

# 2024



## PRESS INFORMATION

### A great trip out in the Lungau region of Salzburg

Mauterndorf Castle has seen many travellers in its long history – traders, vagabonds, archbishops and nobility – all of whom had to pay the toll on their way across the Alps. Today, the castle delights visitors young and old with numerous medieval scenes, a large knights' playground and a 700-year-old publicly-accessible defence tower. The latest highlights are a natural circuitous path around the revitalised castle park and a genuine working drawbridge.

#### Round-trip trail with a postcard view

The attractive new **circular route** around the old castle park allows visitors to explore the castle hill and its wide variety of flora, observe the Taurach River as it flows by, and marvel at the enchanting Stampflbach stream waterfall. Visitors savour endless fantastic views of the castle and surrounding countryside in Salzburg's Lungau region. The highlight of the beautiful walk is Toni Schmale's 'art in construction' competition-winning project – a fully functional drawbridge over the Stampflbach River.

#### Archbishopical summer residence on the Via Imperialis

The first documented mention of the castle was as a toll station, dating back to 1002. Construction of the castle and its 44-metre-high defence tower was commenced at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach** used Mauterndorf as his summer residence and gave the complex its current appearance. Mauterndorf Castle is one of the last three surviving toll stations along the Via Imperialis, the Roman trade route between the South and North. The **defence tower** is in excellent condition, offers views unrivalled in Europe, and provides fascinating insights into castle life during a siege. From 2024 the defence tower will also be open to visitors in the winter season.

#### Discover the castle for yourself with an audio guide

On a **tour of the castle**, re-enacted scenes of medieval castle life take visitors back to the Middle Ages. Down in the catacombs visitors explore various aspects of attack and defence; and in the entrance hall meet 'real' people, discovering their medieval professions and habits. The costume chamber provides

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#### Burg Mauterndorf:

Markt 27, 5570 Mauterndorf  
**Öffnungszeiten Sommer: 1.5.-31.10.**  
Mai, Juni, Sept., Okt: tgl., 9.30-17 Uhr  
Juli, August: tgl., 9.30-18 Uhr  
**Öffnungszeiten Winter: 27.12.2024-20.4.2025**  
Di, Mi, Do, So: 10-18 Uhr

an opportunity for visitors to dress up in the clothes of the age, and there's a fully decked-out banquet table in the knights' hall. One of the highlights of the castle tour is a **walk around the defence tower** with its entrance twelve metres above ground. Earlier uses of the tower are authentically reconstructed on six floors – including a treasury, dungeon, emergency quarters and guard's quarters. There are **audio-guide tours** for adults *and* for children, available in nine languages.

### **New access to the castle chapel and knights' adventure playground**

It has been possible to explore the **castle chapel** since the old entrance to the chapel gallery was reopened and renovated a few years ago. Visitors are able to explore the cultural and historical importance of the chapel at first hand. The gothic murals 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, a saint greatly venerated in the Lungau region. Another major highlight for families is the large children's playground. As the playground is integrated into the medieval walls and courtyards, kids get to conquer a genuine 'castle within the castle'.

### **Full schedule of events and exciting specials**

Mauterndorf Castle offers **special and evocative evening tours** for visiting individual and groups, as well as providing holiday and **school programmes** for children. The castle houses the **Lungau Countryside Museum**, a large **knights' playground**, an **event hall** and the **Burgschenke castle tavern** – complete with its **sunny 120m<sup>2</sup>** patio looking out over Mauterndorf. Top events include the **medieval 'Spectaculum'**, the **long nights**, and atmospheric **Easter** and **Advent markets** up at the castle. Info on all events can be viewed at [www.burg-mauterndorf.at](http://www.burg-mauterndorf.at).

### **Epenstein: Patron, honorary citizen and Goering's godfather**

In 2024, Mauterndorf Castle is dedicating exhibitions the legacy of patron and castle owner Hermann Epenstein, who died ninety years ago. The Berlin doctor Dr Hermann Epenstein saved Mauterndorf Castle from decay, purchasing it in 1894, and had restored in exemplary fashion – using it as his summer residence until the First World War. The market town later awarded him honorary citizenship and he became an Austrian citizen. Although Epenstein's father had been a Jew who converted to the Catholic faith, Hermann Epenstein became the godfather of the later Nazi criminal Hermann Goering. This explains how, after Epenstein's death in 1934, Mauterndorf Castle came into possession Goering's for several years. A current **special exhibition** in the castle is dedicated to the many-faceted life and work

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of Hermann Epenstein. Several events have been planned in and around Mauterndorf to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, including a **historical walk around the castle** on the 8<sup>th</sup> June – the date Epenstein died.

### **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 'Lungau Card', or can be enjoyed at a discount using the 'KatschbergCard'. Visitors benefit from free WLAN, and Mauterndorf Castle offers visitors a convenient and attractively-priced **online ticket** – saving time *and* money.

### **OPENING HOURS: SUMMER 2024**

#### **01 May - 31 October**

<i>May, June, Sept, Oct</i>	<i>Every day</i>	<i>09.30 - 17.00</i>
<i>July, August</i>	<i>Every day</i>	<i>09.30 - 18.30</i>

### **OPENING HOURS: WINTER 2024/25**

#### **27 December 2024 – 20 April 2025**

<i>Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun</i>	<i>10.00 - 18.00</i>
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