Castles and Stately Homes

**Schloss Cappenberg in Selm**

The architectural jewel in the district is situated in the north: ‘Schloss Cappenberg’. This castle was founded by Earls Gottfried and Otto von Cappenberg in 1122 as the first premonstration monastery on German soil. Its first private owner was the Prussian state reformer Karl Freiherr Baron vom und zum Stein (1757-1831). Both his written bequest and the greater part of the medieval foundation documents are situated in the castle.

The Westphalian Land Museum of Art and Cultural History and the Westphalian Archives in Münster show a permanent exhibition ‘Freiherr vom Stein & Cappenberg’ in the west wing. The centre tract includes the circle with its excellent art exhibitions which attract attention from outside the region. In the warmer months, it also extends and invitation to the Cappenberg vespers concerts in the church ‘Stiftskirche’. It is worth paying a visit to the ‘Stiftskirche’ and the forest ‘Cappenberger Wald’.

**Schloss Schwansbell in Lünen**

Despite its name, Schwansbell is not really a castle but a representative villa. The present building which was erected by Wilhelm von Westerholt in a neo-Gothic style (1872-1875) is one of the youngest stately homes in Westphalia. The outbuilding (1853) is home to the museum ‘Museum der Stadt Lünen’ with an exhibition showing home decors dating from between 1840 and 1930, a toys and dolls section and cast iron and ovens from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The walk through the castle park with old tree populations leads the visitor to ‘Lünen Seepark’, a large recreational area with a lake, beach and more.

**Burg Botzlar in Selm**

Burg Botzlar is a building which followed a medieval Land castle and was erected at the beginning of the 19th Century. The remains of a medieval tower house still exist. Botzlar had numerous grafts, the last one being filled in the 1960s. In 1982, the building was inaugurated as a new Council and Citizens Centre after having been restored. It now serves as a conference and event location.
Burg Unna

It is assumed that the castle was erected by Earl Engelbert III. von der Mark. He was said to have built a castle in the north-east corner of the town wall in the 14th Century. Its appearance was greatly altered in the 19th Century. The town council set up the ‘Hellweg Museum’ here in 1936. Changing exhibitions supplement the permanent exhibition on the history of Unna and the Hellweg region. It is also worth paying a visit to the basement vault. Highlight is the ‘Unnaer Goldschatz’, the discovery of 230 gold coins from the 14th century.

www.unna.de

Haus Heeren in Kamen

Haus Heeren is one of the most beautiful moated castles in the region and has been owned by the von Plettenberg-Heeren family since 1679. It was erected in 1606 on the site of a former construction. The ensemble of buildings with the three-winged front castle which provide the stately home with a character which is similar to that of a castle (1689-1693) is remarkable. The orangery in the castle park which was build in 1850 was said to have been designed by one of Karl Friedrich Schinkel's pupils.

Heerener Straße 177 | Kamen

Haus Brüggen in Bönen

The main building of the former baronial estate was erected in the Bramey-Lenningsen area in 1718/19 as a replacement for a castle which was erected in 1582, its current form resulting from renovation work carried out in 1843. The two long timber-framed barns which are situated in the front castle area at acute angles to each other date from the 18th Century. Haus Brüggen is currently is privately owned and used for agricultural purposes.

Kamener Straße 12 | Bönen

Haus Opherdicke in Holzwickede

The moated manor-house is situated in a unique position on the heights ‘Haarstrang’, overlooking the River Ruhr in the south of the district. ‘Haus Opherdicke’ has its roots in the 12th Century. The main building which was completed in 1687, complete with the annexes and ground were acquired by the Unna District Authority in 1980 and converted into a culture and meeting centre with exhibitions, music and small performing arts.

Dorfstraße 29 | Holzwickede
Haus Ruhr in Schwerte

The moated castle ‘Haus Ruhr’, was erected on the remains of a medieval fortification between the 17th and 19th centuries. The building complex was restored in 1987 and extended to provide space for studies at the ‘Ruhrakademie’, a private teaching institute for graphic design and art.

www.ruhrakademie.de

Haus Villigst in Schwerte

Haus Villigst inspires with the historically grown architectural ensemble which has its origins in a manner dating from the 12th Century. Villigst was referred to in documents for the first time in 1170. Freiherr Ludewig von Elverfeldt had the current building erected in a classic style at the beginning of the 19th Century. It was taken over by the Westphalian Protestant Church in 1948, extended and converted and transformed into one of Germany’s first conference venues after the Second World War.

www.haus-villigst-ortlohn.de

Steinhaus in Werne

Together with the St. Christopher Church and the historic town hall, the ‘Steinhaus’ is the oldest stone building in a town which was originally characterised by half-timbered buildings. The former castle steward’s home was erected shortly after 1560 and has been the site of Werne library since 1983.

www.werne.de