

2026



PRESS RELEASE

Hohenwerfen Adventure Castle: A journey down the centuries

Hohenwerfen Castle sits majestically on a rock, high above Salzach Valley. Birds of prey circle its towers, and all those who pass through the gates of these mighty walls enter another world. History, from the Middle Ages to the present day, is experienced with all the senses. No wonder the adventure castle is one of Salzburg's most popular family destinations!

NEW: 'The Uprising' – Hohenwerfen Castle during the Salzburg Peasants' War

In 1525 and 1526, an uprising of farmers and miners in Salzburg almost caused the downfall of the Prince-Archbishopric. The struggle against the authorities was particularly successful in the inner-alpine regions. The rebels managed to capture Hohenwerfen and, briefly, the castle became a symbol of this triumph. A **special new interactive multimedia exhibition** on the upper floor of the armoury builds a bridge to the present day, and to human and civil rights. Special tours of the exhibition can be booked separately, and encourage discussion about the extent to which the rebels' demands are still valid today.

Experience the Middle Ages at first hand

At Hohenwerfen Adventure Castle, in addition to events such as the Peasants' War, there are 950 years of history to marvel at, dating back to the Middle Ages. A highlight of every visit is a **personal guided tour of the fortress**. Guests are immersed in the history of the castle and discover numerous gruesome details from previous eras – as with the torture chamber and terrifying dungeon which were once inhabited by a mute prisoner. Nevertheless, the bell tower offers a magnificent view across Salzburg State's mountainous scenery, inviting visitors to take photos and marvel at the views. The tour is translated into **13 languages** for foreign-language visitors using an **audio guide**. After the tour, the **castle tavern restaurant** tempts visitors with regional delicacies and medieval treats, and the **knight's shop** offers a selection of souvenirs from the castle.

Your press contact:

Birgit Meixner, Salzburg Castles and Palaces Management
Zugallstraße 12, 5020 Salzburg
Tel: +43 (0) 662 / 84 61 81, Fax: +43 (0) 662 / 84 61 85
Email: meixner@salzburg-burgen.at
Website: www.salzburg-burgen.at

Hohenwerfen Adventure Castle:

Burgstraße 2, 5450 Werfen
Email: office@erlebnisburg-hohenwerfen.at
Website: www.erlebnisburg-hohenwerfen.at

See demonstrations of the centuries-old craft of falconry

One special highlight of every visit is a **falconry demonstration** staged by the **old provincial falconry centre**. Demonstrations in the fortress grounds are held twice a day, even three times a day in July and August. Visitors come to the fortress from all over the world to witness at close quarters the spectacular aerial manoeuvres performed by falcons, eagles, buzzards and other birds of prey. Trained falconry specialists and the **falconry museum** provide insights into an ancient craft rarely seen today.

Falconry demonstration dates

1 April to 8 November Every day 11:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

20 July to 21 August Every day 11:15 a.m., 2:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

9 to 11 October No falconry demonstrations

A fortified medieval fortress becomes a family attraction

Hohenwerfen Adventure Castle boasts a long and colourful history. In 1077, under Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein construction began in parallel on Hohenwerfen Castle, Hohensalzburg Fortress and Friesach Castle in Carinthia. Mighty rulers and sovereigns were imprisoned here. Down the centuries the imposing castle at Hohenwerfen has served several purposes. It has also been a **film set and a rural police school**, and over 30 years ago was finally opened to visitors from all over the world. The castle has since become one of the most popular attractions in the Salzburg region.

NEW: Permanent castle history exhibitions in the armoury, pump vault and Binderturm tower.

From 2026, in addition to the guided journey through time as part of our castle tour, on the ground floor of the armoury there will be a **permanent exhibition on life at the castle and its history** – as well as an additional exhibition on **Hohenwerfen Castle as a Nazi training castle (1939-1945). Firefighting equipment from down the ages** can now be admired in the newly opened Binderturm tower.

Great for families

Hohenwerfen Fortress is a great choice for families. A special children's **audio guide is available in six languages** (German, Italian, English, Dutch, Danish and Hebrew) to ensure all kids enjoy entertaining, depictive and informative insights into life in the Middle Ages. The **children's puzzle rally** is particularly exciting. Equipped with a puzzle book, young visitors set off on an exciting treasure hunt. Those who solve all the puzzles can look forward to a treat at the ticket office or information point.

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A packed event schedule at the castle

Hohenwerfen Castle will be offering its usual wide variety of events in 2026. Highlights include the **atmospheric Advent market** (28 & 29 November and 5, 6 & 8 December), the **Mystical Night**, when guests take their seats at the Burgrave's table (22 May, 19 June, 4 September and 9 October) and the **summer cinema in the castle courtyard** (7 August). There's plenty scheduled for families, too, such as the **grand children's festival** (25 October), **medieval activities** (23-25 May, 20 & 21 June, 5 & 6 September, 10 & 11 October) – when jugglers, craftsmen and knights populate the castle, the special **falconry programme** with authentic hunting and court music from centuries past. There's an up-to-date overview of other events too, such as our Easter programme for children and the castle singing event – with exact dates on the website www.burg-hohenwerfen.at.

NEW: Special small-group guided tours around Hohenwerfen Castle

Visitors seeking something out of the ordinary will love the new and exclusive **private tours for small groups (4-8 people) in German and English**. After an exhilarating **falconry demonstration**, a **private guide** leads the group along secret routes into the interior of the main castle, revealing areas normally hidden from the public. The crowning glory of this special castle tour is a **sophisticated snack** featuring regional specialities served in the unique atmosphere of the castle. An exploration of Hohenwerfen Castle has never been more luxurious, private and absolutely extraordinary.

Explore the fortress from home on 360° virtual tours

All castle fans can enjoy a free preliminary virtual tour of Hohenwerfen Fortress, or revisit the interior of the building, admiring the special exhibition in the armoury and exploring the special exhibition in the armoury from the comfort of their screens. The **360° tour** is complemented by interviews with experts and fascinating background information. The virtual tour is available on the website at www.burg-hohenwerfen.at.

Getting here & purchasing tickets

Hohenwerfen Castle, located just 30 minutes south of the city of Salzburg in the town of Werfen, can be reached by **car via the motorway**, or by using the **quick and convenient train connection**.

Remember, there's free travel for holders of the Guest Mobility Ticket! **Regional trains run every half hour** between the city of Salzburg and Werfen, and the journey takes about **45 minutes**. From Werfen

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railway station visitors can either walk approximately 30 minutes, or book a shuttle bus to Hohenwerfen Fortress on +43 664 1266700 an hour before they arrive. There's a lift up to the fortress from the car park below. Alternatively, walk up the *Vogeltennweg* path to the top in around 20 minutes. Holders of a 'SalzburgerLand Card' can explore Hohenwerfen Fortress free-of-charge. The lift costs extra. Hohenwerfen Adventure Castle also offers time-saving **online tickets**, allowing visitors to buy tickets on smartphones and computers.

OPENING HOURS 2026: 1 April to 8 November

***(Closed on Mondays except public holidays)**

May to September Daily, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

20 July to 21 August Daily, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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