



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Ep 27 - Best Day Trips from Munich

*Transcript is autogenerated*

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Are you planning to visit Munich and wondering what kinds of day trips are doable? If so, you definitely want to listen to this episode. This is the Germany Travel Planning Podcast, the show that helps you plan a super fun trip to Germany. My name is Cate and I'm your Germany destination specialist. I'm here to help you plan the trip of a lifetime. Today, I'm gonna walk you through some of the best day trips from Munich, whether you want castles, alpine lakes, mountains, charming villages or even a quick hop over into Austria. We're gonna talk about day trips that are easy to get to from Munich, north, south, east, and west.

By the way, you're gonna hear me talk about our digital planning maps, city cheat sheets, regional planning guides, and things like that. And these are resources that are all inside our best-selling DIY Germany Travel Planner, which is our complete toolkit that helps you not only get inspired and see where you can go in Germany, but it helps you connect the dots so that you can make confident decisions about really important things like where to go on your trip, what to do and see, tours, where to stay, and a lot more.

So a lot of our listeners already have access to the DIY Planner. And so I'm going to share which part of the planner is the best next step for planning your day trip. Now we do have some starter guides on our website. And so I will mention those as well. And so if you're just getting started, then take a look at those starter guides on our website.



But when you're ready to really plan out your trip, then definitely look at the DIY Germany Travel Planner. We've had hundreds of people use it already and we get really great feedback for it. We really put our heart and soul into creating the best product possible. So go take a look at it. It is super useful. Okay, let's dive in.

Let's start with one of the main reasons people flock to Bavaria and that is castles and specifically King Ludwig's dreamlike castles and palaces. The most iconic one you've no doubt heard of is Neuschwanstein Castle. If you have a hard time saying that, don't worry. I've been speaking German for years and I still have a hard time saying it.

So Neuschwanstein Castle is often referred to as the Disney Castle and it's the most famous castle in Germany, probably, I don't know, maybe the most famous castle in the world. It's in the German Alps and it's very close to the town of Füssen, which is really cute. It's a nice little Bavarian town. It's also not too far from the Austrian border. And what's great about Neuschwanstein is that you've got the Alps right behind it. So it looks magical in any season. I have been there on sunny days, snowy days, drizzly, rainy days, and it is always beautiful. It is always crowded, almost always crowded but because it's so beautiful. So if that's a castle you want to see, ignore the crowds, go and enjoy it.

Now here is a tip. If you want to tour the inside of Neuschwanstein Castle and Hohenschwangau Castle, Neuschwanstein is the one that Ludwig built when he was an adult and Hohenschwangau is the castle that he used to spend summers in when he was growing up. They're different and they're both interesting. So if you do want to go inside and tour the inside of each castle, plus visit Füssen because there's some neat things to see in that town. And if you want to see any of the other sites in the area, some other churches, you can do some hiking, there's a cable car, there's an alpine coaster, you know, there's a lot of neat things in the area. Then I definitely recommend making it more than a day trip. You can spend the night, you could spend a couple of days.



I mean, I've been there on day trips. I've been there just overnight. I've spent several days in the area. It really can work. Any of those options can work. It just kind of depends on how much you want to see. If your goal is really just to see Neuschwanstein Castle, maybe a little bit around that, you can easily do a day trip.

Okay, so I am going to link up our hotel guide in the show notes, and then you can see which hotels we recommend as well as a hotel that we stayed in and liked. So if you do decide you want to stay there longer, you can take a look at that. If you already have our DIY Germany Travel Planner, I recommend skipping that guide and just go right to our digital planning map because then you can see exactly where our hotel recommendations are located in relation to the train station, the old town, the castles, etcetera. And also take a look at our Füssen cheat sheet. We also have a Neuschwanstein guide and that gives you detailed information on how to do a day trip, how to do an overnight or a couple of days in that area, how to travel there by car, by guided tour, by bus, by train, because it's a little bit complicated to plan a trip to Neuschwanstein for variety of reasons. We don't have enough time to go into all of them. But anyway, we do have that guide in the planner, and that's very, very useful when you get down to actually planning your day.

