



Bavarian Army Museum
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Opening times
Tue - Fri 9am - 5.30pm
Sat - Sun 10am - 5.30pm

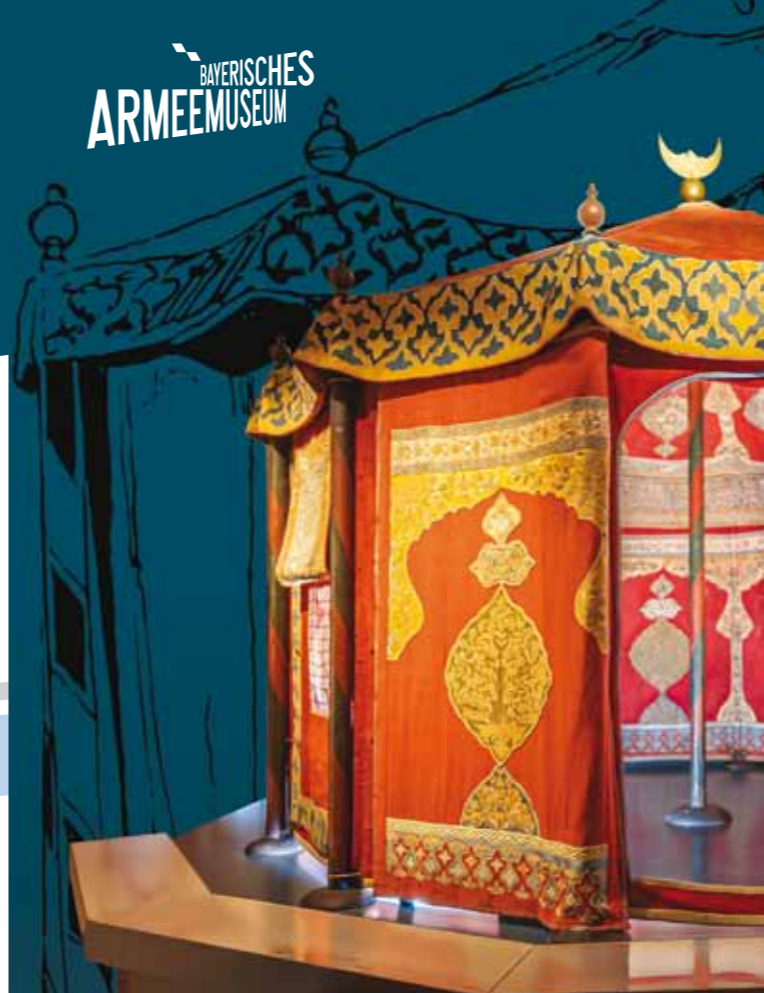
Admission
3,50 €, concessions 3,00 €
Sundays 1,00 €

Children and youths
(17 & under) - free



www.armeemuseum.de/zelt

BAYERISCHES
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The Grand Vizier's Tent

Bavarian Army Museum
New Castle Ingolstadt
www.armeemuseum.de



The Grand Vizier's Tent

Another stage in the museum's new presentation! A redesigned room in the Army Museum allows the tent of the Grand Vizier Sarı Süleyman Paşa to be admired again. The item is testimony to the superior craftsmanship of Istanbul's tent makers and to the long and recurring wars with the Ottoman Empire. The room chronicles the history of the tent from its conquest in 1687 to the present day.



12 August 1687

How did the tent end up in Bavaria? In 1683, the Ottoman Empire launched an attack on Vienna, the city of residence of the German-Roman Emperor. The Emperor was able to repel the attack and a war unfolded that only ended in 1699. Almost every year a campaign would take place. On 12 August 1687, a major pitched battle took place west of the town of Mohács, in the south of present-day Hungary. The Ottoman army was led by the Grand Vizier, while Charles of Lorraine was supreme commander of the Imperial troops. The Bavarian Elector Maximilian Emanuel commanded the left wing of the army.

The Ottomans were defeated. They fled the battlefield and had to leave their camp with all their equipment behind. The Imperial army captured an enormous booty. Maximilian Emanuel gained the war chests and the Grand Vizier's splendid tents.

The Tent

Only very few Ottoman tents in Central Europe have survived to this day. Most of them are large, representative tents that were used by the Ottomans as audience tents and for war councils. Our tent is unique because it is a small living and sleeping tent. It served as the Grand Vizier's private retreat from the business of state and war.

Not only the twelve-cornered shape is unusual, but also the usage of red wool felt as the outer layer of the tent. This made it suited for cold nights as well. Moreover, not only the four windows, but also six of the 12 tent walls can be opened almost completely. This transforms the tent into a kind of garden pavilion. Indeed, the rich decoration on the inside is reminiscent of a garden in paradise.

Title Photo: Erich Reisinger, Graphik: malyma Werbung Neumarkt
Photos of the windows Carlo Paggiarino (www.hansprunner.com)
1 Henri Bonnard, Maximilian Emanuel in front of the captured tent, 1687 (Bibliothèque Nationale de France)
2 Michael Wening, The Fireworks, 1701 (State Archives Coburg)
3 Gustav Kraus, The Service Tents of Prince Charles of Bavaria, 1838 (Bavarian Army Museum)
4 The tent in Munich 1924 to 1942/43, photo dated 1929 (Bavarian Army Museum)



Many Uses

Unfortunately, we know little about how the tent was manufactured. What the exhibition does show, however, is how the tent was repeatedly put to new uses in Bavaria. For instance, on 12 October 1701 when it was erected at a large fireworks display in Schwabing in honour of the Elector. Or, in September 1838, it was erected on the plain west of Augsburg for a Bavarian military encampment. Since 1881, the tent has been the largest showpiece of the Bavarian Army Museum.

The Location

Today the tent is housed in a tower room of the New Castle in Ingolstadt. Originally, this room formed part of the duke's living quarters. He held audiences on the first floor, in the Schöner Saal. However, if he wanted to be alone, he retreated to the tower facing the Danube. So today, the Grand Vizier's private tent can be found in the Duke's private room. Even today we are not allowed to enter it. But we can look at it. To reflect on past conflicts and perhaps - a little - on paradise.

