



Lohr a. Main



Snow White of Lohr



Once upon a time...

... Snow White.
A fairytale from Lohr.
Dream a little as
you explore the town.

www.lohr.de

The fairytale town of Lohr am Main in Northern Bavaria, Germany ...

"Snow White" by the Brothers Grimm is one of the most popular German fairytales. There are many familiar motifs woven into this famous folk tale: the dark, sinister woods, the evil stepmother, the kindly dwarfs, the handsome prince, the victory of good over evil.

On the next few pages, you will find a new version of an age-old story. And one thing should become clear to anyone who reads it: Snow White was and is a daughter of Lohr ...

... and its most beautiful daughter!





Snow White's mother.



Snow White's birthplace: the castle in Lohr am Main

On 19th June 1725, Snow White was born in Lohr Castle. She – the baroness Maria Sophia Margaretha Catharina Frei-fräulein von Erthal – spent her childhood here as the daughter of the baron Philipp Christoph Freiherr von Erthal.

OUR TIP

www.spessartmuseum.de



Today Lohr Castle houses the Spessart Museum. Key evidence documenting Snow White's origins, including the "talking mirror", is on display in a specially designed exhibition in the castle. Lohr's Snow White even has her very own presentation. Every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month from April to September, it's "Storytime", as she reads aloud her own tale in the historic Erthal Room.

*The fairytale as told by the
Brothers Grimm.*

Once upon a time in the middle of winter,
as snowflakes fell gently from the sky,
a queen sat by her window sewing.
As she sewed, she pricked her finger,
and three drops of blood fell upon the snow.

She sighed,
"If only I had a child, with skin as white as snow,
lips as red as blood, and hair as black as ebony."

Soon afterwards her wish was granted,
and her daughter was named Snow White.

The queen died however, and after a while,
the king took another wife. She was beautiful,
but also haughty and proud.

Often she stood in front of her mirror and asked:
"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?"

The evil woman was always greatly pleased
when the mirror answered:

"Thou, oh queen, art the fairest of them all."

*"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
who is the fairest of them all?"*





Entry in parochial
register in Lohr
recording Snow
White's birth:

Baptisato St. Maria. Bp
et Gratiosi Dni Dni p. h.
Eminentissimi abbas. Bp
in Lohr et Gratiosi Dni
jugum filio. Levant. Bp
de Bettendorf nata (Bm)
de Frankenstein nata St.
Katharina nata de P. h. d.

The talking mirror

Snow White's father was the baron Philipp Christoph Freiherr von Erthal. He lived with his family in Lohr Castle – his official residence and headquarters. He was also in charge of the mirror and glassworks of the Electorate of Mainz. In 1743, he married for the second time. The famous "talking mirror" from the glassworks was probably a present for his second wife, Claudia Elisabeth.

OUR TIP

Why not take a look into the talking mirror yourself? It hangs in Lohr Castle, awaiting visitors. The highly decorative medallion on the left above the mirror depicts a crown symbolising power, a palm leaf for victory, happiness and virtue, and an olive branch representing peace. "Pour la recompense et pour la peine" means "For reward and for punishment" or "for reward and for sorrow". The medallion on the right shows a sun, a sunflower, and the words "Amour propre", meaning both "true (pure) love" and "self-esteem", or "pride".



*... and led Snow White
deep into the forest.*

As she grew up, Snow White became
more and more beautiful. And so one morning
the mirror said quite truthfully:

"You, my Queen, are the fairest here, t'is true,
but Snow White is a thousand times fairer than you."

The queen was furious, and began to devise
an insidious plan.

A hunter was to take Snow White
into the forest and kill her.

The hunter set off as he had been ordered,
and led Snow White deep into the forest.





The Brothers Grimm in the Spessart region

The world-famous Brothers Grimm were born in Hanau and spent their youth in Steinau in the Spessart region. The “wild woods” in which Snow White was abandoned to her fate were the Spessart forest. Snow White’s escape “over the seven hills” probably took her along an old hill path known as the “Wieser Strasse”.

