

A Top-Secret Facility for Decades during Cold War –
Now Open for Everyone!

Austria installs a secret network of Bunkers, field fortifications and
barrages. They are meant to save the small and neutral Alpine Republic
from attacks and marching throughs.

It was also on the Wurzenpass in Carinthia that decade-long and intensive
war preparations were taking place – for the protection of the Austrian state
border and the defense of the military key area of Arnoldstein/Villach. In
1968 (Prague Spring) and 1991 (Civil War in Yugoslavia) the Austrian
Armed Forces were put on alert and soldiers occupied their positions ...

The “Bunker Museum Wurzenpass/Carinthia” offers for the first time the
possibility to get an impression of those original bunkers prepared during the
Cold War. This is the place where you can have a look at a comprehensive
documentation and exhibition dealing with the – until now – secret and
unknown history of the Austrian Field Fortifications and their “Barrage
Troops”.

Be it with your family or on your own, as part of a school class, a business
company, a club or a group of soldiers: a trip to this “hidden world” of our
younger contemporary history will certainly be a lasting impression for you.
We will be glad to answer your questions in the information centre at the
entrance. In addition, our museum shop offers you interesting items, soft
drinks and respective publications.

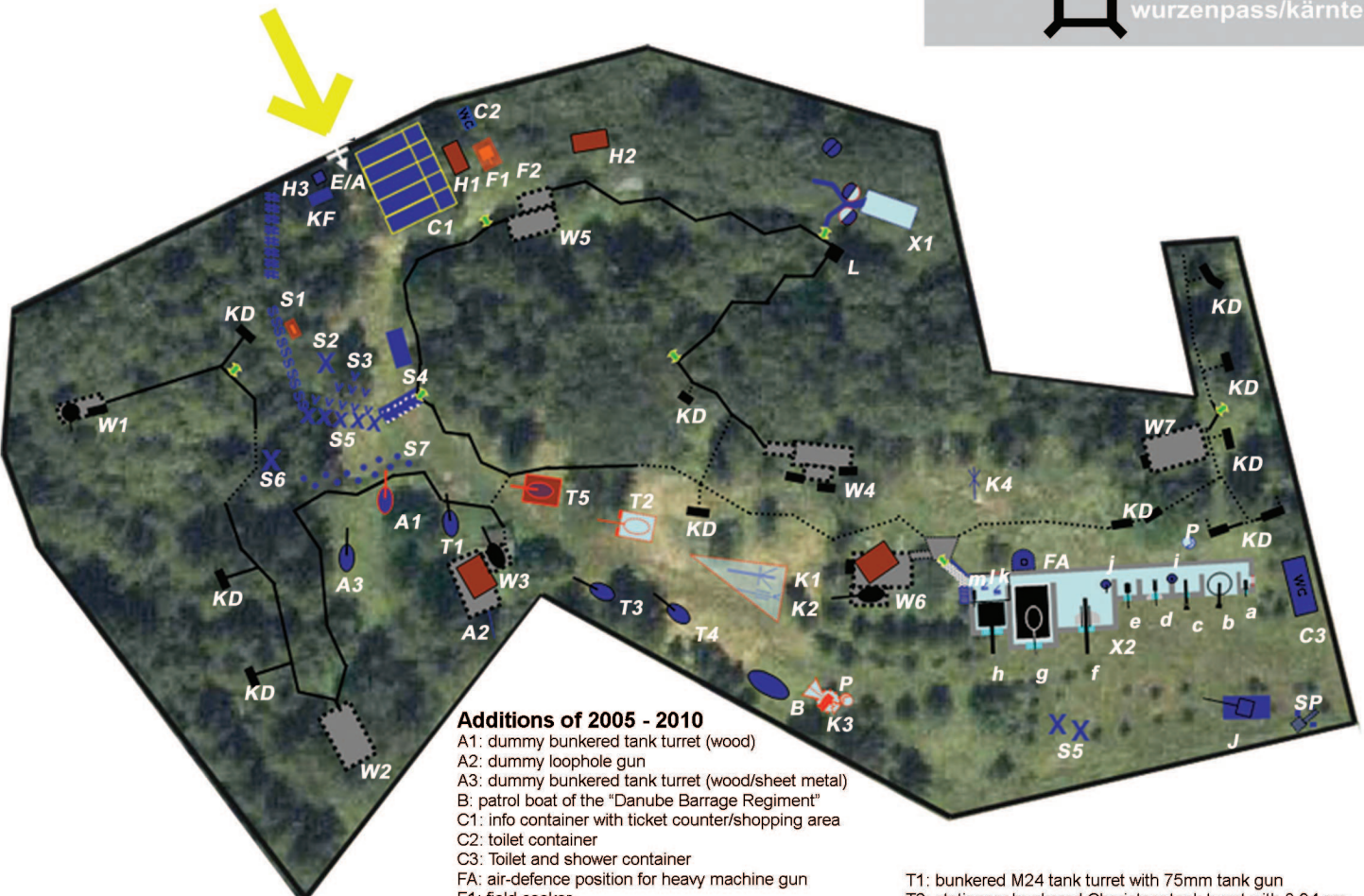
As a visitor you do not need to have any historical or military background, as
the facility tells its own story. Constructed between 1963 and 1995, this
fortification was fully operational until 2002. Since 2005, the facility was
repeatedly adapted for museum purposes.

