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.

Augustine Monastery Herrenchiemsee (Old Palace)
Bavaria’s oldest monastery was founded in the second quarter of the 7th century. From 1215 until secularization in 1803 it was also a bishop’s seat with a cathedral. The Baroque splendour of the former monastery has been preserved in the Library Hall, Imperial Hall and Garden Room. When King Ludwig II acquired the Herreninsel in 1873, he had living quarters created according to his own specifications in the monastery building. This was where he stayed when he was inspecting the work on the New Palace. The former monastery became the so-called Old Palace where the Constitution Convention was held in 1948 to draw up the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany. Also in the Old Palace are two galleries showing the works of Chiemsee artists and of Julius Exter.

Royal Palace of Herrenchiemsee (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’.

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The State Bedchamber in Herrenchiemsee Palace

Baroque Emperor hall in Augustine Monastery
The rich collection of Wittelsbach gala coaches and the Marstallmuseum in Nymphenburg Palace are king’s sources of inspiration. Ludwig II was born can be viewed in the Queens’ 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 new dress coach of King Ludwig II in the Marstallmuseum

Main façade of Linderhof Palace

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