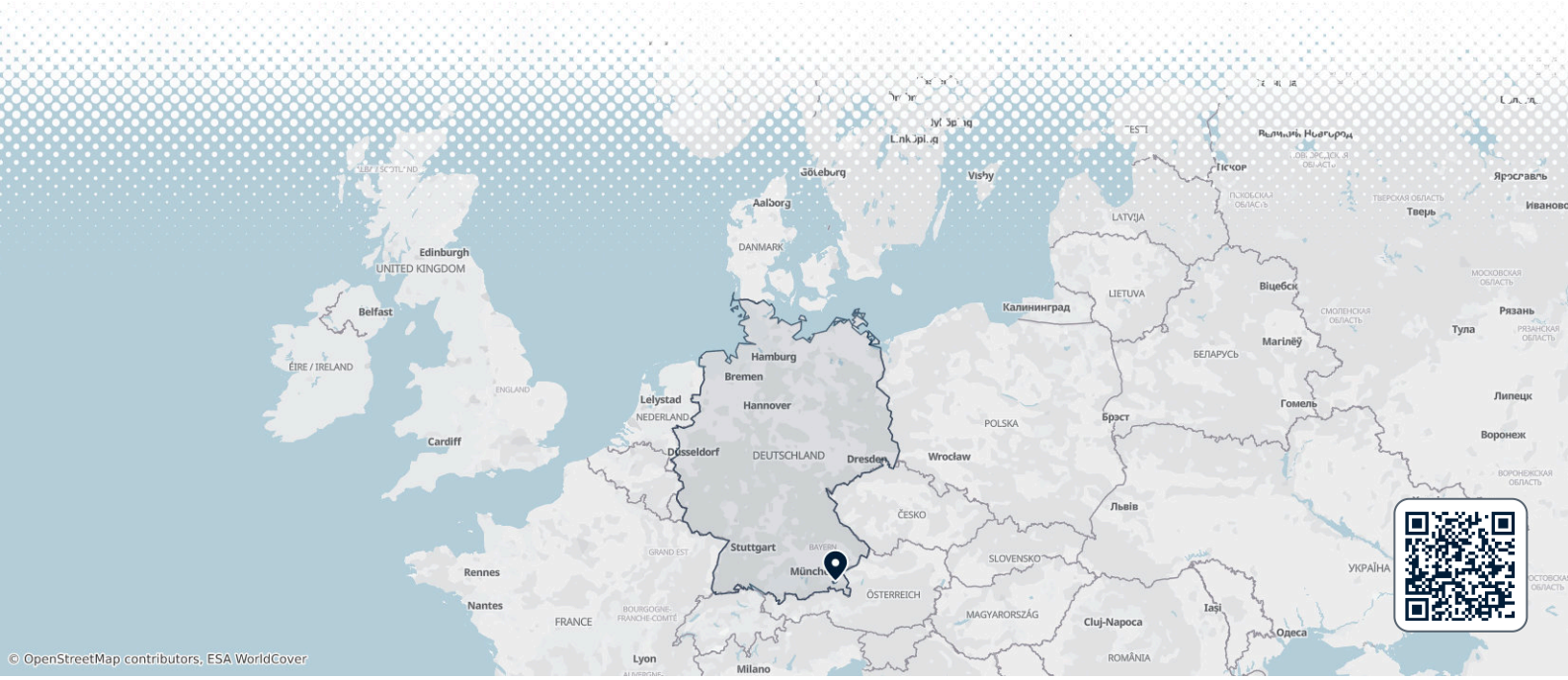


# Lake Chiemsee

Bavaria · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Lake Chiemsee lies in southern Bavaria, between Munich and Salzburg. Locals call it the "Bavarian Sea". The Alps rise on the southern horizon.

Three islands lie in the lake. Herreninsel has a royal palace, Fraueninsel has a nunnery and a small village, and Krautinsel is uninhabited. The lake suits a day trip from Munich or two to three relaxed nights with boat rides, swimming and walks.

