

## Sample Itinerary

### Churches and Monasteries in Upper Bavaria (7 days)

Munich (München) – Altötting – Seeon – Prien – Fischbachau – Tegernsee –  
Benediktbeuern – Murnau – Ettal – Oberammergau – Steingaden –  
Schongau – Polling – Wessobrunn – Diessen – Andechs



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**DAY 1**     **USA – Munich (München)**

Departure from the USA (overnight flight)

**DAY 2**     **Munich**

Arrival in Munich

Hotel check-in

Guided city tour

**Munich Tourist Office**

Sendlinger Strasse 1

80331 Munich

Tel: +49 (89) 2339 6500

Fax: +49 (89) 2333 0233

E-Mail: [tourismus@muenchen.de](mailto:tourismus@muenchen.de)

[www.muenchen-tourist.de](http://www.muenchen-tourist.de)

**DAY 2  
Cont'd**

**Munich**

**Places of Interest:**

- Residenz Castle
- Nymphenburg Castle
- Church of our Lady
- "Alter Peter" Church
- Odeon Square with Theatiner Church St. Kajetan
- Asam Church
- Marien Square and Town Hall
- Bavaria Film Studios
- English Garden
- Gourmet and traditional market "Viktualienmarkt"
- Hofbräuhaus brewery
- BMW World, Museum and Plant

**Munich** – the capital of Bavaria has a lot of attractions to offer for all ages and tastes. Whether you are interested in history, architecture or art; whether you enjoy strolling through the parks, fancy attractions like a trip to the Bavaria Film Studios or long for a visit to one of Munich's famous traditional beer gardens, you will always find something exciting in this multi-faceted city. Take a romantic stroll through the old parts of the city around Marien Square, Viktualien Market and Odeon Square to see how Munich's past is still lived in the every day life, enjoy a walk along the Isar river and its beautiful embankments, or visit the magnificent Nymphenburg Palace. Munich also has some of the most famous churches in Germany. The Late Gothic Church of Our Lady, with its famous domed spires that can be seen from miles away, is one of Munich's best-known landmarks. The St. Kajetan Church, a basilica built in the Italian High Baroque style, has a gloriously ornate facade. The Asam Church was endowed and built by the Brothers Asam, pioneering artists of the Rococo period.



Aerial view of Munich with Church of Our Lady



St. Kajetan Church

Dinner

**Overnight in Munich**

**DAY 3      Munich – Altötting**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Altötting – 60 miles (by car or coach)

Guided city tour

**Altötting Tourist Office**

Kapellplatz 2a  
84503 Altötting  
Tel: +49 (8671) 506 219  
Fax: +49 (8671) 85858  
E-Mail: [touristinfo@altoetting.de](mailto:touristinfo@altoetting.de)  
[www.altoetting.de](http://www.altoetting.de)

**Places of Interest:**

- Chapel Square with Chapel of Mercy
- St. Konrad Monastery with Church
- St. Anna’s Basilica
- Papal linden tree
- Treasury
- St. Magdalenen Church
- Collegiate Parish Church
- St. Mary’s fountain

**Altötting** – For some 1200 years this has been a major shrine of Mary and, for more than 500 years, a pilgrimage center of European dimension with over a million pilgrims per year. Several votive offerings and works of art are a reminder of the close connection that several popes have had with the ‘Bavarian National Shrine’. Main sights include the chapel square, the St. Konrad Monastery, the St. Anna’s Basilica, and the "Papal Linden Tree" planted by Pope John Paul II. In his introductory notes for the town’s guide book, Benedict XVI, then Joseph Ratzinger, wrote in early 2005: “I was lucky enough to be born very close to Altötting. Thus the pilgrimages I made to the Site of Grace with my parents and my siblings are among my earliest and most beautiful memories...”



