

Holidays in the green: where culture meets nature

Garden highlights of northern Bavaria part 2



The gardens of the Bavarian Palace Administration

Garden highlights of northern Bavaria part 2



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01

Bayreuth

Hermitage and Court Garden



01 Bayreuth Hermitage and Court Garden



South facade of the Sun Temple



North facade of the Old Palace



Ruin Theatre – a historical open-air theatre



Lower Grotto in the Hermitage



View through the Parnassus



Canal Garden of the Hermitage

01 Bayreuth Hermitage and Court Garden

Special features/Tips

- Visitors can book a guided tour (chargeable) of the Hermitage park. Group tours are available in the following languages: German, English, French, Spanish and Czech.
- In the middle of the Hermitage is the impressive 'New Palace', with the Sun Temple as its central feature. The east wing has a café, and in the west wing of the building the Kunstverein Bayreuth e.V. (Bayreuth Art association) puts on regular art exhibitions during the summer months.
- The Old Palace built by Markgrave Georg Wilhelm in 1715 is now a museum and can be visited by participating in one of the regular tours.
- Every summer (in 2024 on 27 July) the Hermitage is the setting for the Bayreuth Sommernachtsfest (Summer Night Festival). The tradition of this romantic park festival goes back to the reign of Margrave Georg Wilhelm, who invited not only the court but also the population to the festivities.
- In the Ruin Theatre, a historical open-air theatre, the Studiobühne Bayreuth e. V. puts on regular theatre performances.
- Artistic waterworks were created using impressive water technology, and are still put on display today when there is a sufficient supply of spring water:
 - Hourly between 12pm and 5pm from May to mid-October in the Upper Grotto in front of the Orangery
 - In the Lower Grotto 15 minutes later in each case
 - In the grotto tower of the Old Palace during the guided tours
- Explore the Hermitage park on YouTube

Interesting facts

- The Hermitage was built by Margrave Georg Wilhelm as a place where the margraval court could play at being hermits. Here the male courtiers imitated the 'simple life' of a hermit order. They dressed in monk's habits, slept in tiny bare cells and ate food prepared for them by the ladies of the court from brown earthenware bowls using wooden spoons.
- In the year 1735 Markgrave Friedrich gave the grounds around the Hermitage to his wife Wilhelmine as a birthday present. In the same year she set about redesigning it according to her own tastes:
 - The Old Palace was extended to create a small summer palace.
 - Several garden sections with water and architectural features were created such as the Lower Grotto and the impressive Orangery with the Large Basin.
- After the death of the margravine in 1758 and especially after the margraviate came to an end in 1791, the elegant park fell into neglect.
- During the Second World War the New Palace was badly damaged and comprehensive restoration work was subsequently undertaken.

- From March to September features such as the flowerbeds designed according to 18th-century principles can now be seen largely in their original form.

Address / Contact:

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Bayreuth-Eremitage
Eremitage 4, 95448 Bayreuth
Telefon 0921 75 969-37
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de
www.bayreuth-wilhelmine.de

How to get there/parking

Public transport (train / bus):

- from Bayreuth main station: bus 303 to the 'Ochsenhut' stop
- from ZOH (the central bus station): bus 302 to the 'Eremitage' stop

Cars / Tour buses:

there are parking spaces in a separate visitors' carpark

Catering

Orangery Schlosscafé & Events Hermitage directly in the garden complex

Opening times

(the current opening times can be found on our [website](#))

- **Old Hermitage Palace:**
 - April-September: daily 9am–6pm
 - 1 - 15 October: daily 10am–4pm
 - Closed 16 October to the end of March
- The Old Hermitage Palace can only be visited by participating in a guided tour (every 45 minutes, duration c. 45 minutes):
 - April - September: from 9am (last guided tour 5.15pm)
 - 1 - 15 October: from 10am (last guided tour 3.15pm)
 - Telephone number for group registration +49 921 75969-37
- The **Hermitage Court Garden** is always open in the daytime.
- **Waterworks (shown when there is a sufficient supply of spring water)**
 - Hourly from May to mid-October:
 - Large Basin by the New Palace: 12pm-5pm
 - Lower Grotto: 12.15pm-5.15pm



02

Memmelsdorf near Bamberg Seehof Palace and Park



02 Memmelsdorf near Bamberg Seehof Palace and Park



02 Memmelsdorf near Bamberg Seehof Palace and Park

Special features /Tips:

- Guided tours (chargeable) of the approximately 21 hectare palace park can be organized on request.
- The cascade waterworks, which can be seen every hour on the hour from 10am to 5pm in the summer months, are a highlight of the gardens.
- Various ensembles hold concerts in the Orangery with classical or modern repertoire.
- Seehof Palace can only be visited by participating in a guided tour (duration c. 45 minutes).

