Wertheim Castle is a landmark of the city and one of the largest stone fortresses in southern Germany.

The castle is situated strategically on a mountain spur between the rivers Main in the north and the Tauber in the west.

Because of this location, the historic center of Wertheim could be protected by the castle from the sides that were not already shielded by the rivers.

History

Construction on Wertheim Castle began in 1180 and it was rebuilt and enlarged in several phases over the next four hundred years before its ruination in the Thirty Years’ War from 1618 to 1648.

End of 12th to 13th century:
- Castle keep, palace, bower, core castle

14th and 15th century:
- Curtain walls & towers, ramparts, moat

16th and 17th century:
- Gallery, additional buildings and walls

- Destroyed in the Thirty Years’ War

Since then, the castle ruins remained largely unchanged except for the addition of the “New Archives” as an expansion of the castle entrance in 1742 to 1745.