Chapel Square



St. Mary’s fountain

**DAY 3**  
**Cont'd**      **Altötting – Seeon – Prien**

Lunch

Transfer to Seeon – 25 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to Seeon Monastery

**Kloster Seeon**

Klosterweg 1

83370 Seeon

Tel: +49 (8624) 8970

Fax: +49 (8624) 897 420

E-Mail: [kontakt@kloster-seeon.de](mailto:kontakt@kloster-seeon.de)

[www.kloster-seeon.de](http://www.kloster-seeon.de)

**Seeon** – This former Benedictine Abbey (from 999 to 1803) with a thousand-year history is located on an idyllic peninsular on Lake Seeon, around 6 miles north of Lake Chiemsee. Century-old spiritual traditions are continued here but with a slightly modern twist. And although there is no longer a community of monks living here, the Benedictine rules still serve as guidelines for the modern management of the abbey.



Former Seeon Monastery

Transfer to Prien – 14 miles (by car or coach)

Hotel check-in

Boat tour to Fraueninsel island incl. visit to Benedictine Abbey

**Prien Tourist Office**

Alte Rathausstrasse 11

83209 Prien am Chiemsee

Tel: +49 (8051) 69050

Fax: +49 (8051) 690 540

E-Mail: [info@tourismus.prien.de](mailto:info@tourismus.prien.de)

[www.tourismus.prien.de](http://www.tourismus.prien.de)

**DAY 3**      **Prien**  
**Cont'd**

**Prien by the Chiemsee Lake** – Prien is a quaint town situated in a lush green valley between the Chiemgau Alps and the shores of Lake Chiemsee (Bavaria's largest lake). Lovers of sports, leisure and cultural activities alike will delight in this attractive town with its flowers and fine examples of Rococo and Baroque art. The nearby Herrenchiemsee Palace, King Ludwig's most lavish and expensive castle, is located on Herrenchiemsee island ("men's island") in the middle of the Lake. The other island in the lake is called Fraueninsel ("women's island"). This island is home to a local population of 200 people, such as artists, craftspeople, fishermen, as well as a fully operational Benedictine Abbey which was founded in 782 AD and is famous for the Cloister Liquor spirit and marzipan which are produced here by the nuns.



Aerial view of Fraueninsel Island



Abbey on Fraueninsel island

Dinner

Overnight in Prien

**DAY 4**      **Prien – Fischbachau**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Fischbachau – 31 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to the Pilgrimage Church Birkenstein

**Wallfahrtskirche Mariä Himmelfahrt Bikrenstein**

Kapellenweg 11

83730 Fischbachau

Tel: +49 (8028) 830

Fax: +49 (8028) 905 964

E-Mail: [info@fischbachau.de](mailto:info@fischbachau.de)

[www.fischbachau.de](http://www.fischbachau.de)

**DAY 4  
Cont'd**

**Fischbachau – Tegernsee**

**Fischbachau** – Fischbachau is nestled in the wide valley of the river Leitzach, amidst gorgeous nature and framed by magnificent mountains. Visit the St. Martin Minster, the best-preserved Romanesque basilica of southern Bavaria with baroque stucco linked to the famous Wessobrunn Abbey School for craftsmen. A highlight of the rococo period is the pilgrimage chapel in Birkenstein. Visitors will be enchanted by the splendor of the golden decorated interior of the Lady chapel. The baroque parish church St. Andreas with its towering bulbous spire is another must see.



Parish Church St. Andreas

Transfer to Tegernsee – 17 miles (by car or coach)

Lunch

Visit to Tegernsee Monastery

**Kloster Tegernsee**

Hauptstrasse 17  
83684 Tegernsee  
Tel: +49 (8022) 927 380  
Fax: +49 (8022) 927 3822  
E-Mail: [info@tegernsee.com](mailto:info@tegernsee.com)  
[www.tegernsee.com](http://www.tegernsee.com)

**Tegernsee** – Artists, musicians, statesmen and nobility have lived in the fine houses that appeared in Tegernsee after the first monks settled in the valley. Visitors will note their legacy in the buildings they erected, the music and paintings from many eras of local artistic activity. The witnesses of over a thousand years of human life in the valley can be found in many commemorative plaques, in the architecture itself that spans various epochs, in the churches, chapels, castles and cloisters – such as that of the Tegernsee Abbey with its impressive frescoes by famous Hans Georg Asam.



