

Bavarian Castles Tour



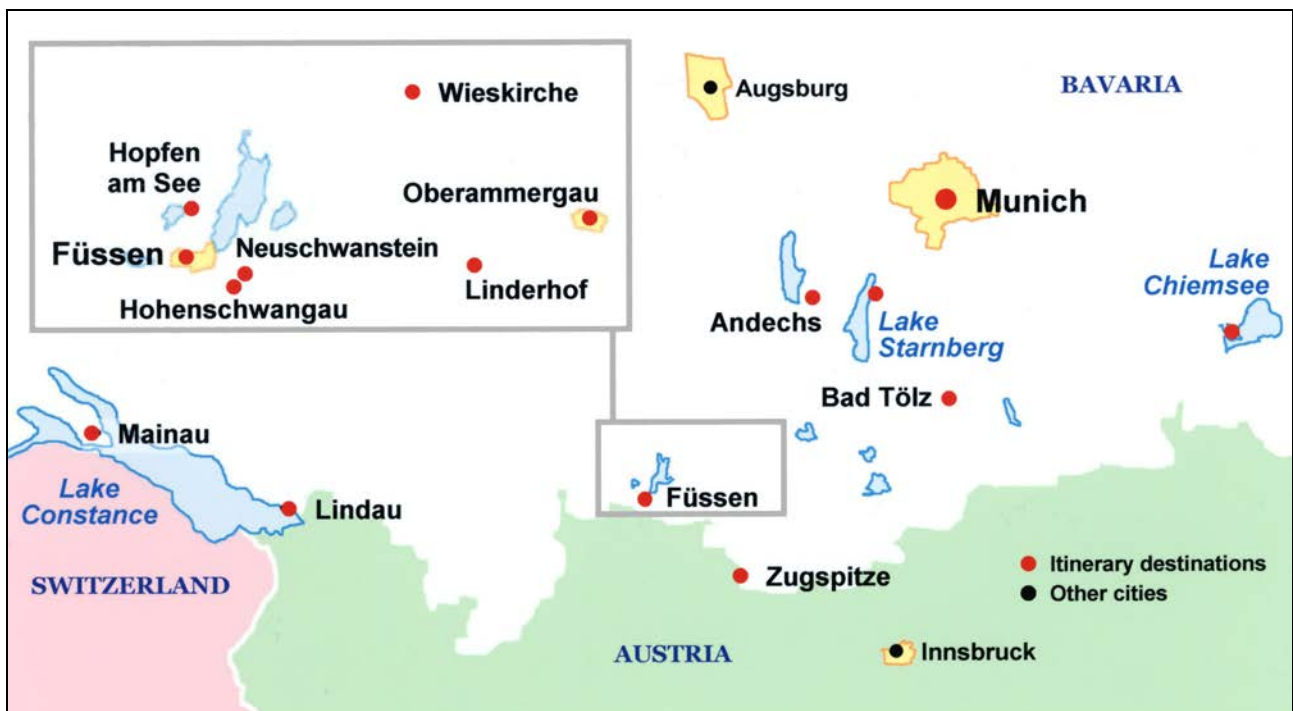
King Ludwig II's Castles and the Bavarian Lakes

Discover the wonderful castles of King Ludwig II and the beauty of Bavaria's lakes and countryside.

Tour inside the castles with local guides and take time to explore on your own.

Alternate the visits to castles with other excursions, including a trip to the top of Mount Zugspitze, the floral grandeur of Mainau, the Nymphenburg Palace in Munich, the Church in the Meadow, and the picturesque towns and villages of the region.

Map



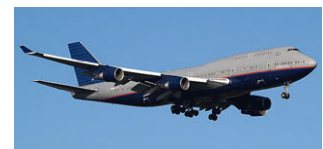
Itinerary

Day 1

Board your flight from your home destination to Munich, Germany.

This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight.

Air fare independently arranged.



Day 2 - WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME AT HOPFEN AM SEE

Arrival Munich, Germany.

Your flight should arrive at the Munich Airport by 11:15 a.m. at the latest for the complimentary transfer at noon.

When the group is complete we head south to HOPFEN AM SEE, on the lake near Fuessen, within hiking distance of Neuschwanstein in the beautiful Bavarian Alps. You are staying in a typical local "landhaus", where you are a friend, not a tourist. Your rooms are very gemütlich, decorated in Bavarian country style, all with cable TV, telephone, refrigerator, extra sitting area, balcony, and a great mountain view.



Upon arrival, your room will be ready for you; you may call home at our expense to tell the ones at home you arrived well and give them your personal telephone number for your entire stay.

The afternoon is at leisure. You may suffer from jet-lag and want to take a nap. Or you may want to go for a walk on the lake, go swimming, hike up to Hopfen's old castle ruin, or – if you are restless – take the bus to Füssen (2 miles) to go shopping or see the Castle of Fuessen.

