

## Castle history and stories up close

Villa, summer vacations, a home for convalescing women, school, standing empty, a home on several occasions: Schloss Drachenburg can look back on a variety of uses. By visiting the permanent exhibition about the castle's history, you can start on a fascinating journey and meet former owners.

A separate permanent exhibition in Schloss Drachenburg's coach house is devoted to the sophisticated restoration work. Carefully selected examples of the measures which were taken give insights into the detailed work carried out by the restorers, and illustrate in the best possible way all the work which was done on the facade, roof and interior rooms.



## Nature conservancy has a long history

In Germany, nature conservancy started in the Siebengebirge. Townsfolk protested against the quarrying which took place on the Drachenfels, and in 1836 they succeeded in getting protected status for the peak. Without any doubt, the scenic beauty of this region is also a tribute to the untiring efforts of many other people.

In very different places in the Rhineland, Germany and also worldwide, they stood up for protection of the landscape, species and biotopes, and for green areas in towns and cities. Without their involvement and dedication, today's world and environment would be a lot poorer. We invite you to get to know these men and women who did so much for conservancy, and their many activities, some of them quite unusual, by visiting an interactive exhibition in the museum on the history of nature conservancy in the castle's outer ward.

You can find more information here:  
→ [www.naturschutzgeschichte.de](http://www.naturschutzgeschichte.de)

## The North Rhine-Westphalia foundation

Since 1986, the North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW) foundation has been supporting voluntary associations and non-profit organisations which promote the state's natural beauties and cultural heritage. The NRW foundation is unique among comparable foundations in Germany because it combines nature and culture under one roof. Throughout the state, and thanks to the assistance of the NRW foundation, many monuments have been restored, museums have been set up, and nature reserves have been secured as a permanent home for endangered animals and plants. Now under the ownership of the NRW foundation, which carried out thorough restoration, Schloss Drachenburg occupies a special place among all the projects which are sponsored: as an "icon of Rhine romanticism", it is a historic building of special importance, situated at the heart of Germany's oldest nature reserve. The NRW foundation's income comes from funding from the sale of lottery tickets, and increasingly also by way of donations, inheritances and the membership fees from its friends' association.

You can find more information here:  
→ [www.nrw-stiftung.de](http://www.nrw-stiftung.de)

## Experience and enjoy

In every respect, Schloss Drachenburg is unique and many-faceted, as shown by the wide range of events and services for all our guests, whether young or older.

## Whatever takes your fancy

There's something for everybody! Keep coming back to the castle's website:

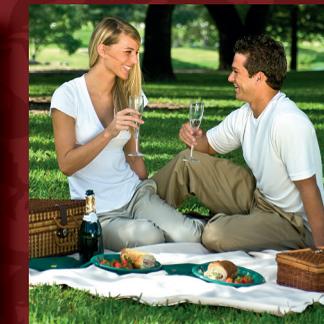
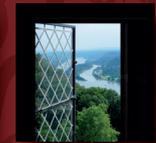
→ [www.schloss-drachenburg.de](http://www.schloss-drachenburg.de)

We warmly invite you to experience and enjoy Schloss Drachenburg's wide-ranging and constantly changing services and special offers.

Schloss Drachenburg: Well worth the longest journey. We look forward to meeting you.



The dream castle with the unforgettable Rhine panorama



Unique



## Schloss Drachenburg in Königswinter

This unusual edifice, built from 1882 to 1884 for Stephan von Sarter, the son of a Bonn innkeeper, is one of the most important castles erected in Germany towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Stephan von Sarter (1833-1902), who commissioned the castle, attained wealth and honours as a stock market analyst. After being made a baron in 1881, he laid the foundation stone for his dream castle – completed, amazingly, in less than three years.

## Even approaching the castle is a unique experience

Situated above Königswinter, in the heart of the Sieben-gebirge ("Seven hills") nature park, the picturesque building is visible from far off, half way up to the Drachenfels ("Dragon's Rock"). Whether you climb on foot, or enjoy the comfortable ride on the historical rack railway, the castle will appear from behind old trees and splendid rhododendrons.