Tegernsee Abbey by the lake

**DAY 4**  
**Cont'd**      **Tegernsee – Benediktbeuern – Murnau**

Transfer to Benediktbeuern – 23 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to Benediktbeuern Monastery (see also front page)

**Kloster Benediktbeuern**

Don-Bosco-Strasse 1

83671 Benediktbeuern

Tel: +49 (8857) 880

Fax: +49 (8857) 88199

E-Mail: [info@kloster-benediktbeuern.de](mailto:info@kloster-benediktbeuern.de)

[www.kloster-benediktbeuern.de](http://www.kloster-benediktbeuern.de)

**Benediktbeuern** – The founding of the Monastery goes back to 739 and was assisted by St. Bonifatius. It is one of the oldest Benedictine Monasteries in Bavaria. The Monastery went through an extended period of prosperity and wealth. Education, arts, science and the cultivation of crops was developed. From 1669 onwards, the Monastery Estate was built in baroque style. The Economy Building (“Maierhof”) was one of the most impressive agricultural buildings of the baroque decade. Secularization in 1803 set an end to the beneficial work of the Benedictines, and the Monastery became secular-private property.



Benediktbeuern Monastery  
with Basilica St. Benedikt

Transfer to Murnau – 14 miles (by car or coach)

**Murnau Tourist Office**

Kohlgruber Strasse 1

82418 Murnau am Staffelsee

Tel: +49 (8841) 61410

Fax: +49 (8841) 614 121

E-Mail: [touristinformation@murnau.de](mailto:touristinformation@murnau.de)

[www.murnau.de](http://www.murnau.de)

**Places of Interest:**

- Town Hall
- Murnauer Burg Fortress
- Castle Museum
- St. Nikolaus Parish Church
- Maria Hilf Church
- Münter House
- St. Georg Church

**DAY 4**  
**Cont'd**      **Murnau**

**Murnau** – Nature, art and culture form a special bond in Murnau. Situated at the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, this charming climatic health resort overlooks Lake Staffelsee with its seven islands and the Nature Reserve ‘Murnauer Moos’. The spectacular landscape attracted world famous painters like Kandinsky, today remembered in two local museums. Murnau is famous for being the home of Expressionist painting. It is known as ‘the blue land’ because of the atmospheric quality of its light.



In the town of Murnau

Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight in Murnau

**DAY 5**      **Murnau – Ettal**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Ettal – 14 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to Ettal Abbey

**Benediktinerabtei Ettal**  
Kaiser-Ludwig-Platz 1  
82488 Ettal  
Tel.: +49 (8822) 740  
Fax: +49 (8822) 74228  
Email: [gastpater@kloster-ettal.de](mailto:gastpater@kloster-ettal.de)  
[www.kloster-ettal.de](http://www.kloster-ettal.de)

**Ettal** – Situated in the Ammergau Alps between the Zugspitze mountain and Neuschwanstein Castle travelers will find the charming town of Ettal. With its world-renowned Benedictine Abbey, the attributes of spirituality and spirits lie uniquely close together. The private Abbey brewery is still managed by the experienced monks.



Ettal Abbey

**DAY 5**  
**Cont'd**      **Ettal – Oberammergau – Steingaden**

Transfer to Oberammergau – 3 miles (by car or coach)

Lunch

Guided city tour

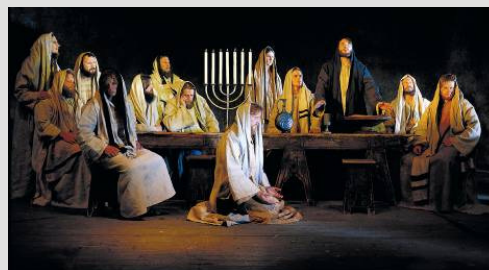
**Oberammergau Tourist Office**

Eugen-Papst-Strasse 9a  
82487 Oberammergau  
Tel: +49 (8822) 922 740  
Fax: +49 (8822) 922 745  
E-Mail: [info@oberammergau.de](mailto:info@oberammergau.de)  
[www.oberammergau.de](http://www.oberammergau.de)

