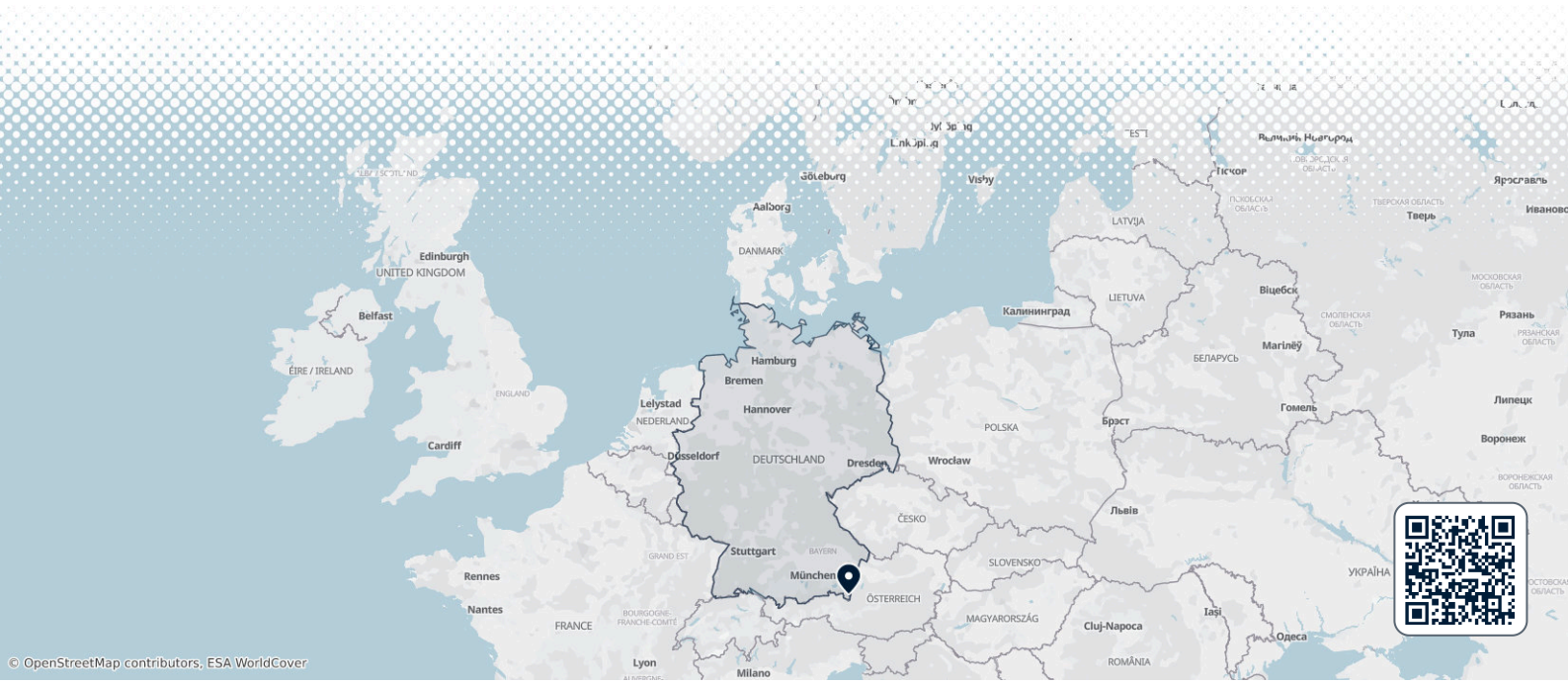


Berchtesgaden

Bavaria · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Berchtesgaden is a small Alpine town in the far south-east of Bavaria. It lies in a mountain basin on the Austrian border, and steep peaks rise on all sides.

The town is a base for lakes, mountain walks and the only Alpine national park in Germany. It suits travellers who want nature and short hikes. It also has a salt mining past and a difficult 20th-century history.

