



*I wish you a
fascinating visit to
Burghausen Castle!*

Dr. Markus Söder, MdL

*Bavarian Minister of State of Finance,
Regional Development and Regional Identity*



Second outer courtyard

Burghausen Castle

Burghausen Castle with a total length of a little over 1,000 metres is one of the longest castle complexes in Europe. It is picturesquely situated along a rocky spur between the Salzach river and Wöhrsee above the town of Burghausen. With its mighty towers and walls, ditches, bridges and gates enclosing many substantial buildings, it is still today an impressive monument to the art of castle building in the Middle Ages, and a demonstration of the power and importance of the Bavarian Dukes. In 1180 the castle passed into the ownership of the Dukes of Wittelsbach. For a quarter of a millennium – from 1255 to 1503 – it was the second residence of the Dukes of Lower Bavaria, their main residence being in Landshut. It served as a court for the Dukes' consorts, a home for ducal widows, a grand gaol and as a stronghold for gold and silver treasures. In 1255, under Duke Heinrich XIII, work commenced on the buildings in the main part of the castle. During the 14th century the fortifications were extended right around castle hill. From 1479 onwards Duke Georg the Rich set about turning the castle into the strongest fortress in the region.

The castle complex between Wöhrsee (l.) and the Salzach (r.)



The castle and its courtyards

The extended castle complex comprises a main part, with inner courtyard, plus five outer courtyards. Each of these sections fulfilled an important function and constituted a separate line of defence, with its own gatehouse, ditch and bridge. The first outer courtyard, closest to the main part of the castle, was important in protecting and supplying the innermost areas. Still existing here today is a once highly secure entranceway leading up from the town. The brewery and bakery (now the castle café) is the only historic building to survive in this courtyard. The second outer courtyard, housing the mighty arsenal and the master gunsmith's tower, was the castle's armoury. It is the best preserved of all the courtyards. The courtyard is dominated by the monumental Georg's Gate, built in 1494. The third outer courtyard with a former building and Grain Keeper's Tower was once used for stabling and as a store for animal feed. In the fourth outer courtyard is a jewel of late Gothic architecture, the outer castle chapel, also known as Hedwig's Chapel, erected under Georg the Rich between 1479 and 1489. Living and working space for the court officials and craftsmen was located in the defensive towers in the ring walls around the fifth outer courtyard.

Hedwig's Chapel (l.); 'Duke Georg the Rich' (centre), Georg's Gate (r.)



BURGHAUSEN CASTLE

Burg Nr. 48 · 84489 Burghausen
Tel. +49 (0)8677 4659
Fax +49 (0)8677 65674
www.burg-burghausen.de

INFORMATION

Burgverwaltung Landshut
Burg Trausnitz 168
84036 Landshut
Tel. +49 (0)871 92411-0
Fax +49 (0)871 92411-40
burgverwaltung.landshut@bsv.bayern.de
www.burg-trausnitz.de

OPENING TIMES

April–September: 9am–6pm
October–March: 10am–4pm
Closed on: 1.1., Shrove Tuesday, 24.12., 25.12., 31.12.

♿ Rooms only accessible via staircase; castle court in the main accessible; access from the town via steep ways and steps

OTHER MUSEUMS

Historical Town Museum
Tel. +49 (0)8677 65198
Fax +49 (0)8677 878828
www.burghausen.de


House of Photography – Dr. Robert-Gerlich-Museum
Tel. +49 (0)8677 4734
www.burghausen.de

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Train to Burghausen · Bus to the castle complex
Car parking is available at the castle

REFRESHMENTS

Burgcafé
Tel. +49 (0)8677 877-340
www.burgcafe-burghausen.de

 Bayerische Verwaltung der
staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen
Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München
Tel. +49 (0)89 17908-0
Fax +49 (0)89 17908-190
info@bsv.bayern.de
www.schloesser.bayern.de

*Holy Knight,
Master of the Blutenburg Apostles*





Lansquenet Tapestry (l.); 'Dürnitz' (r.)



View of the castle from the Palas viewing platform

The main castle

The accommodation for the ducal court towers over the inner courtyard at the south end of castle hill. The earliest parts here date back to the days of Duke Heinrich XIII. Much extension work was done under the Rich Dukes of Bavaria-Landshut, particularly after 1479 under Georg the Rich. His consort, Hedwig, daughter of the Polish king and the bride in the famous Landshut Wedding, resided here. At the outermost point is the 'Palas', or Princes' Building, containing the Duke's private accommodation. On the side of the courtyard facing the Wöhr is the Bower which once housed the apartments of the Duchess and her court. Today this is occupied by the Municipal Museum of Burghausen. On the town side is the 'Dürnitz' building, or Knights' Hall, with its two impressive vaulted halls, formerly the wine cellar and the dining room for the ducal court. The hall on the ground floor is now a visitors' centre, with a display of archaeological excavations. The gatehouse, fortified wall and keep form the bulwark to the first outer courtyard. From the fortifications there is an impressive view around the surrounding countryside. Access to the outer fortifications on the Eggenberg is also via these walls.

The Duke's small room in the 'Palas'

Castle Museum in the 'Palas' with ducal apartments and State Gallery of Burghausen

On the main floor of the 'Palas' visitors can view the mediaeval apartments of the Lower Bavarian Dukes. The rooms with their mighty beamed ceilings are appointed in the style of a prince's apartment at the beginning of the 16th century, with typical furniture, tapestries, paintings, sculptures and weapons on display. The castle chapel, dedicated to St Elisabeth and a donation of Heinrich XIII, was fitted with a Late Gothic vaulted ceiling under Georg the Rich.

The State Gallery on the second and third floor is a branch of the Bavarian State Collection of Paintings. Displayed here are Late Gothic paintings of the 15th and 16th centuries, from the region of southern Germany, in particular Bavaria and neighbouring Austria. Six monumental paintings from a cycle on the history of the Bavarian Dukes, painted by Hans Werl after 1600 for the Old Hercules Hall in the Munich Residence are one of the attractions of the castle. A selection of late mediaeval sculptures rounds off the exhibition.

The viewing platform on the roof offers a unique panorama of the entire castle complex and the surrounding countryside.

Chapel (l.); painting of the State Gallery (centre); inner courtyard (r.)



Burghausen Castle

