

# Battenberg (Eder)

**Battenberg (Eder)** is a small town in Waldeck-Frankenberg district, the state of Hesse, Germany. The town is noted for giving its name to the **Battenberg family**, a morganatic branch of the ruling House of Hesse-Darmstadt, and through it, the name Mountbatten used by members of the British royal family, a literal translation of Battenberg.

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## Geography

### Location

The centre of Battenberg lies in the *Ederbergland*, or Eder Highland, to which the Burgwald abutting the town to the east also belongs, on the southern edge of the Sauerland and the Rothaargebirge. Lying between 320 and 650 m above sea level, the town is also crossed by the river Eder.

## Neighbouring communities

Battenberg borders in the north on the community of Bromskirchen, in the northeast on the community of Allendorf, in the southeast on the community of Burgwald (all

three in Waldeck-Frankenberg), in the south on the community of Münchhausen am Christenberg (Marburg-Biedenkopf), and in the west on the towns of Hatzfeld (Waldeck-Frankenberg) and Bad Berleburg (Siegen-Wittgenstein in North Rhine-Westphalia).

## Constituent communities

Battenberg includes the following centres:

- Berghofen
- Dodenau
- Frohnhausen
- Laisa

## History

In 778 fighting took place near Laisa and Battenfeld as part of Charlemagne's Saxon Wars. A branch of the Wittgenstein noble family began calling themselves the "Counts of Battenberg" in 1214 – compare Sayn-Wittgenstein. In 1232, Battenberg had its first documentary mention, and two years later it was granted town rights. The early-Gothic church dates from 1249. In 1297, the town's ownership was transferred to the Archbishops of Mainz. In 1464, the Amt of Battenberg passed to Hesse. In 1932, Battenberg became part of the Frankenberg/Eder district. As part of municipal reform in 1974, the districts of Frankenberg (including Battenberg) and Waldeck united to form the district of Waldeck-Frankenberg.

The dynasty of the counts of Battenberg ceased to exist in 1314, their castle was demolished throughout the following centuries. When Prince Alexander von Hessen-Darmstadt, the brother of the grand duke of Hesse, married Julia von Hauke, the orphaned daughter of the former Deputy Minister of War<sup>[3]</sup> of Congress Poland, their liaison was not considered befitting of his rank. Therefore her brother-in-law made her countess of Battenberg in 1851 and princess of Battenberg in 1858. With her husband, who agreed to carry the same title and name, she lived near Seeheim-Jugenheim at "Schloss Heiligenberg", a re-modelled manor. Her sons Ludwig Alexander and Heinrich Moritz both served the British empire, their families anglicized their name to Mountbatten (*Berg* means "mountain, hill" in German) in 1917.

## Population development

31 December 1988: 5,099 inhabitants  
 31 December 1991: 5,602 inhabitants  
 31 December 1995: 5,693 inhabitants  
 31 December 2000: 5,752 inhabitants



Coordinates: 51°01′N 08°39′E﻿ / ﻿51.017°N 8.650°E﻿ / 51.017; 8.650

<b>Country</b>	<u>Germany</u>
<b>State</b>	<u>Hesse</u>
<b>Admin. region</b>	<u>Kassel</u>
<b>District</b>	<u>Waldeck-Frankenberg</u>
<b>Subdivisions</b>	4 <u>Ortsteile</u>
<b>Government</b>	
• <b>Mayor</b> (2020–26)	<u>Christian Klein</u> <sup>[1]</sup> (CDU)
<b>Area</b>	
• <b>Total</b>	64.73 km <sup>2</sup> (24.99 sq mi)
<b>Elevation</b>	340 m (1,120 ft)
<b>Population</b> (2020-12-31) <sup>[2]</sup>	
• <b>Total</b>	5,391
• <b>Density</b>	83/km <sup>2</sup> (220/sq mi)

31 December 2004: 5,701 inhabitants

## Politics

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### Town council

Municipal elections held on 6 March 2016 apportioned the town council's 31 seats thus:

Party name	Number of seats
<u>CDU</u>	6 seats
<u>SPD</u>	6 seats
Bürgerliste Stadt Battenberg	6 seats
Bürgerliste der Stadtteile Laisa, Frohnhausen und Berghofen	6 seats
Bürgerliste Dodenau	5 seats
<u>FDP</u>	2 seats

Note: *Bürgerlisten* are "citizens' lists", not actual political parties.