## When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the main season. Summer is warm enough for swimming, but it is also the wettest time, so showers are common.

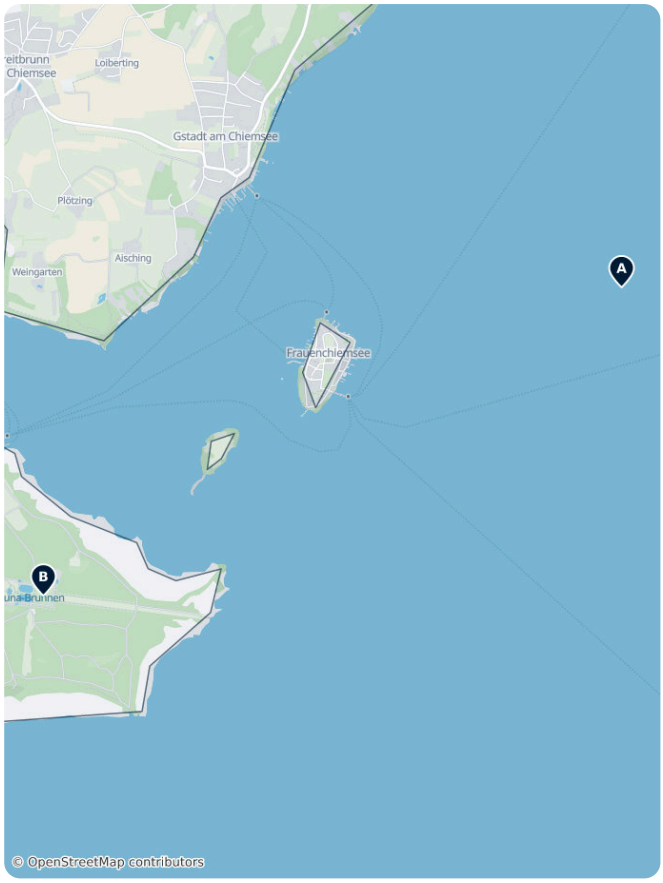
Winter is cold and the days are short. Snow is possible from autumn to spring.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 3° / 10°<br>Feels like -2° | -4° / -12° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 5° / 13°<br>Feels like 0° | -3° / -12° | 12 rainy days · Dry air |
| March | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 9° / 17°<br>Feels like 5° | 0° / -7° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| April | Good<br>Good for cycling | 14° / 22°<br>Feels like 11° | 4° / -3° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| May | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 18° / 25° | 8° / 3° | 19 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| June | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 22° / 29° | 13° / 7° | 19 rainy days · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 23° / 30° | 14° / 9° | 20 rainy days · Calm winds |
| August | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 23° / 30° | 14° / 9° | 17 rainy days · Calm winds |
| September | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 19° / 26° | 10° / 4° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| October | Good<br>Good for cycling | 15° / 22° | 6° / -1° | 13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| November | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 8° / 17°<br>Feels like 5° | 1° / -6° | 12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for watersports | 4° / 11°<br>Feels like -1° | -2° / -11° | 14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |

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

## Top sights

- A Chiemsee is a large lake at the edge of the Alps. Most visitors cross it by boat to the islands.
- B Schloss Herrenchiemsee stands on Herreninsel. The state rooms of the New Palace can only be seen on a guided tour. A museum about *Ludwig II* is inside the palace.
- Herreninsel also has a former monastery of Augustinian canons. Its museum rooms can be visited without a guide.
- Fraueninsel is a small island with Kloster Frauenwörth. It is easy to walk around.



