



Music Room



Dining Hall



Hallway of the Museum



Banquet at the House of Stieber by Ferdinand Wagner

### Castle Ratibor

**1534**  
Margrave Georg the Pious of Brandenburg-Ansbach (1484-1543) starts building a hunting castle in Roth. He calls it Ratibor due to the fact that he finances it with the money coming from his Silesian principalities of Ratibor, Oppeln and Jägershof.

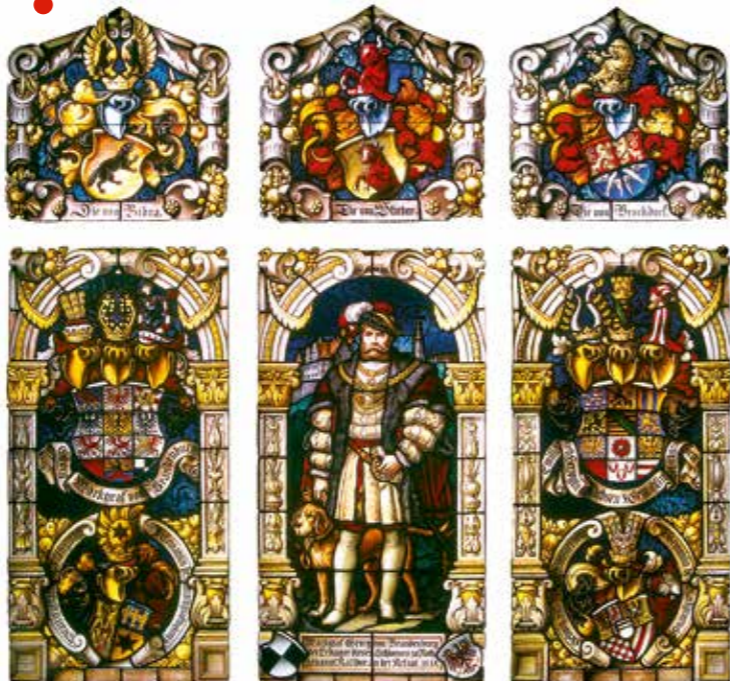
**1791**  
The last Margrave of Brandenburg abdicates. The castle is sold to Johann Philipp Stieber, a manufacturer of gold braid.

**1811**  
Stieber purchases the northern wing for his production.

**1857**  
A district court is established in Roth. The Stieber Family sells the main building to the Town of Roth to give accommodation to the court.

**1892**  
Wilhelm von Stieber finances a new court building, thus repurchasing the castle. In the following years, he has it historically furnished by well-known artists and firms. The furnishing of margrave times had all been lost before. When redesigning the castle, Wilhelm von Stieber had it modeled on prestigious rooms of the Renaissance and Early Baroque. The magnificent rooms should emphasize the necessary requirements of a successful industrialist and mediatised prince.

**1942**  
Stieber's widow Minna gave the castle as a gift to the Town of Roth.



The glass window on the stairwell of the castle

### The Museum of Ratibor Castle

Hauptstraße 1  
91154 Roth

### Opening hours

April – November  
Tuesdays – Sundays  
1.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Open to groups after  
telephone enquiry  
Please call  
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tourismus@stadt-roth.de

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

### Impressum

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Design:  
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➔ *Museum*



# Castle Ratibor



**Ceremonial Room**  
**Town Museum**  
**Guided Castle Tours**

## Touring the Castle

Coming from the **idyllic castle yard**, you enter the magnificent **stairwell** through a sandstone portal at the southern side of the castle. It reminds you of Italian palaces of the Renaissance. The **glass window** shows the principal and client Margrave Georg the Pious, surrounded by the heraldic signs of him and his three wives. Above it you can see the heraldic signs of the Stieber Family and their relatives.

The **stairwell** directly leads to the prestige rooms. On the right, you can see the **fire-side room** with its coffered ceiling and its furniture in the style of Renaissance. Behind the richly ornamented door, you can find the so-called **music room**, which is kept in classical style, and the **Baroque room** with its original paintings dating back to the second half of the 18th century.



