

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

12th to 20th June 2026 (9 days)

BAVARIAN ALPS

relaxed mountain wildlife and walking (by train)

"an excellent holiday... the range of plants, rare butterflies, amazing mountains..."

"Philip was great as always"
Bavarian Alps 2025

The best of Bavaria, from the flower-rich valleys to the highest point in Germany.

The limestone mountains of the Bavarian Alps may not be as familiar as their higher Austrian or Swiss neighbours, but they are home to some fantastic wildlife. Highlights of our trip should include wet **meadows full of orchids** (including at least four species of marsh orchid) and home to singing Common Rosefinch, White-backed Woodpecker and Whinchat; **scarce butterflies** such as Woodland Brown and Dusky Large Blue; high mountain specialties including Ptarmigan, Alpine Chough and Snowfinch; delicate **alpine flowers** including primulas, gentians and the beautiful *Soldanella alpina*; and some **awe-inspiring mountain scenery**, with views taking in four countries. Oh, and if you like apple cake, hot chocolate and Bavarian beer, all the better!

This holiday is based in the scenic alpine town of Mittenwald, nestled amongst the mountains from where we will explore the woods, meadows, wetlands and, of course, the high mountains in the surrounding area.

From London to Munich and then throughout the holiday, we will be doing all of our travel by public transport, travelling first by Eurostar to Paris and then by express train to Munich. In Bavaria, we will take advantage of the fantastic **local train service** together with the cable cars that give us direct access to the mountains. The holiday is perfect for anyone who appreciates wildlife and walking in the hills, and who enjoys the gentler pace of **travel by train** and cable car.

For the real Alpine aficionado, this trip could be combined with our visit to the Vercors the week before (4th to 11th June), with a night in Paris.



Price

£2,545

Single Room Supplement

£250

Full board

Day 1 train, London to Munich
Day 2 Munich to Mittenwald
Day 3 Mittenwald
Day 4 Zugspitze
Day 5 Murnauer Moos
Day 6 Wankberg
Day 7 Oberammergau
Day 8 Karwendel, Munich
Day 8 return to London

Leaders

Philip Precey
with second leader tbc

Group size

min 4, max 14

flight-free holiday, walking,
spectacular scenery



ITINERARY

Please note that the itinerary may be changed to suit the weather or other practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.

Day 1. Fri 12th June. A travel day takes us from London St Pancras to Paris, and then all the way through to Munich, where we have a late arrival at our hotel a short walk from the train station. Next day (**Day 2, Sat 13th June**) we will visit Munich's impressive botanical gardens and the nearby Nymphenburg park, before we travel south by local train for about two hours to the town of **Mittenwald**, our home for the next week.

Day 3. Sun 14th June. A lazy, train-free day. In the morning we will take a stroll through the woods to the lake of Lautersee, where Sword-leaved Helleborine grows amongst the pine and Lesser Marbled and False Heath Fritillaries flit about the paths.

After lunch, we will explore the impressive **Leutaschklamm** gorge, where we will keep our eyes open for Western Bonelli's Warbler and Red Squirrels amongst the trees. We end our day back in town, hopefully with time to enjoy some local hospitality and to soak up some of the alpine atmosphere.

Day 4. Mon 15th June. After breakfast, we will catch the train north to Garmisch Partenkirchen and then on to the small lake of Eibsee. We will walk a trail through the forest around the lake, keeping our eyes peeled for Nutcracker and woodpeckers, whilst also enjoying some of the summer wild flowers, including wintergreens and woodland orchids.

Ending our walk at the cable car station, we will be whisked up to a height of 2962 metres and the summit of Germany's highest mountain, **the Zugspitze**. On a clear day the view takes in four countries, with the Alps spread out before us. After enjoying the antics of the **Alpine Chough** and some much appreciated hot chocolate, we will take the cog railway back down to the valley, and onward to home.

Day 5. Tue 16th June. An early start will take us north to the town of Murnau. From here we will spend the day exploring the fantastic wetlands of **Murnauer Moos**. This is one of the largest valley mires left in central Europe, a mosaic of wet meadows, species rich fen and sphagnum bog. The Moos is home to a bewildering variety of marsh orchids, Siberian Iris, uncommon butterflies including Geranium Argus and Dusky Large Blue, and breeding Whinchat, Common Rosefinch and White-backed Woodpecker. The end of our day will see us walk back up through town to the train station and our journey home.