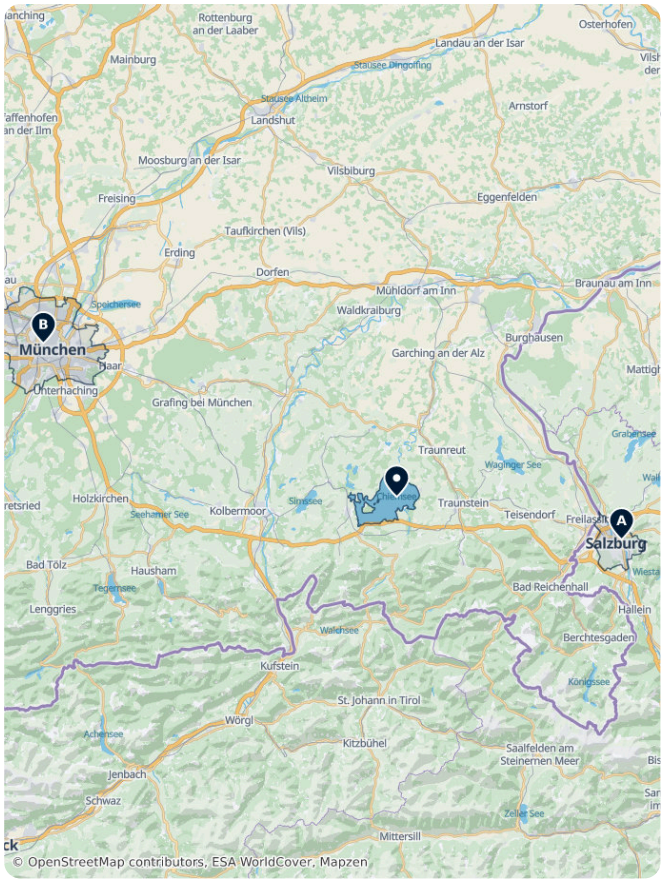

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## What to experience

- Ride the Chiemsee-Bahn, a small steam railway from 1887. It runs between Prien station and the harbour.
- Cross the lake on the historic paddle steamer *Ludwig Fessler*.
- Swim from one of the public lake beaches in summer.
- Look for events on Chiemsee-Alpenland Tourismus.

## Day trips

- Aschau im Chiemgau: A branch railway runs from Prien into the Alpine foothills.
- A Salzburg is a city in Austria with a famous old town. It is the birthplace of *Mozart*.
- B Munich is the capital of Bavaria.




## Where to explore

Further south-east, near the Austrian border:

- Bad Reichenhall is a spa town.
- Berchtesgaden is a mountain town in the Alps.

## Getting there

- **By air**: Munich Airport is the main gateway. Salzburg Airport is another option. From either, continue by train towards Prien am Chiemsee.
- **By train**: Prien am Chiemsee lies on the main line between Munich and Salzburg. See Deutsche Bahn.

## Getting around

- Boats: Boats from Prien-Stock serve Herreninsel and Fraueninsel. See Chiemsee-Schifffahrt.
- Prien: The harbour at Prien-Stock is a short walk or Chiemsee-Bahn ride from the station.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**Moderate**

Shore villages are walkable, but the lake is large.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**High**

A cycle route runs around the lake.

## Driving

- The A8 motorway between Munich and Salzburg passes close to the lake.
- A car helps for shore villages away from the train line. For the islands, leave the car on the mainland and take a boat.

# Food & drink

Fish from the lake, fresh or smoked, is the local speciality. Look for Renke, a whitefish from Chiemsee.

On Fraueninsel, the nuns make liqueur and marzipan. The island lanes near the harbour have cafés.

## 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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Scan to download the app

## Safety & health

- Ticks live in grass and woods around the lake. Check your skin after walks.

## History

The lake was once about three times larger than it is today.

A Benedictine nunnery was founded on Fraueninsel in 782. It is still active. Herreninsel had a monastery of Augustinian canons for centuries.

