

CASTLES & RUINS near Vilseck

many within 1 hr

(compiled by Matt at www.vilseckhouse.org)

Some are hidden in the woods, completely free. Others are guided tours only. Some have their own website. Chase these links and do some research (Wiki, etc.) before going.

English

castle

ruin

castle ruins

fortress

German

Burg (a “Berg” is a hill)

Ruine

Burgruine

Festung

[Free hiking app \(OutDoorActive\)](#)

We also love exploring local caves (Höhlen).

[Dagestein Castle \(Vilseck\)](#)

I hear there's a small museum open sometimes

[Rosenberg Fortress](#) (80 min N/NW)

Guided tours only. Really impressive.

[Rabeneck Castle](#) (45 min NW)

Entry fee, limited hours. Nice little chapel. Don't miss the trail on the back side down through stone archways, etc.

[Gossweinstein Castle](#) (45 min NW)

Entry fee. Small but impressive weapons display and deep dungeon pit.

[Rabenstein Castle](#) (45 min NW)

The inside is only for special events. Outside is a nice Biergarten and a Falknerie. You can park right behind it, but it's a fantastic hike past / through several caves if you park instead at this [parkplatz](#) and hike 1hr toward [Ludwigshöhle](#), then cross the road, take you [booked tour](#) of the incredible Sophienhöhle, then enjoy the castle Biergarten on your way back as you finish the loop.

[Neideck Ruins](#) (50 min NW)

Free. Always open. Park by the [pool](#) and follow the tractor trail all the way up. Beautiful view from the top in autumn. There's also a [cave](#).

Leienfels Castle Ruins (40 min NW)

Free. Always open. You nearly go through someone's yard to get to it. Nice overlook from behind. 20min hike from this [parkplatz](#).

Hohenstein Castle (40 min W)

You can park closeby and enjoy [creme puffs](#), but you'll enjoy them more by parking off the roadside [here](#) and hiking (35 min). Cheap entry fee. If the castle is locked, ask for the key at the creme puff place.

Rothenberg Fortress (50 min W)

Not to be confused with the town of RothenbUrg. Guided tours only. The walls (bastions) are amazing! The [parking lot](#) is about a 15 min walk.

Wildenfels Castle Ruins (45 min W)

Free. Always open. Nice 25 min hike from [here](#).

Lichtenegg Castle Ruins (30 min SW)

Always open. You can park [close](#), or enjoy a 40 min hike from [here](#). At the bottom of the hill on the SE side is a self-service snack shop.

Harburg Castle (2 hrs SW)

Walk under a cool castle gate to get inside. Guided tours only. Very good.

Wolfstein Castle Ruins (50 min S/SW)

Entry fee.

Poppberg Castle Ruins (35 min S/SW)

Free. Always open. We've never parked nearby, always preferring to walk 40 min from [here](#).

Rossstein Castle Ruins (45 min S)

Free and always open, a 25 min hike from [here](#).

Donaustauf Castle Ruins (75 min S/SE)

Always open. Free. Great overlook. A 15 min walk from [here](#). Go up these [steps](#) and behind the church, follow the long straight stretch to the end, where it finally turns left.

Kurnberg Castle Ruins (75 min SE)

Free. Always open. Park [here](#) (15 min hike).

Leuchtenberg Castle (40 min E)

Entry fee and tour. Afterward we hike this 30-min loop in the woods and some swim [here](#).

Flossenburg Castle Ruins (50 min E/NE)

Always open. Free, just like the nearby concentration camp. Park [here](#) to walk to the castle.

Falkenberg Castle (45 min NE)

I don't think it's open to the public, but it's a nice photo from the parking lot.

Waldeck Castle Ruins (45 min N/NE)

Free. Always open. Park and walk 5-10 minutes from [parking area](#). (While you're up north, hike 25 min from [here](#) to the Rauhen Kulm tower, and also see inside these historic [kellers](#) – they're unlocked. Close the door when you leave).