

WHV – Conservation Works at the Fortification Walls of Marksburg Castle

Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Germany

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2002)

20 July - 02 August 2025

THE SITE - The 65km-stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley, with its castles, historic towns and vineyards, graphically illustrates the long history of human involvement with a dramatic and varied natural landscape. It is intimately associated with history and legend and for centuries has exercised a powerful influence on writers, artists and composers.

OBJECTIVES - the action camp at Marksburg Castle focus on both practical conservation efforts and on providing enriching educational experiences for the participants. The project aims to address the deterioration of a segment of the outer defensive wall within the castle grounds, a historically important yet currently inaccessible area that the site management plans to open to the public following conservation works. This intervention represents the first stage of a multi-year commitment between our organisation and the site management to preserve and revitalise this hidden part of the site, aligning with long-term conservation goals.

ACTIVITIES - The work will involve cleaning the structure of overgrown vegetation, filling gaps with stone, mortar, and plaster, and addressing damaged plaster by carefully removing cracks, cleaning them, and refilling them using traditional techniques. Authenticity in conservation work is an important approach implemented by the European Heritage Volunteers educational programme. For this reason, the participants to this action camp will learn to produce the mortar manually, maintaining specific moisture and density requirements that align with the original materials and methods used in the castle's historic construction. This focus on traditional craftsmanship reinforces the importance of respecting historical integrity in conservation practices, particularly at World Heritage sites. Additionally, the educational programme is designed to complement the hands-on work by providing participants with a broader understanding of the cultural and historical context of Marksburg Castle and its surroundings. Activities will include guided tours through the Upper Middle Rhine Valley cultural landscape, presentations on medieval warfare and siege technologies, and visits to other castles in the region led by experts from the German Castles Association.

PARTNERS - The German Castles Association

European Heritage Volunteers

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