

Royal Delights Private Tour

**Bavarian and Austrian Castles and Churches,
Cities and Villages**



Discover the highlights of southern Bavaria and Austria. Spend three nights in Munich, one in Salzburg, and two in Vienna on your Royal Delights Private Tour.

Visit famous landmarks and castles – King Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein and Linderhof Castles, the famous village of Oberammergau, Wieskirche (the Church in the Meadow), Königsee (one of the most beautiful Alpine Lakes), Hitler's Eagle's Nest, Hohensalzburg Fortress, Queen Maria Theresa's Schoenbrunn Palace, the Wachau Valley, and Melk Abbey.

This private tour is now available weekly on a year-round basis, except for prior commitments. Enjoy, relax, and let us take care of the details.

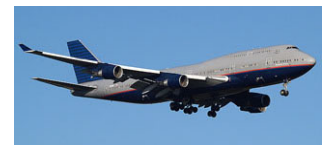
Map



Itinerary

Day 1 – Friday – DEPARTURE

Board your flight from home to Munich, Germany. This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight. Air fare independently arranged.



Day 2 –Saturday – WELCOME TO MUNICH

Arrival in MUNICH, Germany.

You are met at the airport after your flight and taken your hotel in downtown Munich.

Tonight you'll enjoy an orientation drive of Munich followed by a welcome dinner at the Hofbräuhaus, the world's most famous beer hall.

> *Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to Munich hotel, three-course dinner, overnight in Munich.*

Day 3 – Sunday – NEUSCHWANSTEIN, WIESKIRCHE, OBERAMMERGAU, LINDERHOF

After breakfast we take a scenic ride to the village of Hohenschwangau and up to Marienbrücke (Mary's Bridge) to get a clear view of Neuschwanstein, sitting on a rock high atop the Poellat Gorge. (Weather permitting: with ice or snow on the road the access to the bridge is closed). Many of the most striking photos of Neuschwanstein are taken from Mary's Bridge.

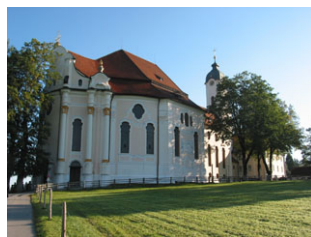
A short walk downhill takes us to the NEUSCHWANSTEIN CASTLE for our inside guided tour with a local castle guide. Neuschwanstein is the first of Ludwig's three castle creations, and by far the most impressive. All were built in the period from 1869 to 1876, and used the most modern construction practices and technologies of the time to achieve fantastical effects. The interior walls illustrate numerous scenes from Richard Wagner's musical dramas. The most lasting impressions will be of the wildly imaginative architectural design and the stunning elegance of the finished interiors.

We continue for a short ride to the famous WIESKIRCHE (The Church in the Meadow), the only monument in the region on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. Time to survey the pastoral Bavarian meadow setting and to take pictures of the stunning interior.

Our next stop is OBERAMMERGAU, the beautiful Passion Play village below the mountains that's known for its house frescos, woodcarvers, and Christmas shops. The Passion Play was first performed in 1634 to honour the village's vow that it would perform a passion play every ten years if it were spared the effects of the bubonic plague. You have free time to have a bite to eat, to explore on your own, and to shop for great souvenirs.

On to LINDERHOF, Ludwig's beautiful palace tucked away in the mountains between Füssen and Oberammergau. Linderhof was built between 1870 and 1879, in an elaborate rococo style recalling the Bourbon Kings. We tour inside the palace with a local castle guide, and you have time to go for a stroll in the formal gardens. (The Grotto is closed for extensive restoration until 2022.)

Return to Munich for dinner and overnight.



> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance and guide fees for Neuschwanstein and Linderhof, three-course dinner, overnight in Munich*

Day 4 – Monday – EAGLE'S NEST, SALZBURG

We leave Munich for a scenic mountain excursion. We visit Königssee, truly one of the most beautiful Alpine Lakes, and follow the Kehlsteinstrasse (road and tunnels, weather permitting) to Obersalzberg, where we stop and you can see the remains of the Kehlsteinhaus (Hitler's EAGLE'S NEST, perched atop the Kehlstein mountain).

If the road is closed due to weather conditions we will visit Herrenchiemsee, Ludwig's last castle on Lake Chiemsee, instead. Herrenchiemsee was built on an island in the middle of the lake, and its design echoes the horizontal lines of Versailles.

From there it's a short ride to SALZBURG, where you visit the Mirabell gardens, Getreidegasse with Mozart's Birthplace, the beautiful Cathedral and take the funicular up to Hohensalzburg Fortress for most stunning views over the city and surroundings.

Dinner tonight in one of the oldest restaurants of Europe, the Peterskeller.



> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, all entry and guide fees, three-course dinner, overnight in Salzburg

Day 5 – Tuesday – VIENNA – SCHÖNBRUNN

We say goodbye to Salzburg this morning and head east to VIENNA, the capital of Austria and at one time capital of one of the largest empires in Europe.