Interesting facts

- The park was laid out at the beginning of the 18th century at the instigation of Prince-Bishop Lothar Franz von Schönborn, with the intention of creating a summer residence with a garden for the Bamberg prince-bishops.
With a garden structure that has been preserved intact, it is exceptional among Baroque gardens in Germany: rather than copying French designs, which was customary at the time, it is more in the style of an Italian villa garden or a Dutch park.
- By the end of the 20th century, the palace had badly deteriorated in the wake of secularization and subsequent neglect under private ownership. The palace's state rooms, which can be visited, give an idea of the former splendor of the prince-bishop's court.
- Parts of the 18th-century park have also been recreated. The focal point is the cascade, created in 1772, increasingly neglected following secularization and put back into operation 1995. In the summer months the cascade waterworks can be seen in action every day on the hour.
- A visit to the Orangery is a must. Seville oranges, orange and lemon trees fill the air with their beguiling fragrance reminiscent of southern climes. The orangery building, the winter quarters of the Mediterranean plants, now not only has a café for visitors, but is also used to display the originals of the charming Rococo sculptures by the famous Franconian sculptor Ferdinand Tietz that are Seehof Palace Park's most outstanding feature.

Address/Contact

Schloss Seehof 1
96117 Memmelsdorf
0951 4095-71
museum@schlosspark-seehof.de

How to get there/parking:

Public transport (train / Bamberg local transport):

- Bus: nos. 907 and 917 from Bamberg ZOB (bus station) or railway station. The nearest stop is 'Seehof'.

Cars / Tour buses:

- 224 car spaces and 9 bus spaces close to the palace

Catering

Restaurant - Café Schloss Seehof directly by the park

Opening times

(the current opening times can be found on our [website](#))

- **Seehof Palace**
End of March - beginning of November: 9am-6pm
Closed Mondays (except Easter Monday and Whit Monday, and when 1 May, 15 August or 3 October fall on a Monday)
Closed from the beginning of November to the end of March
- **Seehof Palace Park**
April-October: 6.30am-7pm
November - March: 6.30am to dusk (not before 5pm)



Figure group "Perseus with the head of Medusa"



03

Rödental near Coburg

Rosenau Palace and Park

– Insider tip!

03 Rödental near Coburg Rosenau Palace and Park Rosenau



Black swans on the Swan Pond



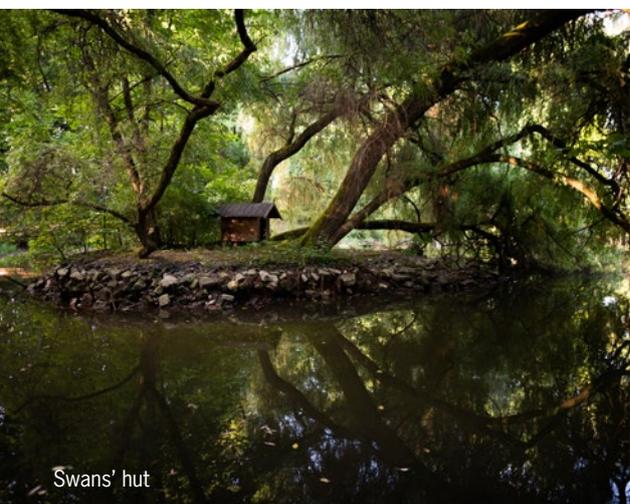
Orangery and kitchen garden



View of the Round Tower



Palace façade with terrace and bowl fountain



Swans' hut



View from Rosenau Palace

03 Rödental near Coburg Rosenau Palace and Park Rosenau

Special features / Tips

- There are regular tours on special subjects and tours for families.
- Tours of the park (chargeable) can be organized by prior arrangement for groups of ten and over.
- For more than 150 years there have been black swans on the lake in Rosenau Palace Park. It is said that Queen Victoria brought them here as a sign of mourning (their name in German translates as mourning swan) after the early death of her husband, Prince Albert, who was from Coburg and was born at Rosenau.
- Explore Rosenau Palace and Park on YouTube.
- Rosenau Palace can only be visited by participating in a guided tour. Guided tours are held on the hour every hour. Leaflets are available in English, French, Russian and Italian.
- The European Museum of Modern Glass, one of the art collections of Coburg Castle, is also located in Rosenau Park.

Interesting facts

- At the same time as he began altering the palace, from 1808 Duke Ernst I (r. 1806-1844) began laying out the landscape park. The huge park is a place of great charm; one of its particular attractions is the viewing terrace by the palace with its flowerbeds, fountain and balustrade, from which there is a splendid view over the valley of the River Itz.
- The landscape garden around Rosenau Palace now covers an area of 36 hectares as opposed to the original 210. With the pronounced natural contours of the land it provides scenic variety and many attractive views of the surroundings.
- In addition to the large Swan Pond and the small Duck Pond, the original features that have remained from the main part of the park are the Grotto with an artificial waterfall, several stone seats, the Prince's Garden by the Cavaliers' House, a medieval ruin, the remains of an artificial waterfall into the River Itz, the service buildings below the palace, a hermitage by the Itz that served as an ice cellar, the Tea House (today the park restaurant) and the Orangery (now an event room).
- Rosenau is known as the birthplace of Prince Albert and the favourite place of his wife, Queen Victoria of Great Britain and Ireland. The monarch said, »If I were not the person who I am, my true home would be here.«

Address / Contact

Rosenau 1
96472 Rödental
09563 3084-10
www.schloesser-coburg.de

How to get there / parking

Public transport (train / VGN):

- Train: From Rödental station to the palace it is an approximately 30-minute walk.
- Bus: nos. 1403 and 1482 (weekdays only). The nearest stop is 'Rödental, Schloss Rosenau'.