Glassworks, finery forges and mines were the main sources of income for the poverty-stricken inhabitants of the Spessart in those days. The Spessart Museum gives visitors an insight into these traditional industries.

The mining activities in Bieber were carried out by people of short stature – often also bowed by hard physical labour. To protect themselves from stones, they often wore overalls and hooded cloaks. This made them look even more dwarf-like.

OUR TIP

Wild and in some places almost untouched, the Spessart Nature Park is the most densely wooded range of hills in Germany. Please ask in the Tourist Information Office in Lohr for the current hiking brochure and suggested tours.





*She ran blindly through the forest,
over the seven hills ...*

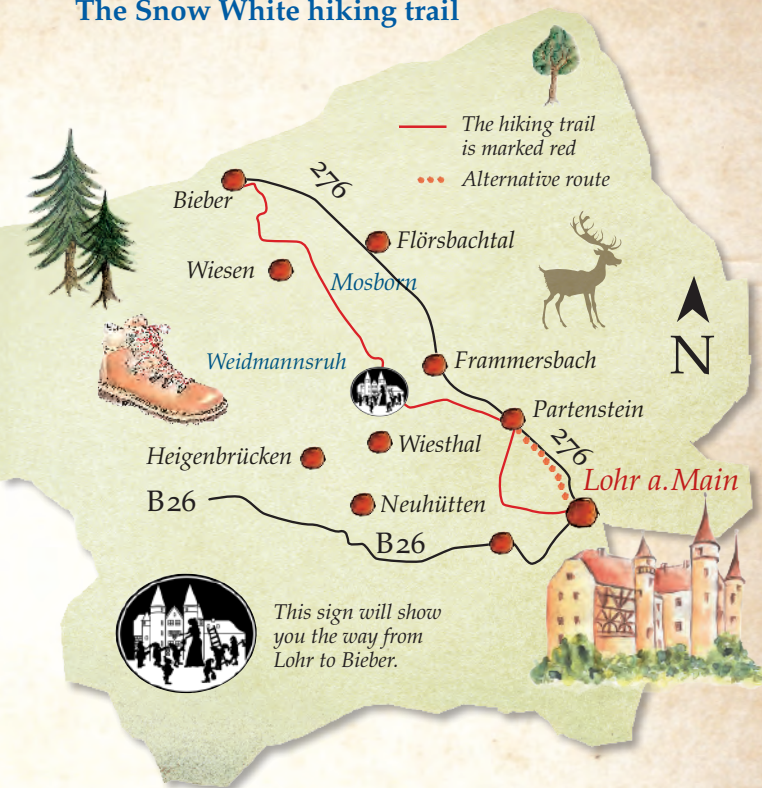
*The hunter took pity on Snow White
and let her run away. The little girl ran blindly
through the forest, over the seven hills,
until she finally came upon a little cottage.
There was no one at home, but seven little plates
and seven little mugs stood ready on the table.*

*Snow White ate and drank a little.
Exhausted, she soon fell asleep on one of seven little beds.*

*When the seven dwarfs who lived there
returned from their work, they were astonished
to find the unexpected guest in their house ...*



The Snow White hiking trail



Your journey back in time begins on the square in front of Lohr Castle. The 35 km long Snow White hiking trail retraces Snow White's supposed escape route from Lohr to Bieber. It will take you up and down the seven hills and straight through the beautiful Spessart forest.

The route:

The trail goes from the castle square via the "Valentinusberg" hill (worth seeing: St. Valentine's Chapel) to Partenstein. Up the hill to Burg Bartenstein castle, and on to Frammersbach (worth seeing: Chapel of the Holy Cross) and the Weidmannsruh forest refuge. After the Mosborn clearing, on to the Wiesbütsee lake, and via the Lochborn hill and St. Moritz' Chapel to Bieber. Because of the distance, it is recommended that only experienced hikers attempt to do the whole hike in one day.

OUR TIP

The appropriate maps and a detailed description of the tour are available from the Tourist Information.

