



Heidelberg Castle

TRULY ROMANTIC:
THE WORLD-FAMOUS RUINS



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.



Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and
Gardens



  The castle courtyard is worth a visit any time of year

The epitome of German Romanticism

Embedded in a picturesque landscape, the ruins of Heidelberg Castle are atmospheric and awe-inspiring in every season. The terraces offer visitors breathtaking views of the city on the Neckar.

The castle's significance as the residence of the European nobility is still palpable today in its powerful remains. It is no wonder, then, that these ruins became a symbol for war and the impermanence for the *German Romantics* in the 19th century. The castle and fortress are very clearly merged here: Casemates and tremendous towers bespeak the residence's fortified nature. The interior courtyard is framed by the facades of impressive castle structures. These are decorated with unique statues and are a Renaissance treasure.

The *Ottheinrich Building*, with its splendid decorative figures, is one of the earliest and most significant Renaissance structures north of the Alps. The facade of the *Friedrich Building*, on the other hand, draws the visitor's eye with its ancestral portrait gallery of the Electoral Palatinate, while its interior hides historic furnishings.

The impressive terraces of the Hortus Palatinus, which were among the most famous Renaissance gardens in the world in their day, are as deserving of a visit as the Heidelberg Tun and the German Apothecary Museum.

Each year, Heidelberg Castle (Schloss Heidelberg) attracts around one million visitors from all over the world. Since the early 19th century, these impressive ruins have been synonymous with Romanticism.

It would be hard to imagine a more striking location: Set against the deep green forests on the north side of Königstuhl hill, the red sandstone ruins tower majestically over the Neckar Valley. From its lofty position, the castle's silhouette dominates Heidelberg's historic town center.

The rich and eventful history of Heidelberg Castle began when the counts palatine of the Rhine – later prince electors – established their residence at Heidelberg. First mentioned in 1225, this was destined to become one of the grandest castles of the Renaissance.

Architectural masterpieces of the Renaissance

Until the Thirty Years' War, Heidelberg Castle boasted one of the most notable collection of buildings in the Holy Roman Empire. In brisk

A highlight of German Renaissance architecture:
Ottheinrichsbau



A grand 19th century expansion: Friedrichsbau with plasterwork ceilings as well as wooden and sandstone portals and archways

succession, the prince electors commissioned a series of imposing buildings: Hall of Glass, Ottheinrich Hall, Friedrich Hall and English Hall. Each one is a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture. Their magnificent façades create a resplendent frame for the courtyard.

The ravages of war and the forces of nature

In the late 17th century, the castle was repeatedly attacked and ultimately destroyed by the French in the Nine Years' War. Today, the "castle illumination" stages a magnificent fireworks show several times a year highlighting the previous destruction. In 1764, after some provisional repairs, the battered castle was heavily damaged again: this time by the forces of nature in the form of two devastating lightning strikes. The once majestic residence was almost completely burned out, and became a ruins.

The ancestors of the palatine prince electors look down proudly from the façade of Friedrichsbau





The castle buildings are adorned with sculptures: featured here, a statue of the Palatine Prince Elector Friedrich IV.

The castle and garden-myths and legends

In the 19th century, the castle ruins became the *paragon of the Romantic mood* and were promoted to National Monument during Historicism. The imposing edifice and famous garden, the *Hortus Palatinus*, became shrouded in myth. The garden, the last work commissioned by the prince electors, was never completed. Some remaining landscaped terraces and other vestiges hint at the awe-inspiring scale of this ambitious project. In the 17th century, it was praised as the “*eighth wonder of the world*”. Time may have taken its toll, but Heidelberg Castle’s fame lives on to this day.

Also known as the “Broken Tower”, the Powder Tower was once used to store gunpowder



Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Castle Open all year round;
The interior rooms can only be viewed on a guided tour

Castle garden Open free of charge all year round during the day;
Tours with or without a guide

Apothecary Museum Open all year round;
Tours with or without a guide

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74 - 27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

Current information



At a glance

For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see:
www.schloss-heidelberg.de/en/visitor-information

Contact and information

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Make your visit a truly special one

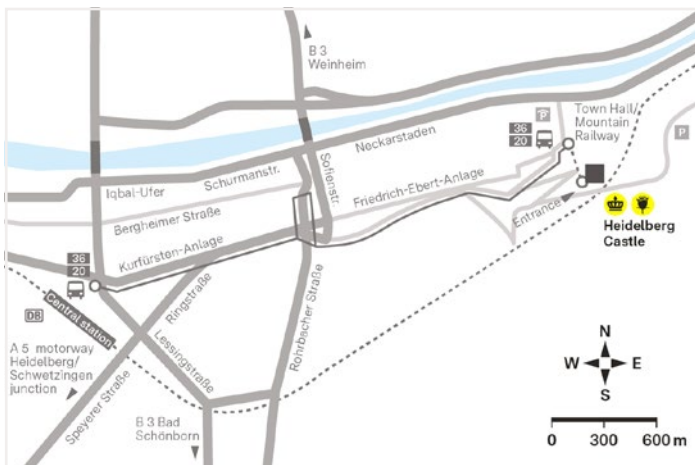


Monument BW
Download the app, select a monument and download the tour of your choice.



Monuments 3D
Download the app, explore the monument and join us on a virtual journey.

How to find us



By public transport: From Heidelberg central station, take bus line 33 or 20 to the Bergbahn stop. Take the Bergbahn (mountain railway) to Schloss station.



Information about all our monuments

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ticket sales)
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Image credit/LMZ: cover photo, 1 Günther Bayer, 2, 3, 6 Niels Schubert*, 4, 7 Achim Memde, 5 Mike Niederauer // *The persons shown have been enhanced or modified by AI in some cases. // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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