

ALTENA CASTLE

Museum of the County of Mark
World Youth Hostel Museum
DJH Youth Hostel

A DJH Youth Hostel

B Commander's Quarters

Ticket Office
Cloakroom and Well
Issue of Multimedia
Guide

1 Local Rock
2 Greywacke
3 Karstic Caves
4 Limestone and Chert

C 3rd Lower Floor New Great Hall

5 From Bloomery to Blast
Furnace

D Interactive Youth Hostel

WC

E World Youth Hostel

6 Main Day Room
7 Small Day Room
From Grey City Walls

F New Main Hall

8 Boys' Dormitory
9 Girls' Dormitory

M The Keep

10 Searching in the Dark
11 Chequered Bands and
Eagles

G Parapet Walk

H Chapel

12 The Dream of the Middle
Ages
13 A Castle that Needed to
be Filled
Special Exhibition Room

I Long Passageway

14 Old Saws
15 Castle Chapel
16 A Life of Luxury
17 Hunting as a Privilege

J Magazine

18 Armed Conflict
19 Tournaments and
Festivities
20 Peasant Life
21 Wire-Drawing

K Old Main Hall

22 Blacksmiths and Others
23 Great Fires
24 From Cottage Craft to
Industrial Production

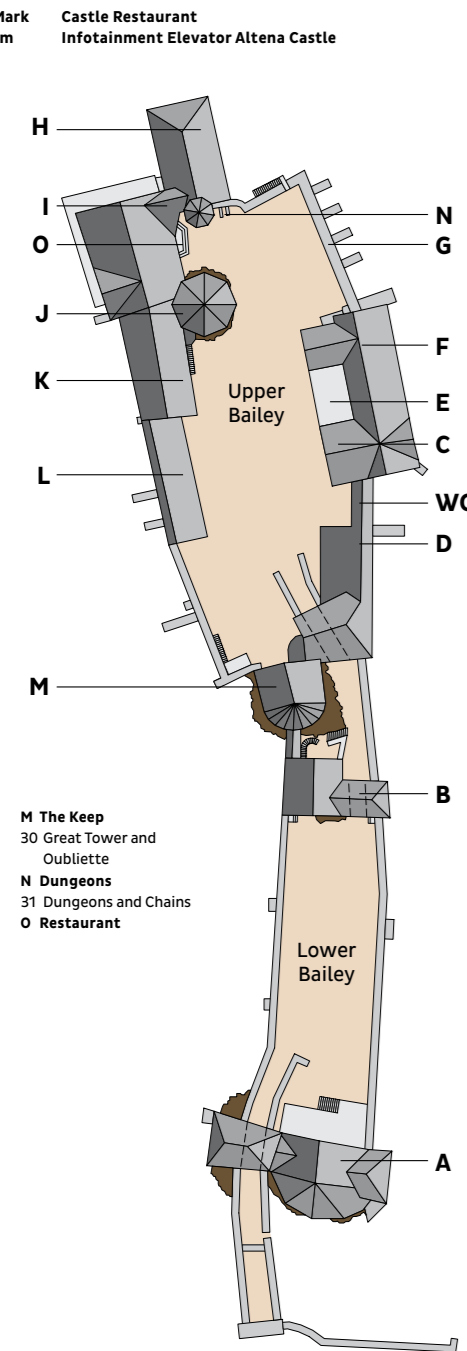
L Infotainment Elevator

M The Keep

25 The Cost of
Industrialisation
26 The Age of Terror
27 World-Class from the
Sauerland Region
28 This and That
Museum Shop

N Dungeons

O Restaurant



GETTING THERE

By car and coach Via A 45, exit 13 Lüdenscheid-Nord or via A 46, exit 46 Iserlohn-Oestrich/Altena; in Altena follow the signs for Burg Altena, car park "Langer Kamp" (GPS: "Langer Kamp")

By train Altena station: RE 16 and RB 91; also planned from Dec. 2019 on: IC 34. Train schedule: www.bahn.de

Bus stops Station: S 1, Markaner central bus station: 33, 36, 37; bus schedule: www.mvg-online.de

Citizens' bus Altena No. 4;
Bus schedule: www.buergerbus-altena.de

ADDRESSES

Altena Castle Museums
German Wire Museum
Fritz-Thomé-Str. 80 and 12
(Please use "Langer Kamp"
car park)
D-58762 Altena

**Castle Restaurant –
Burgrestaurant Altena**
Tel. +49(0)2352 5488695
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www.burgrestaurant-altena.de

DJH Youth Hostel
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Administrative District
Der Landrat
(District Commissioner)
Culture & Tourism
Department – Museums
Fritz-Thomé Str. 80
D-58762 Altena

VISITOR INFOS

Opening hours
Tue. – Fri. 9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat., Sun., public holidays
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, except
public holidays
Closed on December 24, 25
and 31, and on January 1

Free admission
on the following days
Good Friday, International
Museum Day, Open Monument
Day, Boxing Day 26 Dec.

