

# Federal fortress Ulm



major fortress  
system

The federal fortress of Ulm was built by the German Confederation between 1842 and 1859. The outer perimeter was 9 kilometres long; the total area was 335 hectares, compared to 66 hectares of the built-up urban area at the time.

After the foundation of the German Reich in 1871, the entire fortifications were extended. Between 1900 and 1914, an advanced ring of concrete works was built in a loose arrangement.

The construction costs of the federal fortress totalled 16.5 million guilders. The peak labour force was reached in 1848, when over 10,000 people were employed in the construction of the fortress.

The peacetime garrison totalled 5,000 men, while 18,000 to 20,000 soldiers were planned for an emergency. With the appropriate expansion, the Ulm fortress could have accommodated 100,000 men.



Ulm became a garrison town due to the fortress. However, as the federal fortress was never directly exposed to the effects of war, significant parts have been preserved and in many places characterise today's townscape of the two-state city of Ulm/Neu-Ulm.

Thanks to the sensible utilisation, the building maintenance of numerous works is guaranteed for the future. Many parts have been restored by the two cities, the Förderkreis (support association) and the federal government. The spacious glacis areas are of particular importance as local recreation areas that run through the cities like a closed green belt. Playgrounds, beer gardens, the zoo and concert stages invite you to linger.

## Event highlights in the fortifications Ulm/Neu-Ulm

### DAY OF THE FORTRESS

Guided tours by the Förderkreis through parts of the fortress that are otherwise closed to the public

### STORM THE CASTLE

Artists from all over the world attract numerous visitors to Wilhelmsburg with their art in summer

### THEATRE OPEN-AIR

Every two years, the Wilhelmsburg is the open-air stage of the Ulm theatre with famous musicals

### CONCERTS IN GLACIS PARK

Folk music, classical music, jazz and rock on the open-air stage in the Glacis-City park or in the Caponniere 4

### CASTLEQUAKE

Music open air of the indie and alternative rock scene in the inner courtyard of the Wilhelmsburg

### CULTURE NIGHT

A colourful mix of the local cultural scene in the city centres and the works of the Federal Fortress

*The exact dates can be found in the calendar of events on the website (see below).*

### LAUSCHTOUR (EAVESDROP) AUDIO APP



On the Neu-Ulm side, explore the Glacis city park, the banks of the Danube with a view of Ulm and the expressionist church of St Johann Baptist. You will also discover many of the buildings of the federal fortress.