King *Ludwig II* began building the New Palace on Herreninsel in 1878. It copies parts of Versailles. The palace was never finished.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
**EUR €**

EMERGENCY
**112**

ELECTRICITY

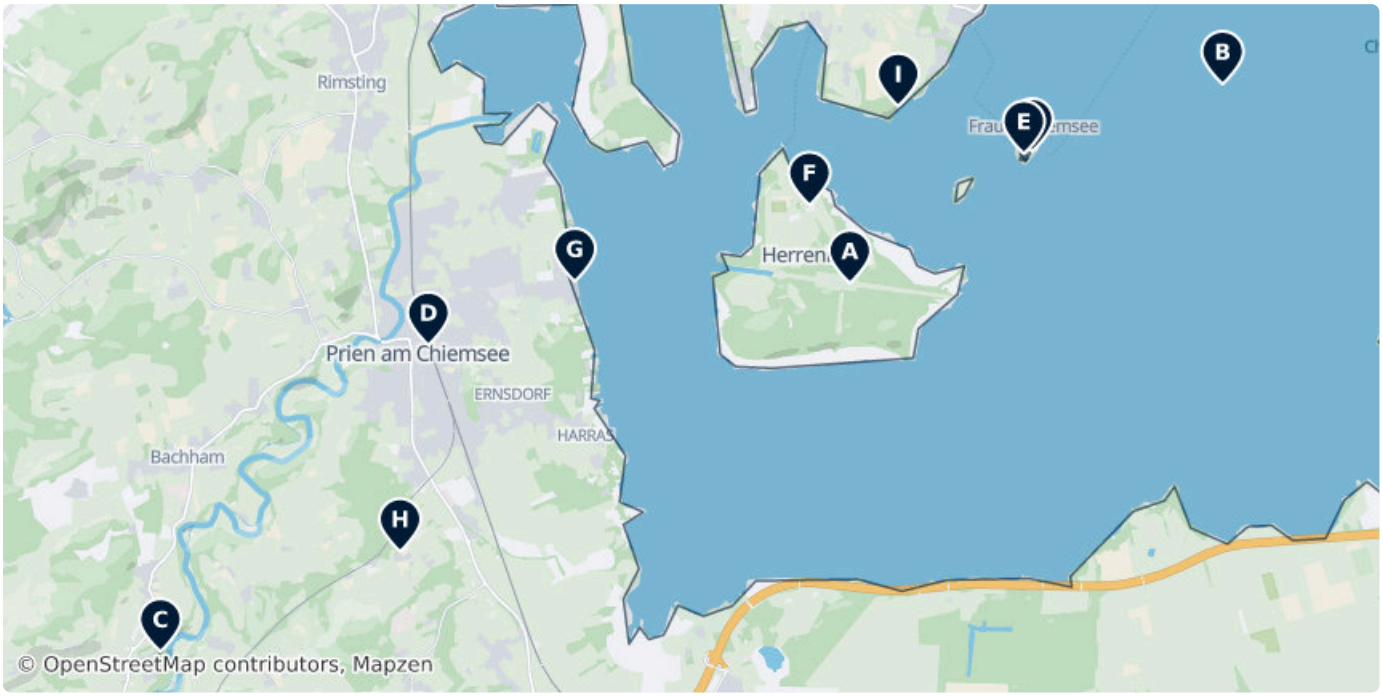
Type C / Type F
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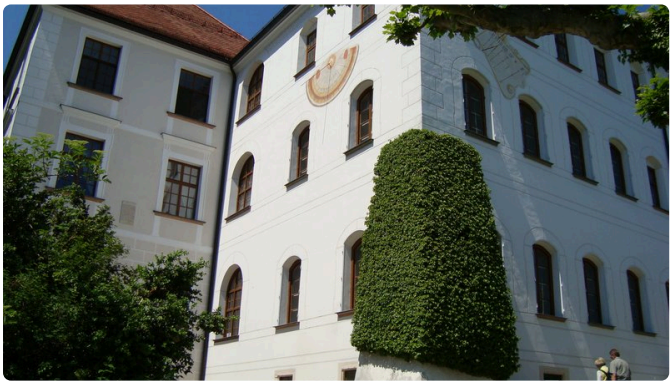
LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
**Safe to drink**

# Lake Chiemsee Essentials

Lake Chiemsee, known as the 'Bavarian Sea,' features Herreninsel island, home to King Ludwig II's unfinished Herrenchiemsee Palace, modeled after Versailles. Nearby, Frauenchiemsee island hosts the active Benedictine Frauenwörth Abbey with its distinctive octagonal bell tower. The region includes the Romanesque frescoes of St. Jakobus in Urschalling and the neo-Renaissance Schloss Wildenwart. Regular ferry services connect Prien am Chiemsee to the islands, offering access to bird-watching towers and traditional Bavarian regional dining.