*Snow White
kept the house in order.*

When the dwarfs heard what had happened
to Snow White, they allowed her to stay.
And they lived happily together for a while.
During the day, the dwarfs went off to work
in the mine, and Snow White kept the house in order.
Every morning when the dwarfs set off,
they warned Snow White:
"Beware of your stepmother!
She will soon know that you are here.
Do not open the door to anyone!"

*"Beware of your evil stepmother,
and do not open the door to anyone!"*





OUR TIP

Why not also try the Snow White chocolates? They are a real favourite that visitors have often taken back with them all over the world.

Lohr Snow White Cake

Ingredients:

100g butter
150g sugar
2 tps vanilla sugar/
1 tsp vanilla essence
3 eggs
200 g flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 dessertspoonfuls milk
2 dessertspoonfuls
chocolate nougat spread



1 jar / tin sweet cherries
250 ml cream
2 tps vanilla sugar /
1 tsp vanilla essence
1 tsp cream stiffener (8 g)
250 g quark
1 packet of cake glaze

Mix the ingredients for the cake to form a smooth sponge mixture. Spread half of the sponge mixture into a greased spring-form baking tin. Mix two dessertspoonfuls of chocolate nougat spread into the other half and spoon on top of the lighter coloured mixture. Drain the cherries well, putting the juice to one side, and arrange on top of the cake mixture. Bake for 30 minutes at 175°C. Allow to cool. Meanwhile, beat 250 ml cream with the vanilla sugar/essence and cream stiffener, and fold into 250 g quark. Spread this mixture on top of the well-cooled cherry sponge. Prepare cake glaze with the saved cherry juice and cover cake evenly with it. Decorate if desired.

Bon appetit!





*Snow White did not recognise
her evil stepmother in the old clothes.*

*The dwarfs were to be proven right.
As the queen once more stood before her magic mirror
and asked her usual question, it responded thus:*

*"O Lady Queen, though fair ye be,
Snow White is fairer far than thee.*

*Over the hills and far away,
She dwells with seven dwarfs today."*

*So Snow White was still alive! This time the queen
resolved to take care of Snow White herself.*

*She disguised herself as an old pedlar woman,
went to the dwarfs' house, and knocked at the door.*

*The girl did not recognise her stepmother
in the old clothes. And it came that Snow White
put a poisoned comb from the pedlar woman
into her beautiful hair.*





Baroness Freifräulein von Erthal – Snow White

MARIA SOPHIA MARGARETHA CATHARINA

BARONESS FREIFRÄULEIN VON ERTHAL, BORN 19.6.1725
IN LOHR A. MAIN

Philipp Christoph von Erthal – her father

PHILIPP CHRISTOPH VON ERTHAL (1689 – 1748)
OBERAMTMANN (BAILIFF), IN CHARGE OF THE GLASS
AND MIRROR WORKS IN LOHR

Maria Eva von Erthal – Snow White's mother

MARIA EVA VON ERTHAL, NÉE VON BETTENDORF,
MARRIED IN 1717, DIED IN LOHR IN 1738

Claudia von Erthal – Snow White's stepmother

CLAUDIA ELISABETH VON ERTHAL, NÉE VON REICHENSTEIN,
WIDOWED VON VENNINGEN

The brothers

FRIEDRICH KARL VON ERTHAL AND
FRANZ LUDWIG VON ERTHAL,
PRINCE BISHOPS OF MAINZ AND WURZBURG





*As Snow White bit into the apple,
she fell lifeless to the ground.*

The dwarfs came home just in time to save her.

The next time, however, the queen devised
a particularly cunning plan.

This time she disguised herself
as an old peasant woman and offered
Snow White a poisoned apple.

"I must not take anything from strangers",
the girl said. "Are you afraid it may be poisoned?
Look, I will take a bite myself."

The cunning, evil queen had poisoned
just one side of the apple, however.
As soon as Snow White bit into the poisoned half,
she fell lifeless to the ground.





The Rambour Festival

Both locals and visitors look forward to Lohr's annual "Rambour Festival", named after the Rambour apple. This lively festival is celebrated on the last Sunday in October, just before the onset of winter, and always lives up to the town's "Lohr macht Laune!" ("Lohr is fun!") motto.

