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 copied by Byzantine and early Christian churches.

**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 1876. 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 new 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.

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**Rose Island in Lake Starnberg**

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 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 was born on 13 June 1845, not far from a further royal property, Berg Palace.

**Throne Hall in Neuschwanstein Castle**

‘Children Fishing on the Chiemsee’, F. W. Pfeiffer (1822–1891)

**The State Bedchamber in Herrenchiemsee Palace**

The rose garden on the east side of the Casino

**Neuschwanstein Castle Herrenchiemsee Palace (New Palace)**

'Thrones Hall in Neuschwanstein Castle'

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**KING LUDWIG II AND HIS CASTLES**
KING LUDWIG II AND HIS CASTLES

19th century, combines motifs from Baroque garden design with magnificent water parterres and an English landscape garden. In the grounds are fascinating buildings such as the Moorish Kiosk and the Venus Grotto, a huge artificial grotto based on Richard Wagner’s description of the set for Act I of his opera Tannhäuser. Two further stage sets from Wagner’s music dramas are Hunding’s Hut (Act I of Die Walküre) and the Hermitage of Gurnemanz (Act III of Parsifal). Linderhof was Ludwig II’s favourite residence.

Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof King’s House on Schachen

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

Main façade of Linderhof Palace

Herpich Fotoverlag, Joseph Härtl, München

Main façade of Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

KING’S HOUSE ON SCHACHEN

LINDERHOF PALACE

The last admission is one hour before closing time. The opening times are dependent on the boat timetable and are subject to alteration.

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER CHURCH

OPENING TIMES* OF THE CASINO

From the beginning of June to the beginning of October, depending on the weather; Guided tours at 11am, 1, 2

OPENING TIMES* OF HERRNCHIMSEEL CASTLE

Neuschwanstein Castle is available online and on premises at the Ticket Center (limited capacity).

OPENING TIMES CATHEDRAL CHAPTER CHURCH

April–October: Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays

A visit is only possible as part of a guided tour.

November-March: closed

The combination of historic forms with modern technology is typical of this period. On display in Ludwig II’s tack room are magnificent harnesses and riding and driving accoutrements. The textile decorations such as tassels and rosettes are particularly precious and very well preserved.

Linderhof Palace

His Royal Villa was the only one of his buildings that Ludwig II completed (1878). This palace with its Baroque façade was in-

The Moorish Kiosk is the crowning glory of the inspiration. In the royal woods of the State Sleigh was already fit 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 is typical of this period. On display in Ludwig II’s tack room are magnificent harnesses and riding and driving accoutrements. The textile decorations such as tassels and rosettes are particularly precious and very well preserved.

Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

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Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

Herbich: Fotoverlag, Joseph Haertl, Munich

Main façade of Linderhof Palace

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof Palace

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