



CastleWeitra

NEW PERSPECTIVES



History
Culture
Festival
Experience
Events



CastleWeitra history

Explore the history and secrets of the castle from tower to basement.

Between 1201 - 1208 **Hadmar II.** of Kuenring commanded the construction of the fortress town Weitra. The fortress was situated in the South, at the highest point of a cascaded granite plateau. Since its foundation Weitra was the military, administrative, legal and ecclesiastical centre of the so called "Districtus Witrensis". The fortress town was also the central market place and sanctuary in times of war.

In 1581 emperor Rudolf II. of Hapsburg gave the city and reign of Weitra to baron **Wolf Rumpf of Wielroß**. At this time Weitra was one of the biggest and wealthiest cities in the Waldviertel. From 1590 to 1606 Wolf Rumpf altered the fortress into a mighty renaissance castle, according to plans of the architect **Pietro Ferrabosco**, who also built the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Today the castle more than ever is a lively attraction in the Upper Waldviertel.

Wolf Rumpf's widow Maria, born as countess Arco, married the Swabian count **Friedrich of Fürstenberg**. After her death, she bequeathed the city and castle of Weitra to him. Ever since then this family (later princes and landgraves) owns the castle and estate of Weitra.

CastleWeitra experience

Due to the Lower Austrian national exhibition in 1994 the castle became open to the public.

The castle is a mighty square building, with a tower on its Northern length side. On the narrow sides of the rectangular court are triple storied arcades on granite pillars. They are decorated with lion heads, shells and stylised swords - all symbols of **Santiago de Compostela**, because Wolf Rumpf was Grand Master of the knightly order of the same name. In the middle a **renaissance styled fountain** is located.

Via the **arcade court** you can enter the castle's extraordinarily beautiful **theatre**, which was adapted in rococo style in 1885.

Since 2006 **four gigantic umbrellas** roof the gorgeous renaissance styled court. This construction not only saves the court from bad weather conditions but is also a unique attraction in its own.

Explore more than **800 years of history** of city and castle Weitra in the **castle museum**. It shows exhibits and masterpieces of the history of the Kuenringer (who laid the cornerstone of the city and the castle) and of today's landlords, the Fürstenbergs. Moreover, you are granted insights into the Waldviertel handicraft tradition as well as the regional economic history.

CastleMuseum

Ascent of the CastleTower

CastleBeermuseum

In the castle's first cellar you can see the impressive wall remains of the former Kuenringer fortress.

Weitra's brewing tradition dates back to 1321. In the castle's cellar vaults you can visit the permanent beer exhibition.

The beer museum offers lots of historical objects and tools of the brewing craft, but also well-guarded collector's items from private collections as well as gathered "beer relicts". Get an interesting insight into the centuries old beer tradition.

Don't miss the ascent of the castle's tower. You will be rewarded with a fantastic view over Weitra's surroundings and way beyond the Czech border. Additionally, you can look at the historic town from bird's eye view.

Democracy panel CastleWeitra

The 20th century in Europe - A journey through time

From the dramatic events at the end of World War II to the division of Europe in an Eastern and a Western part to the fall of the Iron Curtain:

In a journey through time you can explore the backgrounds of the division, empathise the life in East and West, get to know the methods of oppression of the dictatorships and the pluralism of the democracies and experience the eventual victory of freedom in 1989 and the European agreement of the European Union.

Events and Festival CastleWeitra

A very varied event schedule from spring to late autumn

Throughout the year, we offer our visitors a varied program of events like plays, concerts from classic to pop genre, readings and special exhibitions in the castle's roofed court, in the castle's theatre and in the romantic bastion garden.

The highlight of the summer is "Weitra - Play in the Castle". Director Peter Hofbauer stages newly adapted comedic plays. The audience can look forward to energetic staging, topped off with music and lots of humour. Details can be found on our homepage www.schloss-weitra.at.

An atmospheric Christmas market takes place on the first weekend in Advent in the festively decorated castle and the historic town. Every year thousands of visitors attend this extraordinary event.

Event location **CastleWeitra**

Wedding at **CastleWeitra**

Castle Weitra offers the ideal location for your events and festivities of all sorts.

You can rent various rooms all around the castle for **weddings, Banquets, dances, baptisms, birthday parties, conventions, seminars, presentations** and many more.

Castle's theatre with foyer, large and small **ballroom, "Kardinal Friedrich" hall, castle's chapel** and big roofed **arcades court** with underfloor heating.

In the warm season the **bastion garden** offers a panoramic view over the historic town and the hilly landscape of the Waldviertel, which makes it a unique setting for exclusive open-air festivities.

The **castle's restaurant** and the adjoining **garden saloon** accommodate up to 200 persons.



CastleWeitra

Become a friend or sponsor of the castle's cultural club "Kulturverein Schloss Weitra"

INFORMATION:

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OPENING HOURS:

1st May to 31st October

Opened daily from 10 am to 5 pm

Closed on Tuesdays

Guided tours possible all-year-round

by prior appointment