Stairwell of the castle

In another room, you can find paintings by **Anton Seitz** (1829-1900), a famous artist born in Roth. Having climbed the stairs, you turn left and you will get to the **dining hall** via the **conservatory**. This hall, rich in ornament, is entirely kept in the style of the Nuremberg Renaissance. The paintings thematically refer to the function of the room as a dining hall. The huge painting above the sideboard shows a banquet at the House of Stieber. The guests are dressed in historical garment.

Behind the dining hall, you can find the biggest room of the castle, the **ceremonial hall**. Looking at its style, it reminds you of Italian halls of the Late Renaissance and Early Baroque. Passing the walls, you can see scenes of Homer's *Odyssey* on imitated tapestry. Huge paintings are let into the stucco ceiling. They show various scenes and figures of the classical mythology. In the central painting you can see the Triumph of Aphrodite.

Another flight of stairs will lead you to the **museum** on the second floor.

# The Museum of Ratibor Castle

You enter the Museum of the Town of Roth on the **second floor**. Inlaid doors and remains of paintings on the ceiling and walls still remind you of the fact that Wilhelm von Stieber's son was once living in these spacious rooms. Today this is the place where you can see the historical legacy of the town's history. In the **big hallway of the museum** with its beautiful plank ceiling, you will find some highly interesting exhibits, for instance, the so-called "Große Vetterische Karte" (Great Vetter Map) of the Principality of Ansbach. On the almost two and a half square metre big chalcography, locations and their surrounding areas are illustrated in detail. So you will not only find miniature scenes of working in the quarries in Nuremberg's Imperial Forest but also Roth's gallows, a true remnant of our ancestors' drastic legal traditions.

Another exhibit **in the hallway** is the former town flag of Roth, whose tradition holds that it was once embroidered by the Margravine Friederica Louise herself and was given to the citizens of Roth as a present in the first half of the 18th century.

**The rooms on the left** are dedicated to the various aspects of the town's history, such as Roth's right to grant asylum, Roth's history and religious life, the fate of its Jewish Community and many more. Historical views of the town will give you an insight into Roth's past and present.

On the **right side of the corridor**, the tour will take you to a spatial alignment. This is where the various domains of everyday's life are illustrated. One particular highlight worth being mentioned are the dolls houses, which reflect last century's typical bourgeois domestic life en miniature. Garments, jewelry and household goods will complete this picture. Special attention needs to be paid to a **fine collection of Middle Franconian Hafner ceramics**. Especially the area around Treuchtlingen used to be the centre of tableware production for a long time. Roth's collection originated with a donation by Erwin Oehl, a painter from Thalmässing, and will give you an excellent overview on this sort of ceramics.

In the **last room**, you will mainly find the items of furniture formerly belonging to the castle's interior. They link the museum with the historical rooms of the first floor, which will now lead you on your way back.

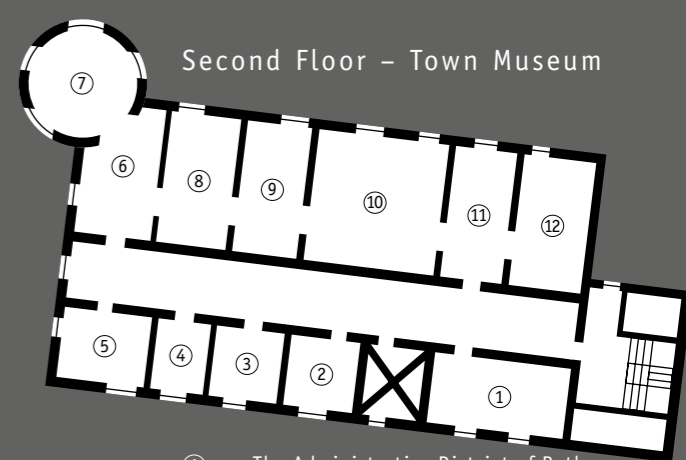


Viewing the museum's rooms



The Ceremonial Hall with scenes of classical mythology and Homer's Odyssey is the biggest room of the castle (360 m²)

## Second Floor – Town Museum



- ① The Administrative District of Roth
- ② Historical Development of the Town of Roth
- ③ Religion and Church History
- ④ Crafts and Trades
- ⑤ Public Safety and Order
- ⑥ Organizations and Associations
- ⑦ Tower Room
- ⑧–⑪ Family Life and Home (Garments, Toys, Household Goods and Ceramics)
- ⑫ Domestic Culture and History



## First Floor – Historical Rooms