

# Welcome to Burg Castle!

**Burg Castle sits enthroned above wooded hills – a compact site with a castle at its centre, an outer bailey, narrow passageways, massive walls, huge archways, constricted courtyards and sunny terraces.**

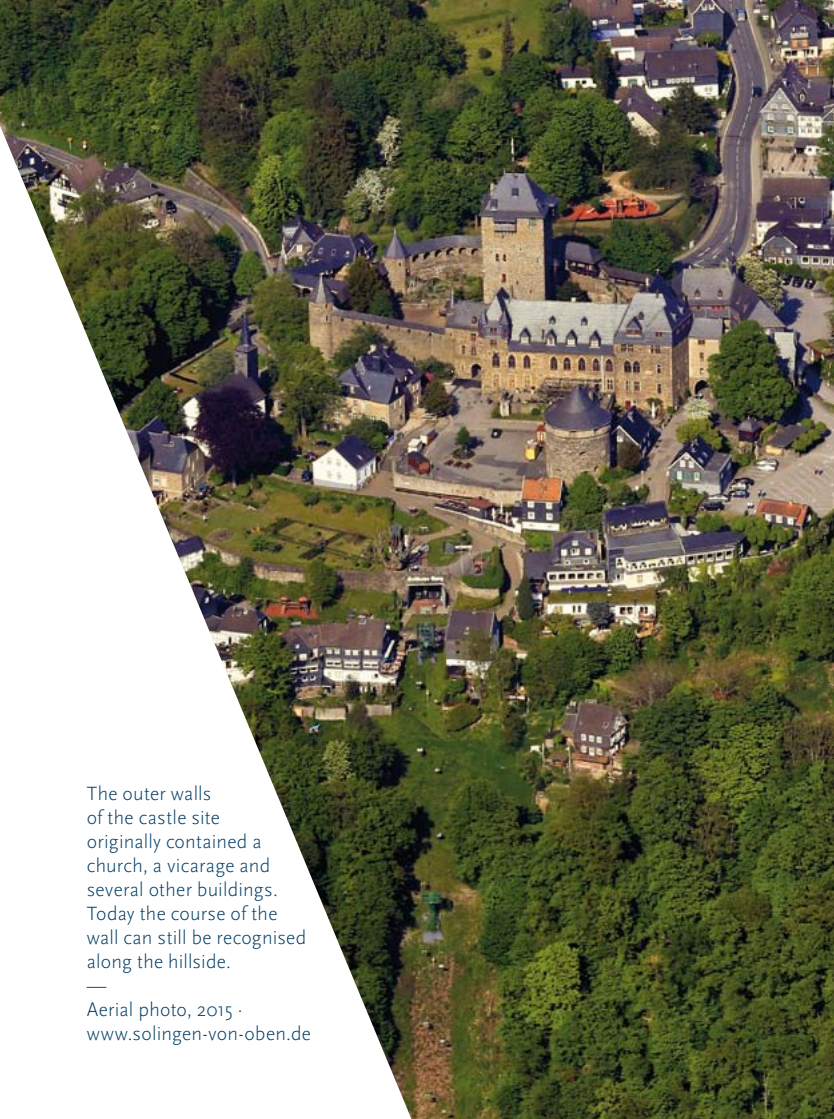
This map will help you find your bearings quickly, not only in the castle area itself but also in its turbulent history. For the Dukes of Berg resided here for several centuries from the time it was completed around 1130. They once ruled over huge parts of today's North Rhine Westphalia. But Burg Castle later declined in importance and the site fell to ruins. Nonetheless the local inhabitants still retained a soft spot for Burg Castle: donations were made and reconstruction work started in 1890. *Today Burg Castle is a place where history comes to life once more.* And while we're at it, why not take a look in the calendar of events? Burg Castle is a lively events site: The majestic location on the peak of a huge hill and within the walls of an old castle makes it ideal for all types of cultural events. *Burg Castle was and still is the symbol of the region – now filled with new life.*



The twin-tailed Bergisch Lion still graces the coats of arms of many towns that were originally in the County of Berg, for example Düsseldorf.

