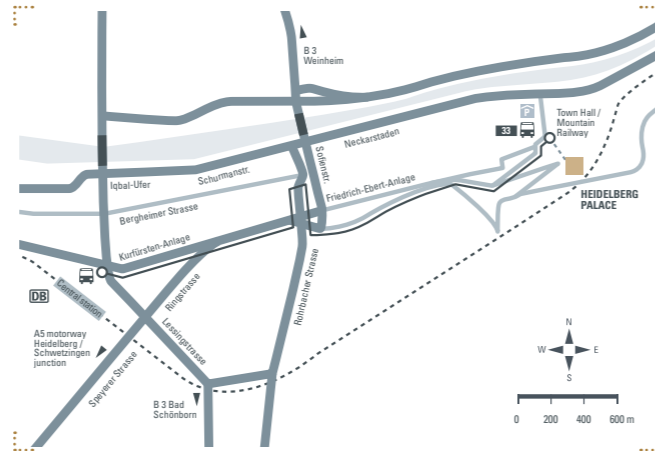




TRULY ROMANTIC: THE WORLD-FAMOUS RUINS

# HEIDELBERG PALACE

## HOW TO FIND US



## GETTING THERE

By public transport: From Heidelberg central station, take bus line 33 to the Bergbahn stop. Take the Bergbahn (mountain railway) to Schloss station.

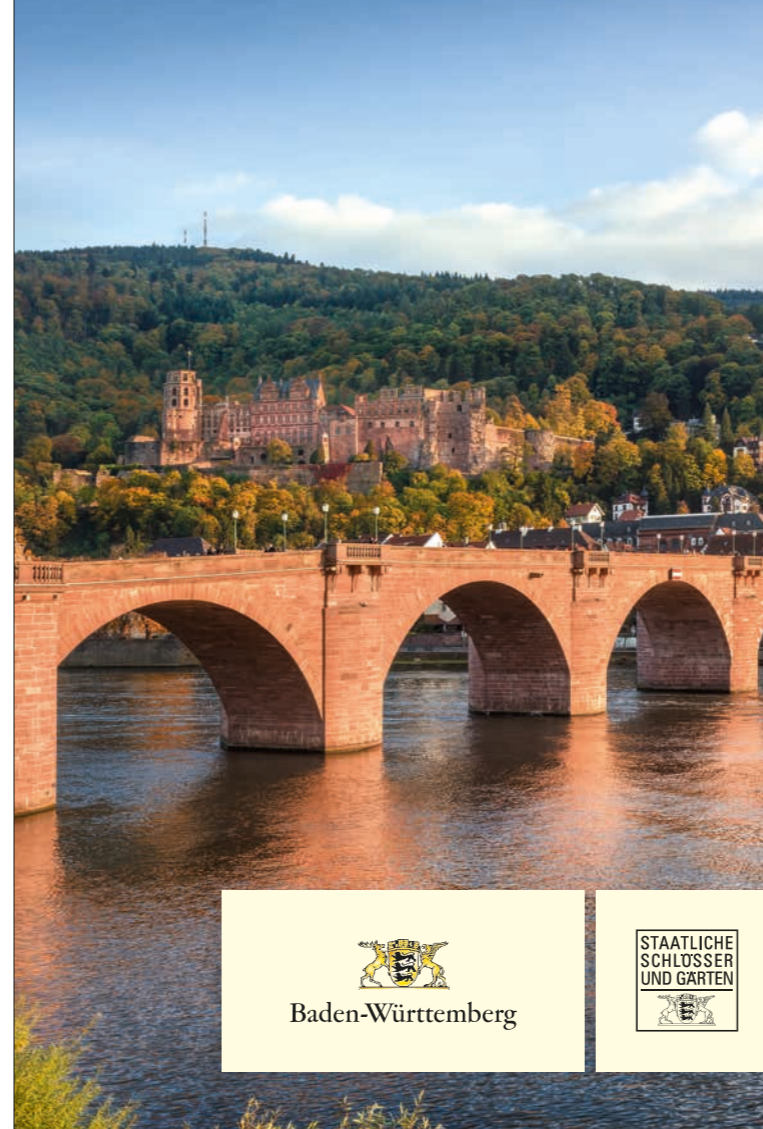
## INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OUR MONUMENTS

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg  
Schlossraum 22a · 76646 Bruchsal · Germany

Phone +49(0)72 51.74 - 27 70  
Daily 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
(information only, no reservations/ticket sales)  
info@ssg.bwl.de



[www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en](http://www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en)



*The palace courtyard is worth a visit any time of year*

## THE EPITOME OF GERMAN ROMANTICISM

Embedded in a picturesque landscape, the ruins of Heidelberg Palace are atmospheric and awe-inspiring in every season. The terraces offer visitors breathtaking views of the city on the Neckar.

