

Old and New Town Hall

The old town hall, right in the centre of the idyllic old part of town, was formerly a fortified gate structure and the original access to the castle. From 1676 to 1909 it served as town hall. Today it houses the City Museum of Königstein. The new town hall (municipal administration) has been located at Burgweg 5. This building complex



which was erected around the end of the 19th century, originally belonged to the Luxemburg chateau and contained various rooms related to house-keeping.



Villa Rothschild

The famous conference of the Minister Presidents of the States of Germany, in which the passing of the constitution was initiated in 1949, took place in the former villa of the Rothschilds, a Frankfurt banking family. In 1955 the city purchased the estate, which in 1956 was opened as "Hotel Sonnenhof" (until 2005). Among the names to be found in the guest book are those of Sophia Loren, Theodor Heuss and Willy Brandt. After extensive renovations, the hotel & restaurant "Villa Rothschild" was reopened in March of 2007.



Villa Andreae

This small chateau, which was built in 1891 for the Frankfurt banker Albert Andreae de Neufville (architect Franz von Hoven, landscape design by Franz Siesmayer), incorporates features of other well-known historical buildings in Frankfurt. From 1957 on it was used as a boarding school until it became private property in 1987. Since 1997, this striking building serves as a company headquarters.



The Castle Ruins of Falkenstein

Already in the 11th century there was a fortification on the "Noringsberg", on the castle hill named after the mighty provincial Earl von Nürings (Norings), who is mentioned in historical records as early as 1103. Descendants of this family, which died out in 1171, were the Lords of Bolanden-Falkenstein. They erected a second fortification next to the original castle and named it "Neu-Falkenstein" after their home castle in the Palatinate. In the 14th century, castle and village became property of the Lords of Nassau, who gave Falkenstein as feudal tenure to various knights, who held the castle as common property. During the time of the Lords of Hattstein, Falkenstein became the starting point for assaults on travellers and traders. After the decease of the last von Staffel, the castle began to deteriorate. The imperial Barons von Bettendorf, who were feared because of their harshness, were the feudal lords of Falkenstein from 1681 to 1773. The decay of the fortress continued during the 19th century, when the villagers used the stones as construction material for their own homes. Therefore, in 1842, the Frankfurt businessman Osterrieth obtained an ordinance to prohibit the further demolition of the structure. In 1954, the community of Falkenstein purchased the fortification from the state of Hesse.



Hotel Kempinski

The entire building complex, which was opened as the luxury hotel "Kempinski Hotel Falkenstein" in 1999, was erected by Emperor Wilhelm II as a convalescent home for his officers. After World War I, it first served as barracks for French soldiers and was later again utilized as a convalescent home. As of 1946 this building was a state sanatorium for the treatment of pulmonary ailments. Between 1964 and 1997 it housed the "Taunusklinik".



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KÖNIGSTEIN
Heilklimatischer Kurort im Taunus



Villa Borgnis – Kurhaus im Park

Königstein

**An abridged history
of Königstein**

Charmant. Natürlich.

Our spa resort is located in the Hochtaunus nature preserve slightly lower than the Großer Feldberg (880 m) directly next to the first German "Heilklima-Park". For many years Königstein (18,000 inhabitants) has been known as a place of relaxation and recreation, as well as for its expansive network of footpaths, hiking trails and bicycle routes, for the Woogtal, its close-to-town recreation area, for its low-irritation climate and its Arcadian landscape. Eight schools, good public transportation, proximity to an international airport, easy access to major highways, very few industrial areas, excellent shopping possibilities and the surrounding lush scenery make Königstein a desirable place to live in the Rhine Main Area.



"Kurhaus" and the House at Hauptstraße 21

Around 1860, the Frankfurt banking family Borgnis had a Swiss style garden villa erected in the park belonging to their house in "Hauptstraße 21" (surrounding the Kurparkpassage). The villa was opened as a city sanatorium in 1927. Since 1999, after extensive renovations and alterations, the villa houses a restaurant and the city registrar office. The house "Hauptstraße 21" originally was the guesthouse "Zum grünen Baum", where Field Marshal Blücher stayed overnight in 1813. In 1838 the family Borgnis purchased the building. Today, this building also houses shops and doctor's offices.



