

Places of interest in the Simmern-Rheinböllen municipality

“Schinderhannesturm” (Schinderhannes’ Tower)

The fortification tower, which originally served as a gunpowder magazine and as a prison, is located at the eastern corner of the old city fortification. It was one of the few buildings that survived the great fire and the destruction of 1689. The steep, baroque conical roof and the western staircase were added to the tower in 1750. It was named after the infamous robber Johannes Bückler, called "Schinderhannes".

In 1799, at the end of February, he was captured in Schneppenbach and taken into custody in Simmern. the night from August 19 to 20, 1799, he managed to escape from the tower, which until then had been considered escape-proof.

An exhibition called “Schinderhannes’ Myth and Reality” is dedicated to the bandit Schinderhannes.

The New Castle

The medieval castle in Simmern was built by the order of Count Friedrich I (1459-1480) since he wanted it to become the residence of the dukes of Simmern. Only 200 years later, the town was utterly destroyed in the Palatinate War of Succession (1689).

The New Castle was built on the vaults of the old complex in 1708-1713 as the seat of administration for a senior officer of the Palatinate. The building consists of a main building with two lateral wings in classicist style. Originally, it was surrounded on both sides by a castle pond. Since the beginning of the 19th century, the building had different functions: it was used as court, school, garrison, detention center and official residence.

Today, the foyer and ballroom, the wedding room of the registry office, the Hunsrück Museum with the art collection of the painter and sculptor Friedrich Karl Ströher, the library as well as the tourist information of the city of Simmern/Hunsrück and the municipality of Simmern-Rheinböllen are located there.

Library in the New Castle
Schlossplatz 4
55469 Simmern/Hunsrück
Tel.: 06761/7148
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Tourist-Information and office of the adult education centre

At the Schlossplatz

55469 Simmern/Hunsrück,

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www.sim-rhb.de/tourismus

The protestant Stephan Church

It was the most important building of a medieval religious parish. The foundation stone for the construction of the three-nave, late gothic church was laid in 1486 by duke John I.

Attached to the north side of the long choir are the tower and sacristy, while on the south side there is the funeral chapel of the Princes of Simmern.

The organ built in 1782, is the largest in Hunsrück. It was built by the organ building family Stumm.

The sepulchral monuments in the St. Anne chapel on the south side are among the most important works of sculpture of the 16th century in the area between Mainz and Trier.

They were built in Jakob Kerre's, Johann von Trarbach's and Hans Ruprecht Hoffmann's manufactory. To be admired are the tombs of Duke Johann I, Joan of Nassau-Saarbrücken, Emilia of Württemberg and the double graves of Duke Johann II and Duke Reichard with their wives.

The catholic St. Joseph Church

The prince elector Carl Theodore of the Palatinate, during his visit to Simmern in 1744, allowed the construction of a catholic church. It was built in Kloostergasse between 1749 and 1752, as planned by Johann Jakob Rischer, master builder and master craftsman in the Palatinate.

The rectangular nave is connected to a semicircular choir, at the top of which rises the dome crowned bell tower. A two-story vestibule with portal and staircase connects the church with the former Carmelite monastery (today clergyman's office) built in 1703/04.

The ceiling frescoes by the Mannheim court painter Francesco Bernhardini ("The adoration of the child") are works of great artistic importance. The original high altar is attributed to the sculptor from Mannheim Paul Egell.

The tanner shed

The tannery has been very important in Simmern and the vicinity since the Middle Ages. The cortex came from the surroundings and the tanneries were located in Simmern.

By an electoral decree the manufactories were moved to today's Gerbereistraße. A city view of 1900 shows this situation. This handicraft tradition ended in the 1930's in Simmern.

The small tanner shed is one of the few architectural remains of this craft. It was used as a small manufactory and the middle floor as a drying shed for the hides. The air draft could be regulated via the lateral openings. The building itself was constructed in the 19th century.

During the restoration of the shed in 2012-2015, it was moved and raised a little from its original flood-prone location. During this relocation work, an old area was discovered in which the hides were tanned.

The Hunsrück-Museum in Simmern

The museum in Simmern was founded in 1921 as a museum of local history being located in the Tower of Schinderhannes. In 1930 the collection was moved to the New Castle. The museum showcases objects and documents on the natural and cultural history of the region in the collection areas "Folklore" (furniture/clothing), early history/Roman times, town and territorial history (coins, maps, engravings), natural history (fossils).

A special section is dedicated to the history of television and film in the Hunsrück region. Since 1998, the top floor of the New Castle has housed the art collection of the painter Friedrich Karl Ströher (1876-1925).

The Hunsrück Museum has a newspaper archive (Hunsrücker Zeitung since 1850) and a museum library. The New Castle also houses the photo archive of the city and the former municipality of Simmern as well as the library. The exhibition "Myth and Reality" of Schinderhannes is located in the former prison tower of the city.

