

# Bavarian Castles Tour



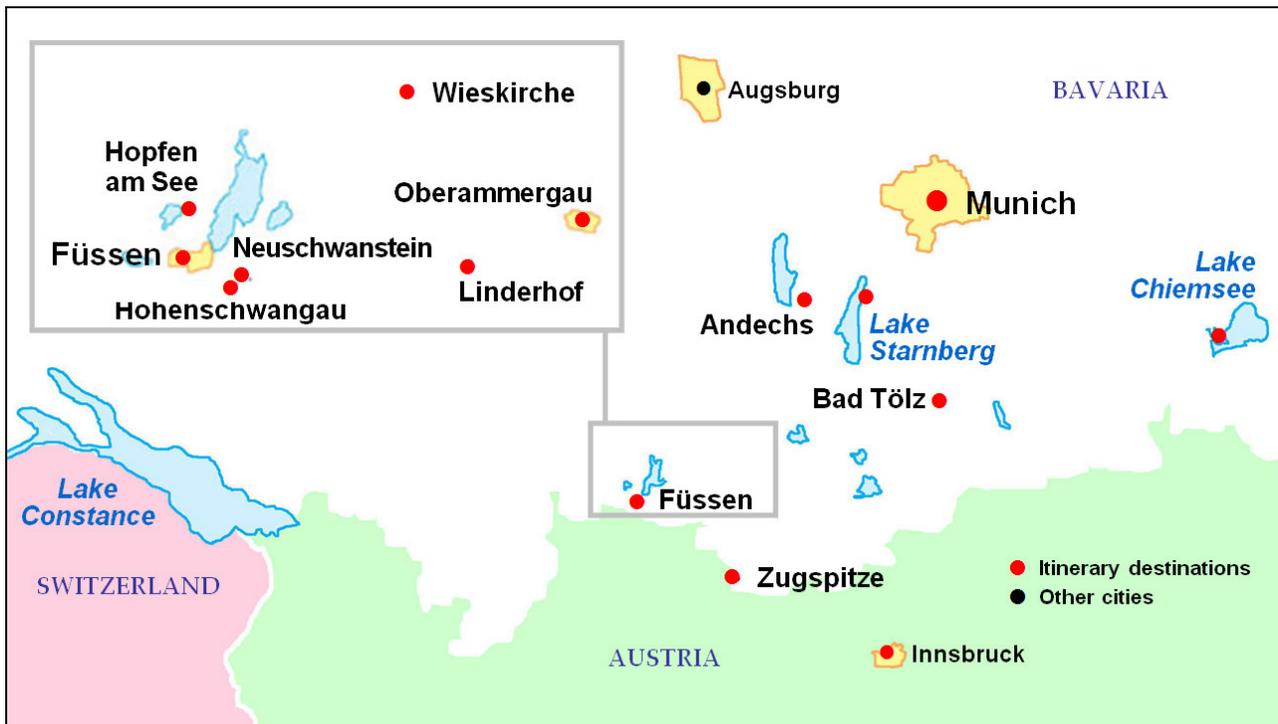
## King Ludwig II's Castles and the Bavarian Lakes

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 Nymphenburg Palace in Munich, the Church in the Meadow, Austria's Innsbruck, 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 into Austria.

Once we get to Ehrwald 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. Time to explore the beautiful gardens on your own. (The Grotto is closed for extensive restoration until 2022.)

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.

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 - INNSBRUCK

Today we drive south through the mountains to INNSBRUCK on the Inn River, the capital of Austria's Tyrol.

First we visit Schloss Ambras, a Renaissance castle and palace located in the hills above the city. It was built in the sixteenth century on the site of a tenth-century castle, and became the seat of power of the Counts of the Andechs. The castle is notable for its exterior architecture and interior furnishings, and contains major art and armour collections. We have a private guided tour.

In the city enjoy a nice stroll through its quaint medieval lanes, see the famous little Golden Roof below the impressive Austrian Alps, the Hofburg palace, and the Hofkirche, Innsbruck's fine Baroque church.

Free time to explore on your own, and maybe shop for Swarovski Crystal, which is made here.

Dinner in Austria tonight on the way back home.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance and private guided tour of Schloss Ambras, three-course dinner, Landhaus Koessel*



## Day 8 - WIESKIRCHE, LAKE STARNBERG, ANDECHS

On our last exploring day we take the Romantic Road 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.

Enjoy your last evening with a wonderful farewell dinner in Hopfen.

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

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.

**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 \$ 400 per person is required to secure a reservation.

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

**Note re Inflation:** Due to inflation in the general economy and additional inflation in the travel industry prices may need to be increased in mid-season. Prices in effect at the time deposits are paid are guaranteed not to change.

### Bavarian Castles Tour – 2024 Departures

Your overnight flight leaves	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Triple Occupancy	Child 8 - 17 with 2 Adults
April 26, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799
June 21, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799
July 12, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799
August 16, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799
September 6, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799
October 4, 2024	US \$ 2,999	US \$ 3,299	US \$ 2,799	US \$ 1,799

### Optional Venice Extension

The optional three-nights Venice Extension is available at the conclusion of any of the above tours.

### 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 are provided on the [Reservations - Multi-Day](https://www.europeancastlestours.com) page of [www.europeancastlestours.com](https://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.

### 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.

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](http://www.europeancastlestours.com) .

### Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let us know.

We will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

#### **European Castles Tours Astrid Baur Travel**

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