The outer walls of the castle site originally contained a church, a vicarage and several other buildings. Today the course of the wall can still be recognised along the hillside.

Aerial photo, 2015  
www.solingen-von-oben.de



## What else?

[www.surroundings.schlossburg.de](http://www.surroundings.schlossburg.de)

There is a quick, comfortable and spectacular way to reach Burg Castle. If you take the cable car railway you can glide silently up the hillside above the Wupper to the top. Once there you will be able to get a typical Burg pretzel in one of the cafes; and it's always worth taking a stroll through the many small arts and crafts shops.

## ... in the neighbourhood

Solingen is famous for the manufacture of knives and scissors. The German Blade Museum in Solingen deals with the cultural history of cutting goods in the town. Historic local town centres like the Remscheid suburb of Lennep bear witness to the modest wealth of the inhabitants. There are also major constructions in the region: the world-famous Wuppertal overhead railway and the Müngsten Viaduct were built more than 100 years ago.



Photos: BSW / Kristine Löw

# Site plan

Discovering ›Burg Castle‹ on a tour

## Service and contact

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You can also visit us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.de/SchlossBurgadWupper](https://www.facebook.de/SchlossBurgadWupper)

## Opening hours

### Summer

(End Feb. to start Nov.)  
Mon: 13–18.00  
Tue–Sun: 10–18.00

### Winter

(Start Nov. to end Feb.)  
Tue–Fri: 10–16.00  
Sat&Sun: 10–17.00  
Mondays closed

Christmas holidays in NRW:

Daily: 10–17.00  
24.12. | 25.12. | 31.12. closed

## Admission prices

Adults: 5 €  
Concessions: 4 €  
Children (3–18): 2.50 €

Groups of 15 persons upwards:  
4.50 € (per head)  
School classes: 2 € (per head)  
Families: 14 €

Special admission charges for events.

## Please note

The interior rooms within the castle site (incl. museum) cannot be reached at ground level. It is possible to enter the castle courtyard via the ›Grabentor‹.

Please note that during assembly and dismantling periods, and for the duration of markets and bazaars, opportunities to view the castle site will be considerably restricted. You can find out about possible restrictions in advance via our Service telephone number or on our homepage.

Dogs and prams are not allowed in the museum.



Photo: Christian Beier

## A historical survey

Did you know that Burg Castle was almost completely destroyed at the end of the 19th century?

## Family seat of the Counts of Berg 12th – 14th century

**ca. 1130** | Construction of Neuenberge Fortress (later Burg Castle) by Count Adolf II. of Berg as the new family seat  
**1218** | Adolf III. dies during the 5th Crusade in Egypt. His brother Engelbert, Archbishop of Cologne takes over the County of Berg – seemingly illegally. As Engelbert II., Count of Berg and Archbishop he exerts considerable political influence at the court of Kaiser Friedrich II. He extends Neuenberge Fortress and converts it into a major courtly seat for representative ends. In 1225 he is murdered in an ambush organised by his nephew, Friedrich von Isenburg.  
**1288** | The Battle of Worringen, the largest mediaeval battle in north-west Europe. Count Adolf V. of Berg is one of the victors in the battle. He is given the privilege of imprisoning the most important loser, the Archbishop of Cologne, in Neuenberge Fortress. Shortly afterwards he sets up Düsseldorf on the Rhine.

The painting of the Battle of Worringen (1288) in the Knights Hall is one of a total of ten paintings depicting important moments in the history of Burg Castle.

## Usage as a hunting lodge and for courtly festivities 14th – 16th century

**1380** | Following the introduction of new war techniques fortresses become useless for defence purposes. After the Counts of Jülich-Berg are raised to the status of Dukes in 1380, Düsseldorf becomes the new royal seat of the Duchy of Berg in 1385. In 1408 the last ruler to reside in Neuenberge Fortress dies.  
**1485 on** | During the fourteenth and fifteenth century Neuenberge Fortress is used for important festivities and as a hunting lodge. As a result it is gradually converted and extended into a site for courtly festivities. Thus the fortress becomes a castle.  
**1496** | Child betrothal at Burg Castle: the five-year-old Maria von Jülich-Berg is promised to the six-year-old Johann von Kleve-Mark. In 1521 the United Duchies are created from the merger of the houses of Jülich-Berg and Kleve-Mark. They cover broad parts of today's North Rhine Westphalia.  
**1600 on** | Burg Castle increasingly decreases in significance for the Dukes of Berg.