The Palatinate line of the House of Wittelsbach

The Counts Palatine from Simmern descend from the House of Wittelsbach and after the distribution of the estate in 1410, they founded their own Palatine-Simmern line. Their residence was the luxurious Renaissance Castle, which was destroyed in 1689. Under duke John II. (1492-1557) the city experienced an incredible prosperity. In a genealogy, in a rhymed chronicle and as an author of works that appeared in his royal printing house, his wide-ranging knowledge found literary expression. Contemporary and posterity described him as "special, experienced and well-read gentleman" and "a poet and man of erudition on the prince's throne".

His son, Frederick II., was named prince elector of the Palatine in 1559 in Heidelberg. He was followed by five other prince electors from the Simmern line. The Wittelsbachs of the Palatine - Simmern line were related to many royal houses of Europe. As prince electors of the Palatine, they held the office of chief counsel and elected the king.

Opening hours Hunsrück Museum:

Tuesdays to Fridays: 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00

Saturdays and Sundays: 14:00 to 17:00

Closed on Mondays

Closed in January, February, Whit Monday, Christmas and New Year

Entrance fees:

Children under 6 years: free entry | reduced: 1,00 €

Adults: 2,00 € | Groups / reduced: 1,50 €

Museum tour: 30,00 € plus entrance fee

Hunsrück-Museum

Schlossplatz 4

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www.hunsrueck-museum.de

www.Friedrich-Karl-Stroeher.de

Art collection Friedrich Karl Ströher

The nearly complete life's work of the sculptor and painter Friedrich Karl Ströher (1876-1925) is displayed in changing presentations in the Ströher Art Collection. Sketches from his student days at the Colarossi Academy in Paris, oil paintings from his travels through Spain and France, works from his study time in Berlin with Arthur Kampf and expressionistic-looking watercolor paintings from the last years of the painter's life are shown.

Museum of cultural history in Neuerkirch

The collection is displayed in a former barn and in a residential building. It presents typical farming and handicraft tools and machines, some of which were still in use until the middle of the 20th century.

On display are handtools, plows, carts and bridles. A crushing mill reminds of the essential mills for the daily flour needs. You will admire old village crafts depicted in various workshop sections: blacksmith (in the former stable), cartwright, roofer, carpenter, shoemaker, hairdresser, tailor, butcher, beekeeper, basket maker and others.

Also on display are the tools of the peasant flax and cloth processing industry. Since 2009, the museum has been home to a coffee roasting house.

The house shows characteristics of rural housing conditions: An old kitchen, the living and sleeping rooms on the first floor and other rooms on the upper floor. Some areas in the residential house and barn are used for temporary exhibitions.

The museum is financed by the Verein Kulturhistorisches Museum Neuerkirch e.V., founded on April 16, 1986.

Further information: Hunsrück Museum Simmern

The Hunsrück Cathedral in Ravengiersburg

This place owes its name to the noble Rabangar, who in the 10th century built a castle on the steep rock above the Simmerbach. The castle chapel was sacred in 1072. Two years later Count Berthold and his wife Hedwig founded an Augustinian monastery, which existed until 1566. After that, this magnificent estate was acquired by the duchy of Simmern. Since 1699 the church is catholic.

The monastery buildings were taken over by missionaries of the Holy Family in 1920, who founded a theological college.

Only the double-towered 42-meter high westwork, with its numerous reliefs and sculptures has survived the passing of time. The nave burned down numerous times. The high altar with the Crucifixion group dates back to 1722, while the splendid organ was built in the first half of the 18th century.

The Nunkirche in Sargenroth

The Nunkirche is a landmark of the Hunsrück. Being a former pilgrimage church, it stands in the shadow of old lime trees and chestnut trees, offering a picturesque sight.

Since the Middle Ages, on the Rochusfeld next to the Nunkirche, the courts of the monastery of Ravengiersburg have been held in the open air.

The Nunkircher market held on the first Tuesday in September is a centuries-old tradition and has remained a popular public festival to this day.

Only the tower of the medieval church is still intact. The nave was reconstructed in 1745. The wall and vault paintings from the 2nd half of the 13th century are preserved in the basement of the tower. They depict the enthroned Christ, surrounded by the four evangelists and the procession of the blessed and damned.

The paintings in the window jamb and in the choir, dating back to the 14th century, portray the Visitation of Mary and the wise and unwise virgins.

The Wildburg in Sargenroth

The old imperial castle in the middle of the deep Soonwald, in the Sargenroth district, was a strategic point under the Staufer dynasty in the 12th century. From here, the king's ministers managed the royal forests and supervised the streets of the Nahe River over the Hunsrück to the Moselle. Many noble families lived in the castle. The king's ministers and Baron von Wildberg acquired the complex from the German kings but sold it to the Dukes of Simmern in the 15th century. They used the castle as a hunting lodge. Today the castle, which is situated at an altitude of 600 meters, has almost completely disappeared.

The Bismarck Tower

In 1900, the first cornerstone for construction of the Bismarck Tower in Sargenroth was laid. It was inaugurated in 1902. During those years, where Bismarck was at the peak of his popularity, it was built to be a "monument of honor as a symbol of gratitude and loyalty". The funds for the construction were raised by donations and the materials were brought by volunteers.

The architect from Dresden Wilhelm Kreis, wanted to erect a tower made of quartzite from the Soonwald and a height of 17.5 meters, with two staircases and a platform.

