

HOHENTWIEL FORTRESS RUINS



OPENING TIMES

1 APRIL TO 15 SEPTEMBER
DAILY 9 AM – 7.30 PM

16 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER
DAILY 10 AM – 6 PM

1 NOVEMBER TO 31 MARCH
DAILY 10 AM - 4 PM

Last entry 1 hour before
applicable closing time

GUIDED TOURS

By arrangement

ADMISSION

- ADULTS € 3.50
- CONCESSIONS € 1.80
- FAMILIES € 8.80
- YEARLY PASS € 17.50
- GROUPS OF MORE THAN 15
- PER PERSON € 3.10

DISABILITY ACCESS

Information available at
www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/disabilityaccess

CONTACT US

HOHENTWIEL FORTRESS RUINS
Auf dem Hohentwiel 2a
78224 Singen, Germany

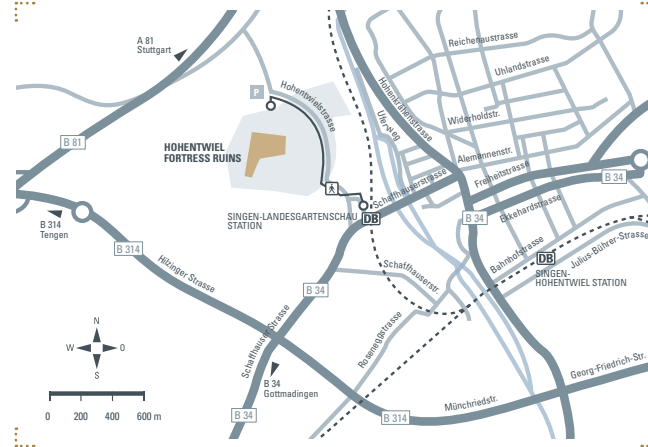
INFORMATION CENTRE

Phone +49(0)77 31.6 91 78
Fax +49(0)77 31.6 91 78
info@festungsrue-hohentwiel.de
www.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en

Last updated: November 2011
All information subject to change



HOW TO FIND US



GETTING THERE

By public transport: by train to Singen-Landesgartenschau station.
Please follow the signs.
Access for vehicles with a height over 3 m via Schaffhauser Strasse.

MORE INFORMATION

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten
Baden-Württemberg
Schlossraum 22a
76646 Bruchsal, Germany
Phone +49(0)72 51.74 - 2770
info@ssg.bwl.de



www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en



THE MOST BREATHTAKING PANORAMA IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

HOHENTWIEL FORTRESS RUINS

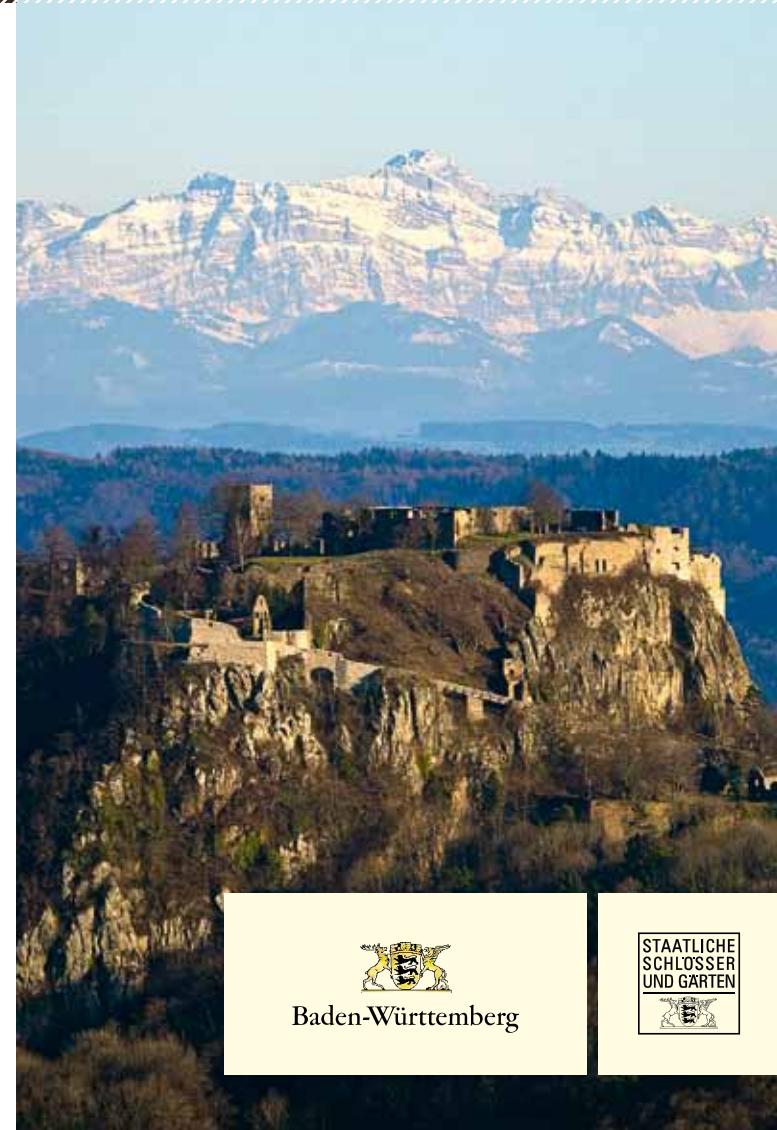


Photo credits: SSG, LMZ; concept and design: www.jungkommunikation.de

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Spread across nine hectares, the largest fortress ruins in Germany offer one of the country's most impressive vistas: from Hohentwiel, you can see across Lake Constance, over the gentle rolling hills of the Thurgau region to the majestic 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 A FORTRESS TO A 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 (which was 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.

As you walk up to Hohentwiel, you can understand why this mighty fortress was considered unconquerable



In 1845, the church tower, which was frequently used as a viewpoint, was rebuilt, and the first observation deck constructed.

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 highly popular after its publication in 1855. This drew a fresh wave of 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 now a nature reserve, offering a unique habitat to many rare species of flora and fauna. Today, more than 80,000 visitors a year come to admire this special place.

A striking and memorable detail: a single surviving curlicue on the façade of the former barracks