

Kreuzenstein Castle

As early as prehistoric times, there was a circular rampart as a fortification on the site of today's Kreuzenstein Castle. In the 12th century, a castle complex was built on this site, which became the property of the Habsburgs in 1278. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) it was conquered by Swedish troops in 1645 and blown up in three places when they withdrew. Remains of the ruins were used by the local population as building material. Only parts of the circular wall, the hull of the east tower and parts of the chapel remain.

In the 18th century, the count's family of Wilczek acquired the castle ruins and began to build a show castle in 1874. This was built quite differently from the previous building. However, existing wall remains were incorporated into the construction. In addition, many original building elements were used for the construction of the new Schauburg, which were gathered from all over Europe. This mixture of different components and different architectural styles makes Kreuzenstein Castle an extraordinary witness to the Middle Ages. The construction work took over 30 years. Kaiser Wilhelm II was also present at the reopening in 1906.

A major fire in 1915 severely damaged the library and archive wing. It destroyed the art collection housed in it, which included historical musical instruments, manuscripts and original etchings by artists such as Dürer and Cranach. The structural damage was repaired, but artillery shells hit the castle during the Second World War. Partial bullet holes can still be seen today, a reminder of the destruction, but also evidence of the castle's unshakability.

Today the castle is a popular excursion destination in the Vienna region. The castle rises between the Danube and the Vienna Woods and offers a view over the Korneuburg Basin, the city of Vienna and large parts of Lower Austria. The extraordinary castle and its surroundings have served as a backdrop for numerous film and television productions, including several horror films from the 1970s and an Austrian television series for children. Films such as "The Last Knight Templar", "The Pillars of the Earth" and the Disney production "The Three Musketeers" were also filmed here.