

Franconian Fortified Sacral Buildings

Protective constructions of the common man

Journey to impressive compositions comprising elements of sacral monuments and fortress architecture



European Culture Route
Fortified Monuments

www.forte-cultura.eu



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Fortified Church
Ostheim



Fortified Church Museum
Mönchsondheim



Our Travel Recommendation

“Our god is a strong castle” - this is how many churches handled warlike times.

Since the beginning of Christianity, people protected themselves against enemies in churches a variety of fortification architectures. Fortified sacral buildings belong to the architectural particularities of fortress construction history: fortified churches, reinforced churches, castle churches, fortified monasteries and cathedrals.

The region of Franconia owns a large number of fortified churches as a testimony of time and as a significant cultural possession of defensive plant construction. The partly splendid churches are surrounded with walls and fortified living quarters.

In Heustreu, the well-cared cemeteries are integrated into fortifications and surrounded with walls, crenels and watch towers. The fortification of churches and castle churches began with the emergence of firearms at the end of the Middle Ages.

Castle churches offered especially farming families in small villages a refuge and shelter since they had no access to fairly distant military fortresses or to fortresses of noble men. Fortified churches were only reinforced and strengthened towards the direction of attacks.

One of the most powerful German fortified churches is located in Ostheim in the Rhön region. Close to it lies the small town Unsleben with a rarely bastioned moated castle and a fortified church. In Heustreu, one built two fortified churches.

The fortified church of Kraftshof even features walks in its fortification walls. Finally, the Fortified Church Museum of Mönchsondheim provides a lot of information about the history and the significance of the Franconian defensive plant construction.

The fortification architecture on sacral buildings is often only visible on closer inspection. FORTE CULTURA® aims to open the view for this outstanding combination of confession of faith and defensiveness.

Discover the appealing fortified churches of Franconia which does not only spread the fascination for time-honoured churches but also for distinctive architectures of fortress construction.



© Herbert Meinunger

Fortified Church Ostheim



© Kirchenburg
Mönchsondheim

Fortified Church Mönchsondheim

Monuments of Power - full of Life

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 Ostheim castle church	Surrounded by mountains in the Rhön is the city of Ostheim with one of the greatest castle churches in Germany. With five towers and six bastions, it represents a unique jewel of late medieval military construction technology. The Church of St. Michael was built in the Renaissance style is now a Castles Churches museum, the permanent exhibition 'Tower Secrets' and is venue for many events. www.lebendige-kirchenburg.de
 Unsleben moated castle  castle church	The fortified moated castle with two sunken circular bastions is still inhabited by the Count's owners and operated as an event space with apartments. Not far away, on the walls of an old fortress, the castle church was built, which also offered the villagers protection and refuge. Half-timbered and storehouses surrounded the church tower, which was placed the typical spire in rebuilding after the Peasants' War of the Würzburg prince bishop, as a sign of re-catholicization the resort. www.schlossgut-unsleben.de
 Heustreu castle church  church castle with cemetery	The Frankonian town Heustreu has two fortified religious buildings: the church castle on the banks of the Streu, which was built on the site of the former moated castle by the noble lords of Heustreu from the 11th century. The wall with the two towers and the remains of the bailey wall belong to the existing buildings of that castle. A second fortified church, the St. Michael's Chapel with the cemetery, located at the nearby Michael Berg. www.rhoentourist.de
 Euerbach castle church	In former knights village Euerbach the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Cosmas and Damian is surrounded by a castle church complex almost completely preserved. The area enclosed by called Gaden stores and the gatehouse sacral building has today parts of the wall and a Romanesque tower from early Gothic time. www.euerbach.de
 Mönchs- sond- heim castle church and museum	In the castle church Mönchsondheim, a baroque Gaden-castle church, the Castle Churches Museum is housed here. The special Frankonian heritage castle churches and fortified churches, an exhibition is devoted to, supplemented by the artisan museum, wine museum with active tours, exhibitions, museum festivals and the castle church tavern. The fortified churches-Express makes it convenient to travel to other sacred works in the area. The fortified church of Mönchsondheim is connected to the themed cycling path "Fortified Churches Tour", which leads from Mönchsondheim on Markt Herrnsheim, Hüttenheim, Seinsheim, Tiefenstockheim, Willanzheim, Kleinlangheim, Wiesenbronn and Markt Einersheim. www.kirchenburgmuseum.de
 Kraftshof castle church with cemetery	The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. George is surrounded by a strong Frankonian fortified church. The cemetery is surrounded by a pentagonal wall with a walkway, behind which the inhabitants of the villages belonging to the parish could defend from attacks. 1512 fortification was completed. Inside is also a former schoolhouse and the sexton apartment. A corner tower was dedicated as a grave chapel for the local noble family Kress. nuernberg.bayern-online.de



Ostheim, largest church castle of Germany



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Fortified moated castle Unsleben



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Castle church Heustreu



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Castle churches museum Mönchsondheim



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Castle church Kraftshof