FRIEDENSBURG · PEACE CASTLE
SCHLAINING · AUSTRIA

Welcome!

This is the new website of the Peace Castle Schlaining. You will find tourism information on the castle and our "European Museum for Peace". Additionally, you will find an overview of the many activities linked to the ASPR's (Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution) research and education programs. For the time being we wish you a delightful discovery of our unique peace castle. Perhaps we will have the honour to greet you as a visitor before long? It would be a pleasure!
Team of the Peace Castle Schlaining

From War to Peace Castle

In the border region between the eastern foothills of the Alps mountain range and the Pannonian Basin this castle was in the conflict area between rivalling powers and rulers for centuries. The "Amber road", a significant trade route since prehistoric times, ran in striking distance and added to the region's strategic relevance. Only eight thousand meters lie between the fortress and the Hungarian-Austrian border today.

The beginnings lie in the dark. The castle was first officially documented in 1271 as Castrum Zloynuk, owned by the dukes of Güssing. But only the legendary knight Andreas Baumkircher, who took over the property in the 15th century, rebuilt the stronghold into the base castle for his band of mercenaries. The city of Schlaining was founded by him and developed into a successful market for trading. After Baumkircher had a fall out with the emperor and had, departing from Schlaining, destroyed part of today's Steiermark ("Baumkircher-feud"), the emperor Friedrich III. lured him to Graz and had him beheaded in 1471 without hearing or trial.

In the mid 16th century, the castle became property of the Hungarian noble family Batthyány. The last owner from this lineage, Ludwig Batthyány, was announced first prime minister of Hungary on 17. March 1848. But this owner also died at the hands of the hangman. After his execution on 6. October 1849, his possessions, including castle Schlaining, went to the Hungarian treasury.

War and peace have determined the fate of castle Schlaining since all times. Nevertheless, the belligerent main base of the leader of mercenaries Baumkircher eventually turned into a place of peace: at the peak of the "cold war", approximately 30 years ago, this centre for peace studies, - teaching, and -practice emerged here. It is the only centre of its kind in Austria. It became a site of encounter between East and West in the shadow of the iron curtain. The "peace castle Schlaining" is an internationally known centre of reference for non violent conflict work since 1983. The ASPR (Austrian study centre for peace and conflict resolution) trains and educates, among others, experts for international civil peacekeeping missions. The United Nations, the OSCE and EU, as well as numerous large, non-governmental organisations first send their employees to the Burgenland before they are deployed abroad.

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Since 2000, castle Schlaining has in the "European museum for peace" a world wide unique permanent exhibition all around the topic of peace.... from interactive samples for the whole family to pieces of well known artists which invite to engage with the topic.

The museum encompasses 4000 square metres of exhibition space and is among the most visited within the region. The ancient castle complex itself became a popular tourist site. It has two characteristic towers and surmounts the friendly town of Schlaining.

Peace castle Schlaining is open daily (except Mondays) to visitors from Easter to the end of October. Opening hours are from 9 o'clock to 5 pm.

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