



On a hill above the city of Gotha, Friedenstein Castle sits at the heart of a unique cultural ensemble of magnificent buildings, gardens, and museum collections that together make up an exceptional princely residence. Beginning amid the Thirty Years' War, Ernst I, Duke of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg, had the residence of Friedenstein (literally: Stone of Peace) erected between 1643 and 1654 on the site of the ruined Grimenstein Castle. The imposing castle complex (including the original castle church) was never destroyed and is now among the best-preserved architectural monuments of the early Baroque.

## FRIEDENSTEIN CASTLE



WELCOME

UNIVERSE FRIEDENSTEIN GOTHA

### OPENING TIMES

Friedenstein Castle and Ducal Museum  
Tuesday – Sunday  
10 a. m. – 5 p. m. (April – October)  
10 a. m. – 4 p. m. (November – March)

Closed on Mondays, open on holidays

Until 31 March 2023, the museums will also be closed on Tuesdays. All museums will be closed on 24 December and 31 December.

### GUIDED TOURS

Audio Guide hire (German, English, Easy German, Youth Version): 2.50 euro

You will find guided tours for groups covering highly diverse topics on our website.

### BOOKING AND INFORMATION

telephone +49 3621 8234 0

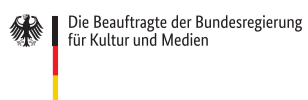
### Stiftung Schloss Friedenstein Gotha

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# UNIVERSE FRIEDENSTEIN GOTHA

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## REPRESENTATION ROOMS

The splendidly furnished living apartments and representation rooms from the Baroque, Rococo, and Neo-classical periods have remained largely unchanged up to the present day. Visitors can behold magnificent ducal rooms from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries that were once enlivened by such guests as Goethe, Voltaire, Frederick the Great, and Napoleon. A tour of the castle's corps de logis affords opportunities to walk over sumptuous intarsia wood floors and under stunning stucco work from the High Baroque. While the Neoclassical ducal apartments in the west wing are currently undergoing renovation, they can nevertheless be experienced in virtual tours of the palace and via digital installations.



## CHAMBER OF ART

The ducal chamber of art brings the multifarious and the beautiful from art and nature together and represents the nucleus of a collecting tradition that now stretches back some 375 years. Despite extensive war losses, it remains an impressive universal collection with exhibits made from gold, silver, ivory, amber, glass, and nautilus.



## EKHOF THEATRE

The west tower of the castle houses one of the oldest Baroque theatres in the world with stage machinery that has survived in working order to the present day. Acting greats like Conrad Ekhof and August Wilhelm Iffland reinvented theatre here. Today, this authentic gem can be experienced on the castle tour (including an interactive exhibition and modern virtual reality elements) and at the Ekhof Festival that takes place every summer.

## NATURAL HISTORY



## CULTURAL HISTORY

In the coming years, an interim exhibition ("Building Site: History") will give way to a modern permanent exhibition covering over 100,000 years of Thuringia's cultural and regional history. Numerous exhibits bring times from prehistory right up to German reunification to life – from Neanderthal tools to an elegant, lacquered box containing a lock of hair belonging to the British Queen Victoria and right up to a symbolic coffin for the East German Socialist Unity Party (SED). Works of modern art by Hannah Höch and Marianne Brandt await visitors in the Eva Maria Dicken Cabinet.



## DUICAL MUSEUM

This magnificent Neo-Renaissance building was erected just south of the palace between 1864 and 1879. With its opening, the emerging bourgeoisie gained access to the collections of the nobility. Today, aficionados of art and culture find European and non-European art treasures from antiquity to modern times on display here. Some enjoy international renown, for example the Egyptian collection with mummies and tomb finds that was among the very first in Europe, German Old Masters paintings such as the "Gothaer Liebespaar" (Gotha Lovers) and major works by the two Cranachs, sculptures by Jean-Antoine Houdon, porcelain from Meissen and China, and the art masterpieces stolen in the biggest art heist in the history of the GDR and recently recovered in a spectacular turn of events.



## CASTLE PARK with English garden and Baroque orangery

The architectural ensemble is embedded in a many-faceted park with ponds, pavilions, gently winding paths, and mature trees. This landscaped garden was laid out by Ernst II of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg and can be considered the oldest English garden in Continental Europe.

The Orangery lying to the east of the castle boasts unique architectural features, fan-shaped flowerbeds, and extensive lawns.

## FUTURE MUSEUM

The foundation Stiftung Schloss Friedenstein Gotha is focusing all its efforts on the model projects "Gotha transdigital" and "Open Friedenstein!" that will run until 2027 to ensure that more than one million museum treasures are brought to light, to break new ground in museum communication and social participation, and to position Gotha as a regional and national cultural hotspot. These projects are supported by the Thuringian State Chancellery with funding from the European Regional Development Fund and by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM).

