



Hohentwiel Fortress Ruins

THE MOST BREATHTAKING PANORAMA
IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG



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Baden-Württemberg
State Palaces and
Gardens

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).

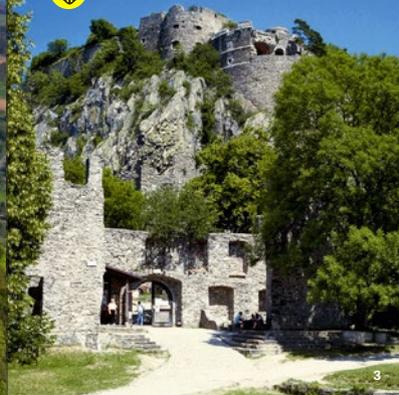
The most beautiful view far and wide: on a clear autumn day, the panorama from Hohentwiel is simply breathtaking



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. The church tower was restored and the first observation

As you walk up to Hohentwiel, you begin to understand why this mighty fortress was considered unconquerable (left)
A striking and memorable detail: a single surviving curlicue on the façade of the former barracks (right)





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 a 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.

Visitor information

Opening hours and guided tours

Fortress Ruins Open all year round;
Visits possible without a guided tour;
Group tours by arrangement

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.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en/visitor-information

Contact and information

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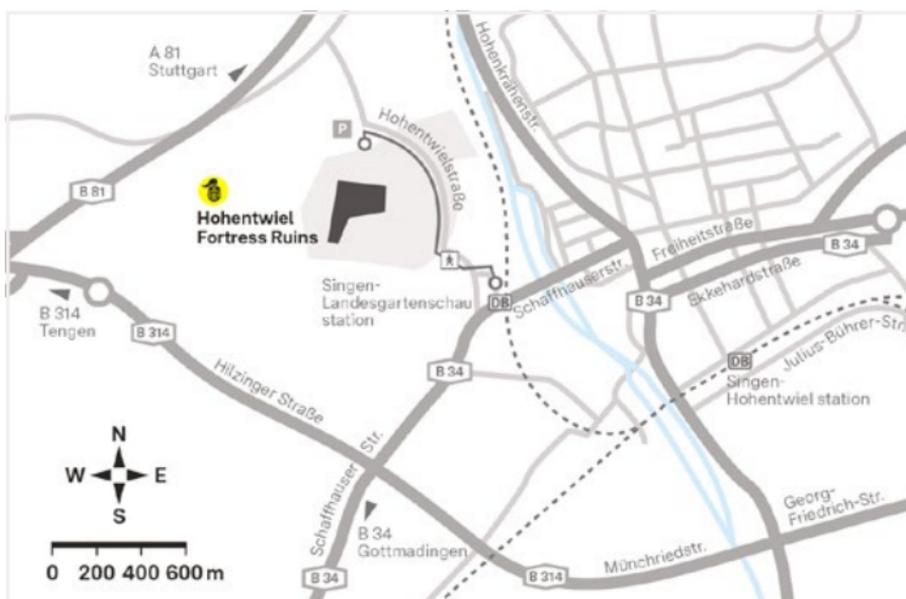
Make your visit a truly special one



Simply download the “Monuments 3D” app free of charge. Explore the fortress and join us on a journey through the centuries.



How to find us



By public transport: By train to Singen-Landesgartenschau station. Follow the signs.

Access for vehicles with a height over 3 m via Schaffhauser Strasse.

Information about all our monuments

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