

GERMANY - BAVARIA IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF KING LUDWIG

8-day / 7-night **SELF-GUIDED** walking holiday



This charming route through Bavaria is the König Ludwig Weg (King Ludwig's Way), following in the footsteps of Ludwig II of Bavaria, who ascended to the Bavarian throne at the age of just 18. The introverted and solitary young king left governing in the hands of his ministers while he roamed the Bavarian Alps and indulged in his love of opera, art and architecture. He commissioned the construction of three remarkable castles in Bavaria: Herrenchiemsee, Linderhof and the dramatic fairy-tale Neuschwanstein castle, leading to his nickname Märchenkönig (the Fairy-Tale King).

From scenic Lake Starnberg in the plains south of Munich you walk through the gently rolling foothills of the Bavarian Alps. The architecture is a highlight, with a number of Baroque, Rococo and Gothic buildings including the monasteries at Andech, Wessobrunn and Rottenbuch. There are many opportunities to stop to taste regional specialities (including of course beers) and to partake in the German tradition of *Kaffee und Kuchen* (coffee & cake). You wind your way past picturesque Ammersee Lake and through small villages of half-timbered houses decorated with bright geraniums, finishing in Füssen, just five kilometres from Neuschwanstein and near to Schloss Hohenschwangau, where Ludwig spent his childhood.

Cost from: **\$1670** per person twin share, low season Single room supplement from \$525
High season supplement from \$110 per person
Peak season supplement from \$240 per person

Departures: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday from early April to early October
Low season: 7 April - 7 May, 18 September - 7 October
High season: 8 May - 18 June, 28 August - 17 September
Peak season: 19 June - 27 August

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in comfortable hotels and guesthouses; 7 breakfasts; luggage transfers (1 bag per person max. 20kg); ferry from Herrsching to Diessen; detailed travel documents including route notes and maps (one set per room); emergency assistance.

Not included: Lunches, dinners, snacks and beverages; travel to/from the start and end point of the tour; bus or train transport Bernried-Starnberg (approx. €6 per person), Peissenberg-Peiting (approx. €5 per person), Steingaden-Buching (approx. €5 per person); local tourist taxes; personal expenses; unscheduled transfers or taxis required during the trip; travel insurance.

Grading: Moderate, with daily distances of 13 to 21km, on trails, gravel tracks, sealed footpaths, cycleways and quiet country lanes. The trail is signposted with a distinctive blue K and the words 'König Ludwig Weg'.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Bernried

Arrive Bernried am Starnberger See, accessible by frequent train and bus connections from Munich (around 45 minutes). Settle into your hotel, typically a small, family-owned guesthouse near the shore of Lake Starnberg, and perhaps have a quick warm-up stroll around the town. Lake Starnberg is, sadly, where Ludwig met his untimely and controversial death at the age of just 40 – it was ruled a suicide, but speculation persists that he was assassinated.

Day 2: Starnberg to Diessen

walking @ 21km

Start with a short bus/train ride to Starnberg, where you begin your walk. Walk from Starnberg into the Maisinger See wetland nature reserve then up to Andechs Monastery on a hill above the Ammersee. The monastery is renowned for its brewery, so you may like to stop here for a lunch of double bock beer and roast pork knuckle, or dine at one of the other beer gardens in the small Bavarian villages on your route. Descend from Andechs to Herrsching am Ammersee, where you take the ferry to Diessen on the opposite shore.

Day 3: Diessen to Wessobrunn / Paterzell

walking @ 13km

There is an opportunity to visit the Baroque cathedral (Marienmuenster) in Diessen before beginning your walk. Amble through peaceful Stiller forest and across meadows to Wessobrunn monastery, with its giant ancient linden tree, Tassilolinde, near its wall. Weather permitting you should get a glimpse of the summit of the Zugspitze. On occasion you may be staying in Paterzell which is about 4km further on.

Day 4: Wessobrunn / Paterzell to Peiting

walking @ 23km

This stage of the walk takes you past farmland and through sleepy Bavarian villages. The highlight is the summit of Hohenpeissenberg, at 988 metres the highest point on the walk. It is steep but rewards effort with panoramic views towards the Alps and into the Allgäu region. From Hohenpeissenberg village you can either continue the walk into Peiting, or take the train (paid locally).

Day 5: Peiting to Wildsteig / Bad Bayersoien

walking @ 14km

Another highlight of the walk today, as you traverse the romantic Ammerschlucht. Walk through forest and on bridges and footbridges along the steep-sided gorge carved out by the river Ammer, to the small town of Rottenbuch. Here you may like to visit the abbey, which dates back to the 11th Century and was redecorated in the 18th Century in ornate Rococo style. From Rottenbuch walk across meadows and gently rolling hills to Wildsteig, delightfully off the usual tourist track.

Day 6: Wildsteig / Bad Bayersoien to Buching

walking @ 11km

Through quiet forest and across lonely moorland with views of the Alps, you reach the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wieskirche, a Baroque masterpiece decorated with frescos. Wieskirche translates as 'meadow church', and the building is still surrounded by meadows. From here, walk again through forest and meadows to Steingaden, where there is another notable Romanesque church, the Welfenmünser. From Steingaden, you can choose to continue on foot to Buching, adding another 10km to your walk, or take the bus (paid locally).

Day 7: Buching to Füssen

walking @ 17km

You pass the nature reserve at Lake Hegratsried and continue uphill with views of Neuschwanstein. Although you have seen it before in photos and postcards, seeing it firsthand in real life is not to be missed. Walking along the Pollat gorge you pass by Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau castles and the Alpsee, before descending to the historic town of Füssen.

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Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. There are several trains daily from Füssen to Munich, journey time about 2 hours. You may like to stay additional nights in Füssen, so that you can tour the castles at your leisure (both are easily reached by bus or walking routes) and there are many other easily accessible walks and excursions, including the Tegelberg, an 1800m hikers' and hang-gliding paradise, reached by cable car, or a delightful easy walk around the Alpsee. You can also nip across the border into the Austrian Tyrol, just 2.5km away.



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Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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