

Biedenkopf **Castle** was built in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century by Heinrich III of Hessen-Marburg and ranks among the most significant cultural monuments of the state. Excavations give evidence that there had been several previous buildings originating in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The former fortress was a border outpost of the Hessen-Thuringian Landgraves, moved westwards. The castle, which was built later, was meant to serve as a dwelling for widows, but the family of the Landgrave never moved in because they took up their abode in the castle of Marburg.

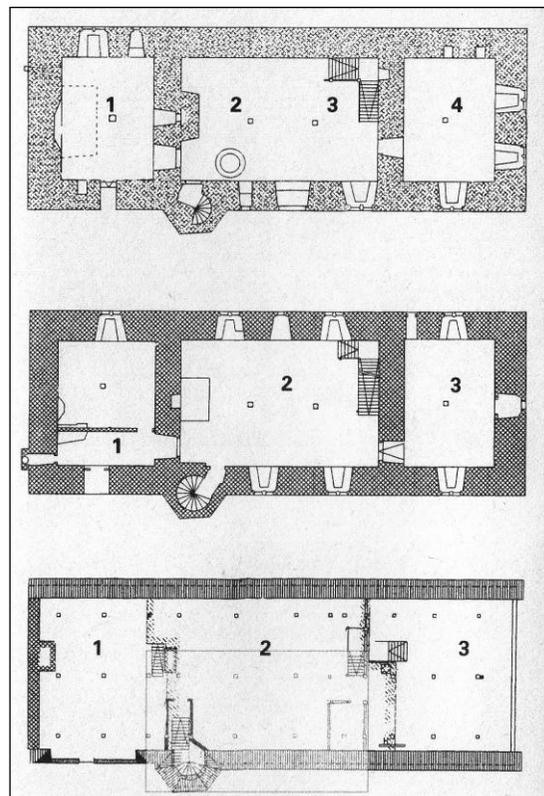
Between 1577 and 1842 Biedenkopf Castle was used - or rather misused - as a storehouse for grain, where the peasants' tributes were stored. After the abolition of serfdom in Hessen both the town administration and a number of private enterprises shared in the use of the building as storeroom. Since 1908 it has housed the Hinterlandmuseum.

In 1988 the castle had to be closed because of urgent repairs. After its reopening in 1993 the rebuilt interior of the castle was awarded the 'Hessischer Denkmalschutzpreis' (cultural monument preservation prize of the state of Hessen). Today

there is a tour round the whole castle, covering its constructional history and explaining the particularities of the building. The impressive roof construction is a rare example of the art of carpentry of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



## Rooms and Sections of the Museum



The **Hinterlandmuseum** Biedenkopf Castle was set up in 1908 as a regional museum under the direction of the history, later castle society and, in fact, large parts of the historical collection were accumulated especially by the untiring efforts of the chimney sweep and antique dealer Carl Pfeil from Biedenkopf. The museum achieved national significance in particular through its extensive collection of traditional costume. As all the items had to be stored elsewhere during the time of renovation, it was an opportunity to carry out all necessary restoration on them as well.

### Groundfloor

- 1 Smoke outlet
- 2 Fire protection
- 3 Mail and travel
- 4 Iron industry



### Upper Floor

- 1 Historical toilet
- 2 Special exhibitions
- 3 Border walking in Biedenkopf



### Attic Floor

- 1 In preparation
- 2 Traditional costume, every-day life and accommodation
- 3 Textile crafts



### Garret Floor - building crafts

In an exhibition space of 700m<sup>2</sup> these valuable museum pieces can now, according to their thematic context, gradually be made accessible again to the public.

In various sections the regional and cultural history of the region is presented in a new form. The focus points of the exhibitions are the history of industry, transport, agriculture and trade as well as the style of traditional costume, of home décor and of ever-day life.

## About the individual departments

In the entrance hall of the ground floor the visitor will get valuable information about the development of the traffic and postal systems. A mail coach, which was built in 1886 and



which travelled between Biedenkopf and Battenberg until 1908, gives a vivid impression of the difficult transport conditions in the region. It could also be adapted as a sledge.

Hand pumps and fire buckets illustrate the history of fire fighting in the area of Biedenkopf. Fire fighting was a joint task and inhabitants of other towns or villages nearby were also called in. Since in the case of a fire all buckets from the whole area were needed they had to be marked with the relevant village or town name. In former times fire was a threat for the whole community. For example, in 1717 a fire destroyed the whole town of Biedenkopf except for 8 houses.

The industrial development of the region, which is connected with the rise and fall of the iron and steel industry, peaked in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the ground floor there are products of the iron industry as well as graphic explanations about the techniques of ore processing, which provide an insight into the historical development of metal extraction and processing.

Every 7 years since 1839 the Grenzgangsfest (festival of walking the borders [see 'beating the bounds' in GB]) has been taking place in Biedenkopf. It is a three-day celebration, which has by now become very popular, and which

has developed since 1693 from what was then a very necessary inspection and establishment of the district borders. There are numerous exhibition items illustrating and explaining the importance and the history of the border patrol. Detailed information about the use and importance of the forest for the town and its inhabitants complement this exhibition field on the upper floor of the Palas building.

There one can find a large room, in which special exhibitions will be presented as well as concerts and lectures held. On the attic floor a part of the extensive collection of traditional costume of the museum is exhibited. Together with household items and pieces of furniture the visitor will get a graphic impression of historical home décor and every-day life. Further more you can find on the attic floor an on the garret floor exhibited sections on various crafts.

### Opening times:

1 April to 15 November, 10 am to 18 pm,  
Mondays closed

### Admission fees:

Adults:	2.50 Euro
Children up to 14 years:	1.30 Euro
Groups (per person):	2.00 Euro
Groups of pupils (per person):	1.00 Euro

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## Hinterlandmuseum Schloss Biedenkopf



A short guide  
through castle  
and museum