So if you only have one day to visit Neuschwanstein, no worries, you can do it. You can take the train, you can take the bus, you can drive. You can also sit back and relax and do a guided tour. That can be a really great option if you just don't wanna deal with any of the logistics, because there are some logistics, like I said, you have to deal with some logistics to plan it all out. So if you don't wanna deal with that, then look at one of the guided tours. I will link some in the show notes so you can check them out.

It can be a really excellent option if nobody wants to drive. You don't want to deal with missing a train or missing your entry time into the castle or anything like that. And the nice thing about the tours is that some of them even include other stops. So



you won't have time to visit both Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau, but usually you get to visit Neuschwanstein and something else like Linderhof Palace or the Church of Wies or Oberammergau. So like I said, you can check the link in the show notes to see more about these tours. And if you already have our DIY Germany Travel Planner, just go to the Neuschwanstein guide. It's in step one, and you'll have all the information there that you need to plan your day or if you want to spend a couple of nights there.

Now, there are other castles and palaces in Bavaria that are easy to reach from Munich. Another one is Linderhof Palace, and there's also the Herrenchiemsee, which is on a lake. So both of those are great. We have visited both a couple of times and really liked Linderhof Palace. It's really close to Oberammergau. I love the inside tour and it's beautiful, but it's a palace. It's not a castle. And there is something about Neuschwanstein, I think probably because so many of us saw it, you know, because of Disney growing up. But there is something about Neuschwanstein that is just really dreamy.

I did mention Herrenchiemsee, that's on the Chiemsee. It's a lake and that one's kind of neat because you take a ferry to an island and then you go to the palace. The palace itself on the inside is very pretty. But again, it's a palace. It's not a castle. So if you have our planner and go look at the map, we have lots of photos and our tips and information and everything. You can go take a look at the photos and then see which one speaks to you the most.

Next up. Let's talk about visiting mountains, lakes and picturesque villages. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a classic alpine resort town and it's not too far away from Munich. You can get there by train. You can also drive. It has great hiking opportunities. There's winter sport opportunities, lovely cafes, restaurants. The old town is nice. You know, it's a small town. It's actually two towns that each have their own old town and they kind of grown together. You can also visit Partnach Gorge which is really, really pretty. And you can do some great hiking in that area too. And



you can walk to that from the train station. There are also cable cars. You can go up some mountains right from Garmisch. And Garmisch is also the gateway to Zugspitze, which is Germany's highest peak. You take a cogwheel train to the gondola and then you can go right to the top. And I mean, the views from up there are pretty epic. There's a beer garden. You can walk over into Austria. There's a cafe and all that stuff. Zugspitze is about 3,000 meters high or about 10,000 feet. So it's up there pretty high. A lot of the other mountains in the area that you can take a cable car up to are about, I don't know, 5,000, which are also really awesome. But Zugspitze is definitely like the highest peak. It's pretty epic. Lake Eibsee is at the foot of Zugspitze and that is absolutely beautiful.

I really enjoyed hiking around the lake. It took about two hours and it was a nice hike. It wasn't really that difficult, but it was beautiful. There's also a beer garden. There's a hotel right on the lake, which is really nice. And you can rent paddle boats and you can do that. We did that. We rented a paddle boat and it was just so, so lovely to paddle around for a while and just take in the beautiful, peaceful scenery.

And you can also swim in the lake and it's just really nice. You can make a really, really nice day of just going to Zugspitze and Eibsee and then maybe stopping in Garmisch on your way back. Another gorgeous town is Mittenwald and that's not too far away from Garmisch. It's another small Bavarian town so it's very similar to Füssen, Garmisch, Partenkirchen, you know, and Oberammergau. They're all fairly similar but different. It's famous for violin making and it just has beautiful buildings. It's in the mountains, there's a gorge nearby, there's hiking. It really is a lovely, lovely town. I absolutely love visiting Mittenwald.

