

9 On the Banks of the Schmida

In the west, the town wall follows the course of the Schmida. Corbeled medieval latrines are preserved in the town wall. A shot even forms part of the fortified wall, serving as a symbol of vigilant defense. It dates back to the Hussite Wars. Passing through a portal, you arrive at **St. Stephen's Parish Church**, whose west side is integrated into the fortifications.

Worth a visit: Subterranean ossuary in the charnel house (13th c.) with bones neatly piled as a reminder of our own mortality.



10 The Origin of the Stones

The rocks that went into building the town fortifications were quarried in Karlstal below the fortress. The steep quarry walls offered further protection for the fortress and the church. Sandstone projectiles were produced to cover the town's own requirements and for other fortified settlements.



11 The Town Fortress

The fortress stands on a spur of land projecting on three sides into the Schmida. It consisted of the core fortress with keep, the palas, three residential buildings and a gate tower. The keep is all that remains today. A villa was built on the foundation walls of the palas in the 19th c. The entire former fortress complex is in private hands today.

12 The Former Leather Gate

During the six-week siege of the town by Matthias Corvinus, King of Hungary, a breach was shot out in the wall next to the Leather Tower. In this section, the wall has a different structure, indicating that it was rebuilt toward the end of the 15th c.

In the last section of the circular wall tour between the former Leather Gate and the Krems Gate, the fortifications disappear into the buildings constructed along them. The medieval prison tower (Reckturn) is located there. This, the oldest tower in the town fortifications was presumably erected at the same time as the wall



Stone and Wine

Medieval Ensemble, Mystical Stones, Delicious Wines

The walled town of Eggenburg is situated where the Waldviertel meets the Weinviertel.

The medieval fortifications around the city limits of Eggenburg are a well-preserved defensive system almost two kilometers long. The crenelated wall was built in the 14th c. The outer wards (zwingers) in front of it were added as reinforcement, as were the fortified towers and gate towers dating from the 15th c. When town defenses were no longer needed in the 19th c., the barbicans and town gates were razed or integrated into other buildings.

Battlements remained as the corporate identity of the Middle Ages. Fortifications became set romantic pieces in the townscape. Promenades were laid out along the walls to afford views into the countryside and glimpses of the tower ruins.

Sand and stone, woods and wine dominate the landscape, which is best explored on foot or by bicycle. In our idyllic wine cellar lane, the wine makers serve their delicious wines with tasty regional specialties.

Everyday cares slip away!

Tips on Eggenburg

Guided tour with night watchman and guided town tour, Moonlight cinema, medieval festival in September, Eggenburg Advent Magic (Christmas market)

Hiking and cycling tips

Themed trails on wine and stone, the earth's history, Riesling cycling tour

Stoitzendorf wine cellar lane – varietal trail

Wine cellar lane tour, vineyard watchman's cross, Easter stroll, wine christening and culinary fest



Come on in!

Walled towns in Lower Austria

There are eleven charming towns still protected by historical town walls. They are Drosendorf, Eggenburg, Gross-Enzersdorf, Horn, Hainburg an der Donau, Laa an der

Thaya, Marchegg, Retz, Waidhofen an der Thaya, Weitra, and Zwettl. They enchant us with their historical flair, offering so much to discover and so many culinary delights to enjoy. In all these towns, you can explore the town walls along themed trails on a walk or a guided town wall tour.

Take a peek over these walls!

For further information:
www.stadtmauerstaedte.at

The walled towns at a glance



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Eggenburg
THE MAGIC OF THE PAST

CIRCULAR ROUTE ALONG THE WALLS AND BATTLEMENTS

Take a Peek over these Walls!



www.stadtmauerstaedte.at



1 Hauptplatz

Standing on the main square (Hauptplatz), you see no town walls. Yet the block of buildings in the center of the square is a

direct effect of the town fortifications. Burghers could only feel safe within the town walls. That is why urban expansion in the 15th c. was directed inward.

Part of the square was covered but there was still enough space for market days. Sights: Burgher homes, pillory, Marian Column, Trinity Column, medieval hospice, St. Martin's Chapel, Eggenburg Nostalgia World **A** and a sgraffito house with a grand set of images from the Old and New Testaments, completed in 1547.

2 Town Hall - Former Krems Gate

To the left of today's town hall on Kremserstrasse, a mighty tower once stood, but it was razed in 1893. Krems Gate was one of the three town gates, along with Leather Gate and Egen Gate. The gate towers were built in the 15th c. and subsequently converted to closed gate towers and fitted with portcullises.

Worth a visit: **Krahuletz Museum B**, which also houses the Town Information Center.



3 Hol Tower and Turndl

The circular route takes you by Luegering outside the town walls toward the east. The first fortified tower is Hol Tower. The three large fortified towers were added in the first half of the 15th c. The four zwinger towers also now come into view on the east side.

From Schubert Park, a path leads down into the town moat, with the town wall on one side and the zwinger wall on the other. The front-most tower is called Turndl or Peace Tower. From there, you re-enter the town from the zwinger.

4 Laufgasse

The 19th c. Monastery Tower that you pass through after the Peace Tower leads you back into town. The first monastery was built in 1460 and burned to the ground in the major town fire of 1808.



Additional Information
is available on the comprehensive town map and the brochures about the town of Eggenburg.

Town wall circular route
Required time of about 1.5 h



It was not rebuilt until 1833, when a Redemptorist monastery was erected. A stairway provides access to the top of the wall **D** (Easter - All Saints' Day: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.). The battlements and the wall-walk are well preserved. The town wall was separated from the residential buildings by a pathway called Laufgasse. It was used to supply and replenish the troops.

- A** Eggenburg Nostalgia World – Highlights of the 1950s and 1960s | www.nostalgiewelt.at
- B** Krahuletz Museum – Geological, pre- and early history, folk life & art, etc. www.krahuletzmuseum.at
- C** Gilli Mill – Demonstration oil mill with mu seum www.iss-dialekt.at
- D E** Access points to the top of the wall

5 The Former Egen Gate

Egen Gate, the second of the three town gates, was razed in 1845. But its archway was integrated into a house later built on the site.



6 Ponds of the Past

The circular route proceeds outside the wall along Egen Pond. This pond reminds us that fortifications were strengthened by adding pond systems. They allowed defensive efforts to concentrate on the strips of land lying between them.

7 Am Glacis

The zwinger gave way to blossoming gardens with benches and lush spots to rest and relax. With its corbeled medieval latrine and chimney, the Fortune Teller Tower was presumably lived in.



From 1433 on, a captain was permanently stationed in Eggenburg, so this tower may have housed military troops. The 19th c. obelisk bears the words: "Art added value to the grace of nature."

8 Chancellor Tower and Battlement Walk

The Chancellor Tower is the third large fortified tower and stands in the north-west corner of the town. Here you can ascend to the top of the wall and stroll along the reconstructed wall-walk for a first-hand look at embrasures. **E**

These well-preserved arrow and gun slits resemble keyholes. Inside is an exhibition on the Eggenburg Rifleman's Brigade. Every year, the large meadow protected by the wall is a wonderful setting for a solstice celebration, moonlight cinema, and a medieval festival.

Worth a visit: **Gilli demonstration oil mill C**

