



2021

PRESS INFORMATION



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

Salzburg's most popular family day-trip destination is ready to welcome visitors in summer 2021 with a popular exhibition, a virtual tour and the restored chapel.

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 are lots of new highlights in 2021! Last winter the fortress chapel was completely restored and returned to its original glory. There's also a new virtual tour of the fortress.

Virtual tours enable you to explore the fortress from home

In 2021, all fortress fans who can't get here in person have the option of enjoying a free virtual tour of Fortress Hohenwerfen. Online visitors can explore the interior of the complex at will, and some places can be entered and seen in detail rarely accessible to the public. The 360° tour is complemented by interviews with experts and fascinating background information. It can be found on the website at www.burg-hohenwerfen.at.

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Fortress Hohenwerfen:

Burgstraße 2, 5450 Werfen
Open: 01.04. – 07.11.2021
Apr, Oct & Nov: Tue – Sun 09.30 – 16.00
May – Sept: Every day 09.00 – 17.00
12th July – 13th Aug: Every day 09.00 – 18.00



The Legend of Jackl: Witches and Wizards in Salzburg

'The Legend of Jackl – Wizards and Witches in Salzburg' is a special and exciting exhibition, now already in its second year, having immediately become a visitor magnet. 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.

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.

Old fortress chapel as good as new

The first highlight of every guided tour of Fortress Hohenwerfen is the chapel. It was dedicated to Saint Sigismund and is believed to have been part of the original fortification built under Prince Archbishop Gebhard in the 11th century. Over the winter the chapel was thoroughly repaired and restored to its former glory to ensure it survives for centuries to come. The plaster floor was overhauled and the works of art were cleaned by a restoration specialist. Now the chapel is ready to receive guests. In future the chapel is also to host weddings, festivities and prayer services.

A medieval fortress becomes a family attraction

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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.

Events: Always something going on at the fortress

As every year, in 2021 Fortress Hohenwerfen will be staging a large number and wide variety of events. Some of the highlights include the atmospheric Christmas market in December, the mystical nights (2nd & 23rd July, 27th August, 17th September), when guests sit around the burgrave's table. Summer open-air movies in the castle courtyard (9th July, 6th August). There's also plenty in the event schedule for families, including medieval hustle and bustle when travelling performers, craftsmen and knights populate the castle (23rd & 24th May, 3rd & 4th July, 28th & 29th August, 4th & 5th, 25th & 26th September). There are special demonstrations of falconry and authentic hunting music down the centuries (10th & 11th July,

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14th & 15th August), and with court and hunting music (8th & 9th May, 12th & 13th June, 2nd & 3rd October). On the 3rd 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.

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 fortress. 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 Fortress Hohenwerfen website. In the COVID year of 2021, the ticket windows at the fortress only have limited quotas.

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. The castle can be explored free-of-charge with the 'Salzburger-Land Card'.

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