KING LUDWIG II AND HIS CASTLES

Nymphenburg Palace in Munich

The Baroque palace together with its pavilions, the Amalienburg, the Badenburg, the Pagodenburg and the Magdalenenklause, is a cultural masterpiece of inter- national standing. It was here, in this summer residence of the Bavarian electors and kings, that Ludwig II was born on 25 August 1845, St Ludwig’s day. He was christened the very next day in the famous Great Hall of the main palace. The authentically preserved room in which Ludwig II was born can be viewed in the Queen’s Apartments. The portrait of his mother Marie, King Ludwig I in the palace. The Amalienburg was one of the king’s most important sources of inspiration.

Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace

The highlights of this outstanding collection of historical carriages and sleighs are the spectacular vehicles be longing to Ludwig II, which are far more magnificent and elaborate than the Baroque conveyances which inspired them. The king used them largely for night-time trips in the mountains, in which they made a great impression on the few people who saw them. The royal crown on the State Sleigh was already lit by a light bulb and the carriages had leaf springs – like the cars a few years later. The combination of historic forms with modern technology in Spatium of this period, Ludwig II can only really be understood once his carriages and sleighs with their magnificent harness have been seen. Also on display in the museum are portraits of his favourite horses.

Linderhof Palace

Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof

The Moorish Kiosk of Linderhof Palace

Main facade of Linderhof Palace

NYPHENVURG PALACE AND MARSTALLMUSEUM
Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung, Nymphenburg
Schloss Nymphenburg
Eingang 1 · D-80786 München
Tel. +49 89 17908-0 · www.schloss-nymphenburg.de
OPENING TIMES
April–15 October: 9am–6pm
16 October–March: 10am–4pm
LINDERHOF PALACE AND KING’S HOUSE ON SCHACHEN
Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung: Linderhof
Linderhof 12 · D-82488 Ettal
Tel. +49 8824 9203-0 · www.linderhof.de
OPENING TIMES OF LINDERHOF PALACE
April–15 October: 9am–4pm
16 October–March: 10am–4.30pm
Due to restoration work the Venus Grotto is closed until further notice.
OPENING TIMES OF THE KING’S HOUSE ON SCHACHEN
From the beginning of June to the beginning of October, depending on the weather;
Guided tours at 11am, 1, 2 and 3pm
NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE
Ticket Centre Hohenschwangau
Ammersee 3 · D-82465 Schwangau
Tel. +49 8362 93988-0 · www.schloss-neuschwanstein.de
OPENING TIMES OF THE CASTLE
May–15 October: 9am–5pm · closed Mondays
16 October–April closed
OPENING TIMES OF THE CASINO
May–15 October: 10am–8pm · closed Mondays
16 October–April closed
Information on ferry service: Tel. +49 8341 93090
Bayerische Schlösserverwaltung, Außendienste Starnberger See, Postfach 40 00 92, Partnerkärln 2 · D-82339 Starnberg
Tel. +49 8151 96759-0
In the grounds are fascinating buildings such as the Moroccan Kiosk and the Hermitage of Gurnemanz (Act III of Parsifal). Linderhof was Ludwig II’s favourite residence.

INFORMATION

OPENING TIMES* OF THE NEW PALACE
April–October: 10am–6pm · Last admission: 5pm
16 October–March: 10am–4.15pm · Last admission: 3.45pm
OPENING TIMES* OF THE KING LUDWIG II MUSEUM AND THE GALLERY DEVOTED TO CHIEMSEE ARTISTS
April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.5pm · Last admission: 4.15pm
OPENING TIMES* OF THE JULIUS EXTER ART GALLERY
April–September: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.30pm
*Rose Island, Lake Starnberg

*) The opening times are dependent on the local timetable and are subject to alteration.

(Information: Tel. +49 8051 6887-0)

All castles are closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday (except Neuschwanstein), 24, 25 and 31 December.

HERRNECHSIEEMSE PALACE
Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung, Herrnechisieem
Neuschwanstein 40m Schloss 1 · D-82259 Herrnechisieem
Tel. +49 8362 95988-0 · www.neuschwanstein.de
OPENING TIMES* OF THE NEW PALACE
April–October: 10am–6pm · Last admission: 5pm
16 October–March: 10am–4.15pm · Last admission: 3.45pm
King Ludwig II and his Castles

**Neuschwanstein Castle**

Neuschwanstein was commenced by Ludwig II in 1868 high above his father’s Hohenschwangau Castle in the area he knew so well, and was never actually completed. It was his monument to the culture and kingship of the Middle Ages, which he venerated and wanted to recreate. Designed in a medieval style but equipped with the latest technology of the day, it is one of the most famous buildings in the world and a central symbol of German idealism.

The interior features picture cycles from old Norse and chivalric legends. The Singer’s Hall is based on two halls in the Wartburg, and the Throne Hall, which celebrates power and authority, was inspired by Byzantine and early Christian churches.

**Augustine Monastery Herrenchiemsee (Old Palace)**

The Herreninsel is the site of Bavaria’s oldest monastery (founded in around 640) and a bishop’s seat with a cathedral (1125–1808); when Ludwig II bought the island in 1873 he had rooms in the Baroque monastery buildings converted for his private use. In 1948 the Constitutional Convention was held here to draw up the future constitution of Germany. This important chapter of German history is documented in the museum. The long and eventful history of the monastery is illustrated in further rooms and there are also two galleries showing paintings by the Chiemsee artists.

Some of the king’s rooms open to the public are furnished as they were in his time. The two fully preserved High Baroque halls with illusionistic frescoes and the Late Baroque Library Hall by Johann Baptist Zimmermann alone make this palace that played an important part in Bavarian history well worth a visit.

**Herrenchiemsee Palace (New Palace)**

This monument to Absolutism which is far more magnificently furnished than the palace of Versailles on which it was modelled, was begun in 1878. The State Bedchamber in the Large Apartment is the most expensive room of the 19th century. The porcelain in the Small Apartment is the largest single order ever received by the Meissen manufactory and the richness of the embroidery on the textiles is beyond comparison. In this palace Ludwig II conjured up kingship with all the means at his disposal. The building remained incomplete, as did also the park around it, which was modelled on Versailles with its splendid fountains and intended to cover most of the island; today the gardens are surrounded by a natural area with important biotopes. In the palace, the comprehensive Ludwig II Museum documents the life and work of the man described by Paul Verlaine in 1886 as the ‘only true king of the 19th century’.

**The State Bedchamber in Herrenchiemsee Palace**

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The rose garden on the east side of the Casino

Herrenchiemsee Palace (New Palace)

Ludwig II loved this small island with the Pompeiian Casino built by his father. When he was young he invited special guests here such as the Russian Czarina Maria Alexandrovna. Sometimes Empress Elisabeth of Austria, with whom he had a great deal in common, also came to the island. The rose garden has been re-constructed with many fragrant old varieties of rose. The Casino with its fine, comprehensively restored interior is open to the public and a small exhibition documenting the surprisingly long history of the island is on display in the gardeners’ house. The remains of prehistoric pile dwellings on the bottom of Lake Starnberg by Rose Island have been included on UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage list. From here the Votive Chapel on the east shore of the lake can be seen. It was built high above the place where Ludwig II died on 13 June 1886, not far from a further royal property, Berg Palace.

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