## The romance of the Rhine

Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the experience of the combination of nature and culture, landscape romantic and rich history has attracted many tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world. All of them experience an unforgettable visit, savour unexpected impressions of unique castle architecture, roam through the historically important castle park, and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the Rhine and the Siebengebirge range of hills.

## The historical rooms

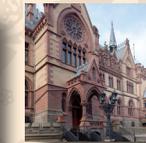
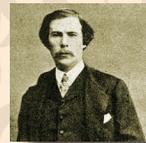
Let yourself be swept back to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The magnificent rooms for social gatherings and the private rooms in Schloss Drachenburg have been carefully restored and refurnished, allowing visitors to experience the feeling of living in the age when they were built. Sometimes it seems that Stephan von Sarter himself might appear at any moment.

Immerse yourself in this nearby world of history and legends while admiring the large canvas paintings by artists from the Munich School, such as Frank Kirchbach or Ferdinand Wagner the Younger. Even today, elaborate stencil paintings, artistic wood carvings and coloured glasswork are evidence of the impressive skills of the artisans of long ago.

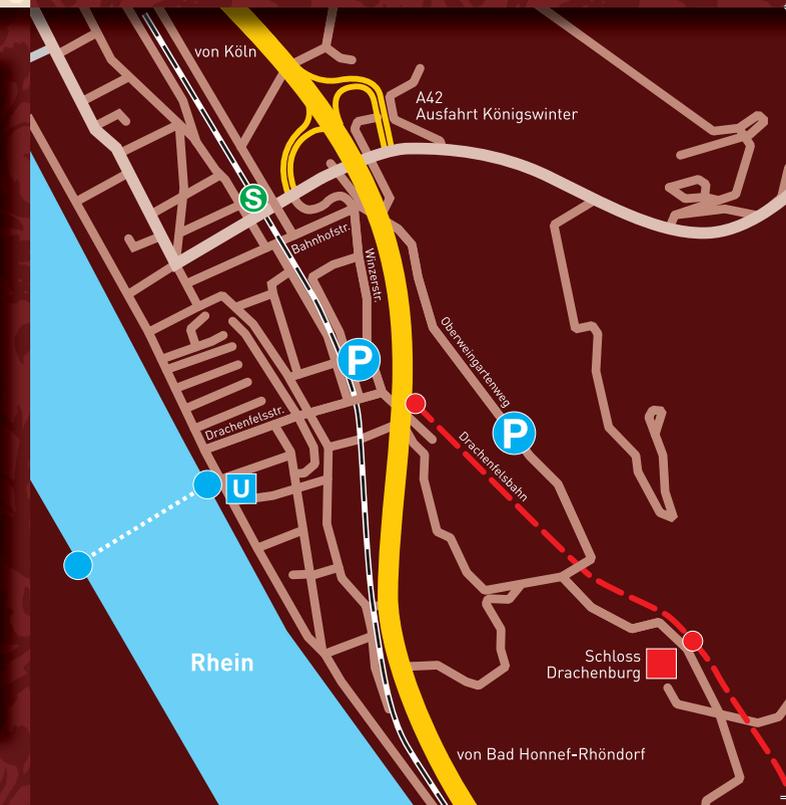
## Making old out of old

In 1986, Schloss Drachenburg and its park attained the status of a site of historic interest. After the castle ensemble had been sold to the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, it became possible to do everything necessary for extensive restoration. The state handed over the castle to the North Rhine-Westphalia Trust for the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage. Starting in 1995, the new owner – in close cooperation with the state and the town of Königswinter – has now carefully restored it to its original condition.

The time-consuming work was completed in 2011, and following exemplary and excellent restoration, the castle, park and outer ward have been restored to their former glory.



SCHLOSS DRACHENBURG – EIN HAUS DER  
**NRW Stiftung**



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