When to visit

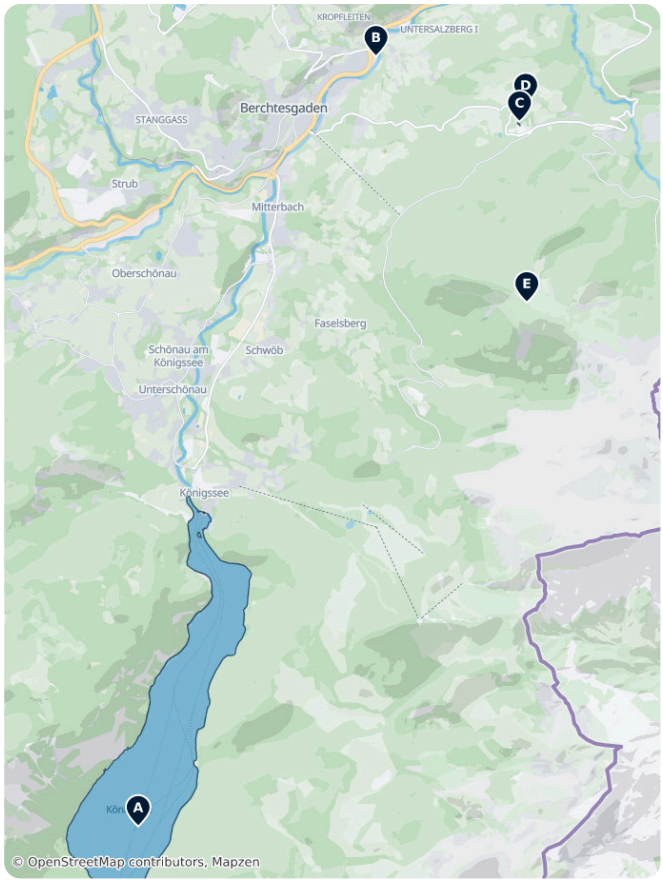
Late spring to early autumn is the main season for boat trips, hiking and the high mountain paths. Summer brings the most rain, often in short storms. Winter is cold with snow, and the high paths are closed.

The quiet Advent season has a traditional Advent market in the town.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for skiing	4° / 10° Feels like 0°	-4° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like 2°	-3° / -13°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for skiing	9° / 18°	0° / -8°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	15° / 23°	4° / -2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 27°	9° / 3°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 31°	13° / 7°	20 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 10°	22 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 32°	15° / 10°	19 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 28°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for hiking	16° / 24°	7° / 0°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for skiing	10° / 18°	2° / -7°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for skiing	5° / 11° Feels like 2°	-2° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Königssee is a long, narrow lake with steep rock walls. Boats run along the lake to the pilgrimage church of St. Bartholomä. Only electric boats are allowed on the water.
- B Salzbergwerk Berchtesgaden is the old salt mine near the town. Tours go underground and show how salt was mined here.
- C Dokumentation Obersalzberg is a museum on the Obersalzberg. It explains the Nazi period in the area.
- D Berghof marks the site of Hitler's mountain home. Only ruins remain.
- E Kehlsteinhaus is a mountain-top house on the Kehlstein, built for Hitler in 1937 and 1938. A fire in October 2026 largely destroyed the building.
- The old town centre has the former collegiate church and cloister.
- The National Park Centre, Haus der Berge, has exhibitions about the park.