## A Herrenchiemsee Palace

Herrenchiemsee is a complex of royal buildings on Herreninsel, the largest island in the Chiemsee lake, in southern Bavaria, Germany.

83209 Herrenchiemsee, Germany (47.86045, 12.40221)

herren-chiemsee.de, +49 80 51 68 870




## B Lake Chiemsee

Chiemsee is a freshwater lake in Bavaria, Germany, near Rosenheim. It is often called "the Bavarian Sea".

83256, Germany (47.87795, 12.45107)



## C Schloss Wildenwart

This neo-Renaissance castle in Frasdorf was a favorite residence of the last Bavarian King, Ludwig III. It remains a private estate owned by the Wittelsbach family.

10 Ludwigstraße, Wildenwart 83112, Germany (47.82807, 12.31185)




## D Prien am Chiemsee station

Prien am Chiemsee station is the largest station of the Bavarian market town of Prien am Chiemsee.

2 Bahnhofplatz, Prien am Chiemsee 83209, Germany (47.85501, 12.34697)



## E Kloster Frauenwörth

An active Benedictine nunnery founded in 782 on Frauenchiemsee island. The abbey features a unique octagonal bell tower and an 11th-century minster with Romanesque and Gothic architectural elements.

83256 Chiemsee, Germany (47.87182, 12.42503)



## F Augustiner-Chorherrenstift

Also known as the Old Palace, this former monastery on Herreninsel houses a museum documenting the 1948 Constitutional Convention and the private apartments used by King Ludwig II.

3, 83209 Chiemsee, DE (47.86732, 12.39693)

herren-chiemsee.de, +49 8051 6887400

## G Chiemseeschifffahrt

The central ferry hub in Prien-Stock providing year-round boat connections to Herreninsel and Frauenchiemsee islands, as well as seasonal tours around the lake.

110B Seestraße, 83209, Germany (47.86061, 12.36616)

chiemsee-schifffahrt.de



## H St. Jakobus - Urschalling

A Romanesque church notable for its well-preserved 12th and 14th-century frescoes, including a rare depiction of the Holy Trinity as a three-headed figure.

6 Urschalling, Urschalling 83209, Germany (47.83687, 12.34326)

## I Beobachtungsturm Ganszipfel

A wooden observation tower on the western shore of Herreninsel, offering views of the Chiemgau Alps and birdwatching opportunities over the lake's protected reed zones.

83209, Germany (47.87601, 12.40856)

chiemseeagenda.de/archiv/98/artikel/naturbeobachtung...

