Ruffenhofen Roman Park – Roman Fort and Vicus on the Limes

FORT AND VICUS

Circa 100 AD the Romans constructed a cavalry fort in the vicinity of the present village of Ruffenhofen. It was one of the few forts located on the Limes that had a civilian settlement (vicus). The vicus was where the families of the soldiers, traders and craftsmen lived and worked. There were also temples, taverns and bathhouses (thermae). The archaeological structures are still hidden in the ground and have lain undisturbed since the Romans abandoned the site. Latterly, the area was used for agricultural purposes.

FORT IN BLOOM

In order to prevent further damage to the archaeological heritage, there are no large-scale excavations or construction activities within the Roman Park. Such activities would severely impact the integrity of the site. According to the theme „Fort in bloom“ the outlines of the buildings are visualised in the mown landscape. The variety of flora and vegetation changes with each season giving the return visitor a fresh experience.

From the artificial hill the visitors have a wonderful view over the small-scale model fort and the Roman site beyond.

There are many interpretive devices across the site, e. g. information boards and a smartphone-app, that give insights into Roman life. We also have fun activities specifically designed with children in mind.

Opening Times:
Tuesday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 11:00 – 17:00
Closed: Monday except Public Holidays and from the 24.12 – 6.01.

The admission to Ruffenhofen Roman Park is free of charge.

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<th>ENTRANCE FEE LIMESEUM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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<td>Free entry for children up to 6 years</td>
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<td>Concession</td>
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<td>Families</td>
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<td>Groups of 15 or more (per person)</td>
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<td>School groups (per person)</td>
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From left to right: Miniature model of the fort, aerial photo of the Roman fort and the vicus „Fort in Bloom“

Above: Right ear guard of a Roman military helmet with three inscriptions

LIMESEUM

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LIMESEUM –
The museum at Ruffenhofen Roman Park

THE LIMESEUM

The panoramic window of this innovatively constructed building is intended to bring the outside landscape into the museum. In the LIMESEUM the various aspects of Roman life on the frontier and the history of the fort, vicus and its inhabitants are presented and explained in detail.

Using a story-telling narrative and with the help of visual, oral and multi-sensory aids we follow the lifstory of a soldier named December.

There are special exhibitions which highlight other aspects of Roman life on the frontier.

If you wish to discover more about Roman life you can visit related sites along the Limes such as Aalen and Weißenburg. These are also World Heritage sites and are in easy reach of the LIMESEUM.

ROMAN NEIGHBOURHOOD

THE SURROUNDINGS

The Hesselberg region is characterized by its hospitality. There are hotels, farmhouse accommodation and self-catering apartments. Numerous restaurants offer Franconian specialties.

For lovers of outdoor activities the region offers numerous opportunities for biking and hiking, e.g. the Hesselberg with its geological hiking path.

The art and culture of the locality can be explored in its churches and museums.

Immerse yourself in the time of the Roman Empire and explore the UNESCO World Heritage Limes at Ruffenhofen Roman Park and in the LIMESEUM.

Follow the soldier December to the frontiers of the Roman Empire.