The castle's significance as the residence of the European nobility is still palpable today in its powerful remains. It is no wonder, then, that these ruins became a symbol for war and the impermanence for the *German Romantics* in the 19th century. The palace and fortress are very clearly merged here: Casemates and tremendous towers bespeak the residence's fortified nature. The interior courtyard is framed by the facades of impressive palace structures. These are decorated with unique statues and are a Renaissance treasure.



IMAGE CREDIT: SSG/LMZ; cover photos: I Günther Bayerl, 2, 3, 6 Nick Schuberth; 4, 7 Achim Klotz; 5 Milke Nöcker // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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Each year, Heidelberg Palace (*Schloss Heidelberg*) attracts around one million visitors from all over the world. Since the early 19th century, these impressive ruins have been synonymous with Romanticism.

It would be hard to imagine a more striking location: Set against the deep green forests on the north side of Königstuhl hill, the red sandstone ruins tower majestically over the Neckar Valley. From its lofty position, the palace's silhouette dominates Heidelberg's historic town center.

The rich and eventful history of Heidelberg Palace began when the counts palatine of the Rhine—later prince electors—established their residence at Heidelberg. First mentioned in 1225, this was destined to become one of the grandest palaces of the Renaissance.

  *A highlight of German Renaissance architecture: Ottheinrichsbau*



  *A grand 19th century expansion: Friedrichsbau with plasterwork ceilings as well as wooden and sandstone portals and archways*

#### ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECES OF THE RENAISSANCE

Until the Thirty Years' War, Heidelberg Palace boasted one of the most notable collection of buildings in the Holy Roman Empire. In brisk succession, the prince electors commissioned a series of imposing buildings: Hall of Glass, Ottheinrich Hall, Friedrich Hall and English Hall. Each one is a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture. Their magnificent façades create a resplendent frame for the courtyard.

  *The ancestors of the palatine prince electors look down proudly from the façade of Friedrichsbau*



  *The palace buildings are adorned with sculptures: featured here, a statue of the Palatine Prince Elector Friedrich IV*

#### THE RAVAGES OF WAR AND THE FORCES OF NATURE

In the late 17th century, the palace was repeatedly attacked and ultimately destroyed by the French in the Nine Years' War. Today, the "castle illumination" stages a magnificent fireworks show several times a year highlighting the previous destruction. In 1764, after some provisional repairs, the battered palace was heavily damaged again: this time by the forces of nature in the form of two devastating lightning strikes. The once majestic residence was almost completely burned out, and became a ruins.

#### THE PALACE AND GARDEN—MYTHS AND LEGENDS

In the 19th century, the palace ruins became *the paragon of the Romantic mood* and were promoted to National Monument during Historicism. The imposing edifice and famous garden, the *Hortus Palatinus*, became shrouded in myth. The garden, the last work commissioned by the prince electors, was never completed. Some remaining landscaped terraces and other vestiges hint at the awe-inspiring scale of this ambitious project. In the 17th century, it was praised as the "*eighth wonder of the world*". Time may have taken its toll, but Heidelberg Palace's fame lives on to this day.

#### VISITOR INFORMATION

	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
<b>HOURS</b>		
<b>PALACE</b>	Mon – Sun 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Mon – Sun 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
	<i>Interior rooms can only be viewed on a tour; Last admission 30 minutes before closing; Closed in the afternoon of December 24th and 31st and all day December 25th</i>	
<b>GERMAN APOTHECARY MUSEUM</b>	Mon – Sun 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Mon – Sun 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
	<i>Last admission 20 minutes before closing; Closed in the afternoon of December 24th and 31st; closed all day December 25th; open 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM January 1st</i>	
<b>PALACE GARDEN</b>	Open to the public during daylight hours	Open to the public during daylight hours

	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
<b>TOURS</b>		
<b>PALACE</b> (in German)	Mon – Fri, hourly 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Sat and Sun, hourly 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Mon – Fri 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM; Sat and Sun, hourly 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
<b>PALACE</b> (in English)	Mon – Fri, hourly 11:15 AM – 4:15 PM; Sat and Sun, hourly 10:15 AM – 4:15 PM	Mon – Fri 11:15 AM, 12:15 PM, 2:15 PM and 4:15 PM; Sat and Sun, hourly 11:15 AM – 4:15 PM

*Group tours by arrangement; special tours as per online program and by arrangement*

	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
<b>ADMISSION</b>		
<b>PALACE</b> (incl. Funicular Railway, Palace Courtyard, Great Tun, German Apothecary Museum)		
Adults	€ 9.00	€ 9.00
Discounted	€ 4.50	€ 4.50
<b>TOURS</b> (in addition to palace ticket)		
Adults	€ 6.00	€ 6.00
Discounted	€ 3.00	€ 3.00
Families	€ 15.00	€ 15.00
Multilingual audio guide	€ 5.00	€ 5.00
Groups of 20 or more	€ 5.40 (per person)	€ 5.40 (per person)

Visit our website for more information on disability access, discounts, special tours and other important details regarding your visit.

#### CONTACT

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