



Rheinland-Pfalz

GENERALDIREKTION  
KULTURELLES ERBE



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BURGEN SCHLÖSSER ALTERTÜMER



Organisation  
der Vereinten Nationen  
für Bildung, Wissenschaft  
und Kultur



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# ENJOY A UNIQUE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Discover the fascinating history of our country at the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley: Breath-taking views and spectacular architecture await you along a stretch of 70 kilometres – above all the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress Cultural Centre, gate to the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. A unique cable car ride across the Rhine will take you to one of the largest fortresses in

Europe. Prussian Rhenish Romanticism can be enjoyed at Stolzenfels Castle. Conquer the “Ship made of Stone” at Pfalzgrafenstein and experience fairy tale times at Sooneck Castle.



## DISCOVER THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE UPPER MIDDLE RHINE VALLEY

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Rhine pleasures!



## EHRENBREITSTEIN FORTRESS CULTURAL CENTRE



ONE OF EUROPE'S LARGEST FORTRESSES

The site itself is pure strategy: On three sides the Ehrenbreitstein fortress is protected by rugged escarpments, allowing only attacks from the north; the view extends down to the Rhine river, to Deutsches Eck and the Moselle river, all the way to the Neuwied Basin. For 3,000 years, people have used this mountain as a refuge. The stronghold, expanded by the Prussians, used to be one of Europe's largest fortresses. Walls three feet thick, trenches, tunnels, bridges and gates shape the appearance of this immense building complex to this day.

Conquer the fortress on an exciting journey through time: The experience trail exploring the fortress history covers the entire site: From the exhibition "5,000 years Ehrenbreitstein" to the highest and lowest point of the fortress, the flag tower. The Ehrenbreitstein Fortress Cultural Centre with the Koblenz State Museum also offers family exhibitions on popular topics as well as exhibitions on photography, culinary delights, archaeology and regional economic history.



## STOLZENFELS CASTLE



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STRUCTURE IN THE STYLE OF PRUSSIAN RHENISH ROMANTICISM



Already from afar you will notice: With its bright colour, the outstanding structure on the left bank of the Rhine river dominates the scenery and differs from most of the castles you encounter along the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley. The summer residency of

Frederick William IV of Prussia, built after designs by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, rises graciously from the forested slopes of the Rhine Valley. Outstanding wall paintings and well-preserved original furnishings await visitors inside. Do not miss the castle grounds with charming pergola walks and an English landscape garden by Peter Joseph Lenné.

### TIP

*Make a detour to the nearby royal chair of Rhens. Emperor Charles IV once decreed that the kings of the Holy Roman Empire be elected in the two-storey octagonal building, which today can be experienced as a reconstruction.*

## PFALZGRAFENSTEIN CASTLE



LIKE A SHIP MADE OF STONE

Since its construction in 1327, the legendary castle near Kaub sits enthroned on a rocky ridge in the middle of the Bacharacher Engtal, where the Rhine river is known by the epithets of "Wild Danger" or "Wild Ride" since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As a guard station it secured Kaub's toll – a profitable source of income for its various feudal owners. The completely preserved castle bears witness to the meagre life of the invalid crew of about eight to twenty-four men who served here.

### TIP

*Don't forget to visit Sterrenberg Castle, one of the oldest medieval fortifications along the Middle Rhine.*



## SOONECK CASTLE



A FAIRY TALE CASTLE

Sitting high above the Rhine river, in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, this old castle, once a stronghold of marauding knights, seems to come straight out of a fairy tale. As if it grew straight out of the rock, it is shrouded in legend and adorned by roses. Sooneck Castle on the steep escarpments at the edge of the Soonwald is pure Rhenish Romanticism. Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century its walls have risen above the Engtal between Bingen and Koblenz, but the castle had sunk into a deep sleep for a long time. Prussian King Frederick William IV, the "romantic on the royal throne", together with his brothers were the ones who finally brought Sooneck Castle back to life: They rebuilt it and turned it into a hunting castle, preserving the charm of the medieval knights' castle to this day.



PFALZGRAFENSTEIN CASTLE