### CONTACTS

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## EUROPEAN CULTURAL ROUTE FORTIFIED MONUMENTS



# Federal Fortress Ulm/Neu-Ulm

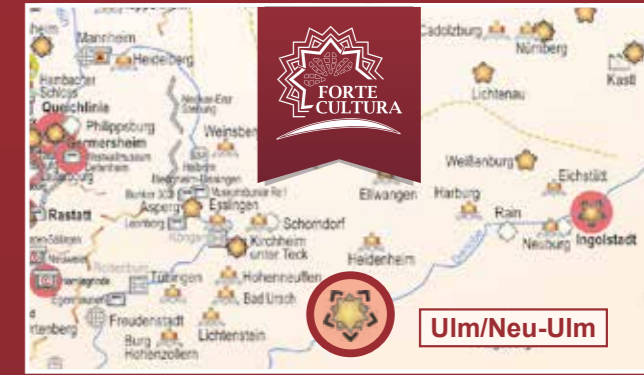
Fortified heritage at the Danube



Station of the European Cultural Route  
of fortified monuments -FORTE CULTURA-



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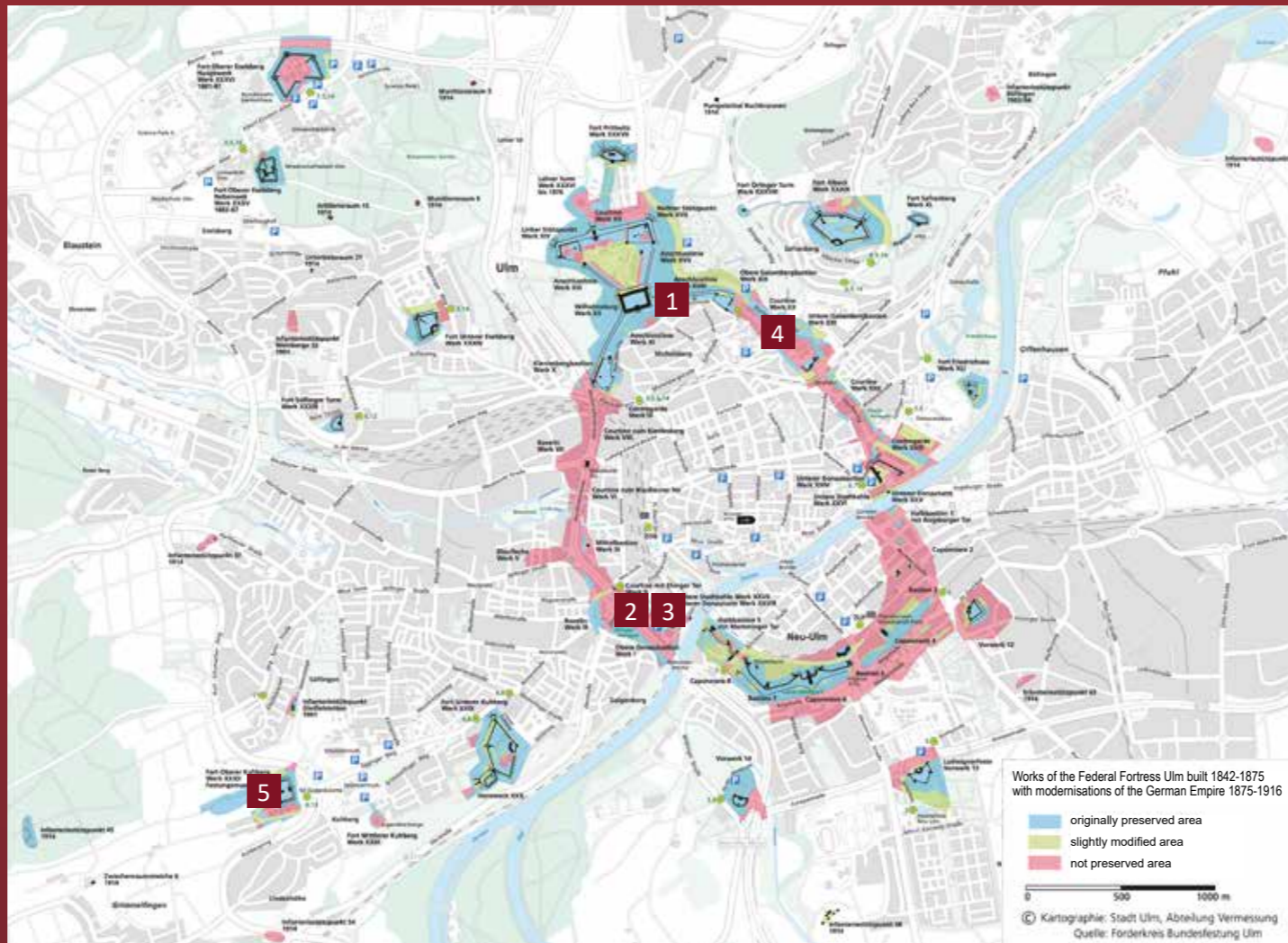
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[www.forte-cultura.eu](http://www.forte-cultura.eu)



# Experience the federal fortress Ulm/Neu Ulm

## Living fortress heritage on both sides of the Danube



### 1 WILHELMSBURG

The Wilhelmsburg, built between 1842 and 1849, is the strongest element of the main wall, measuring 200 x 130 metres. Around 570 rooms are located here, in which several companies have set up shop and some of which have been refurbished as conference and event rooms.

The imposing inner courtyard with an area of approx. 13,000 square metres, is a popular stage in the summer months for open-air performances by Ulm Theatre, the pop-up festival ›Storm the Castle‹ and the open-air music festival ›Castlequake‹.

Prittwitzstraße 100, 89075 Ulm [www.die-wilhelmsburg.de](http://www.die-wilhelmsburg.de)

### 2 DANUBE-SWABIAN CENTRAL MUSEUM

The museum is located in the Upper Danube Bastion, just a few metres from the Danube. In the rooms, which were completely modernised and redesigned in 2022, two exciting tours on over 1,500 square metres show the history of the Danube Swabians and the diversity of the Danube, the great European river. The offer is complemented by changing themed special exhibitions as well as readings, talks and exciting guided tours for children and adults.

Schillerstraße 1, 89077 Ulm [www.dzm-museum.de](http://www.dzm-museum.de)

### 3 THEATER ULÜM

The theatre in the Upper Danube Bastion is probably the only professional Turkish theatre in southern Germany that has been staging German-Turkish plays for 25 years. These are works that take up current topics and stimulate discussion and bring them to the stage in a kind of ›musical comedy‹.

Schillerstraße 1, 89077 Ulm [www.theateruluem.de](http://www.theateruluem.de)

### 4 SAUSCHDALL

Festungswerk XX is home to the Sauschdall jazz cellar. Since the early 1960s, almost everyone who is anyone in the jazz scene has played here, including Chet Baker and Albert Mangelsdorff.

The programme focuses on modern, contemporary jazz several times a week in spring and autumn.

Prittwitzstraße 36, 89075 Ulm [www.sauschdall.de](http://www.sauschdall.de)

### 5 DOCUMENTATION CENTRE UPPER KUHBURG

Fort Oberer Kuhberg was the site of an early Nazi concentration camp from 1933 to 1935.

Today, a memorial site has been set up here, where you can see the underground prisoner accommodation and the concentration camp administration rooms, among other things. The exhibition ›Human dignity is inviolable‹ can also be seen in one part of the memorial.

Am Hochsträß 1, 89081 Ulm

[www.dzok-ulm.de](http://www.dzok-ulm.de)

### GUIDED TOURS

The ›Förderkreis Bundesfestung Ulm e.V.‹ offers guided tours of various buildings. Among other things, a tour of Fort Oberer Kuhberg takes place every first Sunday of the month.

Further guided tours can be found on the homepage of Ulm/Neu-Ulm Touristik and via the QR code.



### MORE INFORMATION



[festung-ulm.de](http://festung-ulm.de)

You can find more information about the Federal Fortress in Ulm/Neu-Ulm at:



[tourismus.ulm.de](http://tourismus.ulm.de)

### FORTRESS PATH

The fortress trail along the main ramparts invites you to explore and take a walk.

It connects the individual, still preserved buildings of the fortress ring over a distance of approx. 12 kilometres and leads for the most part through the Ulm and Neu-Ulm green areas of the Glacis.

The signposted trail provides information on 32 boards at prominent fortifications about their origins, function and use.