



*Trausnitz Castle with the Wittelsbach Tower*



*Inner castle courtyard (top); Figure of St George by Stephan Rottaler, ca. 1520, from the castle chapel (centre)*

**Trausnitz Castle**

Trausnitz Castle, a massive building that towers above the town of Landshut, was founded in 1204 by Duke Ludwig I, the 'Kelheimer'. For 250 years this ancestral seat of the Wittelsbachs was the residence and seat of government of the dukes of Lower Bavaria. The 'Rich Dukes' of Bavaria-Landshut, Heinrich, Ludwig and Georg, ruling in the 15th century, played a particularly influential part in its development. Even today, at four-yearly intervals, the town still celebrates the 'Landshut Wedding', reenacting the wedding of Georg, son of Ludwig the Rich and Hedwig, the daughter of the Polish king in 1475. In the 16th century important additions were made to the castle and it acquired some of the attributes of a Renaissance palace. Thus today the exterior of Trausnitz Castle is dominated on the one hand by its medieval buildings such as the almost intact ring of fortifications with its peel towers, gate buildings and sections of the original battlements,



as well as the high keep, known as the Wittelsbach Tower. With the magnificent inner courtyard with its arcades, on the other hand, the castle displays its Renaissance heritage. Included in the tour of the castle are medieval halls such as the impressive vaulted Old Knights' Hall and the castle chapel with its important sculptures and the winged altarpieces of the Rich Dukes. The Renaissance epoch is represented with vaulted cabinets, panelled rooms and the famous Fools' Staircase with its monumental scenes from the Italian Commedia dell'arte. The tour culminates with a view of the town from the balcony. The Wittelsbach dukes were traditionally great collectors, and examples of their treasures are on display in the Trausnitz Castle Chamber of Art and Curiosities.

*Wood-panelled Söllerstube*

*Fools' Staircase (left and title); Old Knights' Hall (right)*



**Landshut  
Town Residence  
Trausnitz Castle**





*I wish you a  
fascinating visit to  
the Town Residence  
and the Trausnitz  
Castle in Landshut!*

**Dr. Markus Söder, MdL**

*Bayerischer Staatsminister der  
Finanzen, für Landesentwicklung  
und Heimat*



*Inner courtyard of the Town Residence facing west*

## Landshut Town Residence

The Landshut Town Residence is an artistic and architectural gem, a spectacular Italian Renaissance palace transported into a northern setting. Duke Ludwig X of Bavaria, residing at Trausnitz Castle in his function as governor for his brother who ruled in Munich, laid the foundation stone for a new residence in the town in 1536. This was begun in the German Renaissance style under the direction of the Augsburg architect Bernhard Zwitzel, and later called the 'German Building'. A journey to Upper Italy acquainted the Bavarian duke with the modern residences of the Italian princes, in particular the Duke of Mantua's Palazzo Te, and gave him fresh inspiration. Behind the German Building a second palace, the 'Italian Building', was begun in 1537 under the direction of Italian architects, and eventually extended with two wings that linked it to the German Building. The spacious Residence complex thus surrounds one of the most beautiful Italian-style courtyards north of the Alps.

*Italian Hall (left); Detail of the ceiling painting by Hermanus Posthumus in the Venus Room (right)*



Inside, the high vaulted halls were decorated by Italian stucco-workers and painted by the artists Hermanus Posthumus, Hans Bocksberger the Elder and Ludwig Refinger with important picture cycles on biblical, mythological and historical themes. The complex was completed in 1543.

The Town Residence underwent alteration when Count Palatine Wilhelm von Birkenfeld-Gelnhausen resided here with his court from 1780 to 1799. It was then that the façade facing the old town was redesigned in its present neoclassical style. The apartments of the Count Palatine in the German Building, the Birkenfeld Rooms, are also from this period. The French neoclassical wallpaper in this flight of rooms, a rare example of early wallpaper, was found and uncovered when the rooms were restored from 1993 to 2003. It was put up when Crown Prince Ludwig, who later became King Ludwig I of Bavaria, occupied the Birkenfeld Rooms when studying in Landshut.

The halls of the Italian Building, the palace chapel and the Birkenfeld Rooms can be visited on the guided tour organized by the Bavarian Palace Department.

*Audience Room of the Birkenfeld Rooms (left); Arcade in the inner courtyard (right)*



### INFORMATION

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### LANDSHUT TOWN RESIDENCE

Altstadt 79 · 84028 Landshut

#### OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm · October – March: 10am – 4pm  
Closed Mondays

Regular guided tours (duration ca. 45 minutes);  
last tour 5pm (summer) or 3.30pm (winter);  
last admissions 30 minutes before closing

♿ Lift available

#### REFRESHMENTS

Residenz-Café · Tel. (08 71) 27 46 46 · Closed Mondays

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Landshut, any bus to the 'Altstadt' stop  
Large car park (Grieserwiese)

### TRAUSNITZ CASTLE

#### OPENING TIMES

April – September: 9am – 6pm · October – March: 10am – 4pm  
Open daily

The castle can only be visited by participating in a guided tour. The guided tours lasts around 45 minutes. The last tour is at 5pm (summer) or 3.30pm (winter). The Trausnitz Castle Chamber of Art and Curiosities, a branch of the Bavarian National Museum, can be visited without a guided tour.

Last admissions in each case 30 minutes before closing

♿ The guided tour of the castle involves stairs,  
a lift is available for the Chamber of Art and Curiosities

#### REFRESHMENTS

Burgschänke · Tel. (08 71) 97 49 47 70

#### TRANSPORTATION

Train to Landshut, No. 7 bus to the 'Kalcherstrasse' stop  
100 parking places, 4 bus parking places in the Hofgarten car park

**The Town Residence and Trausnitz Castle are closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday, 24, 25 and 31 December.**



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