



**2021**

## **PRESS INFORMATION**



### **A hands-on experience of the Middle Ages at Mauterndorf Castle**

***From the toll station to the family-friendly museum – there's lots to see and do.***

**Centuries ago, the trade route across the Alps passed through Mauterndorf Castle, which served as a major toll station – giving the village its name. Today, castle visitors of all ages are thrilled by several tableaus, scenes and exhibitions showcasing castle life at the time of Prince-Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach, and by a 700-year-old defence tower that can also be visited. The beautiful recently-restored castle chapel can now be viewed from the entrance to the balcony which has also been restored.**

The sun dial above the portal has welcomed countless mule drivers, scoundrels and travellers on their journeys across the Alps down the centuries. In fact, there was no other route past Mauterndorf Castle. Every traveller was required to reveal their cargo and pay the customs duties accordingly. The first documentary evidence of toll collection here dates back to 1002 AD and at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century building work commenced on the construction of the castle with its 44-metre defence tower. Prince-Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach used Mauterndorf as a summer residence, and under his rule it took on its current appearance. Mauterndorf Castle is one of the last three remaining toll stations along the 'Via Imperialis', the ancient north-south Roman trade route. The defence tower is unique, and one of the best-built and best-preserved of its kind in Europe, providing fantastic views of the surrounding region. The tower can be explored on daytime and evening tours of the castle.

### **Enjoy your own personal audio-guide tour of the castle**

Life-size figures, people dressed in authentic clothes, various animals and numerous re-enactments of historical castle activities – all take guests back to the reality of the Middle Ages. There is a tour of the courtyard and the castle. Down in the catacombs visitors can discover various aspects of attack and

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defence; and in the entrance hall they meet 'real' people, finding out about their medieval professions and habits. The clothing chamber provides an opportunity for visitors to dress up in costumes, and there is a fully decked-out banqueting table in the knights' hall. A major highlight is the tour of the defence tower with an entrance twelve metres above ground. Scenes of how the tower was used are authentically reconstructed on six levels – including a treasury, dungeon, emergency quarters and guard's quarters. There are audio-guide tours for adults *and* for children available in nine languages.

### **A new entrance to the castle chapel and a great adventure playground**

It is now possible to explore the castle chapel due to the reopening and renovation of an old entrance to the chapel balcony. Visitors can now discover the cultural and historical importance of the chapel at first hand. The gothic wall paintings are some of the most beautiful of their kind in the province of Salzburg. The winged altarpiece features a depiction of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of alpine miners, who was greatly venerated in the Lungau region. Another major highlight for families is the large children's playground where kids get to invade a real 'castle within the castle' as the playground is integrated into the medieval walls and courtyards. A delight for children and parents alike!

### **Packed events schedule and exciting special events**

Mauterndorf Castle offers customised group tours, romantic tours, special holiday schedules for kids and school trip programmes. The castle is also home to the 'Lungauer Landschaftsmuseum' and a large knights' playground, an event hall and the castle tavern. The 'Burgschenke' tavern also boasts a 120 m<sup>2</sup> sun deck with fantastic views of Mauterndorf. Top events in 2020 include the medieval 'Spectaculum' (31<sup>st</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> Aug., 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Aug., 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Aug. & 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug.), the long nights (30<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Aug.) and an atmospheric Advent market up at the castle. Info on all events can be viewed at [www.burg-mauterndorf.at](http://www.burg-mauterndorf.at).

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### **Important COVID information for visitors in 2021**

The 'Burgen & Schlösser' team has compiled a comprehensive collection of measures to ensure all statutory requirements have been fulfilled, guaranteeing a safe and pleasant visit to the castle. Please select the preferred date and time for your visit, and purchase tickets in advance, online whenever possible. Tickets can be purchased quickly and easily via the Mauterndorf Castle website. In the COVID year of 2021, the ticket windows at the castle only have limited quotas. This can lead to waiting times, especially in the summer.

### **General visitor information**

The Lungau region is just a 90-minute drive from the city of Salzburg. Admission to the castle is free of charge with the 'SalzburgerLand Card' or the 'KatschbergCard' or can be enjoyed at a discount using the 'Lungau Card'. Visitors benefit from free WLAN and an informative website featuring a guide. Mauterndorf Castle also offers an attractive online ticket, so visitors can buy one on their smartphones or computers – saving time *and* money.

### **Opening hours in 2021**

#### *Summer*

*1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June: 10.00 – 18.00*

*1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August: 09.30 – 18.30*

*1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> October: 10.00 – 18.00*

#### *Winter*

*January – Easter: Every Tuesday & Thursday from 10.00 – 18.00*

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