



Neuschwanstein Castle

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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 Singers' 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.

Throne Hall in Neuschwanstein Castle



Baroque Emperor hall in Augustine Monastery

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 frescos 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.

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



Herrenchiemsee Palace (New Palace)

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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



The rose garden on the east side of the Casino

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 died on 13 June 1886, not far from a further royal property, Berg Palace.

The Rose Island and the shallows around it



King Ludwig II and his castles





*I wish you a
fascinating visit
to the castles
of King Ludwig III!*

Albert Füracker, MdL

Bavarian Minister of State of
Finance and Regional Identity



The room where Ludwig II was born in Nymphenburg Palace



Main façade of Linderhof Palace

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 international 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 Queens' Apartments. The portrait of his mother Marie belongs to the famous 'Gallery of Beauties' established by 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 belonging to Ludwig II, which are far more magnificent and

Nymphenburg Palace



elaborate than the Baroque conveyances which inspired them. The king used them largely for night-time trips in the mountains, where 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 is typical 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

His Royal Villa was the only one of his buildings that Ludwig II completed (1878). This palace with its Baroque façade was influenced by French architecture, and the interior is decorated with Rococo motifs from the time of Louis XV. Ludwig also incorporated many aspects of the south German Rococo style of his own ancestors, which he had already encountered as a child in Nymphenburg, and in Linderhof created rooms of astounding opulence. The park, one of the best in existence from the

The Moorish Kiosk in Linderhof



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 Moroccan House, 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 favorite residence.

King's House on Schachen

This small palace built for Ludwig II is magnificently located at an altitude of over 1800 m against the backdrop of the Wetterstein massif in the Alps. The wooden building has a rather modest exterior and simple rooms on the ground floor, but the hall occupying the first floor is furnished with oriental splendour. The king sought the seclusion of the mountains to celebrate his birthday and his name day in the lavishly decorated Turkish Hall furnished with divans and a fountain. The King's House can only be reached on foot, either from Elmau or Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

King's House on Schachen



NYPHENBURG PALACE AND MARSTALLMUSEUM

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Nymphenburg
Schloss Nymphenburg · Eingang 1 · D-80638 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 8822 9203-0 · www.linderhof.de

OPENING TIMES OF LINDERHOF PALACE

April–15 October: 9am–6pm
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

Alpseestr. 12 · D-87645 Schwangau
Tel. +49 8362 93083-0
www.ticket-center-hohenschwangau.de

OPENING TIMES OF THE TICKET CENTRE

April–15 October: 7.30am–5pm
16 October–March: 8.30am–3pm
Tickets with a specific visiting time can be reserved for an additional prepaid charge two days before the desired castle visit (3pm) at the latest.

Schlossverwaltung Neuschwanstein
Neuschwansteinstr. 20 · D-87645 Schwangau
Tel. +49 8362 93988-0 · www.neuschwanstein.de

HERRENCHEMSEE PALACE

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Herrenchiemsee
Altes Schloss 3 · D-83209 Herrenchiemsee
Tel. +49 8051 6887-0 · www.herrenchiemsee.de

OPENING TIMES* OF THE NEW PALACE

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5pm
Nov.–March: 9.40am–4.15pm · Last admission: 3.40pm

OPENING TIMES* OF THE KING LUDWIG II MUSEUM AND THE MUSEUM IN THE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY WITH THE GALLERY DEVOTED TO CHIEMSEE ARTISTS

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
November–March: 10am–4.45pm · Last admission: 4.15pm

OPENING TIMES* OF THE JULIUS EXTER ART GALLERY

April–October: 9am–6pm · Last admission: 5.30pm
Closed November–March

* The opening times are dependent on the boat timetable and are subject to alteration
(for information: Tel. +49 8051 6887-0)

ROSE ISLAND, LAKE STARNBERG

Wittelsbacher Park 1 · D-82340 Feldafing

OPENING TIMES OF THE CASINO

May–15 October: 12.15pm–5.30pm · closed Mondays
16 October–April: closed

OPENING TIMES OF THE MUSEUM

May–15 October: 12pm–6pm · closed Mondays
16 October–April: closed

Information on ferry service: Tel. +49 151 28741905

Bayerische Schloßerverwaltung/Außenstelle Starnberger See
Nepomukweg 4 · D-82319 Starnberg
Tel. +49 8151 550730-0

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

 Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen

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www.schloesser.bayern.de

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