## J Klosterwirt

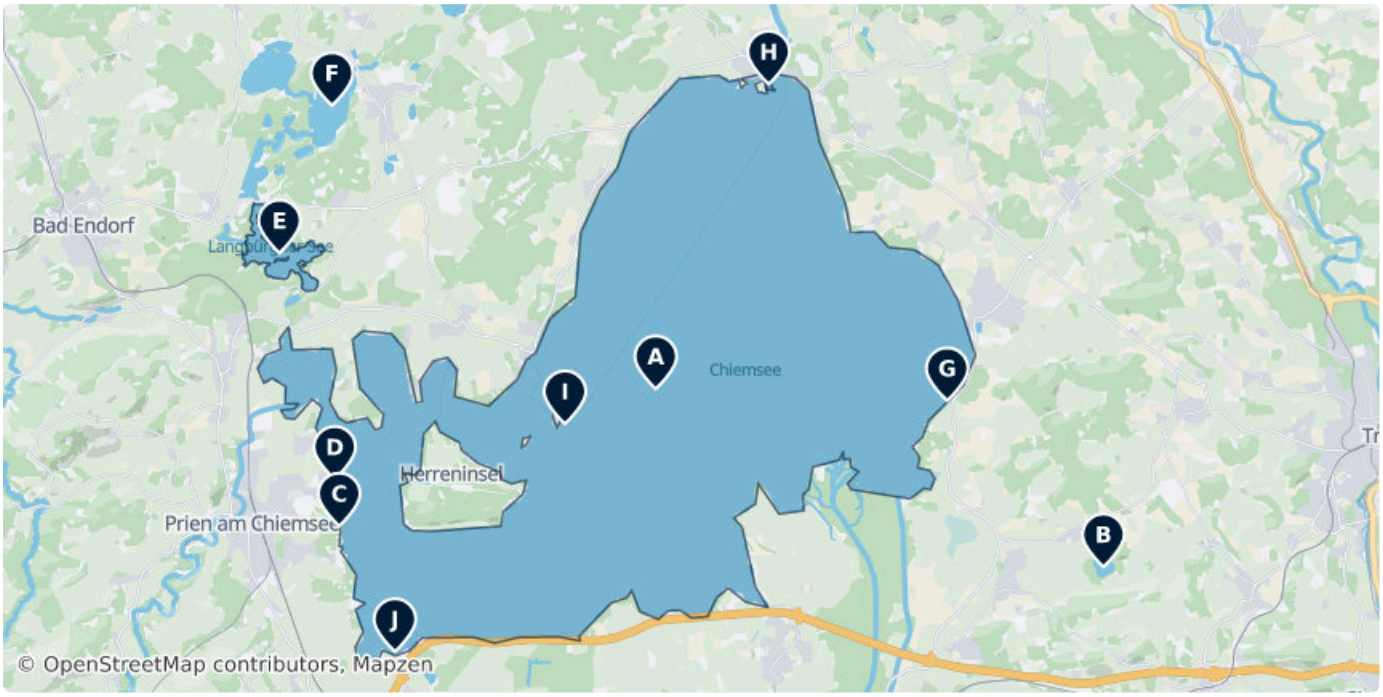
A traditional Bavarian restaurant on Frauenchiemsee island serving regional specialties, including fresh fish caught from the lake, located adjacent to the abbey.

(47.87203, 12.42612)

klosterwirt-chiemsee.de, +49 8054 7765

# Chiemsee Maritime Highlights

Explore the maritime infrastructure of Lake Chiemsee, Bavaria's largest lake. This selection features major ferry terminals like Hauptsteg on Fraueninsel and Dampfersteg Felden, alongside the extensive Yachthafen Seebruck marina. Boat rentals in Prien, such as Schraml and Stöffl, provide access to electric and pedal boats. Beyond the main lake, the list includes the protected Langbürgner See and Hartsee within the Eggstätt-Hemhofer Seenplatte nature reserve, offering quieter alternatives for aquatic exploration.







## A Lake Chiemsee

Chiemsee is a freshwater lake in Bavaria, Germany, near Rosenheim. It is often called "the Bavarian Sea".

83256, Germany (47.87795, 12.45107)



## B Tüttensee

The Tüttensee is a small lake in the Bavarian Alpine foothills of the Traunstein district, within the municipalities of Grabenstätt and...

83355, Germany (47.84674, 12.56811)

## C Bootsverleih Schraml

Located in Prien am Chiemsee, this rental provides electric boats, pedal boats, and rowing boats for exploring the lake.

83209, Germany (47.85391, 12.36833)

schraml-chiemsee.de/bootsverleih.html, +49 8051 4575

## D Bootsverleih Stöffl

Boat rental in Prien offering wheelchair-accessible electric boats, as well as pedal and rowing boats.