At 6 p.m. we meet for a glass of Champagne in the garden before going to dinner in a restaurant on the Lake Promenade.

> *Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to hotel, three-course welcome dinner with menu choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea after, overnight at Landhaus Koessel in Hopfen am See*



Day 3 - NEUSCHWANSTEIN, HOHENSCHWANGAU

It takes less than 10 minutes to get to THE CASTLES.

First we go up to Marienbrücke (Mary's Bridge), sitting high above the Poellat Gorge, where you can take the best pictures of Neuschwanstein. (If Mary's Bridge is closed because of ice or snow on the path, you will be taken to another lookout where you can take wonderful pictures of Neuschwanstein.)

Afterwards we walk down for our inside tour of NEUSCHWANSTEIN – Germany's most famous castle – with a castle guide.

Please wear your tested and proven walking shoes. Although we take transportation up to the site, there still is some steep walking required.

Day 3 - continued

Back down in the village of Hohenschwangau, you have time to have a bite to eat, and to go for a stroll on Lake Alpsee, one of the most beautiful Lakes in the region, where young Ludwig learned to swim.



In the afternoon we visit HOHENSCHWANGAU, the castle built by his father Maximilian, where Germany's fairy tale king spent much of his childhood, and where he dreamed about his future castles. Much smaller and often overlooked by tourists on a tight schedule, but equally important, because without this one, Neuschwanstein would not exist. Local guides in both castles.

Tonight we are having dinner in the area that Ludwig II had chosen for next project, Castle Falkenstein. He died before launching this project, so we have to use our imagination. However, an old castle ruin is still there, which you can see from a distance.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrances and guided tours of Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, horse carriage, three-course dinner, Landhaus Koessel*

Day 4 - ZUGSPITZE, LINDERHOF, OBERAMMERGAU

Today we have another highlight coming up: THE ZUGSPITZE, at almost 10,000 feet Germany's highest mountain. The best way to get there is a beautiful drive through the Tyrol in Austria.

Once we get to Garmisch we take a cable car up to the summit of Zugspitze, where we have the most stunning views of the Alps. On a clear day we can see as far as Italy and Switzerland. We can cross the border by foot between Austria and Germany at the summit (no passport required). Even with clouds around us, be prepared for breathtaking scenery.

Remember to pack a warm sweater, because year-round there can be snow at the top.



We take a quick orientation drive through Garmisch before continuing to LINDERHOF, Ludwig's beautiful hiding castle deep in the forest. Ludwig spent more at Linderhof than in his other castles, and it served as a background for the romantic fantasies of the young king.

Day 4 - continued

You have time for lunch on the grounds before we visit the Castle from the inside with a local guide. Afterwards we take a look into the Grotto and the Kiosk. Time to explore the beautiful gardens on your own.

We return home via the pretty village of OBERAMMERGAU, known for the Passion, a tradition which derives from a vow made by the inhabitants in 1633 that if God spared them from the effects of the bubonic plague then sweeping the region they would perform a passion play every ten years. Oberammergau is also famous for its Lueftlmalerei (painted houses) and woodcarving.

Medieval Dinner in Füssen tonight.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Zugspitze cable car, guided tour of Linderhof, three-course dinner, Landhaus Koessel*

Day 5 - HERRENCHIEMSEE, BAD TOELZ

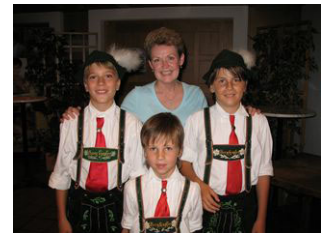
Today we focus on Ludwig's largest castle, HERRENCHIEMSEE, on an island in Lake Chiemsee. Ludwig built this castle after a visit to Versailles, but only ever stayed in it for one week.

To get to the island we take a boat and then we take a horse carriage to the Palace. Inside visit with Castle Guide. Time for lunch on the island.

On the way back we stop for postcards and a cup of coffee in the most pretty town of BAD TOELZ.

At 7:00 pm we join the locals for great atmosphere and great food at a local brewery.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, boat and carriage rides, Herrenchiemsee tour, dinner, Landhaus Koessel*



Day 6 - MUNICH, NYMPHENBURG

We go to MUNICH and first visit NYMPHENBURG PALACE, the Summer Residence of the Wittelsbacher Family, the place where Ludwig II was born, and the Marstallmuseum, containing many of Ludwig's elaborate carriages.

Our Orientation Tour of Germany's secret capital features the Olympic Stadium, Olympic Tower, Leopoldstrasse, Schwabing, Ludwigstrasse, Odeonsplatz, Koenigsplatz, Karlsplatz, and ends by the Residenz and the Opera, where we get off and continue the last few meters on foot to Marienplatz, the very heart of Munich, known for the Glockenspiel carillon in the Town Hall.

