

**EMPEROR – EMPIRE – CITY**  
**THE IMPERIAL CASTLE IN NUREMBERG**

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**OPENING TIMES**

April–September: 9am–6pm · October–March: 10am–4pm  
 Closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday and 24, 25 and 31 December

Audio guide to the 'Palas' (German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Czech; fee payable)

♿ The Knights' Hall is accessible via lift; all other rooms in the Imperial Castle are only accessible via stairs; castle courtyard and Deep Well accessible for wheelchair users

Opening hours for Castle Gardens: April–October: from 8am at the earliest until nightfall (8pm at the latest)

Opening hours for Maria Sibylla Merian Garden:  
 April–September: Sunday and Monday: 2pm–6pm

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**


Train to Nuremberg · Underground to 'Lorenzkirche'  
 Tram to 'Tiergärtnerort' · Bus to 'Burgstraße'  
 There is no parking in the Castle

**WI-FI**

Free Wi-Fi is available on the 'Freiung' and in the Outer Courtyard.

Co-operation partners:

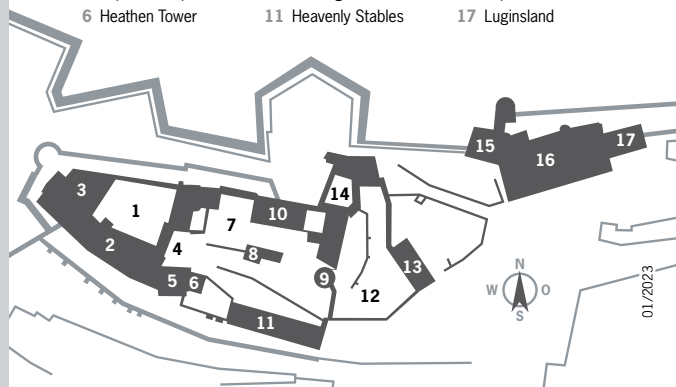


 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen  
 info@bsv.bayern.de · www.schloesser.bayern.de  
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**GROUND PLAN OF THE IMPERIAL CASTLE**

- |                     |                         |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Inner Courtyard   | 7 Forecourt             | 12 'Freiung'         |
| 2 'Palas'           | 8 Deep Well             | 13 Wallburgis Chapel |
| 3 'Kemenate'        | 9 Sinwell Tower         | 14 Vestner Gate      |
| 4 Inner Castle Gate | 10 Secretariat Building | 15 Pentagonal Tower  |
| 5 Imperial Chapel   | 11 Heavenly Stables     | 16 Imperial Stables  |
| 6 Heathen Tower     |                         | 17 Luginsland        |



View into the staircase in the Sinwell Tower

**Sinwell Tower and Deep Well**

The Sinwell Tower – the round tower in the outer bailey – was the keep that served for defensive and status purposes. Built in the late thirteenth century, the slim tower had an additional storey with a broad projecting platform and a Renaissance helm roof added to it in the 1560s. When the view of the Castle and the old town is compared with photographs from the period before and after the Second World War, the extent of the wartime damage and later reconstruction becomes clear.

The Deep Well at the centre of the outer bailey was very probably created in its earliest building period to provide an independent water supply for the Castle. The shaft goes down nearly 50 metres deep into the castle rock. A film showing a descent into it, and a vivid guided tour, enable visitors to appreciate its depth.

View into the shaft of the Deep Well



View of the exhibition rooms in the 'Kemenate'

**'Kemenate': Imperial Castle Museum**

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum is the largest museum of cultural history in the German-speaking countries and holds one of Germany's most important collections of historical weapons. The museum's 'Imperial Castle Museum' annexe presents numerous original items from its holdings.

The collection provides insights into developments in technological and cultural history and the importance of historical weapons from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries – weapons that were used not only inside castles. These insights into the history of arms are accompanied by authentic views from the windows onto the surroundings of the castle and the city hinterland – providing visitors with excellent ways of visualizing everyday history around the Castle and world-historical events on the horizon from the height of the 'Kemenate' (Ladies' Apartments).

