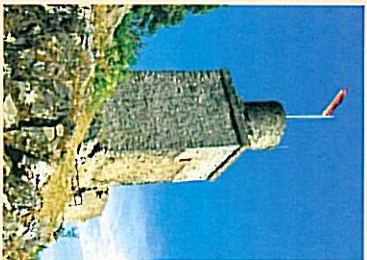


German Estates in 1803 compensating German sovereign princes for losses of territories ceded to France. The castle, however, remained in the duchy family's private property after the duchy became part of the kingdom of Prussia in 1866.

## The castle ruin Falkenstein

Already in the 11th century there was a fortification on the "Norningsberg", on the castle hill named after the mighty gau earl von Nürings (Nornings), who is mentioned in the historical records already in 1103. Successors of this family, that died out in 1171 were the lords von Bolanden-Falkenstein. They erected a second fortification next to the original castle and named it "Neu-Falkenstein" after their home castle in the Palatinate. In the 14th century, castle and village became property of the lords von Nassau, who gave Falkenstein as feudal tenure to different knight families, which held the castle as common property. During the time of the lords von Hattstein, Falkenstein became the starting point of many robber knights assaults. The castle began to crumble after the last knights family, the von Staffel, had died out. The imperial barons von Bettendorf, who were feared for their hardness, were the feudal lords of Falkenstein from 1681 to 1773. The decay of the fortress continued during the 19th century, when the villagers used the stones as construction material for their own homes. Therefore, in 1842, the Frankfurt businessman Osterreth obtained a prohibition of demolition of the buildings. In 1954, the community of Falkenstein purchased the fortification from the Land Hesse.



The impoverished Königstein went through an economic revival only by the physician Dr. Georg Pingler (commemorative water well in the Kirchstraße), who in 1851 established the so-called "Prießnitzbad" for water cures. From there on, the water place of Königstein was visited by many celebrities, among which the Queen Elisabeth of Romania, the Frankfurt poet Friedrich Stoltze or in later times the painter Ernst Ludwig Kirchner. Wealthy families from Frankfurt came regularly to spend the summer in Königstein,

so that since the end of the 19th century the city's appearance was enriched by many pompous summer villas. In 1902, Königstein also was provided with a railway connection. After World War I, Königstein was first occupied. In 1922, the grand duchesse Hilda von Baden, a born princess von Nassau, donated the castle ruin to the city. The redeveloped health resort business reached a climax in 1935, with the award of the predicate "health resort due to the curative properties of its climate". After the end of World War II, Königstein was assigned to the Land of Hesse.

The famous conference of the minister-presidents of the Lands, in which the passing of the Basic Law was initiated in 1949, took place in the old villa of the Frankfurt Bankers family of Rothschild (as of autumn 2006 Hotel Villa Rothschild). In 1955 the city purchased the estate, which in 1956 was opened as "Hotel Sonnenhof" (until 2005). Among the names entered in the guest book you find Sophia Loren, Theodor Heuss and Willy Brandt.

With the territorial reform of 1972, Falkenstein, Mammolshain and Scheidhain were incorporated. The spa was opened in 1977.

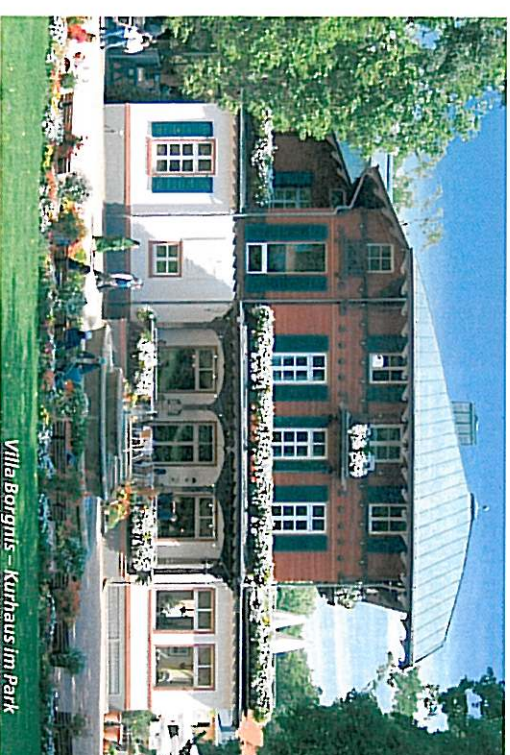


## The Luxemburger Schloss

The building was erected from 1686–1694 as office building and summer residence of the prince elector of Mainz. Due to the dissolution of the electoral state of Mainz, the estate became property of Nassau and was at first used as residence of the superior land mayor. The Frankfurt leather merchant Georg Christian Dörr purchased the house in 1820. In 1858 the house was purchased from him by duke Adolph von Nassau, the later grand duke of Luxemburg, who used it as summer mansion. From 1873 to 1877, the house was converted into a chateau according to the plans of the Brussels architect Bordiau. It was especially appreciated by Adolph's wife, the grand



duchess Adelheid Marie. Here, she received may guests of the higher nobility, until her death in 1916. A Frankfurt businessman purchased the chateau in 1952 from the grand duchess Charlotte von Luxemburg. Since 1970 the building is owned by the city. After many renovations, it now holds the local court since 1981.