To get info or book guided tours
Tel. +49(0)2352 966-7034
museen@maerkischer-kreis.de
www.burg-altena.de

Combined ticket
Admission tickets are also valid
for the German Wire Museum
located about 500 m downhill
from the castle. The two
museums can be visited on
separate days.

INFOTAINMENT ELEVATOR ALTENA CASTLE

Its position on a spur of the Wulfsegge Mountain made Altena Castle impregnable. Later, its accessibility was still a difficulty for tourists. But these problems have been over since 2014. With the "infotainment elevator", the castle complex can now be reached conveniently and barrier-free in only 30 seconds from the town centre. You go 90 metres into the mountain and travel 80 metres upwards. A virtual experience awaits visitors in the tunnel. The journey to a magical era begins with a welcoming speech by the past owner and Burghard his bat. Six multimedia stations that recount regional sagas; magic mirrors that transform us into knights and monks, and flowing water you can paddle through without getting your feet wet impress visitors of all ages. Following legendary encounters with the dwarf king Alberich and Wieland the smith, these new friends accompany the guests to the castle.

**Infotainment Elevator
Altena Castle**
Lennestr. 45 (pedestrian zone)
D-58762 Altena

Contact
Tel. +49(0)2352 5489897
Fax +49(0)2352 209-203
erlebnisaufzug@altena.de
www.erlebnisaufzug.de

Opening hours
Tue. – Fri. 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.
Sat., Sun., public holidays 11 a.m. – 6.30 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, except public holidays
Closed on December 24, 25 and 31, and on January 1

Car parks
Please use the "Langer Kamp" car park or other designated parking facilities. There are two places for coaches to stop on Linscheid Str., near the Sparkasse bank, where passengers can board and get off. Coaches should also park on the "Langer Kamp" car park (GPS: "Langer Kamp").



EVENTS AT THE CASTLE

"Altena – a Town Experiences the Middle Ages": From Friday until the first Sunday in August, the Castle and the town centre of Altena are in an exceptional state thanks to South Westphalia's biggest medieval festival. Spectacular jousting tournaments are held along the banks of the River Lenne. Music, juggling, acrobatics, craftsmanship and culinary delights round off the atmosphere – and not only at this event. They also create a medieval ambience at the "Winter Spektakulum Burg Altena". The castle lit by torches, seasonal fragrances, hands-on activities at the museum, fairy tales, stories and guided tours by torchlight; all contribute to this captivating experience on the first weekend in Advent. The puppet theatre days are held in the autumn and, on many weekends, events in the "Time Warp Burg Altena" series take place as well as workshops for old handcraft techniques. Find further information on the programmes at www.maerkischer-kreis.de and www.burg-altena.de.



SUPPORT, DONATE, SPONSOR

Maerkische Kulturstiftung Burg Altena

This is a cultural foundation that attends to the maintenance of Altena Castle and its historical grounds on the castle hill. It saves endangered, valuable exhibits from decay and makes the contents of the museums accessible by developing multimedia guides. And it supports medieval festivals, concerts, exhibitions, puppet theatre shows and other cultural events at the Castle and in the German Wire Museum. The foundation can only accomplish these tasks with your help. Support the foundation with a tax-deductible donation or sub-foundation.

Maerkische Kulturstiftung Burg Altena

Fritz-Thomé-Str. 80
D-58762 Altena
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Banking address:
Vereinigte Sparkasse im MK
IBAN DE87 4585 1020 0080 0432 43

Freunde der Burg Altena e.V.

The promotional association "Friends of Altena Castle" is one of the most significant historical societies in Westphalia. It offers its members interesting talks and excursions, a free subscription to the history magazine »Der Märker« as well as free admission to the museums and a special rate for using the "infotainment elevator". It promotes the preservation of this significant national heritage monument, acquires exhibits for the Altena Castle Museums and the German Wire Museum, and finances the restoration of museum items. The society also helps with the purchase of up-to-date media technology and supports school projects and events run by the museums. You could be a Friend of Altena Castle as well!

Freunde der Burg Altena e.V.

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ALTENA CASTLE

The 900-year-old castle high above Altena is one of the loveliest mountain castles in Germany. Since 2014, visitors are transported to the upper castle bailey conveniently and barrier-free by an "infotainment elevator". The castle is a national heritage monument and domicile of the world's first youth hostel and of the Museum of the District of Mark with its outstanding collections from the Middle and Early Modern Ages. The baileys are venues for events such as "Altena – a Town Experiences the Middle Ages" and "Winter Spektakulum Burg Altena". The Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV had the castle hill grounds enhanced with a park in the style of an English landscape garden. A restaurant and a DJH youth hostel round off the facilities on offer.