You can also visit Austria from Munich and you have a few different options. The easiest option is to take the train or drive to Salzburg, Austria. We've had a lot of clients do day trips to Salzburg.



Although I will say that a lot of people plan a day trip to Salzburg and then wish they had stayed a couple of nights. So if you have our planner, go take a look at the photos and read the information. There's a lot of fun tours and experiences. There's a strudel making class that everyone loves. And I'm so excited that we're finally gonna get to do that on our next trip. So you might wanna do it just as a day trip from Munich or you might want to spend a couple of days there.

You can also visit Innsbruck, Austria from Munich. You can take the train there, you can drive. It's a little bit further away, but it is a really pretty town. And then you can also, when you go to Füssen, you can also hop over the border into Reutte and probably a little bit easier to do that if you drive. But there's a couple other options if you do want to do a day trip to Austria. But like I said, Salzburg is really the easiest option.

Now let's turn to some incredible cities and historical destinations. And let's start with one of the most important, which is Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. This is just outside of Munich and it is a profoundly moving and educational experience. It's not an easy visit, but it's one I highly, highly recommend. The exhibitions are incredibly well done. Usually people spend two to three hours out there, some a little bit more, a little bit less.

You can tour the entire site on your own or you can do a guided tour and you can get there via public transit or a car. And like I said, I highly recommend working this in to your itinerary. It's very educational. It's very moving and important to visit.

Next up is Nuremberg. That's north of Munich and you can take the train there and back. So it's very doable as a day trip. There's an old city wall around some of the old town. You'll find half-timbered houses. The Palace of Justice, which is where they held the Nuremberg Trials, which I highly recommend visiting, especially if you go to Dachau, go to the Palace of Justice as well. There's also beautiful churches. There's a castle. And if you're there during Christmas market season, definitely visit the



Christmas market. There's a traditional one in the old town, and there's also one that's geared towards kids. And that one's kind of fun to go walk through as well, especially if you have kids.

Then there's Regensburg, which you can easily reach by train or car. We've done a day trip there by train. And Regensburg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has a beautiful old town, an old stone bridge, huge cathedral, one of Germany's oldest sausage kitchens, and they have good sausage. There's a river running through it. It's really, really beautiful. So I definitely would recommend visiting that. And they also have several amazing Christmas markets in Regensburg.

And actually we have a brand new Christmas market planning guide that Aaron created like this entire map where he put on there the top Christmas markets. Like we spent a lot of time really thinking about what are the top Christmas markets that we would recommend. So he put those on the map and then we have some other Christmas markets in the area. If you're looking for something off the beaten path or something very local.

And anyway, the map is amazing and we have information and tips and links where it's relevant so you can see up to date information about the market and dates. And then we also have our photos so you can really get a good idea of what the markets are like and plan out your trip. That is already in the DIY Germany Travel Planner. So if you already have that, you can go check out that guide.

Another option is Bamberg. And Bamberg is known for its beer. has this smoked beer, which we actually really, really liked. And some people like love it or hate it. They also had this dish that is cooked in an onion that was also really good. Beautiful canals, gorgeous old town. The old town is actually built on a bridge. And we did a day trip there once from Nürnberg and we really enjoyed it as a day trip. You know, it was in the summers. We had a very long day, lots of daylight.





So it is doable as a day trip. From Munich, it will take you a couple hours to get there at least. So it will take you some time on the train.

Another option that is potentially doable but also a little bit further away is Stuttgart. And some people like to go there for the day because they want to see one of the car museums or they want to visit one of the Christmas markets in that area. It does take a couple of hours to get there on the train, but it is doable.

