

The Duke gave the new castle the symbolically significant name of Friedenstein ("rock of peace"), heralding a new era. The art chamber, established when the castle was built, formed the nucleus of the wide range of collections which are today housed in several museums, the research library and the Thuringian State Archive.

As part of an extensive restructuring of the Gotha museum landscape, the collections have been reorganised since 2009. The Ducal Museum, built in 1879, will display the art collections from 2013, and the Museum of Nature will present more and more of its treasures in new permanent exhibitions in the castle. The project has generously been supported by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Free State of Thuringia and the City of Gotha.



Opening times

April – October: 10 a. m. – 5 p. m.
November – March: 10 a. m. – 4 p. m.
Closed on Mondays, on Dec. 24 and 31
Open on holidays
Guided tours by previous arrangement
at any time

Admission fees

Friedenstein Card
(Castle, museums (including the Ducal Museum), special exhibitions)
Adults 10,- €
Reduced entrance fee 5,- €

Single ticket

(Museum of History or Museum of Nature or one special exhibition or Ekhof Theatre or Ducal Museum; not valid for the Castle Museum)
Adults 5,- €
Reduced entrance fee 3,- €

Guided tours

Audio guide to the castle 2,50 €
Guided group tours by prior appointment:
50,- € plus entrance fee during opening times
100,- € plus entrance fee outside of opening times
Further information on www.stiftung-friedenstein.de

Booking and information

telephone (0049-3621) 82 34-0
service@stiftung-friedenstein.de
www.stiftung-friedenstein.de



Stiftung Schloss Friedenstein Gotha
Schloss Friedenstein · 99867 Gotha
Telefon (03621) 82 34-0
Fax (03621) 82 34-57
service@stiftung-friedenstein.de
www.stiftung-friedenstein.de



Stiftung
Schloss Friedenstein
Gotha



The Baroque Universe of Gotha

FRIEDENSTEIN CASTLE



"The Baroque Universe of Gotha" at Friedenstein Castle brings past centuries to life as only few other castles or museums can. In the heart of an extensive park, the imposing castle, with its many different historical rooms, the Baroque Ekhof Theatre and the chapel, and also its unique collections covering art, nature and history, has survived almost unchanged.

The history of Friedenstein Castle dates back to the Thirty Years' War. From 1643 onward, the Protestant Duke Ernst I of Saxony-Gotha, known as Ernst the Pious, built what is now Germany's largest Early Baroque castle in just twelve years on the ruins of the demolished fortress of Grimmenstein.



Thüringen
-entdecken.de





Castle Museum



Today, the castle houses three museums: the Castle Museum, the Museum of Nature and the Museum of History. The Castle Museum contains the magnificent ducal chambers with their original furniture from the 17th to the 19th century, which stretch across two wings of the giant castle on the second floor. The Court of Gotha was of major cultural importance and was frequented at one time by Goethe, Voltaire, Frederick the Great and Napoleon. In the Castle Museum, visitors can marvel not only at the historical furniture, but also at precious clocks, porcelain, paintings, coins, and much more. The Art Chamber contains superb exhibits made from gold, silver, ivory, amber and nautilus shell, East Asian artefacts and curiosities, such as one of the few original Napoleon hats in the world. It is not only the Baroque culture of living which comes to life during your visit.

partments, such as the Rain Forest, Night, or Antarctic. Penguins, tigers, lynxes, sea lions, flamingos, owls, sloths and many other animals can be seen in a presentation which is ideal for families. But the natural history collections, established in 1640 under Ernst the Pious and continuously expanded since then, are considerably more extensive. Further fascinating treasures and curiosities from a natural world that dates back millions of years will gradually be displayed over the next years in new permanent exhibitions, such as the planned Natural History Collection.

Museum of History



The Castle also contains the Gotha Museum of History, founded in 1872, which tells the story of Gotha and the surrounding region from prehistory to the 19th century. The permanent exhibition focuses on the economic history and the everyday life of ordinary people. The Reformation, the Peasants' Wars, Absolutism and the development of the arts after the Enlightenment are described in detail. Graphics, paintings, household goods, toys, militaria, clocks and watches, musical instruments, fashions and astronomic equipment from the Museum's extensive special collections are on view.

Ekhof Theatre



One of the castle's particular treasures is the Ekhof Theatre, built in the West Tower between 1681 and 1687. It is the only theatre in the world with functioning stage machinery from the 17th century. Important actors such as Conrad Ekhof and August Wilhelm Iffland performed here in the 18th century. The Ekhof Festival from the end of June to the end of August presents brilliant theatrical art in an authentic Baroque setting.

al artefacts, works by Old German masters (such as the "Gotha Lovers" and important works by both Cranachs), a Netherlands collection, sculptures from Jean-Antoine Houdon, works by Rubens and Caspar David Friedrich and porcelain from Meissen, Thuringia and Asia. Changing exhibitions will display the treasures of the Graphics Collection, including drawings by Martin Schongauer and Albrecht Dürer, or a special collection of pamphlets from the 15th to 17th centuries.

Ducal Museum



The Ducal Museum was built south of the castle in 1879 to provide a prestigious location for the numerous collections which had found international recognition by then. Between 1950 and 2010, the building housed the Museum of Nature. From 2013, the Museum will provide a suitable exhibition setting for the art collections. It will present significant works of art from antiquity to modern times, including one of the oldest Egyptian collections in Europe with mummies and buri-

Castle Park



Friedenstein Castle is surrounded by a wonderful and varied park landscape which presents an attractive picture at any time of the year. The Baroque orangery opens up in summer like a flowering theatre towards Friedrichsthal Castle. An English landscape garden was created by Ernst II of Saxony-Gotha-Altenburg, when he had the massive fortifications around the castle filled in after 1770. The lake, a temple to Mercury, and the "Holy Island" where several members of the ducal family are buried still convey the impression of a typical English Garden which Goethe once described in a poem as "heavenly".

Museum of Nature



Since 2010, the first permanent exhibition of the Castle's new Museum of Nature, „Animals in the Tower“, has presented animal exhibits in various de-

