ROYAL PALACE OF HERRENCHIEMSEE

The State Bedchamber in the State Apartment, in the style of Louis XIV of France, is the most expensively appointed room of the nineteenth century. It was created between 1879 and 1881 and are much more splendidly furnished than those in Versailles. No other porcelain collection is so comprehensive or of such high quality, and the magnificent textiles are equally unique. One of the artistic ideals of the nineteenth century, the ‘perfection’ of historic styles, was realised in its finest form in this building. The park modelled on Versailles by Carl von Effner was originally intended to cover a large part of the island. When Ludwig II died in 1886, only the central axis with its splendid fountains was carried out. The palace remained uncompleted.

Vase with relief bust of King Louis XIV of France

Porcelain Cabinet of Ludwig II in the Small Apartment, modelled on Rococo examples, Meissen Manufactory, 1884–1886

Painting of the bedchamber in the proposed Falkenstein Castle, Max Schultze, 1885, King Ludwig II Museum (centre), both in the King Ludwig II Museum

Model for a Richard Wagner Festival Theatre, planned 1884–1886, King Ludwig II Museum

An idealised design (not executed) for Neuschwanstein Castle, painted in 1869 by the theatre-set designer Christian Jank, King Ludwig II Museum (right), both in the King Ludwig II Museum

King Ludwig II Museum in the Royal Palace

The museum is housed in twelve modernized rooms on the second floor of the South wing and was opened in 1987. It documents the story of Ludwig II’s life, from his birth to his tragic early death, with painted portraits, busts, historic photographs and original state robes. The king also has a place in the history of music as the patron of the composer Richard Wagner. Portraits, written documents and theatre/stage designs record this aspect of his life. The royal residences of Neuschwanstein Castle, Linderhof Palace and Herrenchiemsee Palace as well as Ludwig I’s other building projects are also covered. Highlights of the museum include the magnificent furniture that originally stood in the royal apartment in the Munich Residence (destroyed during the Second World War) and the first state bedroom in Linderhof Palace. Elaborately handcrafted items, show-pieces that were commissioned by the king, document the European standing of Munich art in the second half of the nineteenth century.

KING LUDWIG II MUSEUM

KING LUDWIG II MUSEUM

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5pm
November–March: 9.40am–4.15pm · Last admission: 3.40pm
Guided tours only.
The fountains are in operation from 1 May to 3 October.

KING LUDWIG II MUSEUM IN THE ROYAL PALACE

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.45pm · Last admission: 4.20pm

MUSEUMS IN THE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY AND CHIEMSEE ARTISTS GALLERY

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.45pm · Last admission: 4.20pm

JULIUS EXTER ART GALLERY IN THE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY

OPENING TIMES

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.45pm · Last admission: 4.20pm

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Visitors’ centre with ticket office, information and museum shop
(footpath to the Royal Palace: 20–25 min.)

Augustinian Monastery with Constitution Museum and art galleries

Royal Palace (guided tour about 30–35 min.) with King Ludwig II Museum and palace parterre

Coach stand at the boat pier

‘Schlosswirtschaft’ restaurant

Former Parish Church of St Mary

Former Cathedral Chapter Church

Baroque Imperial Hall with illusionistic wall and ceiling painting by Benedikt Albrecht (above); Detail of a door panel in the Imperial Hall (below)

Art galleries: ‘Maler am Chiemsee’ Gallery and Julius Exter

The museum in the Augustinian Monastery has two galleries devoted to the ‘Chiemsee artists’ who painted in this area for many years, fascinated by the variety of idyllic landscapes and the ever-changing light effects to be seen against the mountain backdrops. The ‘Maler am Chiemsee’ gallery in the Convent Tract (north tract) houses over 50 masterpieces from the period from 1790 to the Second World War, including works by Leo Putz, Joseph Wagner and Wilhelm Trübner. Detailed documentation accompanies these works and also provides information about the artists’ colony on Frauenchiemsee. The Julius Exter Gallery in the Prelacy Tract (north tract) contains around 150 works of this late ‘Chiemsee artist’ (1863–1939). Trained at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts and appointed Royal Professor in 1902, Exter was one of the founders of the Munich Secession in 1892. He was an important forerunner of Modernism in Munich and lived and worked in Übersee-Feldwies by Chiemsee Lake. His house with its luxuriant garden – one of the artist’s favourite motifs – is now a museum and is open to the public.

Royal Augustinian Monastery
(Old Palace); Museums and historic rooms

The present Baroque monastery with its four wings was built between 1645 and 1730 in place of the previous medieval structures. The Imperial Hall and Garden Room in the Princes’ Tract (south tract) are open to the public. With all their original frescoes and furnishings, they are among the most outstanding residential interiors from the Baroque period in Germany. In the Convent Tract (east tract) the Library Hall was designed by the well-known artist Johann Baptist Zimmermann in around 1740. Museums were set up in both tracts in 1998. The Constitution Museum commemorates the historic conference held in these rooms in 1948 to prepare the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany, one of the most important and promising chapters in the history of modern democracy. Further rooms record the rich history of the oldest monastery in Bavaria, and the cathedral chapter. The former apartment of Ludwig II is exactly as it was during his lifetime.

Art galleries:

1. Visitors’ centre with ticket office, information and museum shop
2. Augustinian Monastery with Constitution Museum and art galleries
3. Royal Palace (guided tour about 30–35 min.) with King Ludwig II Museum and palace parterre
4. Coach stand at the boat pier
5. ‘Schlosswirtschaft’ restaurant
6. Former Parish Church of St Mary
7. Former Cathedral Chapter Church
8. Plane tree grove
9. Farm buildings
10. Gardening department
11. Lakeside Chapel of the Holy Cross
12. Original avenue to the palace
13. Fama Fountain
14. Fortuna Fountain
15. Latona Fountain
16. Lawn (Tapis vert)
17. Apollo Pool (incomplete)
18. Grand Canal
19. Palace café, souvenir shop
20. Palace coach stand
21. Pauls Ruh (a look-out point)
22. Former water reservoir
23. Early medieval fortifications
24. Otta Ruh (a look-out point)

M Path (ca. 7 km/4.3 miles) around the island (area 240 ha/593 acres).
Deciduous woods with many varieties of trees, plants and animals, steep southern shore with spring flowers.