



MUSIC CONTACT INTERNATIONAL

Linking the World of Music

ADVENT IN BAVARIA

December
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany



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BAVARIA

We invite you to discover Bavaria in all its facets—from idyllic country villages to the romantic castles of King Ludwig II, from untouched nature to pulsating cities, from old customs to outdoor activities. Throughout Bavaria, Advent represents a period of great anticipation and waiting for Christmas. It is at the very beginning of Advent when the magical Christmas markets are opened.

The old melodies of the Christmas musical tradition can be heard in the fairy tale houses and streets, full of poetic memories such as "Silent Night," "O Tannenbaum," "O du fröhliche," and "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen."

In Bavaria, Advent is a truly magical period, and the only way to understand the true meaning that Bavarians attribute to it is to live with them and be infected by the magic of this tradition. Bavaria is one of the most important regions in Europe. Discover the many treasures that Bavaria has in store for you, and we look forward to your visit and to getting to know your musical culture.

Bavaria is a tourist region with magnificent cities rich in culture, unique natural landscapes, and traditions that are still very much alive. From the perspective of traditions, Bavaria is quite distinctive. Customs and traditions can inspire a modern and relaxed lifestyle.

The atmosphere during Advent is truly magical, reminiscent of bygone times. At the stalls, you will find Christmas decorations to suit all tastes, including hand-painted wooden figurines and floral decorations for your home's doors or windows. To ward off the cold, you can enjoy excellent Glühwein (mulled wine) or indulge in typical Christmas sweets such as Lebkuchen, spiced and marzipan treats, or Stollen. Cultural experiences tied to music and traditions certainly take center stage in Garmisch Partenkirchen.



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ITINERARY

At the foot of the 2,962-meter-high Zugspitze lies the diverse mountain region of Garmisch Partenkirchen, located in southern Bavaria, near the border with Austria. Founded in 1935 through the union of the two cities of Garmisch and Partenkirchen, it hosted the Olympic Winter Games in 1936 and the Alpine Ski World Championships in 1978 and 2011. This makes it the most famous ski area in Germany and one of the best-known in Europe.

The town, which has always stood out for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, also boasts some valuable monuments. These include the "old" Gothic-style church of San Martino, adorned with ancient stained glass windows and frescoes depicting the Passion of Christ (15th century). Additionally, there is the "new" church of the same name, built between 1730 and 1734, and just outside the center, the Baroque-style sanctuary of San Antonio. During your stay in Garmisch Partenkirchen, a visit to Richard Strauss's Villa, where the composer lived and sought refuge for his writing, should not be missed.

DAY 1

Arrival in Garmisch Partenkirchen in the afternoon.
Check-in and accommodation in the reserved rooms.
Late afternoon open-air concert at the traditional Garmisch Partenkirchen Christmas market.
Dinner at the hotel.

DAY 2

Breakfast at the hotel.
visit to Linderhof Castle and the Benedictine Abbey of Ettal.
Lunch in Oberammergau.
Return to the hotel and preparation for the concert.
Advent concert in the church together with a local choir.
Typical Bavarian dinner in a brewery.

DAY 3

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out.
Option 1) transfer to the church for the mass service.
Option 2) Departure for the visit of Neuschwanstein Castle.
Departure for the return home.



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Surroundings

Oberammergau

This city is one of the postcard attractions of Bavaria and owes its fame to the fresco houses, their carvers, and the depiction of the Passion of Christ. The skills of the Oberammergau craftsmen were already known in the 16th century, and in the mid-19th century, a school was founded in which several generations of wood artists were trained, some of whom specialized only in crucifixes.

Ettal

The Benedictine Abbey of Ettal was founded in 1330 by Emperor Ludwig IV, the Bavarian, but experienced a real boom only from 1700, which went hand in hand with the development of the Baroque in Bavaria and all of southern Germany. In addition to an energetic resumption of religious life, a school, or the knight academy, was founded, representing a cross between high school and university, forming a number of important personalities in Bavarian and Austrian politics. The school is now a prestigious college still run by the Benedictines and welcomes around 450 students.



Ludwig's Castles

Linderhof, the Favorite Prediletta

The history of Linderhof Palace, named after a mighty linden tree that has stood in the park for centuries, dates back to the 15th century. During this time, in the Graswang Valley, in southern Bavaria, and almost on the border with Austria, there was a large farm very close to the Benedictine abbey of Ettal. In the 19th century, King Maximilian II transformed it into a hunting lodge, and in 1869, his son Ludwig II purchased the surrounding land with the intention of building a "royal villa".



Neuschwanstein, the Fairytale Castle

Neuschwanstein Castle stands as one of Bavaria's landmarks worldwide. It is the fairytale castle par excellence, built by the "fairy tale king" Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845-1886) from 1869 according to a project by the set designer Christian Jank. The idea to construct it in the style of old German feudal residences came to the monarch after being impressed by a visit to the medieval fortress Wartburg in Thuringia in 1867. Neuschwanstein dominates from its 965-meter-high location the villages of Füssen and Schwangau and the wonderful surrounding landscape, featuring Hohenschwangau Castle, rebuilt by King Maximilian II (Ludwig's father) on the ruins of a medieval fortress, and several lakes, including the small Alpsee, which stands out for its beauty.



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