Five clinics, a modern swimming pool and spa as well as many other health and wellness facilities are located in this health resort. Well-tended parks, the year-round cultural program and the two imposing castle ruins attract many thousands of tourists each year. Since 1935 Königstein is certified as "Heilklimatischer Kurort" (a spa with clean air that encourages recovery from illnesses) and is located directly adjacent to the "Heilklima-Park", which was opened in 2005 as the first of its kind in Germany. 180 kilometres of hiking trails for different levels of fitness are inviting for relaxing walks or more challenging hikes in this 20 square kilometre large area.

From the highest district of Falkenstein one can walk through the beautiful valley of "Reichenbachtal" or hike up to the picturesque "Altkönig". The district of Mammolshain is well-known not only for its fruit orchards, but also for being the most northern place in Europe where chestnut trees are grown. The district of Schneidhain is the birthplace of Johann Weck, who invented the preserving jar known throughout the world and which in German is named "the Weckglas" after him.

The Fortress of Königstein

The founding of the castle and city is based on a legend told in which the Franconian king Chlodwig (who governed 481-511 p.c.) supposedly built the castle on the hill and the chapel in the valley below after the appearance of a virgin. The first mention of Königstein in the historical records dates back to the year 1215. Therefore, it is assumed, that the original castle was also built in the 12th century. It was the period of the Hohenstaufen Emperors. The castle was located on the important trade route Frankfurt – Cologne and safeguarded the Wetterau area north of Frankfurt. The small settlement below the castle was granted city rights in 1313.

First, the castle of Königstein was owned by the imperial state officials von Münzenberg and subsequently by the Lords of Falkenstein. From 1418 to 1535 it belonged to the Lords of Eppstein. In 1535 the Earl of Stolberg inherited power – his present-day descendant is the patron of the annual four-day Castle Festival. He also instilled the Reformation in Königstein. He modernized the fortifications, which were further developed and enlarged under the rule of Kurmainz (1581-1803, with the exception of an interim rule by the Stolbergs from 1632-1635). It was the Archbishop of Mainz who again established the Catholic religion in Königstein.



The castle of Königstein served both as a national fortress and as a state prison. At the end of the 18th century followers of the French revolution were also kept in custody there. During the Revolutionary Wars in 1792 a large part of the city burned down, when the fortification was bombarded by the Prussians. In 1796 the castle was dynamited by French troops. The city and the castle became the property of the Dukedom of Nassau by the decision of the Deputation of the German Estates in 1803 which compensated German sovereign princes for losses of territory ceded to France. The castle, however, remained in the ducal family's private possession after the dukedom became part of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1866.



The impoverished Königstein went through an economic revival through the physician Dr. Georg Pingler (commemorative fountain in the Limburger Strasse), who in 1851 established the so-called "Prießnitzbad" for water cures. From then on, the water spa of Königstein was visited by many celebrities, among whom were Queen Elisabeth of Romania, the Frankfurt poet Friedrich Stoltze or more recently Otto Klemperer and the painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. Wealthy families from Frankfurt came regularly to spend the summer in Königstein, so that by the end of the 19th century the city's appearance was enriched by many splendid summer villas. In 1902, Königstein was also provided with a railway connection. After World War I, Königstein was first occupied by the French and later by the British. In 1922, the Grand Duchess Hilda von Baden, who was born as a princess of Nassau, donated the castle ruins to the city. In the years following World War I Königstein once again established itself as a leading health resort and was certified as a "Heilklimatischer Kurort". Since the end of World War II Königstein has belonged to the state of Hesse.

With the territorial reform of 1972, Falkenstein, Mammolshain and Schneidhain became districts of Königstein. The public swimming pool and spa was opened in 1977.



The "Luxemburger Schloss"

The building was erected from 1686 to 1694 as an office building and summer residence of the Prince Elector of Mainz. Due to the dissolution of the electoral state of Mainz, the estate became the property of Nassau and was at first used as the residence of the highest ranking judge in Nassau. The Frankfurt leather merchant, Georg Christian Dörr, purchased the house in 1820. In 1858 the house was purchased from him by Duke Adolph von Nassau, later Grand Duke of Luxembourg, who used it as a summer residence. From 1873 to 1877, the house was converted into a chateau according to the plans of the Brussels architect Bordiau. It was especially appreciated by Adolph's wife, the Grand Duchess Adelheid Marie. Here, she received many aristocratic guests, until her death in 1916. A Frankfurt businessman purchased the chateau in 1952 from the Grand Duchess Charlotte von Luxemburg. Since 1970 the building has been owned by the city. After extensive renovations, it is now the local court house.