117 Seestraße, Stock 83209, Germany (47.86210, 12.36715)

stoeffl.de, +49 8051 2000

## E Langbürgner See

The largest lake within the Eggstätt-Hemhofer Seenplatte nature reserve, characterized by its reed-lined shores and glacial origins.

(47.90176, 12.35270)

## F Hartsee

A swimming and recreation lake in the Eggstätt-Hemhofer Seenplatte nature reserve, featuring a circular hiking path and a lido.

(47.92757, 12.36644)

## G Yachthafen Unterhochstätt

A marina located on the eastern shore of Chiemsee, providing mooring facilities and access to the lake for private vessels.

83355, Germany (47.87588, 12.52727)

yhu-chiemsee.de

## H Yachthafen Seebruck

One of the largest marinas on Chiemsee, equipped with over 500 berths, power supplies, and sanitary dump stations near the Alz river outflow.

(47.93132, 12.48057)

seeon-seebruck.de/yachthafen-am-chiem... , +49 8667 7139

## I Hauptsteg

The primary ferry pier on Fraueninsel, serving as a central hub for the Chiemsee-Schifffahrt fleet connecting the islands to the mainland.

(47.87184, 12.42735)

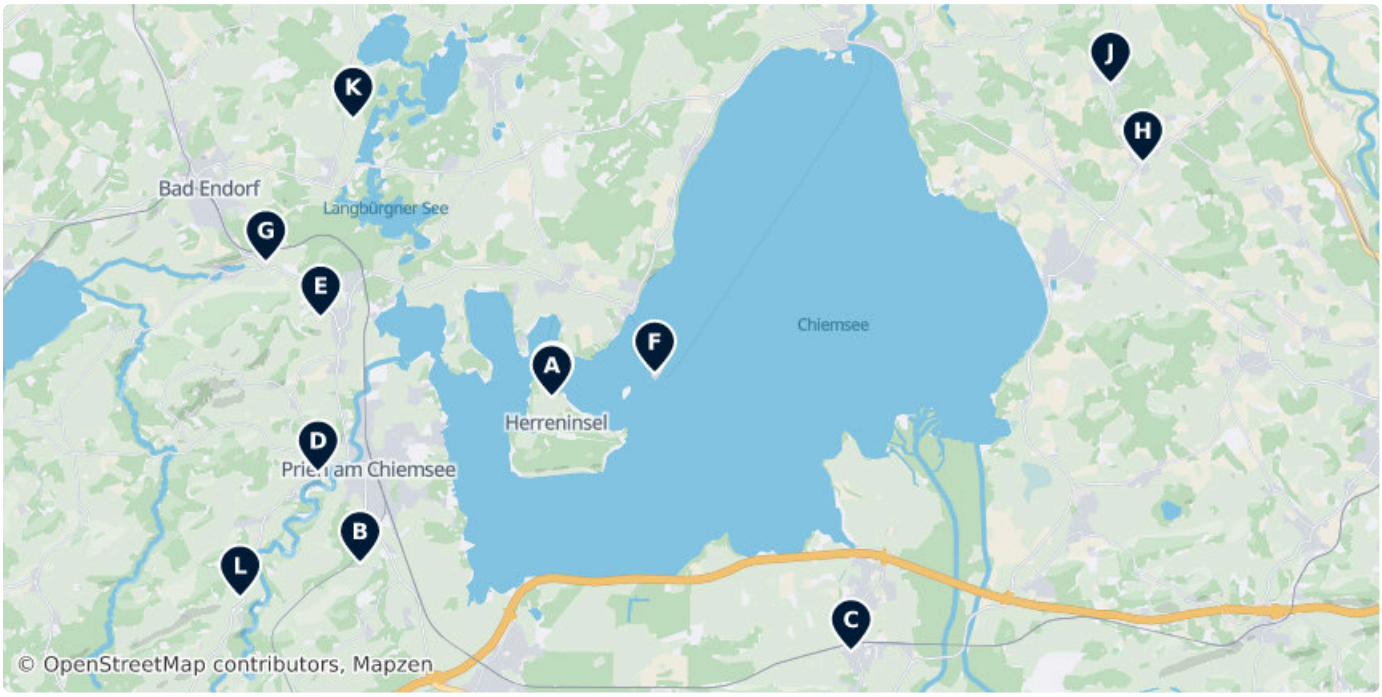
## J Dampfersteg Felden

A major ferry terminal in Bernau-Felden that serves as a departure point for sightseeing cruises and transport to Herreninsel and Fraueninsel.