Upon arrival we visit SCHÖNBRUNN, Austria's answer to Louis XIV's Versailles. Schönbrunn evolved over centuries from a modest palace begun in 1696. Queen Maria Theresa developed Schönbrunn into the imperial summer residence. See her opulent summer palace and get a deeper insight during your guided tour.

You also have time to explore parts of the 190 hectares / 470 acres of gardens, which include the hilltop Gloriette, French and English style and botanical gardens, fountains, an artificial Roman ruin, a maze, an orangerie, a Palm House, and the Tiergarten, the world's oldest existing zoo.

We have an unforgettable dinner in a typical Heurigen (wine tavern-restaurant) tonight.



> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, guided tour of Schoenbrunn Palace, three-course dinner, overnight in Vienna

Day 6 – Wednesday – VIENNA

A drive along the Ring Road offers VIENNA's most famous sights: the Opera, the Hofburg, the National Museum, Vienna's Town Hall, the Burgtheater, the University of Vienna (founded in 1365 and the oldest university in the German-speaking world), Austria's Parliament, and much more.

Afterwards join your local guide for a walking tour of the heart of Vienna, including an inside visit at St. Stephen's Cathedral, erected on the site of an 1147 parish church and seat of the Archbishop of Vienna.

Your afternoon is free for shopping on Kaertnerstrasse or Graben or more sightseeing.

The to do list is endless: Maybe ride the Giant Ferris Wheel in the Prater, visit the Opera or the Hofburg from the inside, relax in one of the beautiful parks, visit one of the many museums, spend time in a typical Kaffeehaus, watch the Spanish Riding school horses, or attend a classical concert tonight.

Dinner on your own tonight. Your guide will be helpful with recommendations.



> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, guided sightseeing tour of Vienna, entrance to St. Stephen's Cathedral, overnight in Vienna

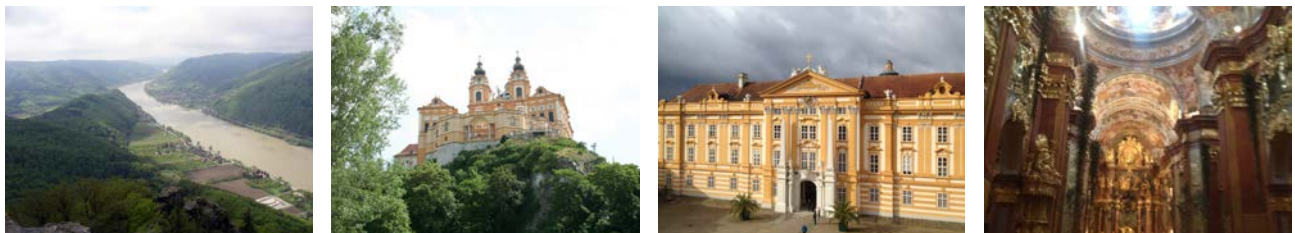
Day 7 – Thursday – WACHAU VALLEY, MELK ABBEY, MUNICH

After breakfast we go west the scenic way – along the Danube's famous WACHAU VALLEY, known for vineyards, castles and the picturesque villages that placed it on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Enjoy a morning break in one of the pretty towns and try a glass of Wachau wine.

Visit MELK ABBEY, an Austrian Benedictine abbey, and one of the world's most famous monastic sites. It is located above the town of Melk on a rocky outcrop overlooking the river Danube in Lower Austria, adjoining the Wachau valley. It was founded in 1089 when Leopold II, Margrave of Austria, gave one of his castles to Benedictine monks.

In his well-known novel *The Name of the Rose*, Umberto Eco named one of the protagonists "Adson von Melk" as a tribute to the abbey and its famous library.

We continue west back to Munich, where a great dinner awaits you to celebrate a wonderful week.



> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, three-course dinner, overnight in Munich

Day 8 – Friday – HOME FROM MUNICH

Time to say "Auf wiedersehen". One final breakfast and then transfer to **MUNICH Airport** for your return flight home.



> *Buffet breakfast, transfer to Airport*

Cost and Date Information

- Tours include:
- all features as per itinerary,
 - 6 breakfast buffets,
 - 5 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
 - accommodation for 6 nights in 4* hotels,
 - reservation fees, entrance fees, and guide fees,
 - door-to-door transportation in limousine or van, depending on group size,
 - the services of your Tour Director-Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own. There are no hidden extras.

This tour is offered on the following basis:

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Prices are in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy.

Private Tour:	2 persons (minimum)	US \$ 2,400 per person
	4 persons	US \$ 2,125 per person
	6 persons (maximum)	US \$ 1,850 per person

For single and Triple Occupancy rates please contact us.

Prices shown are for 4* downtown hotels. On request we can also offer 3* or 5* hotels.

A child 8 to 16 years old sharing a room with two adults receives a 30% reduction.

A deposit of US \$ 300 per person is required to secure a reservation.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver-guide and local guides are not included.

This private tour is offered on a year-round basis, apart from scheduling conflicts.

Contact us with your preferred dates and specific requirements:

astrid.baur@t-online.de

You can phone or write if you prefer. Full contact information is provided below and on the European Castles Tours website:

www.europeancastlestours.com .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be credited against any cancellation charges.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let us know.

We will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

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