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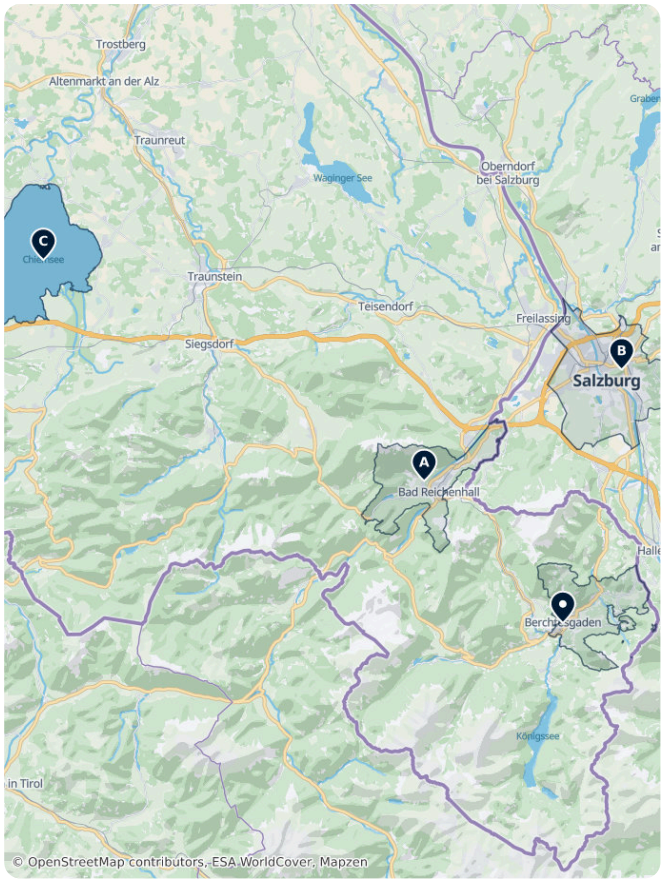
What to experience

- Take a boat on the Königssee. The boatman plays a trumpet to make the echo from the rock wall.
- Walk from St. Bartholomä to the viewpoints and meadows around the lake.
- Hike in the national park. Many marked paths start close to the town.

Day trips

Berchtesgaden sits on the Austrian border. The nearby towns are easy to reach.

- A Bad Reichenhall is a spa town with a historic salt works. It lies close to Berchtesgaden.
- B Salzburg is the Austrian city of Mozart, with a baroque old town and a fortress above it. It lies just across the border.
- C Lake Chiemsee is a large lake. It has an island with a palace built for King *Ludwig II*.



Getting there

- By air: Salzburg Airport is the nearest. Munich Airport is the main long-distance gateway. From both, continue by train or bus.
- By train: Regional trains run from Freilassing to Berchtesgaden Hauptbahnhof. Most journeys from Salzburg and Munich include a change at Freilassing. Plan the route on Deutsche Bahn.
- By bus: Regional buses link the town with Salzburg and nearby villages. Local timetables are linked from Berchtesgaden tourism.

Getting around

- Local buses: Regional buses serve the villages, the Königssee and the Obersalzberg. Timetables are linked from Berchtesgaden tourism.
- Königssee: Passenger boats leave from the lake's northern end. The boat to St. Bartholomä takes about 35 minutes.
- Walking: Many paths start in town and lead to viewpoints.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is small, but the town and nearby paths are on hilly ground.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Valley paths suit cycling, but mountain roads are steep.

Food & drink

Bavarian dishes are common, such as roast pork, dumplings and Kaiserschmarrn. Alpine inns and huts serve simple dishes with local dairy.

Berchtesgaden is known for spirits made from alpine gentian root. A local distillery makes them.

Look for inns in the old town and near the Königssee boat landing. Mountain huts along the paths also serve food.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

- Mountain weather changes fast. Check the forecast and start early on long walks.
- Wear proper shoes on alpine paths. Some routes are steep and exposed.
- Ticks live in meadows and forest edges in summer.

History

- Salt mining began here in 1517. Salt made the area rich, and you can still visit the mine at Salzbergwerk Berchtesgaden.
- The provostry was an independent state of the Holy Roman Empire. It ended in 1803. Bavaria took over the area in 1810.
- The Bavarian royal family later used the former abbey as a hunting residence.
- In the 1920s *Hitler* began to stay on the Obersalzberg. He later built a residence there. Berghof marks the site.
- Berchtesgaden National Park was founded in 1978. It protects the mountains around the Königssee.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

