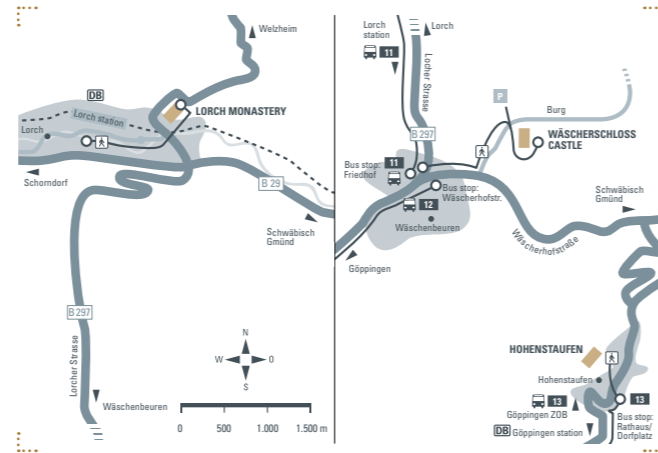




The particularly well-preserved Wäscherschloss Castle is a prime example of an original Staufer residence. The family tomb can be found in Lorch Monastery.

To mark the 900th anniversary of the monastery in 2002, local artist Hans Kloss created an extensive wall mural in the chapter house. The panoramic painting, which spans an area of 135 m², recounts the history of the Staufer line. Depicting scenes from Hohenstaufen to Naples, it captures the rise and fall of one of the most powerful dynasties in Germany and Europe between 1102 and 1268 AD.

HOW TO FIND US



GETTING THERE

Lorch Monastery:
Public transport: railway line from Stuttgart to Schwäbisch Gmünd; 10-minute walk from Lorch station.

Wäscherschloss Castle:
By bus: number 11 from Göppingen, Lorch or Schwäbisch Gmünd to Wäschenbeuren; number 12 from Göppingen or Schwäbisch Gmünd to Wäschenbeuren, Wäscherhofstrasse bus stop.

Hohenstaufen:
By bus: number 13 from Göppingen to Hohenstaufen, bus stop Rathaus/Dorfplatz. The hill can be reached in a few minutes via Kaiserbergsteige.

MORE INFORMATION
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www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en



HOME OF THE LEGENDARY HOHENSTAUFEN DYNASTY

WÄSCHERSCHLOSS CASTLE HOHENSTAUFEN LORCH MONASTERY



Photo credit: SSG, LMZ; concept and design: www.fungkommunikation.de

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The well-known Staufer mural in Lorch Monastery depicts the colourful history of the house of Hohenstaufen

The homelands of the house of Hohenstaufen (who are also known as the Staufer) stretched from Göppingen to Schwäbisch Gmünd. This legendary medieval dynasty, which included dukes, kings and emperors, erected the first castles and monasteries in this area – and soon wielded powerful influence over central Europe and the entire Mediterranean region.

A key landmark of Staufer territory is Hohenstaufen hill, an imposing mound rising up on the horizon. The numerous historical buildings that encircle it underline the monumental significance of the family.

Wäserschloss Castle (*Burg Wäserschloss*), Hohenstaufen and Lorch Monastery (*Kloster Lorch*) are key historical locations for the Staufer – representing the birthplace of the dynasty, the official family seat, and its initial burial site.



🏰 Only the foundation walls remain of what was once an important castle on the Hohenstaufen hill

WÄSCHERSCHLOSS CASTLE – THE STAUFER FAMILY ORIGIN

The excellently preserved castle was constructed between 1220 and 1250 and is situated at the heart of Staufer territory. Wäserschloss was the outer fortification of Büren Castle, whose inhabitants later named themselves after Hohenstaufen hill. This is *the birthplace of the Staufer dynasty*. A formidable stone wall encloses the castle, protecting the well-fortified living quarters. The site has survived the centuries since the Middle Ages in outstanding condition and is a prime example of a Staufer residence.



🏰 Hexagonal and protected by high walls: Wäserschloss Castle goes back to the origins of the Staufer family.

HOHENSTAUFEN – THE FAMILY SEAT

Hohenstaufen hill probably gets its name from the medieval German word *Stauf* – meaning a bell-shaped goblet. Around 1070, Friedrich I of Schwaben, who later became a Staufer duke, commissioned the construction of Hohenstaufen Castle in this strategically favourable location. There is evidence that *Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa* stayed here in 1181. In 1208, Philipp of Swabia's widow Queen Irene died at the castle. German Medieval lyric poet Walther von der Vogelweide famously hailed Irene as “a rose without thorns.”

Right into the late Middle Ages, the castle was a focal point of political power until it was destroyed by rebellious farmers in the Peasants' War of 1525. Today, only a few remnants of the original fortress remain. But the hill is still closely associated with the myths and legends surrounding this illustrious noble family.

The information centre at the foot of Hohenstaufen provides details on the Staufer line, including their origin and homeland, and the portrayal of this powerful dynasty.



🏰 Visible from near and far, Lorch Monastery chapel nestles on a hilltop, making it a superb vantage point

LORCH MONASTERY – THE FINAL RESTING PLACE

The buildings of this former Benedictine monastery keep watch over the narrowest point of the Rems Valley. In medieval times, this was the Hohenstaufen family's place of worship and burial site. Duke Friedrich I of Schwaben commissioned its construction around 1100 and several family members were laid to rest here, including *Irene, daughter of a Byzantine emperor* and wife of King Philipp of Schwaben. With the advent of the Evangelical church, the monastery was closed in 1556. From 1879, the rise of German national identity prompted increased interest in the Staufer dynasty. As a result, the planned destruction of the site was halted.

One of the original pair of round towers – that once flanked the west part of the building – is still a prominent sight on the horizon. The central nave of the chapel, a Romanesque basilica, houses a further treasure: the Staufer family tomb, which dates back to 1475.

WÄSCHERSCHLOSS CASTLE, HOHENSTAUFEN, LORCH MONASTERY



OPENING TIMES

🏰 WÄSCHERSCHLOSS

Permanent exhibition

APRIL TO FALL BREAK

TUE – SUN 10 AM – 5 PM

END OF FALL BREAK TO MARCH

ACCORDING TO THE EVENT CALENDAR AND BY ADVANCE RESERVATION

🏰 HOHENSTAUFEN

Public access

🏰 LORCH

Monastery buildings, permanent exhibition and Staufer mural

MARCH TO OCTOBER

MON – SUN 10 AM – 6 PM

NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY

MON – SUN 10 AM – 5 PM

Closed 24 and 31 December

GUIDED TOURS

🏰 WÄSCHERSCHLOSS

Special tours as per schedule and by arrangement

🏰 LORCH

Group tours by appointment; special-interest tours according to programme and by appointment

🏰 FALCONRY DISPLAYS

APRIL TO OCTOBER

TUE, WED, THU, SAT AT 3 PM

SUN AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

AT 11 AM AND 3 PM

November to March on request

ADMISSION

🏰 WÄSCHERSCHLOSS

· ADULTS € 3.00

· CONCESSIONS € 1.50

· FAMILIES € 7.50

GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE

· PER PERSON € 2.70

Separate prices for special exhibitions

🏰 HOHENSTAUFEN

FREE ENTRY

🏰 LORCH

· ADULTS € 4.00

· CONCESSIONS € 2.00

· FAMILIES € 10.00

GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE

· PER PERSON € 3.60

Separate prices for special exhibitions

YEARLY PASS

· ADULTS € 20.00

· CONCESSIONS € 10.00

Prices for falconry display available on request

🏰 🏰 DISABILITY ACCESS

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

🏰 🏰 CONTACT US

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