From here, the viewer can enjoy the incredible beauty of the Hunsrück landscape, the Soonwald in the background and the undulating landscape in the north and west.

MUNICIPALITY OF SIMMERN-RHEINBÖLLEN

Tourist-Information in the New Castle

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Brühlstraße 2

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Places of interest and history in the Rheinböllen area

The protestant clergyman's house in Rheinböllen

The oldest building in the town (next to the protestant church) dates back to the 17th century. This building housed some very important people on the 2nd January of 1814: (and not on the 1st as a juxtaposed commemorative plaque tells) Prince Wilhelm of Prussia, Field Marshal Blücher and Major General von Clausewitz.

On New Year's Eve, after the legendary crossing of the Rhine at Kaub, they followed the allied troops up the Hunsrück hills to expel Napoleon's armies – therewith an interlude of two decades of French occupation of our homeland was ended.

The Reizenborn Hermitage in the woods near Riesweiler

The reason behind the foundation of the Hermitage is a folk legend which narrates that the Virgin Mary appeared in Reizenborn and the water of the spring caused miraculous healing. The construction of a pilgrimage chapel in 1732 is documented. A miraculous image of "Our dear Lady of Reizenborn" was placed in the chapel. Given that the number of pilgrims increased rapidly, a new pilgrimage church had to be built, which was consecrated in 1778.

Next to the church a small hermitage was built, and later inhabited by two hermits. In French times the complex was looted and finally abandoned in 1796.

The tomb chapel "St. Maria and St. Michael" at the Rheinböllerhütte

The tomb chapel already existed in 1857, in its basement many members of the Puricelli family found their last rest. The sarcophagi have currently been moved to another place. The chapel is not accessible.

The hunter from Churpfalz

Researchers are still arguing about the legendary "Jäger aus Churpfalz", from a popular German folk song: Was it Friedrich Wilhelm Utsch, owner of the Rheinböllerhütte, or Johann Adam Melsheimer buried in Argenthal? In 1913, next to the forester's house "Entenpfuhl" in the Soonwald, a monument was erected and dedicated to the hunter.

The Hochsteinchen

In 1893, on the second highest hill of the Soonwald, south of Rheinböllen and Ellern, an 18-meter-high observation tower was built. From the upper platform, in clear weather the visitor is delighted with the views of the Taunus, the Hohe Acht and the Donnersberg.

The protestant church in Mörschbach

The noble "Thiderich of Mergesbach" in 1006, completed the construction of a church on his estate. One of the most important men in the entire kingdom, the powerful Archbishop Williges of Mainz, was called to consecrate the new church.

This church is the oldest sacred building in the Hunsrück. The gothic bell tower, which was constructed above the nave, was probably built in 1373.

The protestant church in Rheinböllen

The earliest mention of the church dates back to 1332, but we know for sure that the compact tower and its foundation walls, are from that period.

From 1575 to 1845, the church was surrounded by the cemetery. In March 1945 the church caught fire because of the US artillery fire, only the surrounding walls remained intact. The reconstruction took more than three years.

The catholic church "St. Erasmus" in Rheinböllen

After the Reformation, this catholic church was acquired by the Protestants. Until 1872, the Catholics didn't have an appropriate church.

But when the three-nave neo-Gothic "St. Erasmus" church was built, the local press praised the building in its reviews on the consecration as a "magnificent building and ornament of the Hunsrück".

The market fountain "Rehrebore" in Rheinböllen

The symbol of Rheinböllen is the fountain built in 1840 and located on the market place, the historically most important spot in town.

The pyramid-shaped fountain is orated by the four blazons of the towns of the old administrative district. According to the tradition, even in the driest years the water never dried up.

Already in the 14th century, the spring capture established the water supply for the local court building.

The Puricelli family

The Italian immigrant family lives in the Hunsrück-Nahe region since 1750. The rise to one of the most important families in the whole Hunsrück began with Carl Anton Puricelli, who married the daughter of the owner of the Rheinböllerhütte, Friedrich Wilhelm Utsch, in 1791 and was promoted by him to co-owner of the company in the same year.

The following generation of industrialists, since 1836 traded under the name "Puricelli Brothers". With their renowned work in the German iron industry they gained the esteem of the State.

The sale of the whole company in 1962 marked the end of a 170-year industrial dynasty.

Over time, the family acquired immense wealth. At the end of the 19th century, they owned 48 estates in the Hunsrück, the Nahe and Eastern Bavaria regions.

Many people could profit from the Puricelli's wealth. For generations, the family was an incredibly important donor, benefactor and promoter of cultural and charitable institutions, supporting also

numerous families in need. They financed two hospitals, an orphanage, a home for blind people and several churches.

The former orphanage chapel in Rheinböllen (Puricelli Foundation)

Jenny" Puricelli, who died in 1862, ordered that her inheritance had to be converted into a foundation. In addition, she ordered the construction of an orphanage and a hospital.

As the third building of the ensemble, the chapel "the Immaculate Conception" was built in 1888. It is a jewel among the churches of the Hunsrück, not only because of its mosaic floor, the largest in our region.