



# PRESS RELEASE

## Hohenwerfen Fortress takes visitors back in time to the Middle Ages *New 2017: A special exhibition about Leonardo da Vinci*

Hohenwerfen Fortress towers majestically atop a 100-m elevation high above the Salzach Valley: It served as a defensive fortification and prison over the centuries. As one of the best preserved buildings of the late Middle Ages, it offers fascinating insights into architectural history and life in the fortress. For children there is a fun treasure hunt and an audio guide in six languages. The spectacular demonstrations with local raptors by falconers of the historical state falconry several times a day are among the visitor highlights. All year round at the fortress special tours medieval events and weddings take place.

### Special 2017: The mysterious world of a genius

In 2017, Hohenwerfen Fortress has come up with a special exhibition about Leonardo da Vinci. It takes visitors on a journey through life and times of the Italian genius artist and scientist. More than 30 models and holograms will demonstrate da Vinci's pathbreaking ideas.

### The history of Hohenwerfen Fortress

Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein commissioned Hohenwerfen Fortress to be built simultaneously with Hohensalzburg Fortress and Friesach Castle in Carinthia in 1077. All three fortresses were built to protect the Salzburg archbishopric during the Investiture Controversy. Great rulers and provincial lords were prisoners at the fortress.

### Guided tour of the castle, exhibition of weapons and lots of fun for children

A guided tour of the fortress includes a visit to the fortress chapel and the pitch kitchen, the torture chamber, the dungeon and the large arsenal. After passing through the battlements with a view of the courtyard visitors climb up to the belfry boasting an impressive bell weighing more than 4,400 kilograms that still rings today on important religious holidays. The tour ends in the adapted state rooms. The tour is available by audio guide in eleven languages for non-German-speaking visitors. Children can opt for a new drama tour by audio guide featuring the two mascots, Jaki and Bärbel, in German, Italian, English, Dutch, Danish and Hebrew. The interactive children's treasure hunt includes seven stations, kids can explore on their own throughout the fortress grounds: Once all the questions have been answered and all the puzzles solved, there's a little surprise waiting in the medieval shop.

### Historical Falconry and a jam-packed calendar of events

Several times daily on the large Linden Meadow spectacular flight demonstrations take place with the eagles, hawks and buzzards of the Historical State Falconry Center, the fortress is home to Austria's first Falconry Museum. Throughout the

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#### Hohenwerfen Fortress:

Burgstraße 2, 5450 Werfen  
Opening Hours: 01 Apr to 12 Nov 2017  
Apr, Oct & Nov: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 4 pm  
May to Sept: daily 9 am – 5 pm  
17 July to 20 August: daily 9 am – 6 pm



year there is a jam-packed calendar of events with night tours, special falconry programs, festivals and an Advent market. The fortress tavern offers refreshments and can be rented for private medieval events. Hohenwerfen Fortress is only a 30-minute drive from the city of Salzburg on the freeway. It takes approximately 30 minutes to walk to the fortress on the "Vogeltennweg" or you can use the elevator. Admission to Hohenwerfen Fortress is free with the "Salzburg Card". Visitors can use the free Wi-Fi and a website with a guide for visitors.

**Save time & money with the attractive online ticket**

Hohenwerfen Fortress also offers an attractive online ticket for the first time. It allows visitors to buy tickets directly from their smartphone or computer, thereby saving time and money. Families save up to about € 6.00 compared to the price at the ticket window. Another advantage: With the online ticket, there is no hassle of waiting at the ticket window.

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