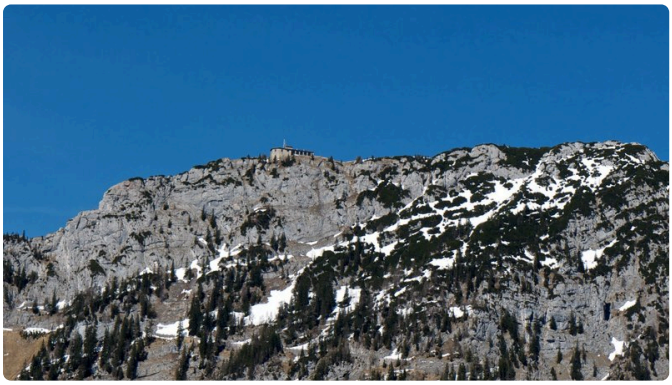
LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Berchtesgaden Essentials

Berchtesgaden combines dramatic Alpine landscapes with significant historical sites. The region features the Kehlsteinhaus and the ruins of the Berghof, providing insight into the area's role during the Third Reich. Beyond history, the town is home to Germany's oldest active salt mine and the Enzianbrennerei Grassl, the country's oldest gentian distillery. Architectural highlights include the baroque pilgrimage church of Maria Gern and the Königliches Schloss, a former Augustinian monastery turned royal residence, while the Haus der Berge explores the local National Park.





A Eagle's Nest

The Kehlsteinhaus is a Nazi-constructed building erected atop the summit of the Kehlstein, a rocky outcrop that rises above Obersalzberg...

Salzbergstraße 45, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany (47.61148, 13.04199)

Mo–Su 08:30–16:50

kehlsteinhaus.de, +4986522969



B Berchtesgaden Salt Mine

Salzbergwerk Berchtesgaden is the oldest active salt mine in Germany, in which salt is mainly extracted in the wet, and also a showcase in...

Bergwerkstraße 83, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany (47.63880, 13.01718)

salzbergwerk.de, +49 8652 60020



C Dokumentationszentrum Obersalzberg

Dokumentation Obersalzberg is a museum in the Obersalzberg resort near Berchtesgaden, providing information on the use of the mountainside...

Salzbergstraße, 83471 Berchtesgaden, DE
(47.63154, 13.04079)

Apr-Oct Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Nov-Mar Tu–Su	10:00–15:00

obersalzberg.de

D Königliches Schloss Berchtesgaden

Originally an Augustinian monastery founded in 1102, this castle later served as the summer residence for the Bavarian royal family, the Wittelsbachs. The complex features Romanesque cloisters, Gothic halls, and extensive collections of art and furniture.

Bräuhausstraße, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany
(47.63331, 13.00363)

haus-bayern.com/bgd/bgdnav1.htm, +498652947980



E Maria Gern

A 17th-century Baroque pilgrimage church known for its scenic location against the backdrop of Mount Watzmann. The interior features ornate stucco work, frescoes, and a high altar housing a late-Gothic carving of the Virgin and Child.

1 Kirchplatz Maria Gern, Vordergern 83471, Germany
(47.65310, 13.00260)

stiftsland.de



F Enzianbrennerei Grassl

Established in 1602, this is Germany's oldest gentian distillery. It continues to produce traditional mountain schnapps and liqueurs using gentian roots harvested from the surrounding Alpine peaks under strict environmental regulations.

(47.65671, 13.04076)

enzian-grassl.com, +49 8652 95360



G Berghof

The Berghof was Adolf Hitler's holiday home in the Obersalzberg of the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, Germany.

2 Hintereck, 83471, Germany (47.63349, 13.04182)



H Haus der Berge - Nationalparkzentrum Berchtesgaden

The central information hub for the Berchtesgaden National Park. Its main "Vertical Wilderness" exhibition uses interactive displays to showcase the diverse ecosystems of the Bavarian Alps, from the lake beds to the mountain summits.

Hanielstraße 7, 83471 Berchtesgaden, DE (47.62622, 12.99240)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

haus-der-berge.bayern.de, +4986529790600



I Untersberger Marmorkugelmühlen

Located at the entrance of the Almbachklamm, these water-powered mills have been producing polished marble spheres since 1683. They represent the last active marble ball mills in Germany, utilizing local Untersberg marble.