Day 6 - continued



You have plenty of time on your own for shopping, more sightseeing (BMW Museum, German Museum, Pinakothek ... the options list is endless) or enjoying the city in one of the many beer gardens.

Why not have a beer at the famous Hofbraeuhaus tonight, Munich's most famous beer hall, or have a traditional Bavarian dinner in one Munich's fine restaurants.

Dinner is on your own tonight. Astrid will be helpful with suggestions or reservations.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Munich orientation tour, entrance to Nymphenburg Palace, Landhaus Koessel*

Day 7 - WIESKIRCHE, LAKE STARNBERG, ANDECHS

We take the Romantic Road today to visit the Masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo, the WIESKIRCHE, or Church in the Meadow, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We continue to LAKE STARNBERG and at Berg see the Votivchapel and the cross in the lake where Ludwig died. Then on to ritzy Starnberg with time for lunch and a stroll on the lake.



Afterwards a short drive to ANDECHS, a famous Benedictine monastery on the Holy Mountain. The monks are also well known for making their own beer, which we have time to enjoy in one of the many beer gardens.

Dinner at the Landhaus tonight.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, three-course dinner with menu choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea after, Landhaus Koessel*

Day 8 - LAKE CONSTANCE, LINDAU, MAINAU

Our last traveling day takes us to LAKE CONSTANCE, or Bodensee, its German name. It is the biggest lake of the northern alpine region and is surrounded by Germany in the north, Switzerland in the south and Austria on the western shore.

Day 8 - continued

We first visit LINDAU, the only Bavarian City on the Lake; the rest is part of Baden Wuerttemberg, the second southern state, or Bundesland.

Lindau in the Lake is a very charming town with old fortifications, a picturesque harbor, the Old Lighthouse, narrow lanes, romantic courtyards and many fountains and hidden corners.



After early lunch we continue to visit the Island of MAINAU, a paradise for plant enthusiasts because even tropical flowers grow in the mild climate. The palace and the charming baroque church contribute to the magic of the island.

At 7:30 p.m. we leave for a fantastic farewell dinner in a typical Mountain Inn.

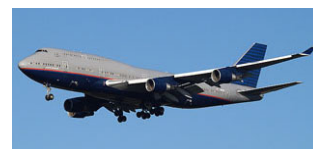
> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, ferry to Mainau, entrance to Mainau, three-course dinner, Landhaus Koessel*

Day 9

Time to say "Auf Wiedersehen".

Transfer to Munich Airport for your homebound flight which arrives the same day.

Your flight should not leave Munich before 10:30 a.m.



> *Buffet breakfast, transfer to airport*

Cost and Date Information

Tours include:

- all features as per itinerary, departure guaranteed,
- 7 breakfast buffets,
- 6 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
- accommodation at the Landhaus for 7 nights,
- door-to-door transportation (bus, boat, horse, etc.),
- reservation fees, entrance fees, and local guide fees, and
- the services of the Tour Director and Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own.

There are no hidden extras. Maximum group size is 30 persons.

Cost and Date Information, continued

The **Bavarian Castles Tour** is offered on the following basis:

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Prices are per person, in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy. Single Occupancy is available for a Single Supplement charge of US \$ 300. A child 8 to 16 years old sharing a room with two adults receives a 40% reduction on this tour.

Guaranteed Departure: The Bavarian Castles Tour is guaranteed to operate as scheduled and will not be cancelled due to a low level of participation.

A deposit of US \$ 300 per person is required to secure a reservation.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver and local guides are not included.

Bavarian Castles Tour – 2012 Departures

Your overnight flight leaves ...	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Child 8-16 with 2 Adults
April 4, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374
May 3, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374
June 13, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374
July 27, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374
September 8, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374
October 6, 2012	US \$ 2,290	2,590	1,374

Private Tour Option

Do our dates not work for you? We can arrange the tour for you or your party as a private tour. Same itinerary as above in a private limousine or van, with bilingual, professional private guide / chauffeur. Prices per individual are the same as for the regular group tour, plus a US \$ 200 per day private tour premium for the group. Please contact us directly to confirm availability.

Detailed **Reservation Request** instructions and your choice of an online or paper form are provided on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cost and Date Information, continued

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be applied against any cancellation charge.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let me know. I will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

Email	astrid.baur@t-online.de
U.S. Phone	(202) 580 - 8732
German Phone	011 - 49 - 171 - 546 68 39
Fax	011 - 49 - 8362 - 91 67 23
Address	Hoehenstrasse 8 87629 Hopfen am See Germany
Website	www.europeancastlestours.com

