

## THE STAUFER REGION RHINE-NECKAR



Left to right: The arcades of the Imperial Palace Bad Wimpfen. Trifels near Annweiler. Guttenberg Castle near Haßmersheim.

## “Stupor Mundi” – The amazement of the world

**F**riedrich II, grandson of Barbarossa, is considered to be one of the most unusual rulers of his time. He is reputed to have been extremely interested in the sciences and empirical studies. He was also a passionate falconer and a knowledgeable expert on the noble sport. He had great respect for Arabian culture – he could even speak Arabic. He fought the crusade to which he had committed himself to the pope by sitting at the conference table with his opponent, Sultan Al-Kamil and reaching a negotiated settlement.

The life-sized emperor seated on a throne before you in the exhibition is probably Friedrich II. To see this work from Northern Italy in the exhibition is a sensation in itself: The sculpture comes from the USA and never before has it been shown in Europe. The ruler on a throne impressively displays

the influence of antique art on the era. Friedrich II had his portrait embossed on gold coins following the tradition of ancient emperors.

Another fine exhibit is the head of Jupiter of the Capua bridge gate dating from between 1234 and 1239.

You will be able to see magnificent folios. Not only Bible manuscripts or stories of the saints but also manuscripts describing everyday subjects which have their own special appeal: “Der Welsche Gast” by Thomasin von Zerclaere, written in Bavaria 1250–1260, is a book on etiquette written for knights and is magnificently illustrated.

Rest assured, this exhibition will display works of art of world rank. The exhibits convey the essence of an era that changed the picture of the world like none other in history.



Depiction of the Seven Free Arts in *Der Welsche Gast* by Thomasin von Zerclaere, Bavaria, 1250–1260, Heidelberg University Library.

# Truly Imperial

## STAUFER REGION RHEIN-NECKER – A MEDIEVAL CULTURE TRAIL IN BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG, RHEINLAND-PALATINATE AND HESSE.

Did you know that the English King Richard Lion-Heart was handed over to the Staufer Emperor Heinrich VI in 1193 and was kept prisoner at Trifels castle until the ransom arrived from England in 1194?

Did you know that Konrad von Staufen received the Rhine Palatinate from his half-brother Friedrich Barbarossa, making Heidelberg a centre of Staufer rule?

Did you know that Friedrich II came to Bad Wimpfen bringing with him many exotic animals in order to depose his renegade son Heinrich (VII)? History is always found in stories.

You can experience these stories and the history of the Staufers if you travel along the

medieval culture trail in the Rhein-Neckar region and, further afield, in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse as well as in Alsace. You will make discoveries. The greatest power of the empire. This medieval reputation still gives honour to the European Metropolitan Rhine-Neckar region. Truly imperial.



**This project about the Middle Ages is being carried out with the help of the Institute for Franconian History and Regional Studies of Heidelberg University, the General Directorate Cultural Heritage Rhineland-Palatinate and with the international cooperation of the Autonomous Region of Sicily and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Lombardy Region. "The Staufers and Italy" will be shown later in Palermo.**

### INFORMATION

Situated at the heart of the metropolitan region Rhine-Neckar Mannheim is the ideal starting point for **day excursions** to historical towns and places in three German states, i. e. Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, but also the Alsace. The places where we can still experience the glorious Middle Ages are: Fleckenstein Castle/Alsace, Guttenberg Castle near Haßmersheim, Hardenburg Castle Ruins near Bad Dürkheim, Landskron Castle Ruins near Oppenheim, Steinsberg Castle near Sinsheim-Weiler, Windeck Castle near Weinheim, Eberbach, Heidelberg, Hirschhorn, Bad Wimpfen Imperial Castle, Lorsch Monastery, Neckargemünd, Neckarsteinach, Trifels Imperial Castle near Annweiler, Rietburg/Roth, Strahlenburg near Schriesheim, Speyer, Starkenburg near Heppenheim.

### Highlights Staufer Region Rhein-Neckar 2010

Examples from Bad Wimpfen  
Imperial Palace

For groups:

**"Where once emperors and kings held court"** (duration: 1.5 hours) Tour of the largest imperial Staufer palace north of the Alps and the historical old town of Bad Wimpfen. All-inclusive price (up to 30 pers.) 50.00 EUR, historical dress (Staufer Lady) 8.00 EUR per group, foreign languages (Engl, French, Span, Ital, Jap, DGS: 8.00 EUR per group

Individual guests:

**Guided tour** Sundays 14.00 hrs from the railway station: 2.00 Euro; 28 - 29 August 2010:

**Medieval Guild Market**

Special offers and information:  
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View of Bad Wimpfen