Cars / Tour buses:

70 spaces for cars and 5 for buses at the entrance to the park (chargeable)

Catering

Parkrestaurant Rosenau directly by the park

Opening times

(the current opening times can be found on our [website](#))

- **Rosenau Palace:**
April - October: 9am-6pm (last guided tour 5pm)
October - March: 10am-4pm (last guided tour 3pm)
Closed Mondays (except Easter Monday, Whit Monday and when 6 January falls on a Monday)
Closed on 01.01., 24. and 25.12., 31.12. and Shrove Tuesday
- **Rosenau Park:**
Rosenau Park is accessible at all times.



The European Museum of Modern Glass

04

Eckersdorf/Donndorf near Bayreuth

Garden Museum Fantaisie
Palace and Park



04 Eckersdorf/Donndorf Garden Museum Fantaisie Palace and Park



North parterre with star-shaped flowerbed



View across the stream and Herzogs- or Talmühlweiher



Bridge in the palace park



Cascade and Neptune Fountain



North facade and flowerbeds on the palace terrace



Garden pavilion with lilac bushes

Special features / Tips

- Tours (chargeable) of the Fantaisie Palace and Park can be arranged on request.
- The 'Fantaisie Palace Garden Museum', which was opened by the Bavarian Palace Administration in July 2000, was the first German museum exclusively devoted to the history of garden design. The museum is unique because of the way the place and the subject form a unit: an exhibition on garden history is linked with an actual historical garden. Specific views of the park from the windows thus for example enlarge the scope of the various themes in the exhibition.
- In Fantaisie Palace and Park there are regular guided tours on special subjects for adults and events for families.
- Jean Paul Trail: an around 200km trail through the Fichtelgebirge Nature Park. This route includes places such as Bayreuth with the Margravian Opera House: World Heritage & Museum, the New Palace and the Hermitage, followed by Fantaisie Palace and Sanspareil. In his day Johann Paul Friedrich Richter, who called himself Jean Paul, was one of the most imaginative German language writers. On the trail there are over 150 text panels with quotes on specific themes from the poet's work.
- Explore Fantaisie Palace and Park on YouTube.

Interesting facts

- In 1761, three years after the death of his wife Wilhelmine, Margrave Friedrich began building a palace in Donndorf, but did not live to see it completed. His daughter Elisabeth Friederike Sophie took possession of the property in 1763 and named it 'Fantaisie'. She had the palace completed and a Late Baroque garden laid out, which was finished in 1780. Features preserved from this period include the Pavilion, the Cascade and the Neptune Fountain.
- Duke Alexander von Württemberg used the palace as a summer residence and had it rebuilt in its present form. The most important alteration was the extension of the older garden with landscaped areas containing numerous exotic trees and shrubs.
- The 18th-century hedge rooms and the former kitchen garden with its fruit trees were reconstructed from 1993 to 1996. The cascade, of which only fragments remained, was reconstructed in its magnificent original form from 2003 to 2005.
- The picturesque palace park combines elements from three important style phases: Rococo, sentimental landscape and mixed style.

Address / Contact

Bayreuther Straße 2
95488 Eckersdorf/Donndorf
0921 731400-11
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de
www.gartenkunst-museum.de

How to get there / parking

Public transport (train / VGN):

- If travelling by train get out at Bayreuth, then take the bus to Donndorf. The nearest stop is 'Donndorf Hotel Fantaisie'. Timetable information for Bayreuth and the region can be found under this link: [Fahrplanauskunft für Bayreuth und die Region](#).

Car / Tour bus parking spaces:

- Car parking spaces can be found in the signposted visitors' car park. There are currently no bus parking spaces, but passengers can alight by the Garden Museum at the official bus stop on Bundesstraße 22.

Catering

Café Schloss Fantaisie directly at the palace.

Opening times

(the current opening times can be found on our [website](#))

- **Fantaisie Palace Garden Museum**
April-September: 9am–6pm
1 - 15 October: 10am–4pm
Closed Mondays (except Easter Monday and Whit Monday, and when 1 May or 3 October fall on a Monday)
Closed from 16 October to March
- **Fantaisie Palace Park**
The park is open in the daytime throughout the year.
- **Waterworks in Fantaisie Palace Park (operated when there is a sufficient supply of spring water)**
Daily from May to October every hour on the hour from 9am–6pm

Want to know more? Information about all 32 of the Bavarian Palace Administration`s gardens can be found on our [website](#)

A warm welcome awaits you and your guests!

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