



Werfen, Austria - Hohenwerfen Castle

Hohenwerfen Castle is a medieval rock castle, situated on a 623-metre precipice overlooking the Austrian market town of Werfen in the Salzach valley, approximately 40 kilometres south of Salzburg. The fortress is surrounded by the Berchtesgaden Alps and the adjacent Tennen Mountains.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hohenwerfen_Castle

Visitors experience a high-altitude encounter with the past at Hohenwerfen Fortress, a castle dating back over 900 years. This tall, jutting rock, high above the Salzachtal valley floor, offers a gusty view of the surrounding mountains. The feathered hunters of the province's falconry centre, the dashing weaponry, the museums and the dark corners all encourage visitors to investigate the mighty walls of the castle from within.

<https://www.salzburg-burgen.at/en/hohenwerfen-castle/>

<http://www.visit-salzburg.net/surroundings/hohenwerfen.htm>

The 1968 film *Where Eagles Dare* featured the castle as the fictional **Schloß Adler** that is raided by a British-American S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive) paratroop team during World War II. The movie starred Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood and is regarded as one of the greatest war movies ever made. Its most famous scene is a fight on top of a cable car. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Where_Eagles_Dare

The castle can be seen in the background of the "Do-Re-Mi" picnic scene in *The Sound of Music* starring Julie Andrews, which was filmed on a hillside showing the village of Werfen.



TOUR OF HOHENWERFEN

When we reach the parking place at Hohenwerfen (P) we will take the funicular (shown in red) up to the castle courtyard. There is also a walking path that goes up the mountain from the parking area (shown in yellow).

The courtyard has a restaurant, souvenir shop and a falconry museum. A guided tour of the castle includes the bell tower, armoury, various rooms and we will see the enclosure where birds are kept.

The highlight of a trip to Hohenwerfen is the birds of prey demonstration which takes place in the courtyard on the top left of the diagram.

They start the demonstration with the falcons then work their way up to the big eagles and vultures.



FALCONRY AT HOHENWERFEN

The **Regional Falconry Center** at Hohenwerfen Castle's main objective is to promote an understanding of nature, from which many people are very alienated today. The professional falconers who work at Hohenwerfen have passed the hunters and falconers' license exam, and some also have forestry or veterinary training. Here are some things to remember when enjoying the demonstration in the courtyard.

1. You can recognize EVERY trained raptor by the leather straps and by the little bell on their legs.
2. Raptors are shy animals – enjoy observing and watching them!
3. If a trained raptor sits in front of you on the ground, keep your distance and DO NOT try to lure it or touch it!
4. Do not throw things such as stones at the raptor!
5. Avoid using a selfie-stick! Raptors confuse these with a place to land and they can become seriously injured!

<https://www.salzburg-burgen.at/en/hohenwerfen-castle/falconry-exhibitions-history/falconry/>