ORTENBOURG CASTLE

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+ Description

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Perched at an altitude of 443 metres at the end of a ridge, Ortenbourg Castle, built between 1260 and 1265 by Rudolf of Habsburg, is considered one of the most beautiful ruins in the Rhine Valley. A masterpiece of military architecture, it is distinguished by its 32-metre pentagonal keep, encircled by a high granite wall and offering six floors of firing positions, designed to withstand enemy projectiles. Its silhouette, resembling a stone ship, with its vast entrance gate topped by an arrow slit and the Gothic windows of its dwelling, dominates an exceptional panorama.

From the moment it was built, the building was at the heart of regional conflicts. Walter of Geroldseck, Bishop of Strasbourg, ravaged the Val de Villé and ransacked the Ortenbourg construction site. Defeated shortly afterwards, he had to pay 700 marks in compensation, enabling Rudolph to complete his castle. However, in 1265, while the work was still unfinished, Ortenbourg was already under siege by the bishop's troops. A few years later, the construction of nearby Ramstein contributed to its isolation: deprived of supplies, it eventually fell.

Rebuilt around 1300, it was ravaged again in 1632 by Swedish troops during the Thirty Years' War, who pillaged and burned it. Today, the association ‘Les sentinelles de l'Ortenbourg’ (The Sentinels of Ortenbourg) works to preserve and promote this remarkable witness to Alsatian medieval history.

Horaire(s) d'ouverture

From 01/01/2026 to 31/12/2026
Monday from 08:00 to 19:00
Tuesday from 08:00 to 19:00
Wednesday from 08:00 to 19:00
Thursday from 08:00 to 19:00
Friday from 08:00 to 19:00
Saturday from 08:00 to 19:00
Sunday from 08:00 to 19:00

Open during the 2026 / 2027 Christmas season

24 December at noon
24 December evening
25 December at noon
25 December evening
26 December at noon
26 December evening
31 December at noon
31 December evening

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