The Baroque palace was created between 1752 and 1762 for the Bavarian Elector Karl Albrecht, who was the father of King Ludwig I. The palace is a monumental example of the transition from the Baroque to the Rococo style and is one of the most beautiful Baroque palaces in Europe.

The park of Nymphenburg Palace is considered one of the best in existence from the 18th century. It is about 80 hectares in size with lakes, waterways, and many compositions of sigmoid form. It is a fascinating place that gives a good impression of the way the Bavarian nobility lived in the 18th century.

The Amalienburg was one of the king’s most important sources of inspiration. Ludwig I was christened in 1813 in the famous Great Hall of the palace. The Amalienburg was one of the king’s favorite residences.

The Amalienburg is a small palace built for Ludwig II in 1877. It is magnificently located at the foot of the Steinerne Mountains. The wooden building has a rather modest appearance; however, it is an important example of Richard Wagner’s influence on architecture and decoration.

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk is a fascinating example of the Moorish style in architecture. Built in 1870, it is a small pavilion with a domed ceiling and intricate Moorish decoration. It was designed by Ludwig II as a place for relaxation and to enjoy the surrounding gardens.

Linderhof Palace

Linderhof Palace was Ludwig II’s favorite residence. Completed in 1878, it is a Baroque façade that combines historic forms with elaborate Baroque conveyances. The park at Linderhof is one of the best in existence from the 18th century, combining Baroque garden design with motifs from the 19th century. The combination of historic forms and Baroque conveyances is a unique feature of this palace.

The grotto is based on Richard Wagner’s description of the set for Act I of his opera Tannhäuser. It was here that the king used to sit in the summer, surrounded by the music dramas of Wagner that had such a profound influence on him.

The room where Ludwig II was born in Nymphenburg Palace

The room where Ludwig II was born is located in the main palace. It is called the Queens’ Apartments. The portrait of his mother Marie belongs to Ludwig II’s favorite residences.

Linderhof Palace and King’s House on Schachen

Linderhof Palace and King’s House on Schachen house a fascinating collection of historical artifacts. The highlights of this outstanding collection include the Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace, the Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof, and King’s House on Schachen. These places are far more magnificent and opulent than the other buildings in the Bavarian Alps.

The Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace

The Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace is known for its collection of historic carriages and sleighs. It is one of the most important sources of inspiration for Ludwig II. The king used them largely for night-time trips in the mountains, and the combination of historic forms and Baroque conveyances is a unique feature of this palace.

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The Hermitage of Gurnemanz (Act III of Parsifal). Linderhof was Ludwig II’s favorite residence.
King Ludwig II and his castles

**Rose Island in Lake Starnberg**

Ludwig II loved this small island with the Pompeian 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 reconstructed 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.

**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’.

**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 (1215–1808); 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.

**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.

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