(47.83190, 12.38286)

# Historic Churches & Shrines

Lake Chiemsee's spiritual landscape is defined by its island monasteries and mainland pilgrimage sites. This collection features the former Cathedral of the Diocese of Chiemsee on Herreninsel and the ancient Frauenwörth Abbey on Fraueninsel. Architectural highlights range from the rare Romanesque frescoes in Urschalling to the Neo-Baroque "Achen Valley Cathedral" in Übersee. These sites preserve centuries of Bavarian religious history, housing Carolingian foundations, Gothic altars, and the shrine of Blessed Irmengard.




## A Ehem. Domstiftskirche

Former cathedral of the Diocese of Chiemsee on Herreninsel. The current Baroque structure dates to the 17th century, replacing an earlier Romanesque basilica.

(47.86778, 12.39647)



## B St. Jakobus - Urschalling

Small Romanesque church renowned for its well-preserved 12th and 14th-century frescoes, including a unique depiction of the Holy Trinity.

6 Urschalling, Urschalling 83209, Germany
(47.83687, 12.34326)



## C St. Nikolaus

Large Neo-Baroque parish church built between 1902 and 1904. It is locally known as the "Achentaler Dom" due to its impressive scale.

30 Dorfstraße, Übersee 83236, Germany (47.82048, 12.47943)



## D Sankt Salvator

Late Gothic pilgrimage church featuring a high altar from 1710. It is situated on a hill with views over the western shore of Lake Chiemsee.

5 Sankt Salvator, 83253, Germany (47.85376, 12.33164)

## E Selige Irmengard von Frauenwörth

The resting place of Blessed Irmengard, daughter of King Louis the German and first abbess of Frauenchiemsee, located within the abbey church.

83253, Germany (47.88254, 12.33233)

## F Klosterkirche

The main abbey church of Frauenwörth, featuring a distinctive free-standing bell tower, Romanesque architecture, and a rich collection of Baroque art.

46 Frauenchiemsee, Frauenchiemsee 83256, Germany (47.87214, 12.42494)

## G St. Johannes und Paulus

A 10th-century cemetery chapel on Fraueninsel, notable for its simple pre-Romanesque architecture and historic significance as one of the region's oldest buildings.

(47.89281, 12.31716)

## H Filialkirche Nikolaus und Johannes der Täufer

Late Gothic church in Ising with 18th-century Baroque renovations and a prominent pointed spire visible from the northern lake road.

7 Chieminger Straße, Sondermoning 83365, Germany (47.91136, 12.56035)

## I St. Maria

Part of the former Augustinian monastery complex on Herreninsel, this church served as the cathedral until the diocese was abolished in 1808.

5 Herrenchiemsee, 83209, Germany (47.86819, 12.39665)

## J Pfarrkirche St. Laurentius

Situated in Seebruck, this church stands on the archaeological remains of the Roman fort Bedaium, incorporating stones from the ancient fortifications.

(47.92597, 12.55136)

## K St. Rupert & St. Laurentius

Parish church in Gstadt featuring a Gothic choir and a Baroque nave, serving as a primary spiritual landmark for the lakeside community.

9 Stephanskirchen, Stephanskirchen 83093, Germany
(47.91945, 12.34134)

## L Christkönigkirche Wildenwart

Built in the 1930s for the Wittelsbach family, this church features a modern-traditionalist design and houses the family crypt.

23 Pfarrer-Strobl-Straße, 83112, Germany
(47.83049, 12.30999)

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