Johannisburg Palace and Palace Gardens

Johannisburg Palace, until 1803 the second residence of the Mainz electoral archbishops, is located in the centre of Aschaffenburg by the River Main. The massive four-winged complex, built from 1605 to 1614 by the Strasbourg architect Georg Ridinger in place of the medieval castle but incorporating the 14th century keep, is one of the most important examples of German palace architecture from the Renaissance era. At the end of the 18th century, the interior was redesigned as a landscape garden in the 1780s by Friedrich von Herigoyen. The visitor centre is on the ground floor.

Palace Museum belonging to the town of Aschaffenburg, with impressive works of art ranging from medieval sculptures and valuable furniture and ceramics to paintings by Christian Schaad. The visitor centre is on the ground floor.

Bedroom in the Princely Apartments

Altar of the palace church

View from Johannisburg Palace

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Aschaffenburg

Johannisburg Palace

Pompeianum

In the palace garden on the high bank of the River Main is the Pompeianum. Inspired by the excavations in Pompeii, King Ludwig I of Bavaria commissioned the architect Friedrich von Gärtner to build an idealized Roman villa, which was completed from 1840 to 1848—not for himself but as a place where art lovers could make a study of ancient culture in their own country.

The Pompeianum was restored in several stages, beginning in 1960. Since 1994, original Roman works of art from the State Antiquities Collections and the Glyptothek in Munich are now also on display here. Among the most valuable exhibits in addition to the Roman marble sculptures, small bronzes and glass bottles, are two marble thrones of gods. In addition, there is a different special exhibition every year on an archaeological topic.

The Pompeianum is surrounded by a small garden which was also only laid out in the mid-19th century. It was to be an 'ideal Mediterranean landscape', and still has a flavour of the warmer climes of southern Europe with its fig, araucaria and almond trees, as well as vines, Lombardy poplars and pines.

Pompeianum with Johannisburg Palace

Kitchen with original amphoras

Schönbusch Palace

Schönbusch Palace and Park

Schönbusch Park originated as a deer park southwest of Aschaffenburg, the second residence of the elector-archbishop of Mainz. Begun in 1775 and based on the ideas of Wilhelm von Sickingen, minister to Elector-Archbishop Friedrich Carl von Erthal, it became one of the first gardens in southern Germany in the new English landscape style. The various buildings were designed by the court architect Emanuel Joseph von Herigoyen. In 1785 the Schwetzingen court gardener Friedrich Ludwig von Schell, the most important garden designer of the Goethe era, was appointed to complete the landscape garden. Scattered throughout the park in scenic settings are various architectural features: the Red Bridge, the Philosopher's House, the Temple of Friendship, shepherd's houses and a tiny village, a dining hall and a maintenance building as well as artificial 'hills' with a viewing tower and the Devil's Bridge.

The neoclassical garden palace, built from 1778 to 1782 from plans by the architect Emanuel Joseph von Herigoyen, is aligned with and visible from Johannisburg Palace. Its ten state rooms with furniture in Louis-Seize style and the reconstructed colour-ed wall coverings printed using a complicated technique serve to illustrate the princely life style at the end of the 18th century. In the kitchen building of the park is a visitor centre, open at weekends and on public holidays from April to September. It contains an exhibition on the fascinating history of this important landscape garden. Next to this building is a small garden with attractively planted flowerbeds.

The maze

The hall in the palace (left); The dining hall in the park (right)