Booking for guided tours of the Weapons Collection of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum:  
 Museums of Nuremberg Art and Cultural Education Centre (KPZ)  
 Kartäusergasse 1 · 90402 Nürnberg  
 Dept. II, Adults and Families:  
 Tel. +49 911 1331-238



Equestrian suit of armour, probably from the Nuremberg Arsenal, 1470/80, Nuremberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum

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Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung





*I wish you a fascinating visit to the Imperial Castle in Nuremberg!*

**Albert Füracker, MdL**

*Bavarian Minister of State of Finance and Regional Identity*



*Upper chapel, view towards the choir, c. 1200*

## The Imperial Castle in Nuremberg

During the Middle Ages, the Imperial Castle in Nuremberg was one of the most important imperial palaces in the Holy Roman Empire. For centuries it stood at the heart of European history and was a secure base and prestigious residence for the Empire's head of state. Erected over earlier buildings under the Hohenstaufen dynasty and its successors, the extensive castle complex is famous all over the world as the symbol of Nuremberg.

The exhibition 'Emperor – Empire – City', with its tour of the historic rooms in the Imperial Castle, investigates how the Holy Roman Empire worked. It is presenting valuable works on loan and impressively staged in their authentic location, enabling visitors to experience Nuremberg's golden age and the Castle's unique history from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century.

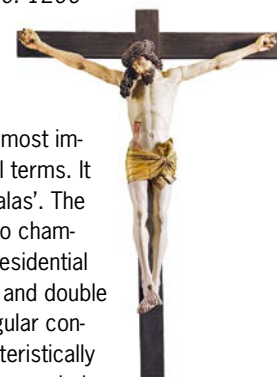
*View of the Imperial Castle from the south, showing the 'Palas', Heathen Tower, and Sinwell Tower*



## Double chapel and 'Palas'

The Romanesque Imperial Chapel is the most important part of the castle in art-historical terms. It was built around 1200 along with the 'Palas'. The latter consists of a hall structure with two chambers one above the other, along with a residential wing with several chambers. The 'Palas' and double chapel were skilfully adapted to the irregular contours of the cliff. Double chapels characteristically consist of two chapels with an identical ground plan placed one above the other, and they may be linked by an opening in the centre. The Imperial Gallery – a special aspect of the Nuremberg double chapel – gave the head of state direct access to the chapel from the upper hall and the imperial chambers of the 'Palas', while maintaining his distance from the imperial household. An oratory provided with heating was incorporated into it for Emperor Charles V in 1520.

*Lower chapel, eagle capital (l.); upper chapel, view towards the Imperial Gallery (r.); Crucifix, attrib. to Veit Stoss (centre)*



*'Palas', upper hall*

## Emperor and Empire

From the time of Charlemagne onward, the Holy Roman Empire regarded itself as the successor to the traditions of Christian and Roman antiquity.

It was an elective monarchy – the head of state was chosen by the Prince-Electors. In 1356, the 'Golden Bull' enacted under Charles IV codified the College of Electors as the exclusive group of royal electors and thus strengthened their position as

'pillars of the empire'. This 'basic law', parts of which were written in Nuremberg, remained in force until the Empire came to an end in 1806. The stipulation that after being elected each new ruler must hold the first Diet of his reign in Nuremberg made the city into one of the centres of the Empire – alongside Frankfurt on Main, where the elections were to be held, and Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), where the coronation was to take place. Most of the Kings of Germany and of the Romans were crowned as emperors, thus attaining the highest possible secular rank as sovereigns.



*Seal of the 'Golden Bull' (replica), Munich, Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv (top); Merkel table centrepiece, Museen der Stadt Nürnberg (left); Tankard with the imperial eagle, 17th century (right)*



*Emperor Charles IV (l.); Albrecht Dürer (r.)*

## Emperor and City

In the late Middle Ages, Nuremberg was one of the largest and best-organized municipalities in Europe. As the occasional 'imperial capital', it was thus an ideal arena in which the Empire and its rulers could present themselves publicly. The special privileges Nuremberg enjoyed as a direct imperial city were associated with some costly obligations, however. In 1423, the Emperor Sigmund designated Nuremberg as the location for the safekeeping of the imperial crown jewels. The acceptance of the Reformation in 1525 led to estrangement between the Protestant city and the Catholic Emperors. The exhibition illustrates the ways in which the sovereign and the city interacted on the basis of privileges and obligations.

*Statue of Emperor Charles IV (replica), Prague, National Museum, Lapidarium (top left); Portrait of Albrecht Dürer, detail from a painting by Wilhelm Wanderer, 1895–1901, Museen der Stadt Nürnberg (top right); Hans Baier, Model of the City of Nuremberg, 1540, Munich, Bayerisches Nationalmuseum (below)*