And a little bit closer to Munich is Augsburg. We've visited Augsburg in the summer and in the winter, and we enjoyed both visits. In the summer, it's really fun to wander through the old streets and the alleys and pop into the shops and go to the restaurants and cafes and definitely go to Augsburg Cathedral. It has the most beautiful stained glass that's super old. It's like from the 12th century. There's also a really neat farmers market and there was an indoor food stall that we really liked. They had really good schnitzel and potato salad there. We've also had some really good Vietnamese food in Augsburg. And when we were there once during the summer, we actually went out to the botanical gardens one evening, and that was absolutely delightful because it was really fun just to get out of the old town and do something very local. And in the winter, they have a pretty big Christmas market.

We did that on a day trip from Munich. And it was really fun. It was very lively the night we went. It seemed like it was a pretty traditional Christmas market, it was crowded the night we went, but it was really fun.

Now, if you're not sure which of those cities I mentioned really match your interests, take a look in our DIY Germany Travel Planner. Look at the city cheat sheets we have. Look at the regional planning guides, and then also look at our map. And that will help you decide which one is really calling out to you the most.

Now, another area you can explore from Munich is the Romantic Road. Now, the thing about the Romantic Road is that it's not actually a road, it's more of a really big area.





So, on a day trip from Munich, and this is actually much, much easier done by car, if you want to explore the Romantic Road, you could drive from Munich up to Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

This is one of the most picturesque towns in Germany. It's a very well preserved medieval town. It's very popular, but it is, I mean, it's popular for good reason because it's just a really neat town. You can walk the city walls. There's a couple of museums. There's like the crime museum, which I really liked when I was a teenager. You know, it's just a really nice town to just walk through the little medieval streets. And there's also a Night Watchman Tour. That's really fun in the evening.

They do also have a really great Christmas market. We visited the Christmas market last year on a day trip from Nuremberg and we really enjoyed the Christmas market. Honestly, I enjoyed it way more than I thought I would. So you can visit Rothenburg on a day trip. Honestly, it's not as ideal as spending the night there. It is further away. You really won't get to see very much. You probably will not get to stay for the Night Watchman Tour because that starts around eight o'clock, 8 p.m. So, you know, it kind of depends on what you want to do. If you just, if you don't have enough time to spend the night in Rothenburg and you really want to see it, you want to go to the Christmas shops or go to the Christmas market or something like that, you know, you can drive up there and you can see it. There is a tour, a guided tour you can do, you know, and that's good too if you're short on time. You don't get too much time in the city and you'll be there when it's the most crowded, but you get to see it, right? So that could work.

Another option is stopping in Dinkelsbühl, which is a little bit south of Rothenburg. So it doesn't take quite as long to get up there. It's similar in that it has a city, old city wall and beautiful half-timbered houses and everything. But it's not quite as popular in the same way that Rothenburg is.

And then there's also Nördlingen which is further south. We really liked Nördlingen



. We spent the night there and it's more of like a regular town, which I always really like. And it does have a city wall. We walked around some of the city wall and it was really pretty. And funny thing, when we were walking through some of the old streets within the old towns, like in the side of the city wall, we heard cows and we looked around and we realized that there were cows in a little courtyard and they were being fed. So it's just kind of funny to see cows like in the middle of the old town. But anyway, so Nördlingen is also a good option. And I will link up that tour in the show notes in case you want to see that guided tour from Munich up to Rothenburg and back.

Okay, now last but definitely not least, let's talk about Berchtesgaden and Lake Königssee. Berchtesgaden is in the Bavarian Alps, but it's in a different part of the Bavarian Alps from Füssen and Garmisch. Berchtesgaden is actually over near Salzburg. It's home to Eagle's Nest, which is a popular site, but you have to remember that it is only open during some months of the year, generally late spring, summer, and very early fall.

If you're into World War II history, the Obersalzberg Documentation Center is definitely worth a visit, especially if you do visit Eagle's Nest. And the views from the top of Eagle's Nest are absolutely beautiful if the weather is nice. There's also Königssee, which is one of the most stunning lakes in Germany. You can take this silent electric boat and in the summer there are two stops on the lake and in the winter just one stop. But it's a beautiful boat ride and we really, really enjoyed it. We went in the winter. We tried going in the summer, but the weather didn't rain the last time we were there in the summer. So we didn't get to do it, but it is absolutely gorgeous.

