

**Ronneburg is both a castle and a municipality in the district of Main-Kinzig, in Hessen, Germany**

**The town is most notable for being the site of Ronneburg Castle**

The town is built near a steep basalt cone, on top of which a castle was built in the 13th century

Because of this, the area is called the "Ronneburger Hügelland," the "Ronneburg Hill Country" The castle, and the hill its sits on top of, can be seen in the town's coat of arms

The municipality consists of three villages:

Neuwiedermuß (pop. 650), Altwiedermus (pop. 750), and Hüttengesäß (pop. 2200).

### **Neighboring cities**

On the north, Ronneburg borders the city of Büdingen, and on the east, Ronneburg borders the municipality of Gründau, which comprises several towns

On its southern side, Ronneburg borders the town of Langenselbold, and in the west the town borders the municipality of Hammersbach

### **History of the villages**

Hüttengesäß first appears in historical records during the 13th century under the control of the monastery of Sebold

In later times possession of Hüttengesäß passed with the castle

In 1643 Wiedermus suffered destruction at the same time the castle was sacked (see below) and was later rebuilt

The three villages have different endings to their names because in the past they had been divided among Prussia (Neuwiedermuß and Hüttengesäß) and the Grand Duchy of Hesse (Altwiedermus) which had different spelling conventions

### **History of the Castle**

The castle and the surrounding town were first mentioned in a historical context in the year 1258, and other sources may refer to it as early as 1231

The castle's earlier names, Raneburg, and also Roneburg, likely derive from the old High German word "Rone," which means a fallen tree

This is likely a reference to the castle's attached palisades

At the end of the 13th century, the castle was acquired by the Barons of Ysenberg-Büdingen, who were affiliated with the Hohenlohe family

One of the members of the Hohenlohe family, Gottfried III of Hohenlohe- Brauneck, sold the castle in 1313, to the archbishop of Mainz

The castle was mortgaged to the knights of Rockenburg, under whose influence the castle was expanded

Then, from 1339 until 1356, the castle was again a possession of the archbishopric of Mainz During this time, several buildings at the castle were expanded, and a few new buildings were built as well

The castle was mortgaged again in 1424, this time to the count of Hanau

In 1476, the archbishop of Mainz, Diether von Ysenburg, signed possession of the castle over to his brother, count Ludwig II of Ysenburg-Büdingen

After Ludwig died in 1511, his three sons fought over the castle for six years, until 1517

In 1523, the castle came into possession of Philipp von Ysenburg-Büdingen, and he founded the Ysenberg-Büdingen-Ronneburg family, later called simply the Ysingen-Ronneburg family

Under their rule, the castle took on its present-day form and layout

After the death of Heinrich Ysingen-Büdingen, the Ysingen-Büdingen line went extinct, and Wolfgang Ernst I von Ysenburg-Büdingen violently assumed ownership of the castle

In 1621, large parts of the castle were destroyed by a fire, and thirteen years later, the castle suffered a major plundering at the hands of Croatian troops

As the Ysenburg-Büdingen family were Calvinists, they allowed Protestant exiles to stay at the castle, and for a while, the castle was a haven for many other types of religious refugees, such as Jews and Gypsies

In 1736 Nicolaus Ludwig Zinzendorf took over the castle, and made it into a place of refuge for members of the Protestant Moravian Church

After two years, the castle could not accommodate the number of people who came to see it, and the Moravians founded another congregation, Herrnhag, on top of a nearby hill near Buedingen

In June 2004 the castle was sold by Prince Wolfgang Ernst II von Ysenburg-Büdingen to baron Joachim Benedikt von Herman auf Wain, a nephew of princess Leonille von Ysenburg-Büdingen

It hosts a restaurant, a gift shop, and regular medieval festivals

Visitors may tour the castle on a daily basis

The tower provides excellent views of the Frankfurt skyline