## Further uses until it falls into ruins 17th – 19th century

**1648** | When the Imperial troops withdraw at the end of the Thirty Years War they destroy all the defensive parts of the castle, including the walls, gates, and keep. From now on it is used solely as an administrative seat.  
**1811** | The French administration under the Emperor Napoleon I. attempts to auction off Burg Castle to the highest

bidder. However it can find no buyer.  
**1815** | The Duchy of Berg falls to Prussia and Burg Castle is handed into Prussian state ownership. Since it has no use for the building it is now used purely for commercial purposes – as a blanket factory, a horse driven mill and a school.

## Reconstruction and foundation of the Castle Construction Association 1887 on

**1887** | Founding of an association to preserve the castle ruins – later known as the Castle Construction Association Burg a/d Wupper (Schlossbauverein Burg a/d Wupper e.V.). The reconstruction appeal put out by the Association leads to a considerable increase in visitors.  
**1890 on** | Reconstruction of Burg Castle in several stages, mostly financed by donations and lottery money. Clubs and societies in the whole of the Bergisch Land organise special events including concerts and bazaars, the income from which is donated to the reconstruction.  
**1894** | Setting up of the Bergisch Museum in Burg Castle  
**1899** | The German Kaiser Wilhelm II. visits Burg Castle.  
**1902** | The castle keep collapses shortly before completion. As a result the architect who is mainly responsible for designing the reconstruction is dismissed.  
**1920** | A fire in the castle roof almost completely destroys the Bergisch Museum. Work on clearing up the damage lasts until 1923.  
**ab 1950** | In the post-war period Burg Castle develops into a real tourist attraction. Every year up to 160,000 guests visit the castle.



Photo: BSW / Kristine Löw



Photo: BSW / Kristine Malis

## Calendar of events

[www.calendar.schlossburg.de](http://www.calendar.schlossburg.de)

Classical concerts in the Knights Hall, theatre shows and open-air events all have a different feel within historic walls than in conventional concert halls. Furthermore there are a huge number of events that bring the Middle Ages back to life – from the Mediaeval Market to jousting tournaments. The autumn arts and crafts market is particularly popular.

## Guided tours

[www.guided-tours.schlossburg.de](http://www.guided-tours.schlossburg.de)

Our guided tours will reveal to you the secrets of Burg Castle. We offer tours in English and French for foreign guests. On request we can also offer special tours for children or on specific themes like ›Eating and Drinking‹ and ›Knights' Castle and Royal Palace‹.



Once through the whole of Burg Castle

The tour takes you through impressive rooms, along twisting corridors, narrow stairways, up and down, along the outside walls and right up to the keep.

Gallery of Ancestors and Knights Hall (Ahnengalerie und Rittersaal) 1

Walls that tell stories: all the Bergisch lords have been captured on paintings hanging on the walls; just have the most important stories about Burg Castle.

Ladies heated apartment (Kemenate) 2

The smaller room was the only heated living room in Burg Castle.

Castle chapel (Schlosskapelle) 3

This small chapel in neo-Gothic style can cater for up to 60 wedding guests.

Bergisch Museum 4

The main theme in the museum is the history of the region ›Bergisch Land‹ in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age.

Castle gate (Burgtor) 5

The fourth barrier to overcome: anyone who managed this would find themselves finally in the core part of the castle.

Thieves' tower (Diebsturm) 6

This was basically the castle dungeon – it was in use right into the 18th century.

Engelbert tower (Engelbertturm) 7

The small corner tower was erected during reconstruction work to honour the Counts of Berg.

Watchmen's lodge / shield wall (Wachstube / Schildmauer) 8

From this somewhat raised building the guards would have had a good view of the high plateau in front of the castle.

