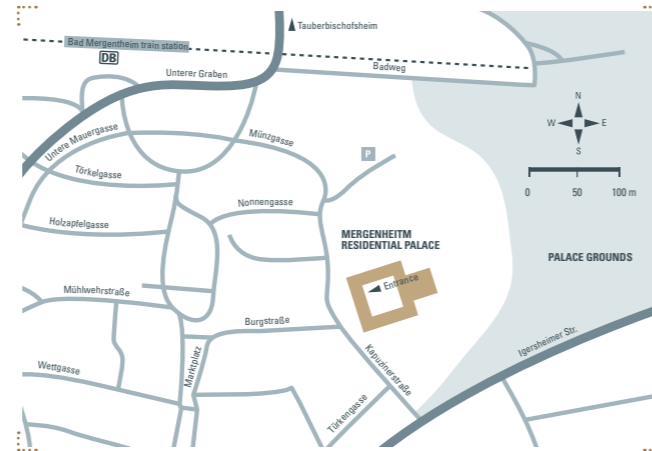




THE MUSEUM OF THE TEUTONIC ORDER AND ITS ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY

MERGENTHEIM RESIDENTIAL PALACE

HOW TO FIND US



GETTING THERE

The palace is accessible via the A3, A6, A7, and A81 freeways and the B19 and B290 federal highways. Parking available (for a fee). The palace is a 5- to 7-minute walk from the train station. The entrance to the palace and the Museum of the Teutonic Order is in the palace's inner courtyard.

INFORMATION ABOUT ALL OF OUR MONUMENTS

Staatliche Schlösser und Gärten Baden-Württemberg
Schlossraum 22a · 76646 Bruchsal · Germany

Phone +49(0)72 51.74 - 27 70
Daily 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
(information only, no reservations/ticket sales)
info@ssg.bwl.de



www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en

IMAGE CREDIT: SSG/LMZ; over photo: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 Günter Beyer, 1. Deutsches Institut für Denkmalpflege, Bad Mergentheim, GmbH
Jon Heilmann, 5. Stefan Hummerich / Design concept: www.jungkommunikation.de

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👑🌿 The impressive residential palace is situated in the idyllic Tauber Valley

A JEWEL OF THE RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE WITH AN IDYLIC LANDSCAPE GARDEN

Mergentheim Palace was the headquarters for the Teutonic Order of Central Europe between 1527 and 1809, after they had lost their territory in Prussia. From Mergentheim, the Teutonic Order ruled over their many scattered estates across the southwest, such as Kapfenburg Castle, Mainau Island, and other properties in Heilbronn, as well as some in present-day Belgium, Austria, and South Tyrol. The Hospital and Knights Order had been sponsored by the House of Staufen in the 13th century and, through an excellent network of German nobility, had acquired a wealth of property and extensive privileges. The order's importance is expressed in the palace complex as well as the adjacent park.

From the outer palace courtyard, an impressive avenue of 200-year-old sycamores leads to the palace park, established in 1791 and



For centuries, the palace in Bad Mergentheim (*Residenzschloss Mergentheim*) was the residence of the Grand Masters of the Teutonic Order. The monumental complex still fascinates visitors to this day. See the exhibition and delve into more than 825 years of history surrounding the Teutonic Order.

Bad Mergentheim reflects the special atmosphere of an old residence town. The mighty 12th-century palace in the town center is a great testament to this. The image of the palace complex, with its inner and outer courtyard, is still heavily influenced by the Renaissance period. The surrounding *palace grounds* have been designed in the style of English landscape gardens.

FROM A CASTLE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE HOHENLOHE FAMILY TO THE SEAT OF THE TEUTONIC ORDER

The Hohenlohe family joined the Teutonic Order, founded in 1190, and gifted them property in Mergentheim in 1219. The moated castle became the seat of a commander. A chapel, a prestigious Staufian palas, and the first Gothic chapter house were added to the building. Around 1525/27, Mergentheim became the seat of the Grand Masters and German Masters, and thus the headquarters of the Teutonic Order. The medieval castle was then converted into a residence. The freestanding *artistic spiral staircase* was built in 1574 and designed by Stuttgart-based architect Blasius Berwart. It is an outstanding example of architecture from this period.

👑 🏰 Left: The palace church's Baroque towers characterize the exterior palace courtyard



👑 🏰 Climbing the Berwart spiral staircase offers unique perspectives

GRAND MASTERS AND MASTER BUILDERS SHAPE THE IMAGE OF THE PALACE

The palace was modernized throughout the reign of two Grand Masters: Franz Ludwig von Pfalz-Neuburg (1694–1732) and Clemens August von Bayern (1732–1761). The Old Prince's Quarters was converted and adorned with magnificent stucco work. Architect Franz Joseph Roth designed the New Prince's Apartment with decorative stuccoed ceilings. The highlight of the residence is the *Baroque palace church*, which was constructed between 1730 and 1736. Franz Joseph Roth had it built in place of the previous Gothic building, and *Balthasar Neumann and François de Cuvilliers the Elder* consulted

👑 🏰 Right: The coat of arms of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, with eagle shield and lily staff



👑 🏰 Site of important decisions: The last General Chapters of the Mergentheim era were held in the chapter house

on the edifice. The last major construction work of the Teutonic Order took place between 1780 and 1782, with the erection of the elegant *Classical chapter house* designed by Franz Anton Bagnato.

To this day, the importance and power of the Teutonic Order in the Christian realm can still be seen in the rooms of the palace. The lives and work of a religious order is not the only aspect on display in this 3,000 m² space. The museum showcases the town's history and features the Adelsheim's antiquities collection, the dollhouse collection, the Mörike cabinet, an exhibition on the Neolithic Age in the Tauber Valley with a touching family burial plot, and an array of temporary exhibits. Always worth a visit!

👑 🏰 A towering avenue of poplars runs between palace and park



VISITOR INFORMATION

HOURS	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
RESIDENTIAL PALACE	Wed – Sun and holidays 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Wed – Sat 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM; Sun and holidays 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM <i>Closed December 24th, 25th, and 31st</i>
PALACE GARDEN	Open to the public during daylight hours	Open to the public during daylight hours

TOURS	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
PALACE TOUR "PALACE HIGH- LIGHTS"	Wed – Sun and holidays 11:30 AM	No tours
PALACE TOUR "THE TEUTONIC ORDER FROM 1190 TO TODAY"	Wed – Sun and holidays 3:30 PM	Wed – Sun and holidays 3:30 PM

*Group tours by arrangement,
also available in English and French*

ADMISSION	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
RESIDENTIAL PALACE		
Adults	€ 7.00	€ 7.00
with Kurkarte spa card	€ 6.30	€ 6.30
Discounted	€ 3.50	€ 3.50
Families	€ 17.50	€ 17.50
Groups of 20 or more	€ 6.30 (per person)	€ 6.30 (per person)
Groups under 20	€ 126.00 (flat fee)	€ 126.00 (flat fee)
Surcharge for foreign languages	€ 40.00 (additional charge)	€ 40.00 (additional charge)
	<i>Additional €100.00 for visits outside regular hours</i>	

TOURS	04/01 – 10/31	11/01 – 03/31
Adults	€ 10.00	€ 10.00
with Kurkarte spa card	€ 9.00	€ 9.00
Adults discounted	€ 5.00	€ 5.00
Families	€ 25.00	€ 25.00
Groups of 20 or more	€ 9.00 (per person)	€ 9.00 (per person)
Groups under 20	€ 180.00 (flat fee)	€ 180.00 (flat fee)

Visit our website for more information on accessibility, discounts, special tours and other important details regarding your visit.

CONTACT

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