

# ROYAL PALACE

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Linderhof  
Linderhof 12 · 82488 Ettal  
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## OPENING TIMES

April–15 October: 9am–6pm  
16 October–March: 10am–4.30pm  
The park buildings are closed in winter.

**Closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday,  
24, 25 and 31 December**

## WATER FEATURES

Daily from 9am to 6pm from mid-April to  
mid-October · Fountain every half hour

## TICKET RESERVATION

Linderhof Palace and the Venus Grotto can only be visited as  
part of a guided tour. Tickets are available at the castle box  
office; we also offer some tickets online via our ticket shop:  
[linderhof.bsv-ticketshop.de](http://linderhof.bsv-ticketshop.de)

## GUIDED TOURS OF THE PALACE


Tours in German and English take place on a continuous  
basis (duration around 25 min., max. 40 persons).

## GUIDED TOURS OF THE VENUS GROTTO

There are regular guided tours in German and English (duration  
approx. 20 minutes, max. 50 people).

## TRANSPORTATION

Train to Oberau or Oberammergau; bus to 'Linderhof'  
550 car parking spaces, 14 bus parking spaces (chargeable)

 Bayerische Verwaltung der  
staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen

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*Moorish Kiosk in the park (left); Ludwig's fantastic Peacock  
Throne in the Moorish Kiosk (right)*

## Moorish Kiosk

The Moorish Kiosk was originally created by Carl von Diebitsch for the  
World Exhibition in Paris in 1867. Ludwig II purchased it in 1876 and  
had it magnificently and imaginatively decorated with a glass chande-  
lier, a marble fountain and the sumptuous Peacock Throne. Here he  
read and drank tea while servants appropriately dressed in Oriental cos-  
tumes and smoking narghiles lent an added touch of authenticity.

## Moroccan House

This oriental house, which was built for the World Exhibition in 1873  
in Vienna, was purchased in 1878 for Ludwig II, who had it lavishly  
and decoratively furnished in the Moroccan style. The house, which  
was originally located elsewhere, has several rooms in which the king  
often lived for short periods. In the central room, which resembles  
an inner courtyard, the light enters from above through panes of  
coloured glass arranged in the shape of a pyramid.

*Exterior of the Moroccan House*



*Exterior of the Royal Lodge from the north-east (top); floral vase,  
Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory, after 1855 (below)*

## Royal Lodge (Königshäuschen)

The Royal Lodge – a subsidiary building of  
the historical 'Linderhof' and all that remains of  
the original farm – was first mentioned in a docu-  
ment in 1797. Converted into a hunting  
lodge by King Maximilian II, it was originally  
located in the open space in front of the  
palace. In 1874 Ludwig II had it dismantled  
and rebuilt in its present location. It acquired  
its 'royal' status as the place where he lived  
until his palace was completed. After 1886,  
under Prince Regent Luitpold, it was once  
more used as a hunting lodge. Since 2011 it  
has housed a permanent exhibition 'Vom  
Lynder-Hof zum Schloss' (From Lynder-Hof Estate to Linderhof  
Palace), on the long and varied history of the place and the  
building with its very different occupants – farmers and kings.



*Desk of Ludwig II in the exhibition*



# Linderhof

## Royal Palace Park and park buildings



Bayerische  
Schlösserverwaltung





Albert Füracker, MdB  
State Minister

We wish you  
a fascinating  
visit to  
Linderhof Palace!



Martin Schöffel, MdB  
State Secretary



Dining Room with 'wishing table'



Group of figures in the Flora Fountain in front of the Royal Palace



Exterior of the Hermitage of Gurnemanz

Royal Palace

Linderhof Palace and its surrounding park is one of the most artistic and stylistically complex ensembles of the 19th century. The 'Royal Villa' is the only palace King Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845–1886) was able to complete (1878). It is influenced by French architecture and modelled on the small summer palaces, usually set in parkland, that were built in France in the 18th century and were also often to be found in Germany in the parks of larger palaces. Behind the Baroque façade is a Rococo world with motifs from the age of Louis XV of France. Ludwig's creation in the Second Rococo or Neo-Rococo style, however, shows a strong South German influence: Ludwig took over a great deal from the Rococo legacy of his own ancestors with which he was familiar from his childhood, such as the

Amalienburg in Nymphenburg and the Ornat Rooms of the Munich Residence. The rich and abundant ornamentation, with its many sculptural elements, is thus not merely an attempt at imitation. In Linderhof Palace Ludwig II created rooms of such sumptuousness that they far surpass everything that inspired them, as well as showing workmanship of an incomparable artistic quality.

Park and park buildings

The Linderhof Palace park is among the most outstanding of its era. It combines elements of the French Baroque garden and the English landscape garden. The terraces on the central and horizontal axes of the palace with their water basins and geometric flower beds, the long cascade with its elaborate fountains and the two focal points, the pavilion and the Venus Temple, are Baroque motifs. The

natural, irregular design of the surrounding park with the exotic buildings is based on English models. The Moroccan House and Moorish Kiosk are examples of the Oriental trend that was also cultivated by Ludwig II. The three 'stage sets' in the park, Hunting's Hut, the Hermitage of Gurnemanz and the Venus Grotto, stem from Ludwig's enthusiasm for the operas of Richard Wagner. The mountain backdrop is incorporated into this brilliant synthesis of the arts by means of visual axes and kilometres of paths which lead far up into the mountain forest.

Stage sets in the park

The **Venus Grotto** is the largest artificial dripstone cave created in the 19th century. It was built on the edge of the palace park from 1875 to 1878. Inside is the three-dimensional stage set representing the 'Venus Grotto' from the first act of Richard Wagner's opera 'Tannhäuser', constructed exactly according to

his stage directions. From 1878 the Grotto was lit by electricity, which was ultra-modern at the time; this was generated by a purpose-built power plant – the first in all of Germany. Exchangeable glass discs were used to illuminate the interior in a variety of colours. With its innovative illusion technology the Venus Grotto is one of the most fascinating of King Ludwig II's creations. The **Hermitage of Gurnemanz** is a chapel-like hut. It is part of the stage set from Richard Wagner's 'Parsifal', which he wrote for the consecration of his theatre. Here Ludwig could read medieval poetry and immerse himself in this world. **Hunting's Hut** represents a Germanic dwelling. This stage set for the first act of Richard Wagner's opera 'Die Walküre' was recreated in the Ammergebirge for Ludwig II alone, exactly as described in the original stage directions. Here the king read Germanic and Norse legends with servants in Germanic clothing to make his theatrical surroundings come alive.

The elaborately decorated Hall of Mirrors



View of the palace and the terrace gardens from the cascade



The Venus Grotto has been electrically illuminated since 1878.



Interior of Hunting's Hut, with the ash tree