18 Kugelmühlweg, 83487, Germany (47.67058, 13.03087)

Mo–Su Closed

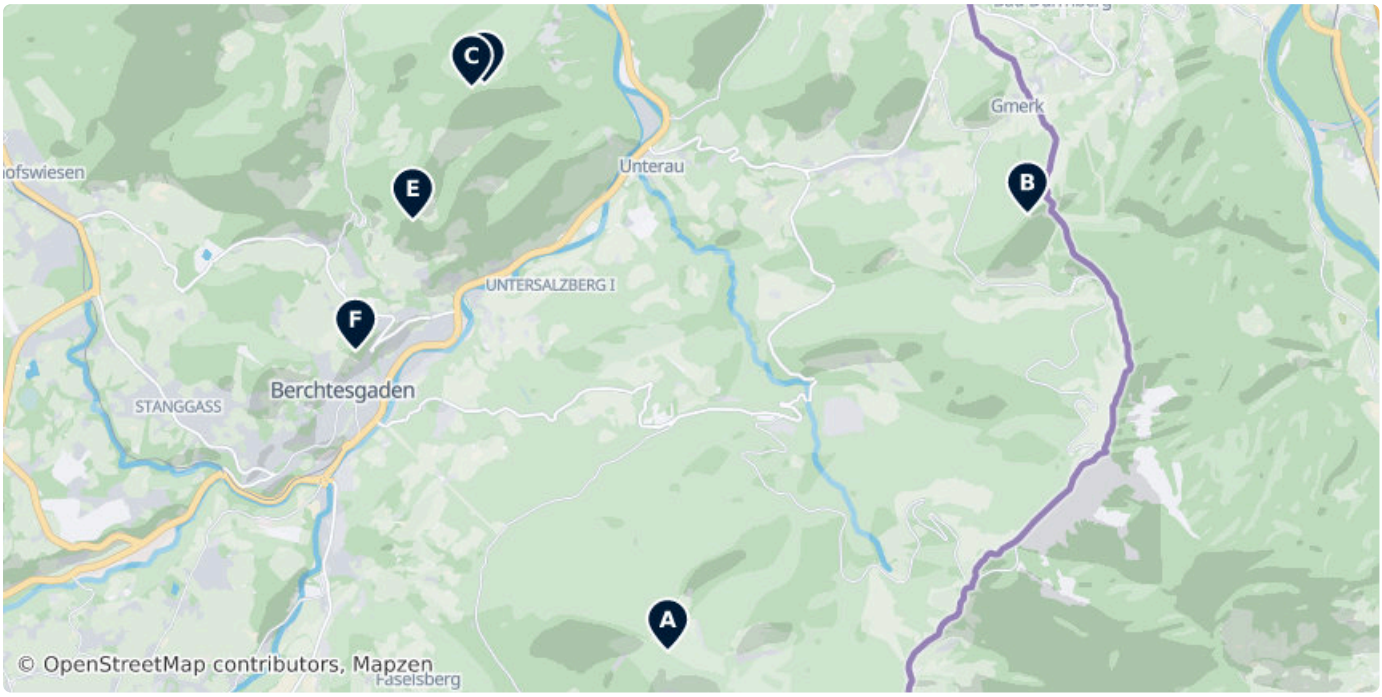
J Museum Schloss Adelsheim

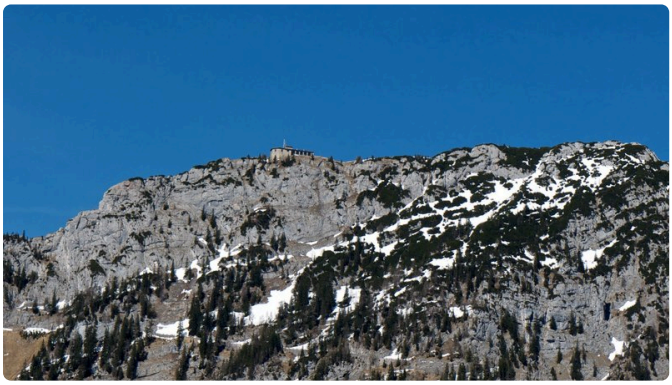
Housed in a 17th-century Renaissance palace, this museum focuses on local history and traditional crafts. It features a significant collection of "Berchtesgadener War," the region's historic painted woodcarvings and toys.