It transforms the historic old town into a vibrant, bustling market with busy stalls, showmen, carousels and even a mobile apple press. Many of the shops are of course open, too.

Snow White is also here, lending the festival a fairytale flair. Accompanied by the seven dwarfs, the raven-haired, rosy-cheeked beauty distributes apples to visitors of all ages. Anyone who continues to doubt the authenticity of Lohr's story even after meeting Snow White in person just doesn't have a heart for fairytales!

OUR TIP

Up-to-date information: www.lohr-macht-laune.de

They wept bitterly ...

In the evening, the dwarfs returned
home and found Snow White
lying dead on the ground.

They wept bitterly,
and laid the beautiful child in a glass coffin.

Shortly thereafter, a king's son
rode by through the forest,
set eyes on Snow White, and begged:
"Please let me have the coffin,
for I cannot bear to live without seeing her."

The dwarfs took pity on him
and soon the prince's servants carried away the coffin.
And it so happened that they stumbled,

*... and laid the beautiful child
in a glass coffin.*





Here in Lohr, Snow White takes time for her guests:



Storytime at the castle with Snow White

- at 3 pm every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month
from April to September, also bookable for groups

Cultural walk around the town with Snow White, beginning on the lower market square (behind old town hall)

- at 11 am every 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month
from May to October, free of charge

Snow White in person:

- Book her to welcome your tour group
- Book her with the seven dwarfs and fresh apples

Up-to-date information on Snow White's public appearances is always available on the town's website at:
www.lohr.de

Bookings and enquiries:

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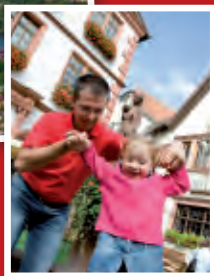
*Sign on the
A3 motorway*





... the coffin fell from their shoulders,
and the poisonous piece of apple that had lodged
in Snow White's throat fell out ...
That very same moment, Snow White opened her eyes,
and the dwarfs rejoiced.
"Come with me to my father's palace and be my wife",
said the Prince. And Snow White gladly
consented and went with her deliverer.
At their wedding, the evil stepmother was forced
to put on a pair of red-hot iron slippers
and to dance in them until she dropped down dead.
... and they all lived happily ever after.





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Snow White's town in the Spessart

With fabulological scholarship, and helped by the odd brain-wave of friends at his regulars' table in the local Weinhaus Mehling, the Lohr pharmacist and historian Dr. Karlheinz Bartels succeeded in 1986 in proving beyond the shadow of a doubt that Snow White was from Lohr:

1. The Brothers Grimm lived near Hanau, not far from Lohr. They will certainly have been familiar with events in Lohr.
2. Snow White's father Philipp Christoph von Erthal, senior bailiff of the Electorate of Kurmainz, married twice. Like her counterpart in the fairytale, his second wife was considered to be domineering and unjust.
3. As bailiff, Snow White's father was in charge of the glass and mirror works in Lohr, famous throughout Europe. The "talking mirror" was verifiably produced there and still hangs in the Spessart Museum. It gives a clear indication of the vanity of Snow White's evil stepmother.
4. There really were "dwarfs" living in the Spessart: miners of short stature, often bowed from hard physical labour.
5. Snow White was abandoned in "the wild woods" – i.e. the Spessart forest. In the fairytale she fled "over the seven hills". Her flight took her along the old hill path known as the "Wieser Strasse", to "her" seven dwarfs at the mines in Bieber.
6. The Snow White hiking trail still incorporates seven hills: the Hammersbuch, Steckenlaubshöhe, Pfirschhöhe, Gaulskopf, Eichenberg, Erkelshöhe and Hirschberg hills.
7. The glass coffin and iron slippers of the tale are clear references to the glassworks and iron forges of former times in the Spessart.

...and anyone who is still not convinced by our tale shall be made to pay one gold coin ...



OUR TIP

The story of Lohr's Snow White: "Schneewittchen – Zur Fabulologie des Spessarts"
(German only) by Dr. Karlheinz Bartels,
ISBN 978-3-934128-40-8.

Available from Tourist Information for 7.80 €.