

König-Ludwig-Weg, englisch

Day 1

The hike proper starts at the "Votiv-chapel". It is a memory chapel to the dead of "King-Ludwig". You go along the "Starnberger-Sea" to Starnberg (Railway-Station), crossing the Main-Street (on the left side "Weilheimer Strasse") and from there to the SOCKINGER STRASSE.

Follow the main road until you reach - on the right - a telephone box. At this point turn left into MAISINGER SCHLUCHTWEG

Follow the stream until you reach the village of MAISING. At the main road turn right and walk on up the hill until you reach the inn GASTHOF GEORG LUDWIG.

Carry on a bit; and where the road curves carry straight on, following a footpath leading over meadows to the Maisinger Lake (national preserved area).

At the dyke another small inn, and the last before Andechs.

On through the meadows beside the lake to ASCHERING. Pass by the church, until you see a large sign reading FUBWEG NACH ANDECHS (Footpath to Andechs).

Carry on in the signed direction through fields and meadows into a wood. After a short while, you reach a small lake, on the right, the ESS-SEE.

Here the famous Max Planck Institution for Behavioural Physiology is situated, where the way of life of various animals, and especially of aquatic birds, is studied.

After another walk - about 10 minutes - you will pass on the right, part of a large estate - the prison of Landsberg.

Continue straight on, over the meadow until you reach the main road, and a footpath alongside. Crossing a car-park you see ANDECHS before you. Straight on, along the old Pilgrims' Way, with its Stations of Christ's Passion, until hill. This is the world-known rococo pilgrimage church "Monastery Andechs" (1420), partly because of the wonderful really splendid beer brewed by the monks!

Opposite the entrance to the church, steps lead down to the KIENTAL. Following the stream you reach HERRSCHING and from there you take the boat to DIESSEN.

You are sailing on the Ammersee.

It is over 18 square miles in extent.

DAY 2

From the lake, walk up to the Marketplace at the traffic lights. Continue on HERRENSTRASSE until you see, on the left, the Monastery Church (stucco from Franz Xaver and Johann Michael Feichtmayr. Design of the high altar Francois Cuvellies). At the grocer's store, turn left and pass through the Tower (Taubenturm) reaching the open space in front of the Church. Proceed along the footpath KIRCHGASSE until you reach a fork.

Take the path to ZIEGELSTADL. Turn left into the road, and after about 200 Yards, to the right. The path leads across a meadow and reaches the carpark for the forest information route passing the MECHTHILDIS fountain, and ending at a CHAPEL.

At this point, leaving the Information route, follow a track until reaching a small road

On arrival at the fenced meadow turn right. Before reaching the wood, turn right again, and reach an asphalt road.

You are now entering the forest BAYER-DIEBEN. Passing a little monument, carry on along a straight track to KOHLGRABEN (a small ditch). The trail climbs again, reaching a bench at the forest edge. From this vantage point there are splendid views over the Ammer lake and Andechs Monastery.

Carry on, through Haid to Wessobrunn. The Monastery at Wessobrunn is especially well-worth seeing, as it is here that workers in stucco (plasterwork) were trained, and there are some fine examples of the art.

Wessobrunn is the former monastery of the Benediktines and home of the world-famous masons and stucco workers like Zimmermann.

Guided tours are given at these times:

10 am, 3 pm and 4 pm. Sunday 3 pm and 4 pm.

Guides can also be provided on request.

In front of the nearby inn (Gasthof), there is a most interesting memorial-stone:

the so-called "Prayer of Wessobrunn". It is the oldest Memorial in the German Language and dates from the 9th Century.

In the Gasthof itself (Gasthof Post) the splendid wooden ceiling, belonging to the former theatre of the Monastery is certainly worth studying.

The hike continues in the direction of the village sports ground, and turns into JOHANN-ZOPF--STRASSE. This takes you out of the village, and over a small bridge crossing the Schlittbach Graben. Up a narrow path, across meadows, leading to the farming villages PURSCHLACH and METZENGASSE. Eventually a road is reached, going to ST. LEONHARD. The church, to which pilgrims came in days gone by has interior decoration by the stucco artists of Wessobrunn.

Continue along this road, through St. Leonhard in the direction of HOHENPEISSENBERG, (about 1 km) until LINDEN. Before reaching the houses, though, turn right and go via a farm, to SCHWABHOF, and from there along an asphalt road west, left is a silted-up lake.

Carrying on in a south-easterly direction for about 2,5 km (about a mile and a half) until you reach BUCHSCHORN.

