

Schloss Neuschwanstein



Neuschwanstein Castle, which King Ludwig II built on a rugged hill against a backdrop of picturesque mountain scenery, was prompted by the idea of rebuilding an existing ruin "in the authentic style of the old German knights' castles", as he wrote in a letter to Richard Wagner.

Seven weeks after the death of King Ludwig II in 1886, Neuschwanstein was opened to the public. The shy king had built the castle in order to withdraw from public life – now vast numbers of people came to view his private refuge.

Today Neuschwanstein is one of the most popular of all the palaces and castles in Europe. Every year 1.3 million people visit "the castle of the fairy-tale king". In the summer around 6,000 visitors a day stream through rooms that were intended for a single inhabitant.

Throne Room

The Throne Room of Neuschwanstein resembles a Byzantine church. Ludwig II had actually given instructions for it "to be based on the Munich All Saints Church" as well as "St Sophia in Constantinople" (Hagia Sophia in Istanbul). The throne, which was to stand like an altar in the apse of the hall, was never built.

Ludwig II had expectations of his kingly role that could scarcely be met; this is vividly illustrated by the Throne Hall's many pictures.



The Throne Room in the form of a Byzantine church looks as if it is decorated with precious stones and mosaics. The pillars are however made of coloured stucco and the "mosaics" are paintings.

Ludwig himself wrote: "The illustrations have been selected in accordance with the elevated purpose of the Throne Room, which is to proclaim that the Throne is the source of authoritative law-making". The wall paintings thus show law-makers from the ancient, heathen and Christian worlds.

Castle of Trausnitz

The ancestral castle of the Wittelsbachs, built in 1204, was their residence as dukes of Lower Bavaria from 1255-1503 and their court when the Wittelsbachs became the hereditary rulers of the whole of Bavaria.



The impressive fortifications, the high Wittelsbach Tower and the castle chapel with valuable altars and sculptures are medieval in origin, while the arcades in the castle courtyard,



the Commedia dell'arte paintings decorating the famous Narrentreppe (Fools' Staircase) and the rooms complete with tiled stoves, furniture and tapestries date from the Renaissance. The Trausnitz Chamber of Art and Curiosities is a collection of 750 exhibits including works of art, treasures from the Orient and curiosities typical of the collections owned by rulers in the Renaissance era.

Fools' Staircase

Schoss Neuburg

The massive Renaissance palace was built for Pfalzgraf (Count Palatine) Ottheinrich (1502-1559) as the residence of the principality of Pfalz-Neuburg. In 1665-70 the baroque east wing was added with the two round towers that dominate the surroundings. Particular highlights are the courtyard façade decorated in sgraffito technique and the castle chapel with frescoes dating from 1543 by Hans Bocksberger, the first Protestant church to be built in Germany.



In addition to the Renaissance Knights' Hall and the baroque grottoes, the palace has important works of art illustrating the history of this principality.

In the State Gallery of Flemish Art in the west wing are numerous works of masters such as Peter Paul Rubens, Anthonis van Dyck and Jan Brueghel.

Residenz Würzburg

The former residence of the Würzburg prince-bishops is one of the most important baroque palaces in Europe and today it is on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list. Originally designed for Prince-Bishop Johann Philipp Franz von Schönborn by the then young and unknown architect Balthasar Neumann, it took sixty years to complete; the shell of the palace was built from 1720 to 1744 and the interior finished in 1780.



Neumann's world-famous staircase, roofed by an unsupported vault, was decorated in 1752/53 by the Venetian Giovanni Battista Tiepolo with a ceiling fresco representing the four continents. The painting, measuring 18 x 30 metres, is one of the largest frescos ever created.



The magnificent sequence of rooms begins with the Vestibule and Garden Hall and continues via the staircase and White Hall to the Emperor's Hall, also with frescos by G.B. Tiepolo. The vaulting of these rooms even withstood the devastating fire of 1945, while the ceilings and floors of the Imperial Apartments flanking the Emperor's Hall were destroyed. The furnishings and wall panelling had been removed beforehand, enabling the rooms to be reconstructed.

Die Nürnberger Burg



Nuremberg Castle is one of the most important imperial palaces dating from the Middle Ages: from 1050 to 1571 all the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire stayed in it at various times during their reign.

Friedrich Barbarossa and his successors developed the existing Salian Royal Castle originating from the mid-11th century into an impressive imperial seat, as reflected in particular by the double chapel, which has been preserved in its entirety.



The imperial residential and state rooms in the Palas, mostly with their original panelling, are furnished with paintings, tapestries and furniture from the 16th and 17th centuries.

King's House on the Schachen



The King's House, built from plans by Georg Dollmann in 1869 to 1872 on the Schachen Alp near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, was King Ludwig II's mountain refuge. The wooden post-and-infill structure in the form of a Swiss chalet has five living rooms downstairs with cembra wood panelling and a mixture of stylistic elements.

The whole of the upper floor, however, is taken up by the "Turkish Hall".

With its coloured glass windows, opulently embroidered textiles, peacock feathers and candelabra it reflects the fascination of the king and his contemporaries with the Orient.



Zur Routenplanung hier die Plätze der Schlösser

The shown castles are only an election by me. For further informations fort he other castles please call me. I would like to plan a sightseeing tour to your wishes..



Not only the castles in Bavaria are worth seen, but also the parks and lakes.

