourful variety of flowers in the beds and more than 150 tub plants – including lemon, olive, potted palms, and pomegranate trees – bring the style of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries back to life. The ‘Fuchs Garden’, which is open to visitors, features herbs and medicinal plants, and the tub plants are kept in the adjoining Orangerie during winter.

Residence and Court Garden of the margraves of Ansbach

Ellingen

Ellingen Residence and Park

Ellingen belonged to the Teutonic Order from 1216 onwards and was the Residence of the Teutonic Commander of the Balicken of Franconia. This was the most powerful building in the Teutonic Order, and the small town of Ellingen thus represented the centre of a far-reaching territorial and economic power. The site of today’s palace was previously occupied by various medieval buildings, as well as a highly prestigious Renaissance building. Starting in 1708, the present palace grounds were built and the late Gothic church was converted to the Baroque style. The vast main building was built by the architect Franz Keller from 1718 to 1720. Of the interior decoration, the ceiling fresco, wall paneling, floors and above all the stucco work by Franz Joseph Roth have survived. The colonnade in the inner courtyard is part of the conversion work carried out by French architect Michel d’Haran and was erected around 1775. In 1789, the seat of the Balicken of Franconia was moved to Bad Mergenheim. This effectively closed the history of Ellingen Palace as the Residence of the Teutonic Order. A few years later, the Order was almost completely dissolved and ownership of Ellingen passed to the Kingdom of Bavaria. In 1815, King Max I Joseph presented the palace to his outstanding field marshal, Carl Philipp, Prince of Wrede, who had several rooms of rooms newly decorated with enormously expensive silk and paper wallpapers, furniture, glass and bronzes from Paris. Together with the stucco work and furniture by Michel d’Haran, these rooms are now among the most important interior design works dating from the Classicist period in Bavaria. The Palace Park – well worth visiting – follows immediately behind the Residence. Probably dating from the same period as the new Palace building, it was initially laid out in the Baroque style. It only during the second half of the nineteenth century that the Park was converted into a landscaped garden and planted with rare tree species that were typical of the Baroque style. Every spring, hundreds of thousands of Siberian scillas create a magnificent sea of blue flowers on the lawn areas under these old trees.

Margerian’s Audience Room with silk wall covering

Ellingen Residence

The main floor of the Ansbach Residence consists of three suites of rooms which were used separately for official ceremonies: the Margerian’s Apartment, the Margerian’s Apartment and the Guest Apartment. Particular highlights of the palace are the ceiling fresco by Carlo Carlone in the Festival Hall, the art gallery with works of art from the rococo period and paintings from the former margravial gallery, and the collection of Meissen porcelain in the Mirror Cabinet. The Court Garden of Ansbach was already being written about at the beginning of the 16th century, when it featured in the famous herb book of Leonhart Fuchs. Between 1723 and 1760 the garden was extended to form a large Baroque garden, and towards the end of the eighteenth century it was redesigned in the landscape style. Following the severe damage that took place during the Second World War, it was possible to restore the original design in the central areas. The colourful variety of flowers in the beds and more than 150 tub plants – including lemon, olive, potted palms, and pomegranate trees – bring the style of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries back to life. The ‘Fuchs Garden’, which is open to visitors, features herbs and medicinal plants, and the tub plants are kept in the adjoining Orangerie during winter.

Festival Hall; Ruby glass vase, c. 1840 (centre) Blue scillas in the Palace Park
WILLIBALD CASTLE AND BASTION GARDEN

JURA-MUSEUM
MUSEUM OF PRE- AND EARLY HISTORY
Burgstraße 19 · 85072 Eichstätt
Tel. +49 8421 4730

OPENING TIMES OF THE CASTLE
April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm
Closed Mondays (except for public holidays)

Also in the castle are the Jura-Museum (www.jura-museum.de, Tel. +49 8421 2956) and the Museum of Pre- and Early History (www.histver.de, Tel. +49 8421 89450)

Most of the Jura-Museum is accessible for wheelchairs; access to the Bastion Garden is problematic because of the steeply sloping terrain

OPENING TIMES OF THE BASTION GARDEN
Mid-April to mid-October: 9am – 6pm
Closed Mondays (except for public holidays)

REFRESHMENTS
Restaurant/café/beer garden Burgschänke
Tel. +49 8421 9364300

ELLINGEN RESIDENCE AND PARK
Schlossstraße 9 · 91792 Ellingen
Tel. +49 9141 97479 - 0

OPENING TIMES OF THE RESIDENCE
April – September: 9am – 6pm
October – March: 10am – 4pm
Closed Mondays (except for public holidays)
The palace can only be visited by participating in a guided tour. Tours take place every hour until 5pm in the summer and until 3pm in the winter. Guided tours can also be arranged outside of opening hours on request. The west wing houses permanent and special exhibitions of the East Prussian Cultural Centre. www.kulturzentrum-ostpreussen.de, Tel. +49 9141 8644 - 0
Lift available, please ask at the cash desk;
Disabled toilet available

OPENING TIMES OF THE PARK
Unlimited access all year round

TRANSPORTATION
DB to Ellingen, 15-minutes’ walk to the Residence

Bed with small pomegranate trees

WILLIBALD CASTLE AND BASTION GARDEN

Willibald Castle (left); Bastion Garden with fountain

The first castle buildings on Willibaldsberg were erected by the bishops of Eichstätt in 1335. Conversion to a prestigious residence under Prince-Bishop Johann Conrad von Gemmingen (reigned 1595 – 1612) was carried out by the Augsburg architect Elias Holl. The episcopal court moved to the new city residence in the mid-18th century, and Willibald Castle was partly levelled during the 19th century. The Gemmingen Building dominates its appearance today. The massive two-storeyed façade originally had three storeys and onion domes on the towers.

The ‘Bastion Garden’ was opened in 1998 – based on the Hortus Eystettensis, a book of copperplate engravings published in 1613 by the apothecary and botanist Basilius Besler (1561 – 1629), the garden provides information about the flora included in the historical ‘Hortus Eystettensis’ that was laid out by Besler starting in 1592. The original collection of plants was brought together towards the end of the sixteenth century during von Gemmingen’s reign as Prince-Bishop in Eichstätt. The collection formed a kind of ‘open-air cabinet of the arts’, featuring living plants from all over the world. In addition to more familiar plants from Europe and the Mediterranean area, the Prince-Bishop of Eichstätt also owned several rarities from America, which had only been discovered a century before, such as the sunflower, tomato, arbor vitae, agave, and potato – plants whose origins hardly anyone today is now aware of. And although the historic garden had already ceased to exist by the end of the eighteenth century, information about its flora was preserved in the famous florilegium known as the Hortus Eystettensis. Today, the Bastion Garden includes around half of the more than 1000 plants that are illustrated in the book’s engravings. As in the book, the arrangement of the planting in the narrow display beds is based on the flowering seasons of the plants shown – with spring plants in the first bed and winter-flowering ones in the last.