And there's a lot of other things you can do in the area. If you drive, then it's easy to work in some other things. Like you could see Eagle's Nest. You could probably go to Königssee. Maybe you could stop out at Tintazee, which is another lake that's not too far away.



You could also go up the Jennerbahn cable car and from up there you will have absolutely beautiful views of Lake Königssee. If you have our DIY Germany Travel Planner, go to the planning map, click on the point for the Jennerbahn because we have a photo in there on the map and it shows you what the Königssee looks like from the Jennerbahn. Every time I open that photo and show people when I'm doing the one-on-one consults, the reaction I get is, Oh my God, that is absolutely beautiful because it is really stunning.

There's also a salt mine there. There's a smaller cable car that you can reach from right in town. There's also the old town. I mean, there's a lot of things you can do. Berchtesgaden is one of those places where you can go for the day if you really just want to see one or two things, but you can also spend a few days. We've spent, like a couple of times, spent several days there a week or something, and very, very pretty. And there's a lot of, if you go and like venture into Austria, there's even more things you can see in that area, but it's best to have a car if you want to do that.

Okay, so that was a whirlwind tour, but now you've got an idea of some amazing trips you can take from Munich. Whether you're into castles or history, mountains hiking, or just beautiful, charming German villages.

Here are a few quick tips before I let you go.

The first one is if you're going to take the train, you can do a lot of those day trips by regional train. And so then you might want to get either the Deutschland Ticket or the Bavaria Ticket or the Bayern Ticket. So I will link up our guide to the Deutschland ticket. And anyway, these are really great tickets that allow you to travel on regional trains for very, very low cost.

Another tip is if you're planning to do a lot of train trips and a lot of day trips by train, then consider staying near the Munich Central Station. It just makes leaving and returning just so much easier because you can just walk to your hotel and you don't



have to add on extra time to get from your hotel to the train station. The area around the train station is not as scenic. It's not the old town. It definitely feels more like you're in a city. So you kind of have to weigh whether you want convenience or whether you want that old town ambience.

If you do have our Planner, check the map because you can see our recommended hotels that are right near the train station or close to the train station. We've stayed at one one time that was about a seven minute walk from the train station and we found that one super convenient. It was also close to the old town. So you can see the ones that are near the train station and then the ones that are right in the old town. And then you can decide which one works best for you.

So, if today's episode has gotten you super excited, but also left you with a few of those questions like, okay, how do I actually plan this trip? Now that you know where you wanna go, there's probably a lot of questions and a lot of details you need to work out. Well, that's exactly why we created that DIY Germany Travel Planner. It's got maps and guides and step-by-step tools to help you plan your overall trip, every piece of your Germany trip and all of your day trips with confidence. So you'll find the link to that in the show notes as you can check that out. And all right, there you have it. Lots of day trip options from Munich. I hope you found this helpful and until next week, happy travel planning.

Before you go, two quick things. First, if you found our podcast helpful, please leave a five star rating and even better, a review. That helps more travelers find our podcast and that means we can keep creating episodes to help you plan an unforgettable trip to Germany and surrounding countries.

And second, if you're just starting to plan your trip and you want to enjoy the best of Germany while also skipping those rookie mistakes most travelers unknowingly make, you'll love our best-selling DIY Germany Travel Planner. Think of it as your travel-savvy best friend who's handing you everything you need to know to plan your



perfect trip. And if you'd like personalized support, upgrade to a one-on-one consult, itinerary review, or even a complete custom itinerary and travel plan. You'll find everything on [mygermanyvacation.com](https://mygermanyvacation.com). Thanks so much for listening to the Germany Travel Planning Podcast and until next week, happy travel planning.