



PRESS RELEASE



Hohenwerfen Fortress

A monumental fortification and the high art of falconry

Hohenwerfen Fortress has towered majestically atop a steep elevation high above the Salzach Valley for over 900 years: many tried to gain access but only few succeeded. Today visitors can take the fortress by storm. The mighty defense system not only offers a spectacular panoramic view of the mountains but also an exciting tour of a medieval fortification and an impressive demonstration of free-flying birds of prey by the historic State Falconry Center. An lofty experience for the whole family.

Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein commissioned Hohenwerfen Fortress to be built simultaneously with Hohensalzburg Fortress and Friesach Castle in Carinthia. All three fortresses were built to protect the Salzburg archbishopric during the Investiture Controversy. Hohenwerfen was attacked and besieged during the Peasant Wars. Today, the fortress built in 1077 is one of the best-preserved buildings from the late Middle Ages.

Greetings from the Middle Ages: sharp weapons and dark corners

A personal tour of the fortress with a knowledgeable guide includes a visit to the fortress chapel and the pitch kitchen, where the hot tar used to drive back aggressors was stirred. The Arsenal accommodates firefighting equipment from the 18th and 19th centuries, the Armory a collection of armor, lances, firearms and canons. After passing through the battlements with a view of the courtyard visitors climb up to the belfry boasting an impressive bell that still rings today on important religious holidays: it was manufactured in 1568 and weighs over 4,400 kilograms. The tour ends in the a state room. An audio-guide in eight languages is available for non-German-speaking visitors.

Activities for the entire family at Hohenwerfen Fortress

Hohenwerfen served as a seat for the archbishops during hunting season, evidenced by the falconry still practiced today. Impressive demonstration flights with free-flying eagles, hawks, vultures, red kites and buzzards are shown several times a day. The fortress houses a Falconry Museum with a Birds of Prey Nature Trail, where photos of the raptors can be studied close-up. Weekend celebrations, fairy-tale walks, nighttime tours, special falconry programs and an Advent market are held throughout the year. The fortress tavern can be rented for medieval events. Hohenwerfen Fortress is only a 30-minute drive from the city of Salzburg on the freeway. It takes approximately thirty minutes to walk to the castle from the parking lot or you can use the elevator.

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**Open daily (except Mon.) April - Oct. 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
May, Jun, Sept: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, July, Aug.: 9 – 6 PM**