Set off for an impressive recce tour in our large, fenced-in museum area of
more than 11,000 m2 where you can discover the a spacious trench system.
Walk through the partly tunnelled connecting trenches and fortified positions.
Come and see the two bunkered 105 mm Centurion tank turrets (including
camouflage huts and dummy positions), command and control as well as
supply facilities, protected shelters as well as our additional exhibition
objects.

As of 2005, all stationary bunkered weapons systems of the Austrian Armed
Forces installed in this bunker during the Cold War have been shown in the
exhibition. All types of bunkered tank turrets and their main guns (M24, T34,
M47 and Charioteer), all types of loophole weapons (automatic machine
guns and 20 mm and 40 mm automatic guns, 7.62 anti-tank gun 42, 105
mm light field howitzer 18/40 on loophole/turret mount, 155 mm heavy
artillery gun “Long Tom”) as well as a complete T34 main battle tank.

In addition, there are also anti-tank launchers and guns, an air-defence gun,
two grenade launchers, a light tank Kürassier, various infantry and tank
obstacles as well as dummy positions. The exhibition also includes a patrol
boat of the “Danube Barrage Regiment”. Audio-visual media, posters and
additional assets convey information and impressions in a very specific way.

This museum is not meant to glorify force, the military or weapons: within a
unified Europe bunkers fortunately have become obsolete. They now have
the memorial function to prevent the future generation from forgetting the
past.



Original collection until 2002

- E/A: access/exit
- H1: corrugated-iron shed for firewood
- H2: Wooden shed for tools and construction equipment
- KD: fortified position (infantry)
- L: latrine with precast concrete cover
- W1: fortified air defence and anti-infantry bunker with
armour-plated cover for heavy machine gun
- W2: former anti-tank bunker with anti-tank gun 42, then
shelter
- W3: former anti-tank bunker with anti-tank cannon 42,
then with bunkered 105 mm Centurion tank turrets
(including wooden camouflage hut)
- W4: Headquarters bunker/platoon observation post with
two fortified positions
- W5: former Headquarters bunker/company, then shelter,
supplemented with generator bunker
- W6: anti-tank bunker with bunkered 105 mm Centurion
tank turret (including wooden camouflage hut)
- W7: group shelter

Additions of 2005 - 2010

- A1: dummy bunkered tank turret (wood)
- A2: dummy loophole gun
- A3: dummy bunkered tank turret (wood/sheet metal)
- B: patrol boat of the “Danube Barrage Regiment”
- C1: info container with ticket counter/shopping area
- C2: toilet container
- C3: Toilet and shower container
- FA: air-defence position for heavy machine gun
- F1: field cooker
- F2: field kitchen M58
- H3: guard shelter
- J: light tank Kürassier
- KF: military truck Steyr 680M2
- K1: 85mm anti-tank gun 52
- K2: mobile 106mm recoilless anti-tank gun 66/70 on
wheeled mount
- K3: stationary/bunkered 106mm recoilless anti-tank gun
66/70
- K4: 20mm air-defence gun 58
- P: hemispherical reinforced-steel cover
- SP: children’s playground/crawling position
- S1: infantry barriers
- S2: wheeled tank barriers
- S3: anti-tank obstacle
- S4: interlockable barrier/partly activated with wooden
box for stayer
- S5: anti-tank blocking position
- S6: anti-tank barrier on cart
- S7: openly laid out anti-tank blocking position

- T1: bunkered M24 tank turret with 75mm tank gun
- T2: stationary bunkered Charioteer tank turret with 8.34 cm
tank gun
- T3: bunkered T34 tank turret with 85mm tank gun
- T4: bunkered M47 tank turret with 9mm tank gun
- T5: bunkered Charioteer tank turret with 105mm tank gun
- X1: precast group shelter Eternit with precast fortified posi-
tions
- X2: show fortified position with:
 - a: 127mm heavy machine gun on stationary mount
 - b: 105mm light field howitzer 18/40 on turret mount
 - c: 105mm light field howitzer 18/40 on loophole mount
 - d: 7.62 cm anti-tank gun 42 on loophole mount
 - e: 20mm infantry/air-defence gun 65/68
 - f: 155mm heavy field gun M2
 - g: T34 main battle tank/bunkered
 - h: 40mm machine gun 55/57 Fan
 - i: hemispherical reinforced steel observation position
 - j: hemispherical reinforced steel position with machine gun
 - k: 120mm heavy grenade launcher 86
 - l: 81mm medium grenade launcher 82
 - m: 127mm heavy machine gun on stationary mount