



2020

PRESS INFORMATION



Hohenwerfen Fortress: A journey back in time to the Middle Ages

Salzburg's most popular family day-trip destination is ready for the 2020 summer season and is opening a new exhibition featuring the legendary Wizard Jackl – and of the World of the Witches.

Hohenwerfen Fortress towers majestically atop a lofty rock peak, far above Salzachtal valley. Trained birds of prey circle the towers, while those who pass through these mighty walls enter another world. Experience the medieval era with all your senses! No wonder Hohenwerfen Fortress is one of the most popular destinations for families in the entire province of Salzburg. There's yet another highlight to look forward to in 2020, as the armoury hosts a fascinating new exhibition about the famous and infamous Jackl – and the age in which he lived.

The Legend of Jackl: Witches and Wizards in Salzburg

In the summer of 2020, Fortress Hohenwerfen is to open its doors on a large exhibition entitled 'The Legend of Jackl – Wizards and Witches in Salzburg'. It's dedicated to a craftsman and bandit leader from Werfen – Jakob Tischler (a.k.a. Jakob Koller), better known as 'Jackl the Wizard'. Visitors explore 'Imagination, Fear and Protection – cults of fire and witchcraft today' on a total of four floors of the ancient armoury building. The display deals with the occurrences at the centre of the Salzburg witch trials, through to today's cults of magic around the world. The exhibition will fascinate visitors with some authentic and very spooky exhibits, multimedia installations and fairy-tale characters.

The first floor of the exhibition is particularly thrilling for kids. It's all about spells, magical fairy tales and stories. An oversize broom encourages visitors to hazard a ride over the castle walls. The second display floor features herbs – and the magic it has been claimed they have unleashed over the centuries. Things get very eerie and atmospheric on the third floor, where the focus is on the history, significance and causes of the witch trials. On the fourth floor, visitors discover more about the roles of magic and cults in various parts of the modern world.

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Fortress Hohenwerfen:

Burgstraße 2, 5450 Werfen, Austria
Open: 01.04.2020 – 08.11.2020
Apr., Oct. & Nov.: Tue.-Sun. 09.30 – 16.00
May – September: Every day 09.00 – 17.00
13 July – 14th August: Every day 09.00 – 18.00



A hands-on experience of the Middle Ages

There's far more to be enjoyed at Hohenwerfen Fortress than adventures and stories of legendary magicians, witches and wizards. One major highlight is a guided tour of the entire fortifications. Guests are immersed in the history of this mighty building and in blood-curdling stories from its distant past – like in the torture chamber in the horrifying dungeon; a place once occupied by a mute prisoner. High up in the bell tower, magnificent views of Salzburg's alpine scenery seduce all photographers and lovers of stunning landscapes. Audio guide tours are available for foreign guests in 13 languages, and the castle tavern is a great place to enjoy local culinary treats and knightly delicacies at the end of a tour.

A medieval fortress becomes a family attraction

Hohenwerfen Fortress can look back on a highly eventful past. Construction of Hohensalzburg Fortress, and of Friesach Castle in Carinthia, was commenced in parallel in 1077 under Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein. Great rulers and regional sovereigns were often imprisoned in the castle. During its eventful history the mighty Hohenwerfen Fortress has also served as a film location and a police training college, until it was ultimately opened up for visitors from around the world 30 years ago. Since then the fortress has become one of the most popular tourist attractions in the entire province of Salzburg.

A paradise for families

Hohenwerfen is especially attractive for families. A special children's audio guide is available in six languages (German, Italian, English, Dutch, Danish and Hebrew) to ensure all kids enjoy entertaining, depictive and informative insights into life in the Middle Ages. The children's riddle rally equips kids with a notebook and sends them off on a thrilling treasure hunt. Those who solve all the riddles and find all the items can look forward to a surprise treat in the castle shop.

Get close to birds of prey from down the centuries

One special highlight of every castle visit is a falconry demonstration staged by the old provincial falconry centre. Demonstrations in the castle grounds are held twice a day, and even three times a day in July and August. People from all over the world visit the fortress to witness the spectacular aerial manoeuvres performed by falcons, eagles, buzzards and other birds of prey at close quarters. Trained falconry specialists and the falconry museum provide insights into an ancient craft that is rarely seen today.

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Events: Always something going on at the fortress

As every year, in 2020 Fortress Hohenwerfen will be staging a large number and wide variety of events. Just some of the highlights include the mystical nights (26th June, 17th July, 28th Aug., 18th Sept.), when guests sit around the burgrave's table, the summer open-air movies in the castle courtyard (10th July, 7th August) and the romantic Advent market in December. There's also plenty in the event schedule for families, including medieval hustle and bustle when travelling performers, craftsmen and knights populate the castle (2nd & 3rd May, 31st May/1st June, 4th & 5th July., 29th & 30th Aug., 12th & 13th Sept., 26th & 27th Sept.). There are special demonstrations of falconry and authentic hunting music down the centuries (11th & 12th July, 15th & 16th Aug.), and with court and hunting music (13th & 14th June, 5th & 6th Sept., 3rd & 4th Oct.). On the 22nd August kids can enjoy the Eskimo Fun Tour up at the fortress and on the 4th October there's a big festival for children. An overview of all dates and events can be found on the website: www.burg-hohenwerfen.at

Getting here & purchasing tickets

Hohenwerfen Fortress is just 30 minutes from Salzburg on the motorway. There's a lift up to the fortress from the car park below. Alternatively, visitors can follow the *Vogeltennweg* path up to the top on foot. The ascent takes around 30 minutes. There's also a new educational nature trail with signs featuring pictures and information on 'Game, Forests and Wood'. The adventure castle can be explored free-of-charge with the 'SalzburgerLand Card'. The cheap online ticket is also very popular, saving visitors money and avoiding queueing time at the ticket window.

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