**Places of Interest:**

- “Lüftlmalerei” decorated houses, e.g. Pilatus House
- Oberammergau Museum
- Passion theater

**Oberammergau** – This Bavarian village is famous for its Passion Play which takes place every ten years. The town is physically dominated by a rock pinnacle known as the Ettaler Mandl. The town is surrounded by the dramatic mountain scenery of the Ammergau Alps, enchanting visitors with its combination of nature and culture. Spectacular hiking trails along the River Ammer offer a panoramic view of forests and blossoming fields of wild flowers. In winter and in summer cable cars and chair lifts carry visitors up into the mountains. Excursions to the royal castles, churches and cloisters nearby as well as a visit to the Passion Play Theater make for unforgettable experiences. Oberammergau is also known for its wood sculptures, and the art of facades painting called “Lüftlmalerei”.



Scene from the Passion Play



House with Lüftlmalerei paintings

Transfer to Steingaden – 16 miles (by car or coach)

**DAY 5**  
**Cont'd**      **Steingaden – Schongau**

Visit to Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church (Catholic)

**Pfarramt Wieskirche**

Wies 12  
86989 Steingaden  
Tel: +49 (8862) 932 930  
Fax: +49 (8862) 932 9310  
E-Mail: [wieskirche2@web.de](mailto:wieskirche2@web.de)  
[www.wieskirche.de](http://www.wieskirche.de)

**Steingaden** – A beautiful little town in the Bavarian Pfaffenwinkel region. Its Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church, a UNESCO world heritage site, is an unparalleled example of how light can be used as a building element alongside brick and stone. True pilgrims leave their cars in Steingaden and climb the shady path on foot, a walk that takes around an hour. The Church is sumptuously decorated and dedicated to the "Scourged Saviour". It is regarded as one of the most beautiful rococo churches in southern Germany. Between 1745 and 1754, Dominikus Zimmermann enlisted the help of a number of leading artists of the time to create this undisputed highlight of Bavarian rococo architecture. With its opulent stucco ornamentation and the ceiling fresco it is a masterpiece of human creativity.



Inside the Wieskirche Church

Transfer to Schongau – 12 miles (by car or coach)

Hotel check-in

Walk through the town

**Schongau Tourist Office**

Münzstrasse 1-3  
86956 Schongau  
Tel: +49 (8861) 214 181  
Fax: +49 (8861) 214 881  
E-Mail: [touristinfo@schongau.de](mailto:touristinfo@schongau.de)  
[www.schongau.de](http://www.schongau.de)

**DAY 5  
Cont'd**

**Schongau**

**Places of Interest:**

- Gothic Ballenhaus
- Parish Church
- Church of the Holy Spirit
- Old Town Wall with gates
- Church of the Holy Ghost with former monastery
- Marien Square
- Town Hall
- Parish Church Mariä Himmelfahrt
- Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Cross

**Schongau** – Located in the Lech Valley with its unforgettable scenery, the picturesque little town of Schongau still remains partly surrounded by city walls. Along the Marienplatz in the upper town, visit the Gothic Ballenhaus, an old warehouse dating back to 1515. Visitors of the Baroque Parish Church will appreciate the stucco décor of the Wessobrunn School and ceiling paintings by Matthäus Günther.



In the center of Schongau

Dinner

**Overnight in Schongau**

**DAY 6**

**Schongau – Polling**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Polling – 20 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to the Polling Monastery

**Kloster Polling**

Kirchplatz 5

82398 Polling

Tel: +49 (881) 9254 3883 (Diocese Augsburg)

Fax: +49 (881) 9254 3886

E-Mail: [hl.kreuz.polling@bistum-augsburg.de](mailto:hl.kreuz.polling@bistum-augsburg.de)

[www.polling.de](http://www.polling.de)

**DAY 6  
Cont'd**

**Polling – Wessobrunn**

**Polling** – In the middle of the Pfaffenwinkel is Polling with the two districts of Etting and Oderding. It is a monastery village with a former Augustine collegiate foundation. The splendid stucco works in the gothic collegiate church, the magnificent former library room (only available if booked in advance), as well as a refectory hall with fine frescoes in the Local Heritage Museum are only some of the highlights. The wonderful baroque scenery of the former monastery library is an ideal place for enjoying classical concerts.