Villa Borgnis – Kurhaus im Park

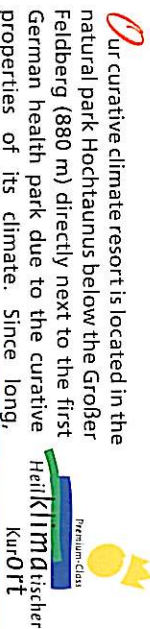


**KÖNIGSTEIN**  
Heilklimatischer Kurort im Taunus

An abridged history  
of the city

Königstein

Our curative climate resort is located in the natural park Hochtaunus below the Großer Feldberg (880 m) directly next to the first German health park due to the curative properties of its climate. Since long, Königstein (18,000 inhabitants) is known as a place of relaxation and recreation, for its expanding net of footpaths, hiking trails and bicycle routes, for the Woogtal, its close-to-town recreation area, for its low-irradiation climate and its Arcadian landscape. Today, like in the old days, many wealthy families are attracted by this contemplative place. Eight schools, good connections to traffic and transport routes, only few industrial areas, excellent shopping possibilities and the surrounding green landscape make Königstein a desirable place of living in the Rhine-Main area.



## Kurhaus (sanatorium) and the house at Hauptstraße 21

Around 1860, the Frankfurt bankers family Borgnis had a Swiss style garden villa erected in park belonging to their house in "Hauptstraße 21" (surrounding the Kurparkpassage). Opened as city sanatorium in 1927, now, after various renovation and alteration measures, the villa since 1999 holds a restaurant and the office of the city registrar. The house "Hauptstraße 21" originally was the guesthouse "Zum grünen Baum", where field marshal Blücher stayed overnight in 1813. In 1838 the family Borgnis purchased the building. Today, this city house also holds shops and practitioner's offices.



The health resort holds five clinics, a modern spa and many other health and wellness facilities. Well-cultivated resort parks, the all-year cultural program and the two imposing castle ruins each year attract many thousands of tourists. The double state decoration as "resort due to its curative climate" both for the core city and for the quarter of Falkenstein is singular throughout the Federal Republic. The luxury hotel hosting the national football team of Brazil during the world championship 2006 is situated in this quarter. The quarter of Mammolshain is well-known not only for its fruit cultivation, but also for being the most northern place in Europe where the Spanish chestnut grows. The quarter of Schneidhain is the place of origin of Johann Weck, who invented the preserving jar known throughout the world, which in German is named after him, the Weckglas.

## Hotel Kempinski

The entire building complex, which was opened as luxury hotel "Kempinski Hotel Falkenstein" in 1999, was erected by emperor Wilhelm II as recreation house for his officers in 1909. After World War I, it first served as barracks for French soldiers. From 1946 to 1964 it held the Land sanatorium, a state-owned clinic, until 1997 it then held the "Taunusklinik" with departments for special treatments.

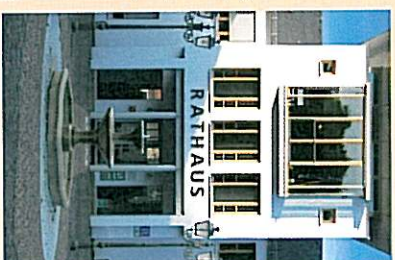


The foundation of the castle and of the city is told in a legend, after which the Franconian king Chlodwig (466–511 p.c.) supposedly founded the castle on the hill and the chapel in the valley below after the appearance of a virgin.

The first mention of Königstein in the historical records reaches back to the year 1215. Therefore, it is assumed, that the original castle was built in the 12th century. It was the time of the Hohenstaufen emperors. The castle was located at the important trade route Frankfurt – Cologne and safeguarded the Wetterau area north of Frankfurt. The small settlement below the castle was granted city rights in 1313.

## Old and new Rathaus (town hall)

The old town hall right in the centre of the Arcadian of part of town formerly was a fortified gate structure and the original access to the castle. From 1676 to 1909 it served as town hall. Today it holds the city museum of the city of Königstein. Since a few years, the town hall (municipal administration) is located in Burgweg 5.



This building complex are the industrial buildings of the Luxemburg chateau, which were erected around the end of the 19th century.

First, the castle Königstein was owned by the imperial state officials von Münzenberg and subsequently by the lords von Falkenstein. From 1418 to 1535 it belonged to the lords von Eppstein. In 1535 the earl von Stolberg inherited the rule – his today's ancestor is the patron of the annual four-days castle festival. It was he, who also introduced the Reformation in the rule of Königstein. He modernized the fortifications, which were further developed and enlarged under the rule of Kurmainz (1581 – 1803, with the exception of an interim rule by the Stolbergs from 1632–1635). It was the archbishop of Mainz, who introduced the catholic belief again.



## Villa Andraee

The small chateau, which was built in 1891 for the Frankfurt banker Albert Andraee de Neufville (architect Franz von Hooover, garden arrangement by Franz Siesmayer), shows features of other well-known historical buildings of Frankfurt. Since 1957 it was used as boarding school and went into private hands in 1987. Since 1997, the eye-catching building serves as seat of a company.



The castle of Königstein served both as a national fortress and as a state prison, where by the end of the 18th century also followers of the French revolution were kept in custody. During the wars of revolution, a large part of the city burned down in 1792, when the fortification was bombarded by the Prussians. In 1796 the castle was blown up with dynamite by French troops. The city and the castle were assigned to the duchy of Nassau by decision of the Deputation of the



Spa and city information · Hauptstraße 13a · 61462 Königstein

Tel.: +49 (6174) 20 22 51

info@koenigstein.de · www.koenigstein.de

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