

# 2026



## PRESS RELEASE

### Mauterndorf Castle: A great trip out in the Lungau region of Salzburg

Mauterndorf Castle has seen many travellers in its long history – traders, vagabonds, archbishops and nobility – all of whom had to pay the toll on their way across the Alps. Today, the castle delights visitors young and old with numerous medieval scenes, a large knights' playground, a 700-year-old publicly-accessible defence tower, a natural circuitous path around the revitalised castle park and a genuine working drawbridge.

#### Archbishopical summer residence on the Via Imperialis

The first documented mention of the castle was as a toll station, dating back to 1002. Construction of the castle and its 44-metre-high defence tower was commenced at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Archbishop Leonhard von Keutschach** used Mauterndorf as his summer residence and gave the complex its current appearance. Mauterndorf Castle is one of the last three surviving toll stations along the Via Imperialis, the Roman trade route between the South and North. The **defence tower** is in a uniquely excellent condition and provides fascinating insights into castle life during a siege. The defence tower has been open for visitors in the winter since 2024.

#### Explore the castle for yourself with an audio guide

On a **tour of the castle**, re-enacted scenes of medieval castle life take visitors back to the Middle Ages. Down in the catacombs visitors explore various aspects of attack and defence; while in the entrance hall they meet 'real' people, discovering their medieval professions and habits. The costume chamber provides an opportunity for visitors to dress up in typical medieval clothing, and there's a festively decked-out banqueting table in the knights' hall. One of the highlights of the castle tour is a **walk around the defence tower** with its entrance twelve metres above ground. Earlier uses of the tower are authentically reconstructed on six floors – including a treasury, dungeon, emergency quarters and guard's quarters. There are **audio-guide tours** for adults *and* for children, available in nine languages.

#### Epenstein: Patron, honorary citizen and Goering's godfather

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The Berlin doctor Dr Hermann Epenstein saved Mauterndorf Castle from decay, purchasing it in 1894, and had it restored in exemplary fashion – using it as his summer residence until the First World War. The market town later awarded him honorary citizenship and he became an Austrian citizen. Although Epenstein's father had been a Jew who converted to the Catholic faith, Hermann Epenstein became the godfather of the later Nazi criminal Hermann Goering. This explains how, after Epenstein's death in 1934, Mauterndorf Castle came into Goering's possession for several years. A current **special exhibition** in the castle is dedicated to the multi-faceted life and work of Hermann Epenstein.

### **Visitor access to the castle chapel & knights' adventure playground**

It has been possible to explore the old castle chapel since the original entrance to the chapel gallery was reopened and renovated a few years ago. Visitors are able to explore the cultural and historical importance of the chapel at first hand. The **gothic murals** are some of the most beautiful of their kind in the province of Salzburg. The winged altarpiece features a depiction of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of alpine miners; a saint greatly venerated in the Lungau region. Another major highlight for families is the large children's playground. As the **playground** is integrated into the medieval walls and courtyards, kids get to conquer a genuine 'castle within the castle'.

### **Round-trip trail with a postcard view**

The attractive **circular route** built around the old castle park allows visitors to explore the castle hill and its wide variety of flora, observe the Taurach River as it flows by, and marvel at the enchanting Stampflbach stream waterfall. Visitors savour endless fantastic views of the castle and surrounding countryside in Salzburg's Lungau region. The highlight of the enjoyable walk is Toni Schmale's art and culture competition-winning fully functional drawbridge over the Stampflbach River.

### **Full schedule of events & exciting special features**

Mauterndorf Castle offers **special evocative evening tours** for visiting individual and groups, and provides holiday and **school programmes** for children. The castle hosts the **Lungau Countryside Museum**, a large **knights' playground**, an **event hall**, and the **Burgschenke castle tavern** – complete with its **sunny 120m<sup>2</sup>** patio looking out over Mauterndorf. Major events held here include the **medieval 'Spectaculum'**, the **long nights**, and atmospheric **Easter** and **Advent markets** up at the castle.

Info on all events can be viewed at [www.burg-mauterndorf.at](http://www.burg-mauterndorf.at).

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## General visitor information

The Lungau region is a roughly 90-minute drive from the city of Salzburg. Admission to the castle is free of charge with the 'SalzburgerLand Card' or the 'Lungau Card', and can be enjoyed at a discount using the 'KatschbergCard'. Visitors benefit from free WLAN, and Mauterndorf Castle offers visitors a convenient and attractively-priced **online ticket** – saving time and money.

## SUMMER 2026 OPENING HOURS

### 1 May – 31 October

May, June, Sept., Oct.	Every day: 09.30 – 17.00
July, August	Every day: 09.30 – 18.00

## WINTER 2026 OPENING HOURS

### 1 January – 22 April & 27 to 31 December

1 January – 27 March	Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	10.00 – 17.00
31 March – 7 April	Every day	10.00 – 17.00
27 – 31 December	Every day	10.00 – 18.00

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