

Fortress Frontlines in Franconia resulting from Reformation and Counter-Reformation

Bastions and Canons under the Holy Cross - Fortresses of Protestants



European Culture Route
Fortified Monuments

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Fortress Plassenburg
Kulmbach



Martin Luther

Our Travel Recommendation

The great cultural heritage of Franconian fortifications mainly developed as a result of religious wars raging at the end of the middle age.

With Martin Luther's founded liberalisation of faith in the time of Reformation, the Holy Roman Empire underwent its biggest shock. More and more feudal houses converted to the Protestant Church and turned their back on the Catholic Church.

Subsequently, differences in faith were fought with armed force. This hostility all across Franconia lasted over centuries and splitted the region. The margrave wars as well as the wars of the Schmalkaldic League devastated the land.

Under the holy cross, opposing camps upgraded and built mighty fortresses for the protection of their territories and properties. Nowhere else in Europe, is fortress construction that close and directly targeted against one another.

FORTE CULTURA enables interesting insights in this special Franconian history. Under the **banner of reformation**, fortress construction began in the **imperial city Nürnberg**, in the royal cities **Kulmbach** with the **fortress Plassenburg**, in **Coburg** with **Veste Coburg** as well as in **Lichtenau** and in **Weißenburg** with the construction of the **citadel Wülzburg**.

In contrast, under the influence of Roman emperors and catholic prince-bishops, fortifications were constructed fortress in Würzburg, Kronach, Forchheim, Schnaittach and in Eichstätt.

Today, the former strongholds of the clergy and of noble houses are places of culture, leisure and an attractive touristic offer. Discover Franconian strongholds - full of surprises and exciting experiences.



© Coburg

Culture-Fortress Coburg



©Lichtenau

Fortress Lichtenau

Monuments of Power - full of Life

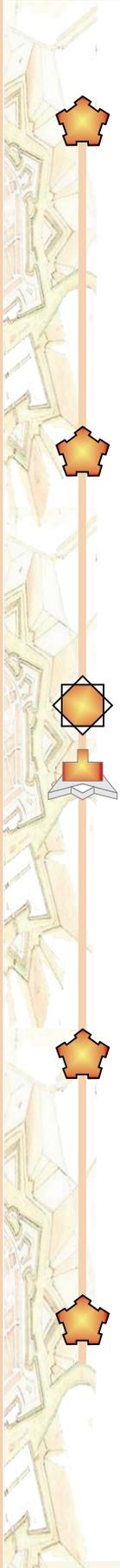
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<p>Coburg Mountain fortress</p>	<p>In 1530 the great reformer Martin Luther stopped over in Coburg. As part of the Saxonian elector John the Constant's followers, he was on his way to the Augsburg Reichstag. As he was under the pope's and under imperial ban, the elector John left him in the protection of the mighty Veste Coburg Castle in order to assure his security.</p> <p>During his stay, Luther wrote many reformative documents. Since 1604 Veste Coburg Castle is therefore an important Luther memorial site. Today it accommodates valuable art collections. Among them other Lutherans, a life size Luther portrait by Lucas Cranach the Younger or the „Hedwig Glas“ of the Middle Ages, which belonged to Luther from 1504 and belongs today to the most valuable art treasures of the Veste.</p> <p>www.coburg.de www.coburg-tourist.de</p>
<p>Kulmbach Mountain fortress</p>	<p>From 1515 the Hohenzollern fortress Plassenburg was under the power of George of Brandenburg-Ansbach (1484-1543). As a early follower of Martin Luther he introduced the protestantism in his territories by church visitations and the introduction of the Brandenburg-Nurembergian church constitution. Kulmbach became evangelical already in 1528. The fortress Plassenburg helped to establish his confession of faith and his imperial politics. Several museums on the fortress address the fortress and city history of Coburg.</p> <p>www.kulmbach.de www.plassenburg.de</p>
<p>Nürnberg Fortified City Fortified Castle</p>	<p>In the 12th century emperor Frederic I. Barbarossa founded the imperial palace, where later 32 emperors and kings from the Holy Roman Empire resided. During this time the burgrave castle was developed to an imperial castle. Later burggraves of Hohenzollern followed. From 1527 the imperial castle was extended with bastions following the plans of the Italian construction master Antonio Fazuni and this way strengthened the Reformation movement in the imperial city of Nuremberg. With its steady construction history and well kept architecture, the imperial castle Nuremberg today belongs to the most significant fortifications in Europe. This town's landmark with its imperial castle museum, the sinwell tower, the double two storeyed church and the pentagon tower offers exciting insights in past history, which was part of the Reformation movement.</p> <p>www.tourismus.nuernberg.de www.kaiserburg-nuernberg.de</p>
<p>Lichtenau Fortress</p>	<p>The Nurembergian castle complex, that stood on the grounds of a water fortress, was considered the „sting in the flesh of Ansbach margraves“. Despite former common efforts to introduce the Reformation, margrave Albrecht Alcibiates destroyed the building in 1552. From 1558 the people of Nuremberg rebuilt the fortress Lichtenau under architect A. Fazuni to pentagonal grounds as a showpiece of renaissance architecture.</p> <p>Discover the very well kept fortification on the „historical way“ of Lichtenau. Today the fortress is state archive and location of cultural events.</p> <p>www.markt-lichtenau.de</p>
<p>Weißenburg Zitadelle</p>	<p>Situated near the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Limes, high above Weißenburg sits enthroned the Hohenzollern fortress Wülzburg, which originally served as a Benedictine monastery. In the course of the Reformation this was converted into a priory and in 1537 into an administrative office. Only from 1588 the landgraves of Brandenburg-Ansbach built a pentagonal fortification. A tour through the citadel Wülzburg comes across the magnificent entrance portal, the dry moats, the five bastions and the well in the west wing, which is a technical marvel back then. Discover this impressive monument of renaissance fortification in Germany.</p> <p>www.weissenburg.de</p>



Luther Room on Veste Coburg Castle



Inner courtyard of fortress Plassenburg



Imperial Castle Nuremberg



Inner courtyard of fortress Lichtenau



Citadel Wülzburg near Weißenburg