

Festungsrunde – Around the Fortress

A short walk around Kronach's treasure. You needn't search walls or leave the trail (except from access to the final). And you should take a camera with a good zoom not only because of the nice motives.

Stage 1

N 50°14.643' E 011°19.645'

Now you're standing in front of the big gate...

Many an enemy has tried to get access to the fortress, but none of them has ever succeeded. There were also times when some people tried to flee from the fortress... Now go ahead and find out about the secrets of one of the biggest medieval fortresses in Germany!

*The ground in front of the gate originally was a ditch and access was made difficult by a drawbridge. Before you take the pedestrian entrance door to the left (like a good girl or boy ;-)), have a look at the magnificent driving gate in the middle and the so-called "oxen eye" to the right. Speaking of eyes – don't you feel being watched all along? How many grotesque faces/ gargoyles that are not animals are looking at you from the walls? **(A)***

Stage 2

N 50°14.674' E 011°19.731'

You've passed the gate unharmed? You are, however, still in the rampart ditch outside the former core castle. Why castle now and not fortress? At that time the building was called castle it became a fortress only through some defense extensions (the old german word „veste“ meaning „enduring“, „hard“, „forceful“). The reinforcements had become necessary because of the development of fire arms and the invention of gun powder. Like salt (and a lot of other food), gun powder must be stored dry. Here on the fortress this could be done in the salttower right in front of you. The big rampart bridge in the background allowed good access from the inner fortress to the bastions. Why is it made of wood?

- *Statics – stone would be too heavy*
- *Optics – for optical reasons stones were replaced by wood during renovation works*
- *Tactics: could be burned easily during retreat in case of war*

*The position of the first letter of the correct answer in the alphabet = **B***

Better think than read!

Stage 3

N 50°14.659' E 011°19.623'

You are in front of the so-called thick tower next to the middle gate of the fortress, the entrance to the armoury court (you may explore this inner part with one of the guided tours – the subterranean walks

are well worth seeing). The thick tower, together with the captain's tower on the other side, worked as so-called "strike defense" to protect this entrance. On the tower you can find a coat of arms, showing a character of a fable. Number of the letters: =C

Stage 4

N 50°14.648' E 011°19.602'

On the bastion St. Kunigunde. From above here you have a fantastic view of the small town of Kronach. Look at the information board. Here you don't read and pursue on "Face", but shoot fiercely. Which angle do the left and the right Face make up at Kunigunde? The sum of the digits is **D**.

Before you leave this secure place, add the numbers from A - D. The sum of the digits of this result should be 7.

Stage 5

N 50° 14.6(A)(C)' E 011° 19.(B-10)(D-A)2'

In front of the gates.



The holes in the wall stones served for the transportation with stone pliers. When the pliers were lifted, the lower hooks pressed into the stone. At a closer look, you can also make out different stonemason signs. They were their signatures and useful for preparing their bills. Which letter can you find here left and right of this sign? Position in the alphabet = E



Stage 6

N 50° 14.(E-1)(A)(E-1)' E 011° 19.(A+1)(D-11)4'

This stone bastion was only built after the end of the thirty-year war in order to make the fortress even more inaccessible. They wanted to build a regular pentagon.

But even before that time, invaders didn't have a chance:

At the time of the Hussit war, in the winter of 1429/30, the Hussits were fended off by burning down the suburban spital (unfortunately the people living there weren't asked):

In 1632, the Swedes came to the fortress for the first time. They weren't alone but with them was the so-called margravian and Saxony-Coburg committee – this fact is one historical reason for the nowadays "special (= meaning rather tense) relationship" between the neighbouring towns of Coburg and Kronach. And it also explains why people from Kronach read the letters on their number plate "KC" like this: "Kein Coburger" (not from Coburg). However, the enemies couldn't conquer the fortress, neither were they successful in 1633/34. At their last attempt to conquer the town the invaders were

fended off by the heroic women of Kronach. The legend says they defended themselves with hot water, paving stones and suchlike.

*Now we come to the bastion in front of you. Which Franconian town can you see in the coat of arms?
Number of the letters =F*

Stage 7

N 50° 14.(F)(F)4' E 011° 19.(F)(A-1)(E)'

The so-called outworks were only installed in the middle of the 17th century and made up the defence of the northern part of the pentagon. This extension first had to prove worthy in the seven-year war. The function of the buildings can be seen very well at their form: a ravelin protected the curtain wall (area between two bastions). The contregarde is bended in the same way as the bastion right across. The building where you are protected the bastion opposite because from the casemates, the enemy could be taken under fire. It is hard to imagine, though, that they had installed the military hospital here for a while.

And again we can find a beautiful coat of arms of a proud architect. The heraldic jargon is interesting here because when you read "heraldic right or left" or "heraldic frontside and backside" this is meant from the perspective of the carrier of the shield. The knights usually carried their shield (often decorated with a coat of arms) on the left.

Now, what can you see here on the „heraldic frontside“ of the coat of arms?

- Lion: G=8
- Hen: G=7
- Wolf: G=9

Stage 8

N 50° 14.(G-2)3(G-2)' E 011° 19.(F)(A)(G)'

During the First World War the fortress was used as officers' prison. The most famous one was Charles de Gaulle. He managed to escape but soon afterwards he was captured again near Lichtenfels, mainly due to his extraordinary height of 1.90m, unusual for people at the time.

On that wall you can see a change caused by the last attempt of military use of the fortress. Still in 1944 the Messerschmidt company started to build a construction site for rocket parts. The planned site with the codename "Gekro" fortunately was not finished, so that the fortress didn't become an interesting bomb target for the allied forces.

How many oxeneyes were here before the last conversion? (H)

Final

Now forward to the final! Perhaps the numerous visitors have left something for you? You find it at:

**N 50°14.(D*F*10+7)'
E 011°19.((H+G+A)*A*10-3)'**