Schroffenbergallee 6, 83471 Berchtesgaden (47.63969, 13.01218)

Panoramic Peaks and Viewpoints

Explore the dramatic summits and historic vistas of the Berchtesgaden Alps. This collection features the Kehlsteinhaus, a mountain retreat built at 1,834 meters, alongside the Zinkenkopf on the Austrian border. Discover panoramic viewpoints like the Kneifelspitze, which overlooks the Berchtesgaden basin and the city of Salzburg. Lower-elevation spots such as Marxenhöhe and Lockstein provide accessible perspectives of the Watzmann massif and the historic town center, highlighting the region's unique alpine topography.





A Eagle's Nest

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Salzbergstraße 45, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany (47.61148, 13.04199)

Mo–Su 08:30–16:50

kehlsteinhaus.de, +4986522969

B Zinkenkopf

A 1,336-meter mountain peak situated on the border between Germany and Austria, located between Berchtesgaden and Hallein.

83471, Germany (47.64767, 13.08619)

C Kneifelspitze

A 1,189-meter-high peak in the Berchtesgaden Alps, serving as a southeastern foothill of the Untersberg massif with views of the Watzmann and the Berchtesgaden basin.

83471, Germany (47.65815, 13.01790)

D Salzburgblick

Scenic viewpoint located near the summit of the Kneifelspitze, providing vistas toward the city of Salzburg and the Salzach Valley.

(47.65846, 13.01946)

E Marxenhöhe

Panoramic viewpoint near the Maria Gern pilgrimage church, offering views of the Watzmann massif and the Berchtesgaden valley.

(47.64716, 13.01065)

