

2024

PRESS INFORMATION



Hohenwerfen Fortress: A journey back to the Middle Ages

Hohenwerfen Castle perches 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. This is an experience of the Middle Ages for all the senses. Hohenwerfen Fortress is one of the most popular family destinations in the entire province of Salzburg.

The Legend of Jackl: Witches and Wizards in Salzburg

'The Legend of Jackl – Wizards and Witches in Salzburg' is a special exhibition highlight on every visit to the castle that immediately became 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 discover a world of witches and wizards 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 fascinates visitors with authentic and very spooky exhibits, multimedia installations and fairy-tale characters.

Experience the Middle Ages up close

Hohenwerfen Fortress has plenty more to offer than stories of legendary magicians, witches and wizards. One major highlight is a guided **tour of the fortress**. Guests are immersed in the history of the building and discover many a spine-chilling detail from long ago. The torture chamber with its terrifying dungeon was once inhabited by a mute prisoner. From high up in the bell tower there's a wonderful view of Salzburg's mountain scenery, inviting visitors to take photos and marvel at the view. The tour for foreign-language visitors is offered with an **audio guide in 13 languages**. After the tour, the **castle tavern restaurant** tempts guests with regional specialties and medieval delicacies.

Historic birds of prey at close range

One special highlight of every visit is a **falconry demonstration** staged by the **old provincial falconry centre**. Demonstrations in the fortress grounds are held twice a day, and even three times a day in July

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Erlebnisburg Hohenwerfen:

Burgstraße 2, 5450 Werfen
Öffnungszeiten: 29.03. bis 03.11.2024
Apr., Okt. & Nov.: Di.-So. 9.30 - 16 Uhr
Mai bis September: täglich 9 - 17 Uhr
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and August. Visitors come to the fortress from all over the world 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 rarely seen today.

A medieval fortress becomes a family attraction

Hohenwerfen Fortress has enjoyed a highly eventful past. Under Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein, in 1077 construction commenced in parallel with the building of Hohensalzburg Fortress and of Friesach Castle in Carinthia. Great rulers and regional sovereigns were imprisoned in the castle. During its colourful history the mighty Hohenwerfen Fortress has also served as a film location and a police training college, ultimately being 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 province of Salzburg.

Perfect for families

Hohenwerfen Fortress is particularly great 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. Kids can go off on a thrilling treasure hunt equipped with a notebook as they participate in the **children's riddle rally**. Those who solve all the riddles, and find all the items, can look forward to a treat in the castle shop.

Events: Always something going on at the castle

As every year, in 2024 Hohenwerfen Castle will be staging a wide variety of events. Highlights include the **atmospheric Christmas market** in December, the **mystical nights** (17th May, 5th July, 23rd August & 20th September) - when guests sit around the burgrave's table, the **summer cinema** on 9th August and the **Pongau Fortress Singing Festival** on 29th June. There's plenty scheduled for families, too, such as the **grand children's party** (6th October), **Medieval Activities** (18th – 20th May, 6th & 7th July, 24th & 25th August & 21st & 22nd September), featuring jugglers, artisans and knights, the special **falconry programme** with authentic hunting music from down the centuries (17th & 18th August), and court and hunting music (June 15th & 16th, July 13th & 14th & September 14th & 15th). Numerous **new event formats** are also being planned for 2024, such as a storytelling theatre day, castle concerts and readings with authors from the region. See the website for an up-to-date overview of all events at www.burg-hohenwerfen.at.

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360° tours invite you to discover from home

There is a free virtual tour of Hohenwerfen Fortress for all castle fans. Enthusiasts can explore the interior of the building and admire the special exhibition in the arsenal on their own with computers or mobile phones. The **360° tour** is complemented by interviews with experts and fascinating background information. The virtual tour is available on the website at www.burg-hohenwerfen.at.

Getting here & purchasing tickets

Hohenwerfen Castle is just 30 minutes from Salzburg on the motorway. S-Bahn trains run every half hour between the city of Salzburg and the village of Werfen. The journey takes around 45 minutes. From Werfen railway station, visitors can either walk approximately 30 minutes, or book a shuttle bus to Hohenwerfen Fortress an hour before arrival by calling +43 664 1266700. There's a lift up to the fortress from the car park below. Alternatively, visitors can follow the *Vogeltennweg* path up to the peak on foot. The ascent takes around 30 minutes. Hohenwerfen Fortress can be explored free-of-charge with the 'SalzburgerLand Card' or time can be saved by purchasing an **online ticket** on smartphones or laptops.

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