You go over the hill of Hohenpeissenberg. On clear days there are superb views to the foothills of the Alps. Those not wishing to climb the hill may walk along the main road via Hetten into the village of Hohenpeissenberg. All hikers aim for the little town of HOHENPEISSENBERG.

But in any case, it is necessary to turn right in Buchschorn and the first road to the left in the outskirts, until the footpath or the road leading to Hohenpeissenberg is reached.

The most beautiful view in Bavaria to the lower alps (Hoher Peissenberg on 988 m).

In Hohenpeissenberg, cross the B 472, taking care of the normally heavy traffic.

Walk on down ANTON-PROBSTL-STRASSE and to the railway-station.

From here transfer to Peiting. From the railway-station "Peiting-Nord" you walk along the "Münchner-Strasse", after 100 m left in the "Müllerstrasse" and to the Hotel "Pfaffenwinkel".

DAY 3

You walk from the Hotel to the "Ammergauer Strasse", "Asam-Strasse", "Bahnhofstrasse", on the right side to the "Bergwerkstrasse" and "Zugspitzstrasse". You follow path down to the river Ammer ("Richtung Rottenbuch"). Do not cross the bridge, but turn right at that point and go on up the slope until you arrive at the Ammer Gorge.

Some care is necessary while going through the Gorge - there are 460 steps, numerous small wooden bridges, which can be very slippery and few have railings. Good shoes are afforded.

At the end of this part of the trail and with the Ammer Gorge behind you there is a place to rest up.

Straight on to ROTTENBUCH, where the monastery church is one of the most attractive in all Bavaria.

In through a gateway (note the bust of Ludwig II) following the footpath that leads to the B 23, a main road. Take the sudway under the road, turn left, cross the road to ILGEN and walk a short distance alongside the B 23.

Turn right at the fork and take the narrow road leading to "ÖLBERG".

The footpath leads over meadows until it joins the road to WILDSTEIG.

Below on the left you can see the lake SCHWAIGSEE. Using the sudway, off in the direction of WILDSTEIG (church, 17th century, with painted wooden relief).

DAY 4

From Wildsteig, take the little road leading up the hill and walk on via SCHWARZENBACH until you come to crossroads. Turn right through a small woods, and to the "WIESS". There is an old saying about this church, to the effect that he who discovers it must come by foot. The exterior of the church is deceptively plain. The interior is a masterpiece of rococo. It is a famous baroque church with excellent architecture, sculpture's art and painted art. A resplendent world of stucco and colour from the mideighteenth century.

From the Wiess there is a choice of routes to TRAUCHGAU. Scenically the most attractive is Route 2, which starts behind the Gasthof MOSER and proceeds along a planked path over the "high moor". There is a superb view of the Wies church. The trail leads up the HIEBLERHOFE (farms) and continues along an asphalt track to STEINGADEN.

The WELFENMÜNSTER (the church) in Steingaden has a famous collection of art.

From Steingaden the trail goes to URSRING and via STEINGADELE to the "educational moor route" Premer Filz.

Follow this path until you arrive in PREM. Cross the nature-park LECHAU, joining the Lech- Höhenweg, a route which leads via a saw-mill directly to the top of a dyke along the Premer Lechsee.

Continue south along the dyke until Küchele. Cross the road to a partasphalt track that leads up hill but compensates by offering wonderful view. Continue until the swimming pool of TRAUCHGAU is reached (this is a heated pool).

Here our trail joins Route Number 1, which is shorter and leads from the Wieskirche to the left, via the villages of RESLE and SCHOBER to TRAUCHGAU.

With Trauchgau in front of you then, turn right, cross the main road to FUSSEN, go up the hill past the swimming pool and after a while turn left.

The trail continues along the river Halblech until you reach the village of that name. Cross the river and take the little road to BAYERNIEDERHOFEN or BERGHOF.

DAY 5

From BERGHOF/BAYERNIEDERHOFEN, continue north to the village of PFEFFERBICHEL and shortly afterwards turn left along a little road that leads via the farm HERGRATSRIED to the FORGGENSEE and "Bannwaldsee" to the "Pöllath-canyon" and upstairs to the "Marien-bridge".

Here you'll enjoy the wonderful lookout over the way you've gone.

From the castle Neuschwanstein you'll walk down to the castle Hohenschwangau and on the "Alpenrosenway" between alplake and Swanlake to the fall of the river Lech.

Then you will see the bordercity FÜSSEN, the end of the "King-Ludwig-Way".