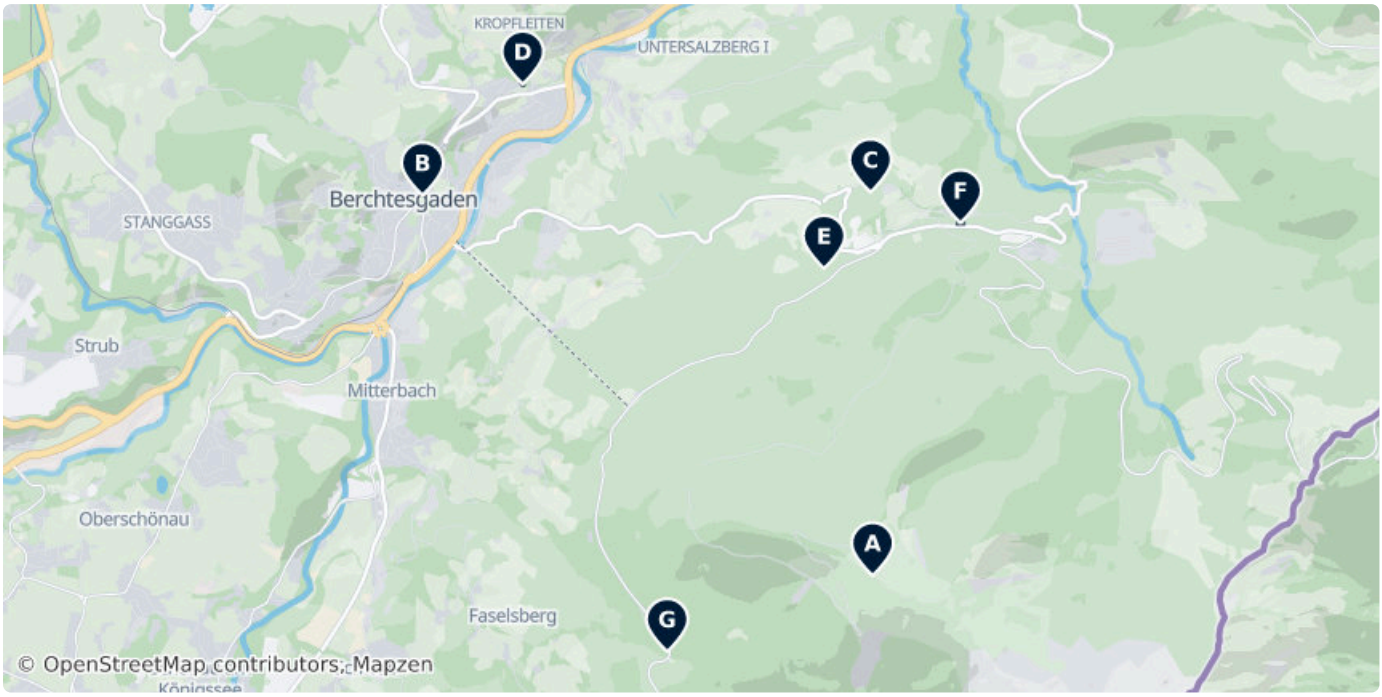
F Lockstein

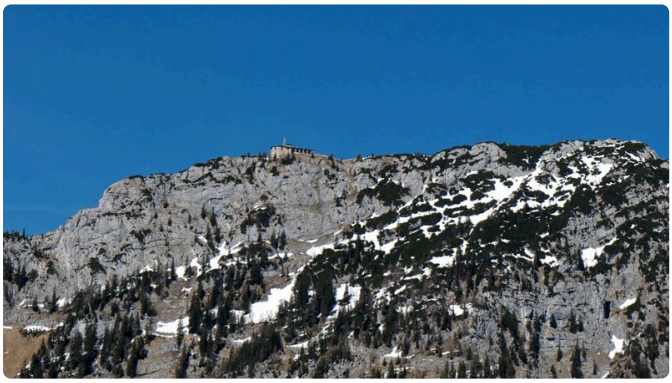
Elevated viewpoint situated above the town of Berchtesgaden, offering a perspective of the historic town center and surrounding mountains.

(47.63634, 13.00362)

Castles and Ruins

Explore the architectural evolution of Berchtesgaden through its royal residences and wartime remnants. This selection includes the Königliches Schloss, a former monastery turned Wittelsbach summer palace, and Schloß Adelsheim, which houses regional folk art. These sites contrast with the significant ruins of the Obersalzberg complex, including the Berghof, the Koksbunker, and the unfinished Alpine Road bridge, alongside the preserved Kehlsteinhaus summit building.





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kehlsteinhaus.de, +4986522969

B Königliches Schloss Berchtesgaden

Originally a 12th-century Augustinian monastery, this complex later served as a summer residence for the Bavarian royal family. It features architectural styles ranging from Romanesque and Gothic to Baroque, housing extensive art collections and hunting trophies.

Bräuhausstraße, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany
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C Berghof

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2 Hintereck, 83471, Germany (47.63349, 13.04182)

D Museum Schloss Adelsheim

Set in a 1614 Renaissance palace, this local history museum showcases the region's traditional woodcarving, toy-making heritage, and historical folk art. The building itself was once used by local nobility and later as a district office.

Schroffenbergallee 6, 83471 Berchtesgaden (47.63969, 13.01218)

E ehemals Bauverwaltung Obersalzberg

The remains of the former construction administration building, which managed the massive building projects of the Obersalzberg during the 1930s. It is part of the network of ruins documenting the area's National Socialist past.

83471, Germany (47.62912, 13.03785)

F Koksbunker

These concrete remains were part of the infrastructure for the Obersalzberg complex, used for storing fuel to heat the various administrative and residential buildings of the Nazi leadership's mountain headquarters.

13 Hintereck, 83471, Germany (47.63173, 13.04949)

G Brückenruine Alpenstraße

A massive concrete ruin of an unfinished bridge intended for the Queralpenstraße. Construction was halted in the late 1930s, leaving this structural skeleton as a monument to the abandoned infrastructure projects of the era.

Lindeweg, 83471 Berchtesgaden, Germany (47.60712, 13.02449)

DATA SOURCES

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