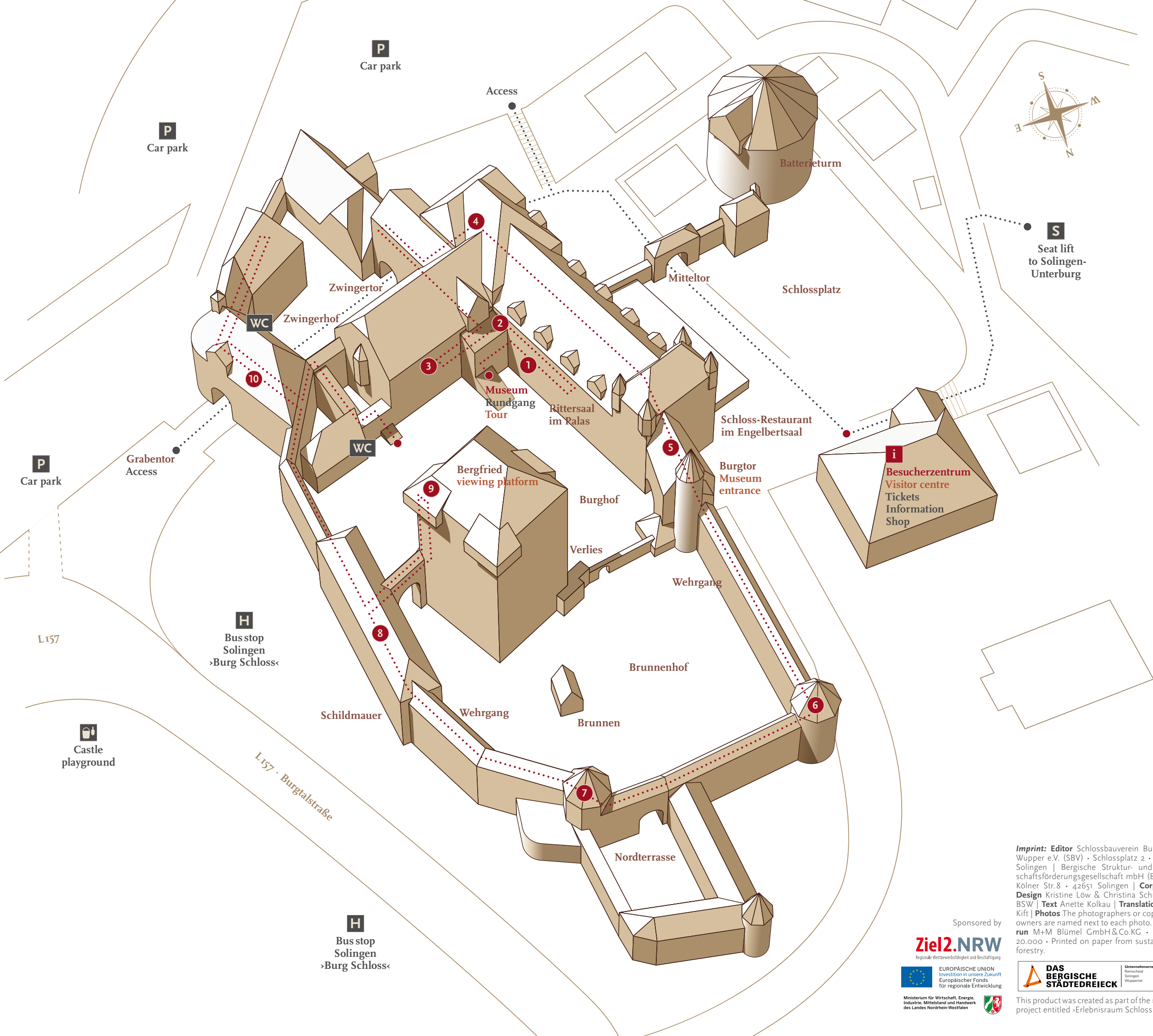
Keep / viewing platform (Bergfried / Aussichtsplattform) 9

The square tower with its wooden viewing platform is 35 metres high.

Moat gate (Grabentor) 10

The first major hurdle for potential conquerors. In front of it was a deep ditch filled with thorny bushes.

- Tour of the Bergisch Museum and Burg Castle
- Access to the castle side



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