



I wish you a fascinating visit to the Kelheim Hall of Liberation and Prunn Castle!

Albert Füracker, MdL

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



View of the Kelheim Hall of Liberation above the Danube

Kelheim Hall of Liberation

The impressive rotunda of the Hall of Liberation, situated on the Michelsberg in Kelheim, southwest of Regensburg, dominates the surrounding countryside. King Ludwig I commissioned the construction of this monument to commemorate both the victorious battles against Napoleon during the Wars of Liberation 1813–1815 and the unification of all the German races. The Hall of Liberation is one of a series of monuments – the Feldherrnhalle (Hall of Generals), the Siegestor (Gate of Victory) and the Ruhmeshalle (Hall of Fame) with the Statue of Bavaria in Munich as well as the Walhalla in Regensburg – which were built for the glorification of Bavaria and the German nation. The architect first chosen to design the Hall of Liberation was Friedrich von Gärtner, who began work on it in 1842, modelling it on centrally planned buildings from ancient Rome and medieval Italy. In 1847, after only the foundation walls and two of the large steps at the base had been completed, building came to a temporary halt with the sudden death of Gärtner. He was succeeded by Leo von Klenze, King Ludwig I's favourite architect and one of the most important German neoclassical archi-

View of the dome with the glass lantern



itects in Germany, whose works (Alte Pinakothek, Ludwigstraße) dominated Munich in the 19th century. Klenze redesigned the Hall of Liberation in a style that reflects both the elegant proportions of ancient temples and the fortified characteristics of medieval towers or temples of the Holy Grail. The inauguration ceremony took place on 18 October 1863, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Nations near Leipzig. The Hall of Liberation is built in the shape of an eighteen-sided polygon. The massive supporting buttresses of the façade are crowned by eighteen monumental statues – allegories of the German tribes. The 5.80 m statues were designed by the sculptor Johann Halbig and are made of Danube limestone. The number eighteen also stands for the date of the Battle of the Nations, 18 October 1813, when Napoleon's forces were crushed by the coalition near Leipzig. The interior is dominated by 34 Goddesses of Victory made of white marble, mounted with linked hands on an encircling base. The statues were designed by Ludwig Schwanthaler and symbolise the thirty-four German states of the German Confederation (Deutscher Bund), which was founded in 1815. The coffered ceiling of the 45-metre-high domed hall and the divisions created by the alcoves, arcades and galleries give the room extra-ordinary acoustics, which combine with the architecture and the light, festive colours of the interior to create an appropriately ceremonious atmosphere.

View inside the hall with the Goddesses of Victory



INFORMATION

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KELHEIM HALL OF LIBERATION

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm (open daily)
November–March: 9am–4pm (open daily)

Multimedia-Guide available in German and English (with costs)

♿ Accessible via lift

REFRESHMENTS

Café-Bistro zur Befreiungshalle
Tel. +49 9441 6609485

TRANSPORTATION

Train (DB) to Saal;
Ludwigsbahn: www.ludwigsbahn-kelheim.de;
Car park and bus facilities available (with costs)

PRUNN CASTLE

93339 Riedenburg
Tel. +49 9442 3323
www.burg-prunn.de

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm (open daily)
November–March: 10am–4pm (closed Mondays)

The castle can only be visited by participating in a guided tour

♿ Rooms only accessible via staircase

TRANSPORTATION

Train (DB) to Saal; Bus to Nußhausen or Prunn, 20 minutes' walk;
Car park



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Foto: Konrad Reimer

View of Prunn Castle from the River Altmühl

Prunn Castle

Prunn Castle, perched on an almost vertical crag high above the River Altmühl in the Jura southwest of Regensburg, is a picture-book knight's castle. First mentioned in a document in 1037, by the mid-12th century it had become a romanesque stronghold. One of the oldest elements of the castle is the keep, which has a height of 31 metres. The castle first came into the possession of the Wittelsbach family when it was bought by Duke Ludwig of Bavaria in 1288. In 1338, however, Prunn Castle changed ownership again and passed to the Fraunberg knights of Haag. Their coat of arms, a white horse on a red background, is still visible from a considerable distance on the castle wall. Under the Fraunberg knights in the 14th century – the late gothic era – the castle became a cultural centre devoted to minnesong and Middle High German poetry. Evidence of these activities is provided by fragments of frescoes in the former guardroom (Herrschaftszimmer)

Getting the feel of the Middle Ages



The former guardroom with numerous frescoes

and the discovery of a manuscript of the Nibelungenlied, the so-called 'Prunner Codex'. The 'Prunner Codex' was discovered by Wiguläus Hund, humanist and historiographer of Duke Albrecht V, and placed in the duke's library in Munich in 1575. Today this valuable manuscript is kept in the Bavarian State Library in Munich. In 1672, after several more changes of ownership, the castle was acquired by the Jesuits of Ingolstadt. Their most important legacy is the palace chapel, which they remodelled in the baroque style in around 1700. In 1822, when Prunn ceased to exist as an administrative entity, the castle finally returned to the Wittelsbachs. In 1827 King Ludwig I ordered it to be preserved as a historic monument, just in time to prevent it from falling into ruin. The exhibition tour, which was redesigned in 2012, links the history of the castle and its inhabitants with the various facets of the Nibelungenlied. It provides visitors with fascinating information about topics such as hunting, clothing, law, tournaments and festivities – both in the life of the lords of the castle and in the Nibelungenlied.

'Prunner Codex' (l.); Frescoes in the former guardroom (r.)



Bavarian State Library, Munich, Cgm 31

Kelheim Hall of Liberation Riedenburg Prunn Castle

