

In Napoleon's footsteps along the Elbe river - Saxony's fascinating fortress monuments under the influence of a conquerer

Bastions and Casemates between Königstein and Wittenberg



European Culture Route
Fortified Monuments

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Napoleon at Fortress Königstein

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Our Travel Recommendation

Following Napoleon's footsteps through Saxony

On his conquest across Europe Napoleon occupied the kingdom of Saxony, from where he would then operate against Prussia and Austro-Hungary. He cunningly used the strategically important Elbe valley for further expansion of fortress constructions and to protect against neighbouring monarchies.

Tourist attraction „Elbe fortresses“

The existing fortress city of Dresden as camp and district leadership and the mighty mountain fortress Königstein Napoleon came very accommodating as they secured the Elbe valley in front of the Habsburg Monarchy.

During the short occupation the town of Torgau on both sides of the Elbe was expanded and renovated with modern fortifications. Together with the fortified castle Hartenfels here was the main depot of the "Grande Armée".

The City of Luther Wittenberg experienced a further expansion of the fortifications in order to create a counterweight to the United Prussian fortress of Magdeburg. The Saxon fortress castle Stolpen increased initially and Napoleon on his retreat from Russia he had destroyed parts.

Today, these historical fortress monuments are full of life and attractive to a diverse audience. Napoleon's tracks are special and unexpected insights into the different types fortress, architectures and functionalities as well as in the political background of their creation and utilization are available.



© Königstein

Mountain Fortress Königstein



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Fortified Castle Hartenfels in Torgau



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Napoleon Bonaparte
(*15 August 1769
† 5 May 1821)

Monuments of Power - full of Life

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Napoleon's footsteps along the Elbe

Saxon fortress Monuments of Königstein to Wittenberg

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<p>Königstein Fortress</p>	<p>Only one visit convinced Napoleon of the special military force of the mighty mountain fortress Königstein high above the Elbe valley. In order to explore the wide tourist offer of the fortress Königstein, one visit is not enough. Many thematic tours, exhibitions and events throughout the year seduce you to come again. An artillery and fortification exhibition shows the armory Neues Zeughaus. Particularly exciting is an overnight stay in a small guesthouse.</p> <p>www.festung-koenigstein.de</p>
<p>Pirna fortified Castle formerly fortified Town</p>	<p>Visit the lovingly restored town of Pirna with a medieval city center and the fortified castle Sonnenstein, in the Napoleon 1813 his headquarters put. The Sonnenstein castle, fortified with imposing bastions overlooking the formerly fortified old town, can be explored through guided tours now. Especially popular are the guided tours on the bastions and defense-systems of the 18th century.</p> <p>www.tourismus.pirna.de</p>
<p>Stolpen fortified Castle</p>	<p>The Saxon fortress Stolpen castle with four castle yards, casemates, castle tower and Johannes tower was in July 1813 cover of the French camp. Since 1877, the castle serves as an outdoor museum and tourist destination. So excited the Castle Museum of Fortress Stolpen with more than 20 historic castle rooms and castle cellars and historical exhibits many visitors. Enjoy the offer of an evening tour, in which the castle shines in the headlights light.</p> <p>www.burg-stolpen.org</p>
<p>Dresden formerly fortified City</p>	<p>The city fortress of Dresden is the first German bastioned fortification. Napoleon used it as a military camp and district leadership before his invasion of Russia. Unexpected fortresses undergrounds are among the famous "Brühl's Terrace" - the fortress museum in Dresden. The cannon yards and casemates contain interesting. Round off your tour with a visit to the restaurant „Festungsmauern am Brühlschen Garten“.</p> <p>www.festung-dresden.de</p>
<p>Torgau Fortress System with fortified Castle and formerly fortified City</p>	<p>In the Renaissance town Torgau the only stronghold of Saxony, which has been preserved in parts and was expanded in 1811 under King Frederick Augustus I of Napoleon at the request of Ernst Ludwig Aster close. The Hartenfels castle as an outstanding monument of the early Renaissance and secured the bridgehead with defense barracks and gun emplacements overgrown as outside work are part of the popular fortress and adventure tours. The Tour "Living Fortress" is especially dedicated to the topic of "Napoleon".</p> <p>www.tic-torgau.de</p>
<p>Wittenberg Formerly fortified City with fortified Castle und Castle Church</p>	<p>Discover the fortress heritage of the City of Luther Wittenberg in the light of Napoleonic conquests. After Napoleon's victory over the combined Prussian-sächsische army in 1806, he left Wittenberg as a fortress to expand. The fortress walls of the city were razed in 1873. Today, the fortress heritage preserved includes the UNESCO awarded castle church, proclaimed his 95 theses to Luther, the fortified castle and the bridgehead Pratau on the Elbe.</p> <p>www.lutherstadt-wittenberg.de</p>



Cannons at the mountain fortress Königstein



© Norbert Kaiser

Fortified Castle Sonnenstein, Pirna



© Daniel Sass

Fortified Castle Stolpen



Battle of Dresden about 1813



UNESCO awarded fortified Castle Church, Lutherstadt Wittenberg

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