



The arcades in the »Schöner Hof« are decorated with reliefs which also include idealized portraits of the Hohenzollerns.



»Schöner Hof« (top l.); Christiansportal on the High Bastion (r.); Castle Church (bottom l.); Mythical beast from the »Schöner Hof« (below)

Plassenburg ob Kulmbach

The pride and treasure of the Franconian Hohenzollerns

Both princely residence and massive fortress, Plassenburg is one of Bavaria's most impressive historical buildings. The »Schöner Hof« (Beautiful Courtyard) with its richly decorated arcades has all the atmosphere of a German Renaissance court. The exterior fortifications testify to the effort required to remain politically independent in the Confessional Age. The power and pretensions of the burgraves of Nuremberg and the margraves of Brandenburg are nowhere as evident as in this castle.

From 1338/40 to 1791, Plassenburg was a ruling seat of the Franconian Hohenzollerns, and after this was a Prussian fortress until 1806. The magnificent complex was built in its present form from 1557 for Margrave Georg Friedrich by the architect Caspar Vischer, after the original building on this site had been destroyed in the Second Margraves' War. In place of the small castle which had been founded before 1135 by the Counts of Andechs, Vischer created a representative four-winged complex, fortified on the side facing the hill with massive bastions. Today Plassenburg, situated high above Kulmbach,



is a cultural centre of the Obermainland region. After destruction of the fortifications by order of Napoleon in 1806, the castle served until 1928 as a gaol and workhouse – it is now used for exhibitions, museums and special collections. The Free State of Bavaria and the town of Kulmbach today maintain four museums under one roof.

The **Hohenzollerns in Franconia** museum is located in the historical rooms dating from the 16th century with their spectacular interiors and furnishings.

The **Frederick the Great Army Museum** has Prussian weapons and military items dating from 1700 to 1806.

The **Deutsche Zinnfigurenmuseum** (German Museum of Pewter Figures) has the largest collection of pewter figures in Germany, including the diorama with the most figures in the world: »The destruction of Kulmbach on St. Conrad's Day 1553«.

In the **Landschaftsmuseum Obermain** (Museum of the Upper Main Region) the history and natural history of the town and the region are documented with a wide variety of exhibits and displays.

INFORMATION

PLASSENBURG

95326 Kulmbach
Tel. +49 (0)9221 8220-0 · Fax +49 (0)9221 8220-26

INFORMATION

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Bayreuth-Eremitage
Ludwigstraße 21 · 95444 Bayreuth
Tel. +49 (0)921 75969-0 · Fax +49 (0)921 75969-15
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de

OPENING TIMES

April to September: 9 am – 6 pm
October to March: 10 am – 4 pm

Plassenburg Castle is closed on 1.1., Shrove Tuesday, 24.12., 25.12. and 31.12.

Regular guided tours

& Limited access to the Landschaftsmuseum Obermain and the Zinnfigurenmuseum · Disabled toilet available

REFRESHMENTS

Burgschänke · Café im Schönen Hof
Tel. +49 (0) 9221 81313

HOW TO GET THERE

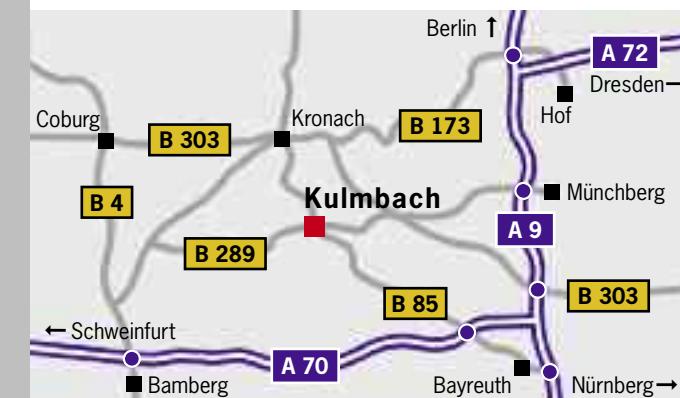
Train to Kulmbach
No parking facilities at the castle, no access for coaches
Central car park or Basteigasse multi-storey car park · Plassenburg-Express shuttle bus from the town centre (central car park)

FURTHER MUSEUMS IN THE CASTLE

Deutsches Zinnfigurenmuseum and Landschaftsmuseum Obermain
(same opening times)

Information on all the property administered by the Palace Department:

Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen
Postfach 20 20 62 · 80020 München
info@bsv.bayern.de · www.schloesser.bayern.de





Margrave Christian Ernst, 1657 (left); Hans von Kulmbach, rosary picture, c. 1516/18 (middle)

Margrave Johann Friedrich, 1659 (right); state bed of Margrave Maria, c. 1630 (below)

The Hohenzollerns in Franconia

Princes and kings from the House of Hohenzollern significantly influenced the course of German history. The museum in Plassenburg Castle documents the history of this family – once burgraves of Nuremberg – who became powerful in Franconia and ruled here until 1806. Governing from the two centres of Ansbach and Kulmbach/Bayreuth, they shaped the development of Central and Upper Franconia by supporting the Reformation, encouraging the settlement of the Huguenots and introducing economic reforms. Franconia was the Hohenzollern's power base for expanding into Brandenburg and Prussia. When the Franconian hereditary lines died out, the Prussian kings took over the Franconian homelands, which they ruled from 1792 to 1806.

The new museum in the magnificent residential rooms of the 16th-century castle illustrates the life of princes in the Baroque age. It traces the progress of the Hohenzollerns from the Middle Ages, through the two margravias of the 17th and 18th cen-



turies to Prussian dominance and the endeavours of the Prussian kings to preserve the Franconian monuments of their family. The museum was established together with the »Haus der Bayerischen Geschichte« and the State Collections of Bavaria, in particular the Bavarian Army Museum.

Frederick the Great Army Museum

The museum in the most important Hohenzollern fortress in Bavaria has the largest existing collection of old Prussian military items dating from 1700 to 1806, which are on display in 32 glass cases. It documents the outward appearance and inner structure of an army which altered the course of history on the battlefields of 18th-century Europe and focuses in particular on the time of Frederick the Great (1740–1786). The infantry and cavalry are described in detail, as well as the social structure of the troops. The main exhibits are firearms, swords, flags and paintings. The museum was established jointly with the collector and historian Bernd Windsheimer.

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