### Coat of arms

Battenberg's civic coat of arms might heraldically be described thus: Per pale sable and argent.

The tinctures come from the arms borne by the town's old overlords, the Counts of Battenberg (a branch of the Counts of Wittgenstein). Battenberg's arms have their roots in the 13th century, putting them among Hesse's oldest municipal coats of arms.

Various other charges have appeared in the arms over the centuries, however. Sometimes it was a tower, the Count of Battenberg and the Archbishop of Mainz, the Archbishop by himself, or the Wheel of Mainz. One version even showed the same simple composition seen here, but with gules (red) instead of sable (black). This would have made the arms identical to those currently borne by Buchloe in Bavaria.<sup>[1]</sup> (<http://www.ngw.nl/int/dld/b/battenbe.htm>)

### Town partnerships

-  Senonches, France
-  Romsey, United Kingdom
-  Litvínov, Czech Republic
-  Horní Jiřetín, Czech Republic
-  Loon op Zand, Netherlands

### Adoption

<b>Time zone</b>	<u>UTC+01:00 (CET)</u>
<b>• Summer (DST)</b>	<u>UTC+02:00 (CEST)</u>
<b>Postal codes</b>	35088
<b>Dialling codes</b>	06452
<b>Vehicle registration</b>	KB
<b>Website</b>	<u><a href="http://www.battenberg-eder.de">www.battenberg-eder.de</a></u> ( <u><a href="http://www.battenberg-eder.de/">http://www.battenberg-eder.de/</a></u> )

- In 1954, Battenberg "adopted" Sudeten Germans who had been driven out of the community of Obergeorghenthal (Horní Jiřetín) in the Brūx district.

## Personality

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- Andreas Steinhöfel (born 1962), writer and translator
- Leonie Schwertmann (born 1994), volleyball player

## References

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1. Direkt gewählte (Ober-) Bürgermeister/-innen der hessischen Städte und Gemeinden (<http://statistik.hessen.de/direktwahlen/gemeinden/B>), accessed 5 July 2021.
2. "Bevölkerung in Hessen am 31.12.2020 nach Gemeinden" ([https://statistik.hessen.de/sites/statistik.hessen.de/files/BevGem\\_Gemeinden\\_2020\\_23062021.xlsx](https://statistik.hessen.de/sites/statistik.hessen.de/files/BevGem_Gemeinden_2020_23062021.xlsx)). *Hessisches Statistisches Landesamt* (in German). June 2021.
3. Danielewicz, Jerzy (1954). *Generał Ignacy Pradzyński, 1792-1850* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=KycaAAAIAAJ>) [*Generał Ignacy Pradzyński, 1792-1850*] (in Polish). Warsaw: Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej. p. 34. Retrieved 21 March 2010. "Zastępca ministra wojny gen. Maurycy hr. Hauke[...]" [Translation: The Deputy Minister of War, General Count Maurice Hauke..."]

## External links

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- Official website (<http://www.battenberg-eder.de/>)
- Laisa (<http://www.laisa.de/>)
- Battenberg ([https://curlie.org/World/Deutsch/Regional/Europa/Deutschland/Hessen/Landkreise/Waldeck-Frankenberg/Städte\\_und\\_Gemeinden/Battenberg,\\_Eder](https://curlie.org/World/Deutsch/Regional/Europa/Deutschland/Hessen/Landkreise/Waldeck-Frankenberg/Städte_und_Gemeinden/Battenberg,_Eder)) at Curlie

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