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TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING LEVEL 2

Europe / Austria / Germany

Germany + Austria Bike Tour

Storybook Castles of Bavaria + the German Alps

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride from Germany into Austria via the idyllic Risstal valley, and bike through sylvan forests, wildflower fields, and peaceful pastures
- Visit three of Bavarian King Ludwig's fairytale castles: Hohenschwangau, Linderhof, and Neuschwanstein—his crowning achievement
- Order a *grosses Bier* with the locals at a beloved family-run brewery
- Enjoy both Michelin fine dining and local, rustic Bavarian cuisine, like foraged wild mushrooms and cheeses from a family farmstead









ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- **Airport City**: Munich, Germany
- **Pick-Up Location**: Oberstaufen Train Station
- **Pick-Up Time**: 11:00 am

Departure Details

- **Airport City**: Munich, Germany
- **Drop-Off Location**: Garmisch-Partenkirchen Train Station
- **Drop-Off Time**: 12:00 pm

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or **emergency@duvine.com**.

Travelers Take Note

Due to the timing of guided visits at Neuschwanstein Castle, on Day 3 we will tour the interior of castle of Hohenschwangau—King Ludwig's childhood castle—and admire the exterior of Neuschwanstein from a spectacular viewpoint.



TOUR ITINERARY

Tour By Day

DAY 1 Willkommen in Bavaria

Meet your guides at the Oberstaufen train station and take a look around: you're now in the storybook setting of rural Bavaria, where cobbled streets are lined with wooden chalets and the Bavarian Alps beyond. At a historic inn in town, we'll get fitted to our bikes before heading out on a little country lane that's part of an amazing network of designated bike paths. After passing through swaying meadows, we reach a small family-run farm awaiting our arrival with a spread of fresh-baked bread and local cheeses. From here, keep riding to rack up more distance and elevation or head back to the hotel for a swim. Tonight's stylish dinner serves as an introduction to Bavaria's many farms and their hyper-local agriculture.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Oberstaufen, Stiefenhofen
Accomplished: 17 miles / 28 km, elevation gain: 1,761 feet / 537 meters
Longer Option: 29 miles / 46 km, elevation gain: 2834 feet / 864 meters
Accommodations: **Haubers Naturresort** or **Bergkristall**

DAY 2 Of See and Spätzle

Picture Bavaria, and its crystal-clear mountain *seen* (lakes) come to mind—the places where locals gather to relax, swim, and soak up the Alpine scenery. Our route today weaves through pastures and pine forests, passing countless lakes as we work our way east towards the Allgäu Alps. Along the way, we'll meet some local characters and enjoy a pop-up lunch with our friend, chef Florian. After plenty of *spätzle*, you'll be well-fueled for the optional longer ride that approaches our next boutique hotel. Either way, we'll settle into this mountain-top property and have dinner at the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant this evening.

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Alpsee, Moosbach, Mittelberg
Accomplished: 29 miles / 46 km, elevation gain: 2,499 feet / 762 meters
Longer Option: 43 miles / 70 km, elevation gain: 4,320 feet / 1,317 meters
Accommodations: **Blaue Burg Falkenstein** or **Schlossanger**

DAY 3 Fairytales and Biergartens

Today we take a loop through Ostallgäu, the region on the Germany-Austria border where Bavarian King Ludwig II—sometimes called the Fairytale King—built his collection of castles. Our route is something of a fairytale itself as we pedal to the Alatsee, a tiny gem of a mountain lake, then follow the Lech River to Füssen. Here we'll step into the story ourselves during a guided visit to Hohenschwangau Castle, where Ludwig spent his childhood. From there, climb the hill to admire Neuschwanstein Castle—Ludwig's crowning achievement and the inspiration for Disney's iconic castle—which rises majestically amidst the mountain peaks. Continue cycling to Füssen for lunch then spend some time wandering the cobbled streets, admiring the traditional architecture of this pretty pastel town. Our day ends in true Bavarian style with a ride to a local brewery, where we'll raise steins alongside the locals at communal wooden tables.

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Alatsee, Füssen
Accomplished: 26 miles / 42 km, elevation gain: 1,319 feet / 402 meters
Longer Option: 32 miles / 52 km, elevation gain: 2,768 feet / 844 meters
Accommodations: **Blaue Burg Falkenstein** or **Schlossanger**

DAY 4 Castles, Monks, and Mountains

Auf wiedersehen, Germany! We're riding into Austria for the day, so we'll kick things off at a café serving apple strudel and Viennese coffee. Then, set out for a climb to the Plansee, an impossibly blue Alpine lake at the base of the Wetterstein Mountains. After lunch (and back in Germany), hop off the bike to visit King Ludwig's most complete masterpiece: the Linderhof Palace. Take a turn around the manicured grounds and opulent interiors, then opt to ride the rest of the way to Ettal Abbey—a 14th-century Benedictine monastery. Transfer to our final hotel of the week, Schloss Elmau. Thanks to its location in a private valley, this property has hosted high-profile guests including presidents, kings, artists, and musicians. Spend the afternoon at the pool, spa, or sauna. This evening, you're free to choose from one of the many restaurants on property for dinner on your own.

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch
Destinations: Reutte, Plansee, Ettal
Accomplished: 33 miles / 53 km, elevation gain: 2,007 feet / 612 meters
Longer Option: 40 miles / 64 km, elevation gain: 2,257 feet / 688 meters
Accommodations: **Schloss Elmau**

DAY 5 The Hidden Valley

Our final day of riding takes us deep into the Bavarian countryside. We'll cross a section of Roman road that runs ruler-straight through the forest before turning onto the Risstal—a traffic-free ribbon of tarmac surrounded by a sea of wildflowers. Here, there's precious little sound except your shifting gears and the occasional clang of cowbells. Cross back into Austria once more as we gradually climb into Grosser Ahornboden, or "Great Maple Floor," an Alpine pasture peppered with ancient sycamore trees. Opt for a transfer to the hotel after lunch, or ride back for one final push. Tonight, the dinner table awaits in a magnificent setting that affords us one last spectacular sunset over the Alps.

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch / Dinner
Destinations: Wallgau, Risstal, Eng
Accomplished: 30 miles / 49 km, elevation gain: 2,388 feet / 728 meters
Longer Option: 61 miles / 99 km, elevation gain: 4,166 feet / 1,270 meters
Accommodations: **Schloss Elmau**

DAY 6 Last Stop: Mittenwald

Sleep in and enjoy a leisurely breakfast, then spend your last morning in Bavaria hiking, swimming, or taking one final ride to the bustling town of Mittenwald—nothing could be more Germanic than its gingerbread cottages with flower boxes and painted facades. After, we'll say *auf wiedersehen* at the train station in Garmisch-Partenkirchen as you head back to Munich (or to your next destination).

Meals: Breakfast
Destinations: Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Mittenwald
Optional Ride: 16 miles / 27 km, elevation gain: 1,535 feet / 468 meters

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