Polling Monastery

Transfer to Wessonbrunn – 9 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to Wessobrunn Monastery

**Kloster Wessobrunn**

Klosterhof 4

82405 Wessobrunn

Tel: +49 (8809) 92110

Fax: +49 (8809) 921 168

E-Mail: [kloster-wessobrunn@t-online.de](mailto:kloster-wessobrunn@t-online.de)

[www.kloster-wessobrunn.de](http://www.kloster-wessobrunn.de)

**Wessobrunn** – The Benedictine monastery in Wessobrunn, near Weilheim, was founded in 753. It was the center of Southern German stucco work and building art from 1600 to 1800. The 'Wessobrunn School', renowned for its masterly fine plaster decorations, has its origin in this tradition. Although the famous Wessobrunn Prayer was not created at the Wessobrunn Monastery itself, it was preserved in the monastic library for hundreds of years, until, during secularization it was transferred to the Bavarian State Library, where it remains until today.



Wessobrunn Monastery

**DAY 6**  
**Cont'd**      **Wessobrunn – Diessen – Andechs**

Lunch

Transfer to Diessen – 11 miles (by car or coach)

Visit to Diessen Monastery St. Vinzenz and Marienmünster Church

**Kloster St. Vinzenz**

Klosterhof 20

86911 Diessen am Ammersee

Tel: +49 (8807) 948 940

Fax: +49 (8807) 948 9420

E-Mail: [pfarramt-diessen@bistum-augsburg.de](mailto:pfarramt-diessen@bistum-augsburg.de)

[www.katholisch-diessen.de](http://www.katholisch-diessen.de)

**Diessen** – In the middle of the wonderful Bavarian foot-hills, at the south-western end of the Ammersee Lake, lies the historical market town of Diessen. It is surrounded by wooded glacial hills and solitary marshland, and, with its population of about 10.000, the largest community on the western shore of the Ammersee Lake. The Marienminster Church was built between 1732 and 1739 by the Baroque master builder Johann Michael Fischer



Marienminster Church

Transfer to Andechs – 8 miles (by car or coach)

**Andechs Tourist Office**

Andechser Strasse 16

82346 Andechs

Tel: +49 (8152) 93250

Fax: +49 (8152) 932 523

E-Mail: [info@gemeinde-andechs.de](mailto:info@gemeinde-andechs.de)

[www.gemeinde-andechs.de](http://www.gemeinde-andechs.de)

Hotel check-in

**DAY 6**  
**Cont'd**      **Andechs**

Visit to Andechs Monastery including Dinner at the Brewery restaurant Braustüberl

**Kloster Andechs**

Bergstrasse 2  
82346 Andechs  
Tel: +49 (8152) 3760  
Fax: +49 (8152) 376 143  
E-Mail: [fuehrungen@andechs.de](mailto:fuehrungen@andechs.de)  
[www.andechs.de](http://www.andechs.de)

**Andechs Monastery** – One of the world's best-known pilgrimage sites. The Benedictine monks are self-sufficient thanks to their brewery. In the town itself, the monks run a terraced brewery restaurant. Serving dishes such as skewered fish and *Leberkäs*, a fine-grained Bavarian meat loaf, it is popular with visitors from all over the world. The Andechs herb garden, meanwhile, is both an educational tool and a showcase for herbs and medicinal plants. Today, the former carpentry workshop houses a distillery that produces a liqueur called "Abbey Bees from the Holy Mountain", made with Williams Christ pears and honey from the on-site apiary.



Andechs Monastery

**Overnight in Andechs**

**DAY 7**      **Andechs – Munich – USA**

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Transfer to Munich Airport – 44 miles (by car or coach)

Departure to the USA