Würzburg Residence and Court Garden

The former residence of the Würzburg prince-bishops is one of the most important baroque palaces in Europe and today it is on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list. Originally designed for Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp Franz von Schönborn by the then young and unknown architect Balthasar Neumann, it took sixty years to complete; the shell of the palace was built from 1720 to 1744 and the interior finished in 1780. Neumann's world-famous staircase, roofed by an unsupported vault, was decorated in 1752/53 by the Venetian Giovanni Battista Tiepolo with a ceiling fresco depicting the four continents. The painting, measuring 18 x 30 metres, is one of the largest frescos ever created. The magnificent sequence of rooms extending via the staircase and White Hall to the Imperial Apartments begins with the Vestibule and Garden Hall and continues via the Mirror Cabinet. There is a total of over 40 palace rooms to visit, with a rich array of furniture, tapestries, paintings and other 18th-century treasures, as well as suites of furniture from the Tuscany period.

The Court Chapel, accessible through the inner courtyard, is one of the finest examples of religious art in Würzburg. A walk in the Court Gardens is a delight for both nature- and art-lovers. The water basin encircled by yew trees clipped into the shape of cones forms the present centre of the South Garden. In front of the magnificent east façade is a terraced garden decorated with groups of putti by Johann Peter Wagner. The vaulting of these rooms even withstood the devastating fire of 1945, while the ceilings and floors of the Imperial Apartments flanking the Imperial Hall were destroyed. The furnishings and wall panelling had been removed beforehand, enabling the rooms to be reconstructed. Restoration was completed in 1987 with the reopening of the Mirror Cabinet. There is a total of over 40 palace rooms to visit, with a rich array of furniture, tapestries, paintings and other 18th-century treasures, as well as suites of furniture from the Tuscany period.

The Marienkirche (St Mary's Church) built in the year 1000, the 40-meter high keep and the Renaissance well house with a cistern over 100 meter deep are impressive monuments to an over 1000-year history. In the Arsenal and the Princes' Building, the Museum für Franken (Franconian Museum) shows an outstanding collection of art treasures.

The rooms are only accessible via stairs and the lift available

Guided tours of the residence:
- April–October: every 20 minutes, last tour at 5pm
- Tours in English daily at 11am, 1:30pm, 3pm and 4pm
- November–March: every half an hour, last tour at 3.30pm
- Tours in English at 11am and 3pm

Duration: 45–50 min. The Southern Imperial Apartments (with Mirror Cabinet) can only be visited within a guided tour.

Guided tours of the fortress:
- April–October: 30 minutes before closing time
- Last admission:
  - November–March: 10am – 4.30pm
  - April–October: 9am – 6pm

Opening times of the residence:
- February: 11am – 4.30pm
- March: 10am – 5pm
- April–October: 9am – 6pm
- November: 10am – 4.30pm

Opening times of the fortress:
- April–October: the rooms are only accessible via stairs

Renaissance well house with a cistern over 100 meter deep are impressive monuments to an over 1000-year history. In the Arsenal and the Princes' Building, the Museum für Franken (Franconian Museum) shows an outstanding collection of art treasures.

It was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions. After it was stormed by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Schönborn had it surrounded with massive bastions.
On the ground floor is a permanent exhibition on the history of the Court Garden. The transformation of the grounds surrounding the palace into an ornamental pleasure garden was begun by Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp von Greiffenclau in 1702 with the laying out of terraces and lakes. Adam Friedrich von Seinsheim, who ruled from 1755 to 1779, indulged his special interest in gardens and redesigned it in its present rococo style.

The garden complex, measuring 270 × 475 metres, is populated by over 200 sculptures by the Würzburg court sculptors Johann Wolfgang van der Auwera, Ferdinand Tietz and Johann Peter Wagner. Based on a cosmological programme, they include animals, representations of court society and personifications of the gods and the arts, assigned to the three sections of the garden – maze, pergolas and lakes.

Veitshöchheim Palace and Court Garden

Only 8 km down the River Main from Würzburg, set in one of the most important Rococo gardens in Germany, is Veitshöchheim Palace, which until 1802 was the summer residence of the Würzburg prince-bishops. The summer residence was built on the site of a hunting lodge under Prince-Bishop Peter Philipp von Dembich from 1680 to 1682 and was enlarged from 1749 to 1753 by Balthasar Neumann, who also redesigned the roof. The ceiling stuccowork by Antonio Bossi also dates from this time, and the staircase sculptures were completed by Johann Peter Wagner in 1780. From 2001 to 2005 the entire palace was renovated. In addition to the prince-bishop’s apartments, the rooms furnished in around 1810 for the Grand Duke Ferdinand of Tuscany are particularly worth seeing.