

## VISITOR INFORMATION

HOURS	04/01 – 10/15	10/16 – 03/31
<b>FORTRESS RUINS</b>	Mon – Sun and holidays 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM	Tue – Sun and holidays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM <i>Closed December 24th and 31st</i>
	<i>Last admission 1 hour before closing</i>	

TOURS	04/01 – 10/15	10/16 – 03/31
<b>FORTRESS RUINS</b>	<i>Tour in German; Group tours by arrangement</i>	

ADMISSION	04/01 – 10/15	10/16 – 03/31
<b>FORTRESS RUINS</b>		
Adults	€ 5.00	€ 5.00
Discounted	€ 2.50	€ 2.50
Families	€ 12.50	€ 12.50
Groups of 15 or more	€ 4.50 (per person)	€ 4.50 (per person)

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

## CONTACT

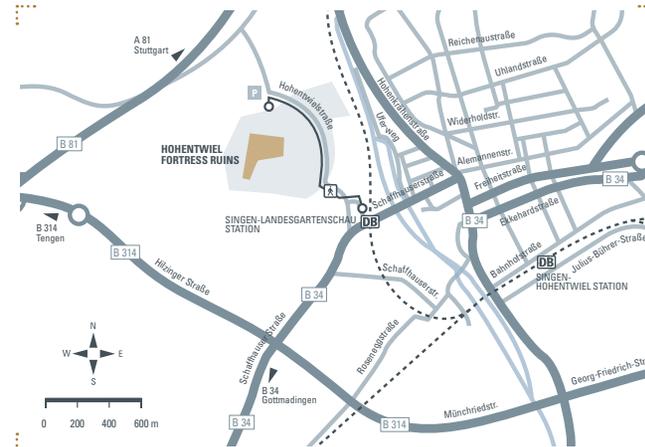
**HOHENTWIEL FORTRESS RUINS**  
Auf dem Hohentwiel 2a  
78224 Singen

**INFORMATION CENTER**  
Phone +49(0)77 31.6 91 78  
info@festungsrue-hohentwiel.de  
[www.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en](http://www.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en)

Version: 09/2022; All information subject to change!



## HOW TO FIND US



*By public transport: By train to Singen-Landesgartenschau. Follow the signs. Access for vehicles with a height over 3 m via Schaffhauser Strasse.*

## 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 MOST BREATHTAKING PANORAMA  
IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG



# HOHENTWIEL FORTRESS RUINS

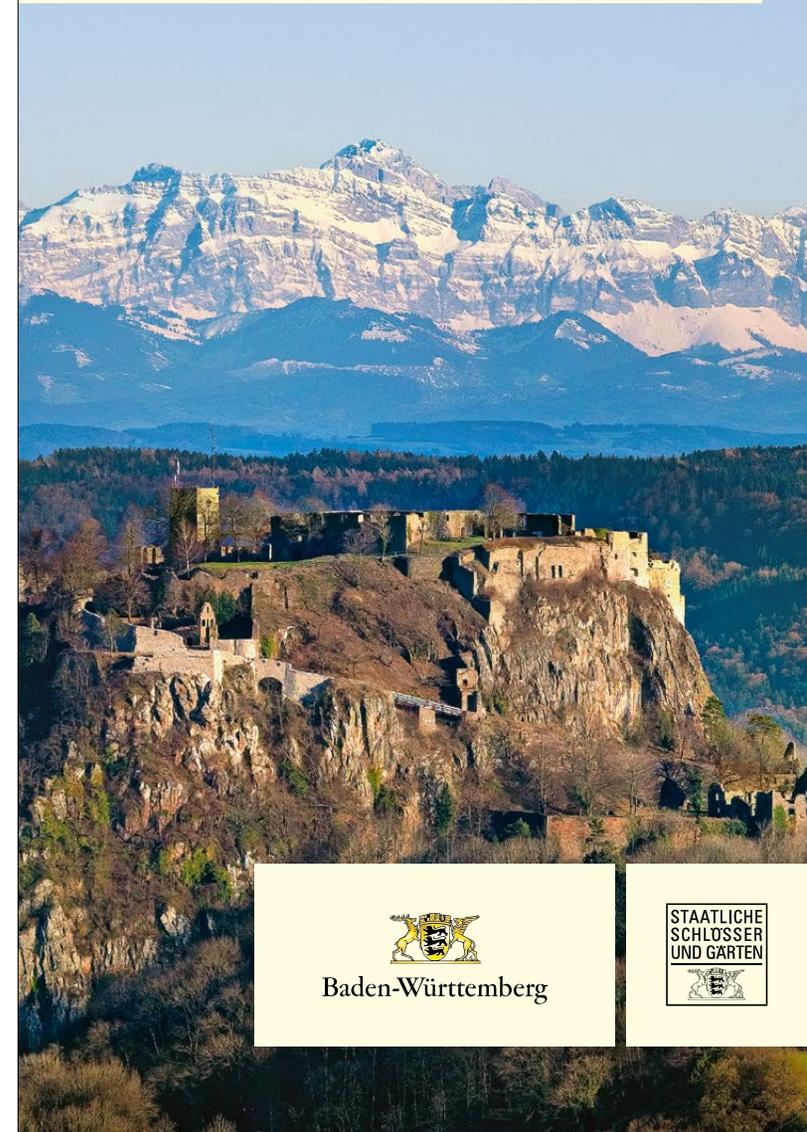


IMAGE CREDIT SSG/TLMZ; cover photos: 1, 2, 5, 6 Achim Mendel; 3, 4 Armin Weischer // Design: concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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Baden-Württemberg

STAATLICHE  
SCHLÖSSER  
UND GÄRTEN

Spanning nine hectares, Hohentwiel is one of the largest fortress ruins in Germany. It also offers one of the country's most impressive views: across Lake Constance and the hills of the Thurgau region, all the way to the peaks of the Alps.

Hohentwiel is a large rocky outcrop, one of the many bizarre volcanic formations of the Hegau region. *The steep crags*, which jut out starkly from the surrounding landscape, presented ideal vantage points for fortresses and other structures. The first castle was built on Hohentwiel in 914.

#### FROM FORTRESS TO ROMANTIC RUIN

As *the seat of the Swabian dukes*, Hohentwiel Castle was of considerable significance; after 1000, however, it passed into the possession of the house of Zähringen and other noble families. In the 16th century, it became an enclave of Württemberg in what was then Austrian territory (known as *Vorderösterreich*).

 *The most beautiful view far and wide: on a clear autumn day, the panorama from Hohentwiel is simply breathtaking*



 *A vast structure: an aerial view shows the impressive scale of the remaining turrets and walls*

Under Duke Ulrich of Württemberg, Hohentwiel was expanded into a *major fortress*. Subsequently, it was regarded as unconquerable. In the 18th century, the fortress acquired a more notorious reputation, after it was converted into *the principality of Württemberg's prison*. In 1801, the French emperor Napoleon ordered that Hohentwiel be destroyed.

 *As you walk up to Hohentwiel, you begin to understand why this mighty fortress was considered unconquerable*



The church tower was restored and the first observation deck constructed in 1845.

The author, Josef Victor von Scheffel, used Hohentwiel as the setting for his historical novel *Ekkehard*, a love story between a monk from St. Gallen, Ekkehard, and a duke's widow, Hadwig. The novel became very popular after its publication in 1855, which drew fresh attention to the ruins.

Hohentwiel's imposing ramparts and casemates, its fallen towers and defiant ruins, still evoke the military might of this *once-invincible* fortress. The surrounding volcanic crags are now a *nature reserve*, offering a unique habitat to many rare species of flora and fauna. Thanks to its fertile soil, Hohentwiel is the highest vineyard in Germany.

 *A striking and memorable detail: a single surviving curlicue on the façade of the former barracks*