ALTENA CASTLE MUSEUMS

KNIGHTS, BLACKSMITHS, WAYFARERS





ALTENA CASTLE MUSEUMS KNIGHTS, BLACKSMITHS, WAYFARERS

Altena Castle

Situated in a picturesque spot overlooking the old wire-drawing town of Altena is one of the loveliest mountain castles in Germany. Originally the historical centre of the County of Mark, Burg Altena is still the historical and cultural centre of the Mark district of the Sauerland. In the 12th century, the Counts of Altena-Mark founded their family castle as protection for the iron trade. After an eventful history it fell to the house of Brandenburg in 1609. From then on, it was regarded as the ancestral seat of the maternal line of the Prussian royal family. Throughout Germany, people shared in the excitement when the reconstruction of the Castle was the subject of hot discussion in 1907. Emperor Wilhelm II settled the dispute in favour of the "castle builders". Since 1914/1915, this national heritage monument is home to the world's first permanent youth hostel, a restaurant and museums that attract visitors from near and far.



Museum of the County of Mark

The oldest regional history collection in Westphalia depicts the gripping story of the Mark district of the Sauerland, focusing on the Middle and Early Modern Ages. The stage-like settings of the objects on display allow visitors to share in the conflicts, hunts and dining pleasures of the knights and noblemen as well as in the lives of peasants and craftsmen. Experience for yourself how heavy a coat of mail was by putting one on. Chain mail, ring armour and helmets are ready for you to try out. Further highlights include a room on the subject of idiomatic expressions, the castle chapel, the dungeons with a "hunger chair" and a presentation of medieval iron smelting. The original living conditions at the castle can be perceived especially well in the Great Tower which presents a fantastic view over the Lenne valley.



World Youth Hostel Museum

Altena Castle gained international fame as a result of being the site of the first permanent youth hostel in the world. It was inaugurated in 1914 at the instigation of Richard Schirrmann, a teacher at a primary school in Altena. His youth hostel concept started to take shape in 1909 and spread from Altena to all corners of the world. The first hostel at the Castle is still maintained in its original state. Anyone who wants to find out what the accommodation for hikers was like at the time can test two straw mattresses in the girls' dormitory. In the "Interactive Youth Hostels" room, a media table provides information about the history of the youth hostel movement. There is a DJH youth hostel in the outer part of the castle in the lower bailey, where guests can still stay overnight.



MULTIMEDIA GUIDE & SHORT GUIDE

Short Guide

Pocket-book guides are on sale at the ticket office and in the museum shop at a price of € 3. They are available in eight languages: German, Dutch, English, French, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

Multimedia Guide

Individual tours through the permanent exhibition are possible using the Multimedia Guide which is available in German, English and Dutch. It offers a whole new dimension of experiences. Scenes from films, computer animations and sound recordings enhance the range of information in an entertaining and educational way. The devices are very easy to use thanks to Wi-Fi tracking and simple menu navigation. The added value for visitors to the museums is enormous. The devices can be hired at the ticket office in the passage between the lower and upper baileys on presentation of identification and a fee of € 2.50.



MUSEUM EDUCATION

Whether you visit the museums with a kindergarten or a group of senior citizens, on a company outing or school trip – we have a programme to suit any group. You can select from 14 educational museum options. Very small children go on a discovery "treasure hunt". School classes enjoy "From Squire to Knight". Themed guided tours are the right choice for adults who would like to go into deeper detail. Anyone wanting to experience Altena Castle in a particular atmosphere can book an illuminated guided tour during the dark months. Many programmes are ideal for children's birthdays. And we also offer guided tours in foreign languages. You can book by phone, by e-mail or by filling in the booking form on our website.



SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The Altena Castle Museums and the German Wire Museum regularly hold special exhibitions which are both exceptional and interesting. "From Damsel of the Castle to Punk – Hairstyles over the Years", "Over Hill and Dale – 100 Years of Youth Hostels", "Duel – the Conflict about the Reconstruction of Altena Castle", or "At Table – Eating and Drinking in the Early Modern Age" are only a few examples from recent years. Watch out for further good reasons to visit the museums. Information on upcoming exhibitions can be obtained by phone or on our internet website.

HISTORICAL CASTLE GROUNDS

In 1843, the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV commissioned his royal garden administrator, Maximilian Friedrich Weyhe, to plan a public park for the castle hill in Altena. Weyhe wanted to embellish the bare rocks with elegantly laid out promenades in the style of English landscape gardens, complete with vantage points, tree-lined avenues and groves of trees. Large areas on the slope to the Nette Valley were levelled, lawns were sown and trees and bushes planted. On the hillside facing the River Lenne, craggy rock formations combined with trees and pathways offered many astounding views across the countryside. The park was finished in 1854, but very soon became overgrown. It was partially restored in 2015 and can now be accessed again.

