Hohenstaufen Castle Ruins

ANCESTRAL CASTLE OF THE STAUFER DYNASTY



Visit. Marvel. Enjoy.

Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and Gardens

As the ancestral home of the House of Staufen and the residence of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, the castle ruins on Hohenstaufen (Burgruine Hohenstaufen) are a wonderful place to visit, not only for their history, but also for the spectacular countryside.

Located between Schwäbisch Gmünd and Göppingen, the Hohenstaufen peak rises up amidst a picturesque landscape. The mountain's name likely refers to its shape. With its steep sides, it is reminiscent *of a footless goblet, referred to in the Middle Ages as a cup, or "Stauf".* Because the ancestral home of one of the most famous ruling dynasties of Europe was located on this mountain, it lent the House of Staufer their name.

The Staufers' center of power

The complex, which was in an excellent strategic position, was built by Friedrich I, Duke of Swabia, first ruler of the House of Staufer. When he wasn't at the Emperor's side, Friedrich resided at Höhenburg with his wife, the Emperor's daughter Agnes von Waiblingen, who spent most of her time there. In the coming decades, the complex remained a center for Staufer power and rule and held special meaning as a Swabian ducal castle well into the reign of King Philipp (ruled 1198–1208). Even *Emperor Frederick Barbarossa,* under whose reign the Staufer dynasty controlled vast stretches of central and southern Europe, resided in his house's ancestral castle in 1181. After the Staufer dynasty had achieved royal and imperial dignities, however, the majority of their governance relocated to the large palatinates and imperial cities, resulting in a loss of importance for the castle complex. Frederick Barbarossa's son, King Philipp of Swabia, was the last of the House of Staufen to keep ties with the palace. After



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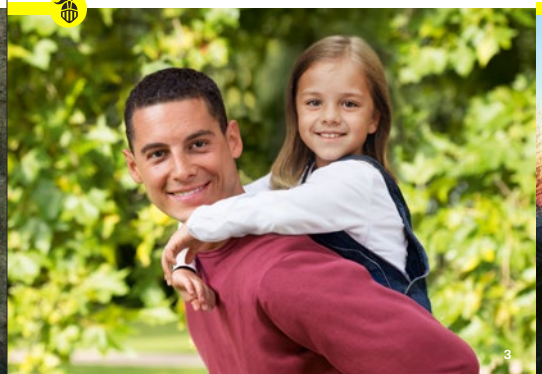
The foundation walls are all that remain of the once-great castle

Aerial image of the foundation wall



1

The Staufer Column marks the importance of this site: From here, visitors can enjoy a magnificent panoramic view! (right)



3



4



his assassination, his wife *Irene, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor,* who was once described by minnesinger Walter von der Vogelweide as a "rose without a thorn," used the castle as a retreat.

Destruction of the castle

After the Staufer period came to an end, the Württembergs took possession of the castle. Over the centuries, it traded hands many times through conquests or sales. During the Peasants' War, *peasants from the "Gaildorfer Troop" conquered, plundered, and burned down the castle in 1525.* They had previously also destroyed Lorch Monastery. Although only the foundation walls of Hohenstaufen remain, the Staufer legend lives on here.

Today the Staufer Column, an eight-sided, free-standing pillar made of Apulian marble, commemorates the powerful dynasty. The Documentation Center at the foot of the Hohenstaufen is dedicated to Staufer history and offers information on the origins and homeland of the House of Staufen. Furthermore, a permanent exhibition presents a model reconstruction of the Höhenburg, replicas of important works of art from the time of the Staufers, and much more. The Staufer experience can be rounded out with a visit to nearby Wäscherschloss Castle or Lorch Monastery.

Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Hohenstaufen	Open free of charge all year round during the day; Visits are possible without a guided tour by arrangement with the information desk in the town hall
Exhibition „Staufers"	Open all year round; Visits are possible without a guided tour by arrangement with the information desk in the town hall

Please check our website or call our hotline on +49 7251 74-27 70 before your visit to find out current opening and closing times.

Our website also provides information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details relevant to your visit.

Current information

At a glance
For details of our current opening times, tours, events, admission prices and catering, see:
www.burgruine-hohenstaufen.de/en/visitor-information

Contact and information

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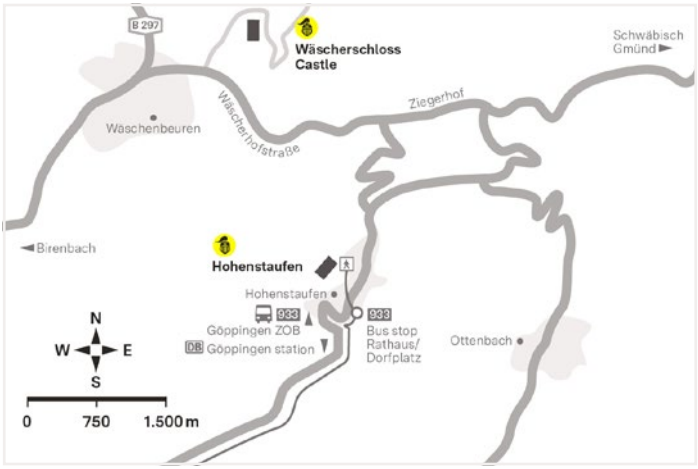
Visit our Staufer monuments:
www.klosterlorch.de/en
www.burg-waescherschloss.de/en

Information and tour registration
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How to find us



By bus: Take line 933 Göppingen – Hohenstaufen to the Rathaus/Dorfplatz stop; from there take the Kaiserbergsteige; the hill is approximately a 30-minute walk. Further information, including on charging stations, can be found online.

Information about all our monuments

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*The persons shown have been enhanced or modified by AI in some cases. // Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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