

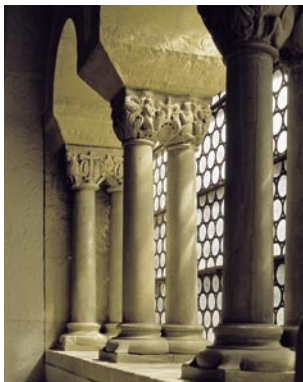


THE WARTBURG



“WAIT, MOUNTAIN, I’LL TURN YOU INTO A CASTLE”: ACCORDING TO LEGEND THESE ARE THE WORDS THAT COUNT LUDWIG DER SPRINGER (THE JUMPER) SAID WHEN HE SAW THE WARTBERG IN THE THURINGIAN FOREST. LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT THIS DECISION CREATED A TOURIST ATTRACTION PAR EXCELLENCE FOR THE STATE OF THURINGIA – THE MOST GERMAN OF ALL CASTLES AND THE DREAM OF EVERY MAN IMAGINING HIMSELF TO BE RIDING HOME AS THE CHIVALROUS KNIGHT AFTER A DAY OF BRAVE DEEDS STRAIGHT INTO THE ARMS OF THE DAMSEL OF THE CASTLE WHO IN THIS CASE MUST AT LEAST HAVE BEEN A REAL LANDGRÄFIN.

Left to right:
Triforium on the
eastern wall of the
castle's chapel
Elisabeth boudoir



UNESCO World Heritage Site Wartburg

In Europe there are two castles that have been listed, as single monuments, as World Heritage Sites, one being the Polish Marienburg, the other one the Wartburg. In its selection criteria UNESCO stated: In many aspects this is “the ideal castle”. The castle is now the pride of a whole nation.

One hears less about duels and stormings of the castle, but more of singers’ contests, the life

How would those discussions at the Wartburg have run? “It will never do to enforce discipline by the cane. He who is to become an honourable man should be given as many words of instruction as lashes.” These words are by Walther von der Vogelweide, pedagogically far ahead of his times.

Thanks to Richard Wagner, everyone has heard about the singers’ contest at the Wartburg through “Tannhäuser”, which according to legend took place in 1206. Moritz von Schwind created the famous fresco of this early cultural competition. In the Elisabeth boudoir you can see mosaics of the saint who committed herself to the ideal of poverty of Francis of Assisi. For a short period of time the Wartburg was also home to Junker Jörg – Luther. Protected by his electoral prince he translated the New Testament from Greek into German. The oldest part of the castle is the Roman palas, the first of this type of building. It has remained the most important secular Romanesque building in the German-speaking world – artistically and architecturally.



Sandstone capital 12th century,
aka Jealousy Capital

of Saint Elisabeth, who is venerated by Catholic and Protestant believers in the whole world, and the pious man from Wittenberg – Dr. Martin Luther. In other words: Whatever touches the German soul here, it is charm, poetry, social conscience, honesty and scholarly work. Not an unpleasant image!

INFORMATION

The **Wartburg Museum** displays works of art from 8 centuries: Paintings by Luther’s friend Lucas Cranach, sculptures by Tilman Riemenschneider, Dürer’s cabinet of 1515, decorative tapestry, furniture and works of Renaissance craftsmen.

Guided castle tours daily
Mar-Oct 08.30–17.00 hrs,
Nov-Feb 09.00–15.30 hrs.
These tours include a visit to the Roman palas and the Wartburg museum. Fees: 7.00–6.00 EUR, students 4.00 EUR, group and event tickets available at the Wartburg-Stiftung, D-99817 Eisenach
Tel. +49 (0) 3691.2500
www.wartburg.de

A wedding in a romantic setting? Then the place for you is the Jägerzimmer in the “Hotel auf der Wartburg”. In the Great Hall you can enjoy Wagner’s “Tannhäuser”, and from 2009, “Parsifal” in a concert form, listen to classical concerts, enjoy readings, attend services in the chapel or visit the magic Christmas Market in December in the courtyards.