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Swiss Youth Hostels
HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

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Preserving history – shaping the future: Renovation work at Burg Rotberg completed

Rotberg Youth Castle near Mariastein completed its partial renovation 2024–2026 in April 2026. Guests of the historic youth hostel can look forward to renovated rooms – and delve even deeper into the past with a new interactive puzzle-based installation. Among other things, the team from the Greenlandbasel architectural firm upgraded the rooms and improved fire protection.

Burg Rotberg has been operating as a youth hostel since 1935. As a historic building, it requires regular structural renovations in order to maintain its substance and at the same time meet the requirements of safe, contemporary hospitality operations. The two renovation phases focussed on the careful renovation of the rooms with new high-quality fixtures and furnishings as well as fire safety improvements. In addition, selective measures were implemented on the facade and recreation rooms. The aim was to improve the functionality and quality of stay without compromising the historical character of the building. Furthermore, a weapons collection from Ernst Siefert from Aesch was integrated. The artisan, who has since unfortunately passed away, had a passionate interest in medieval weaponry and recreated numerous pieces faithfully to the original. His collection is now staged in the Knights' Hall and can be experienced by visitors.

Broad public support secures financing
Burg Rotberg is a regional landmark. In the new "Strategy for the preservation of Castles and Palaces" to promote palaces and castles issued by the Canton of Solothurn, the castle is one of the 15 particularly relevant palaces, castles and ruins that are highly attractive and important as architectural monuments and are also easily accessible to the public. The preservation and conversion of the castle is only possible thanks to the generous financial support of the cantons of Solothurn, Basel-Landschaft and Basel-Stadt, which have jointly contributed funding from their Swisslos funds. Various other institutions and private individuals have made significant contributions to the financing.

A place of great importance
"Burg Rotberg is a unique place to learn and experience. Visitors literally immerse themselves in history here. With the renovation, we are securing its future as a vibrant youth castle and as an important cultural heritage in the region," says René Dobler, President of the Board of Trustees of the Rotberg Youth Castle Foundation. "The support provided by the sponsoring cantons and other partners reflects the importance of the castle for youth tourism, education and regional identity." Rotberg Youth Castle is thus preserved as an important site for school classes and groups as well as for individual guests. It combines its historic structure with safe, modern accommodation.

Mariastein Youth Hostel has 78 beds in 10 rooms – from spectacular tower rooms for two people to multi-bed rooms. Almost all guests are from Switzerland, with the remainder coming from Europe. In addition to school camps and club trips, the castle hosts numerous celebrations such as weddings, birthdays and Walpurgis Night. Burg Rotberg is one of two "youth castles" in Switzerland. Together with Ehrenfels Castle in Domleschg, it occupies a special position within the Swiss Youth Hostels network.

About the Rotberg Youth Castle Foundation
Founded in 1980, the Rotberg Youth Castle Foundation is based in Metzerlen-Mariastein. Its purpose is to ensure the operation of a youth hostel in Burg Rotberg and it is responsible for the preservation, construction and maintenance of this historic and regional monument.

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About the Swiss Youth Hostels
The Swiss Youth Hostels Association's network comprises 43 hostels under its ownership and 7 Associated Youth Hostels, ranging from romantic castles to urban design locations and wellness hostels. The non-profit organisation records more than 820,000 overnight stays every year. The focus is on quality-conscious, sustainable and affordable tourism for young people and families. www.youthhostel.ch

For more information:

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