Day 6. Wed 17th June. Today we head back to Garmisch Partenkirchen to catch the cable car up to the summit of the nearby peak of Wank. At 1780 metres, this mountain is a more manageable height, but still with some **wonderful alpine flowers** to be found at the top: Trumpet Gentian, Spring Gentian and Alpine Snowbell all pepper the short turf, while this area gives us our best chances of finding Citril Finch, Water Pipit and Ring Ouzel.

For those feeling energetic, we may walk some of the way back down the mountain, hoping to find plenty of mountain wildlife on the way. Plants to find along the way include Sword-leaved Helleborine and Dark Columbine, while interesting **mountain butterflies** should be found, including the rare Woodland Brown. Alternatively, those wanting an easier day can take the cable car back down into Garmisch.

Day 7. Thu 18th June. Today we will take the train to the picture perfect town of **Oberammergau**. The morning will be spent exploring the town and enjoying some of the local hospitality. After our fill of apfelstrudel, we will escape the crowds and explore the meadows of the Pulvermoos, home to Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler and interesting fenland plants, including the rare Moor King Lousewort *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum*.

Day 8. Fri 19th June. Today we will walk out from the hotel to the cable car up to the top of the **Karwendel** at 2244 metres. With snow still lying on the ground in patches amongst the scree, this is real **alpine territory**. We will look for *Primula auricula*, *Primula minima*, Moss Campion and Purple Saxifrage amongst others. Alpine Chough should put in an appearance, with Alpine Accentor, Snowfinch and Ptarmigan are also strong possibilities at this height.

After lunch we leave the mountains, and head to Munich, where we will have one night in a comfortable hotel near the train station before continuing our journey next day (**Day 9. Sat 20th June**), taking the train via Frankfurt to Brussels, and the Eurostar home.

Health and Fitness

You need to have a good level of fitness to get the most out of the planned activities on this holiday. This is a relatively energetic trip, which involves quite a lot of walking. We will walk from the hotel to the train station each day, and you can expect to be on your feet all day. The longest walk will be about 10km around Murnauer Moos, about 8km around Eibsee, and an (optional) downhill walk of around 6km from the Wankberg. While the walking is generally easy to moderate, at a 'naturalists' pace, there will obviously be hilly areas and uneven ground. Walking boots are essential for all areas as the ground can be wet or rocky. Walking poles are highly recommended if you find them useful.

There are steps up into the trains, as well as at the accommodation. You should be steady enough on your feet to get in and out of a (slowly) moving cable car and not have too much of a problem with heights. We will be changing trains on both international journeys. There are not always escalators or lifts at train stations, so you **MUST** be able to carry your own bags comfortably up and down stairs and get them on and off the trains.

Accommodation, meals and transport

We stay at the Post Hotel, a comfortable, family-run hotel in the centre of the attractive town of Mittenwald, at 910m altitude.

We will also have two nights in Munich, staying in a comfortable hotel close to the train station.

From our arrival in Mittenwald, we will be having breakfast in the hotel dining room: evening meals will be taken at the nearby Post Hotel, and we will take picnic lunches with us each day.

All of our travel on this holiday will be by public transport: local trains, the cog railway that takes us up Zugspitze and three cable cars (Zugspitzbahn, Wankbahn and Karwendelbahn).

Leaders

Philip Precey is a Director of Wildlife Travel, who has led more than 90 holidays including our previous visit to Bavaria, a part of the world he has visited many times.

Dependent on final group size, Philip will be joined by a second Wildlife Travel leader.



Weather

At this time of year the weather in the Alps should be pleasantly warm and sunny, with average temperatures around 20°C. As with everywhere, the weather is less predictable now than it used to be, and there may be considerably cooler or hotter weather and some rain, or even snow at higher elevations. We will adapt our excursions accordingly.

Group Travel

Train schedules for 2026 are not yet released, but should be similar to 2025, as follows:

12th June **depart London St Pancras 10.24**, arrive Paris Gare du Nord 13.58
depart Paris Gare de l'Est 15.55, arrive Munich Hbf 21.36

20th June: depart Munich 10.29, arrive Frankfurt Flughafen Fernbf 13.51
depart Frankfurt Flughafen Fernbf 14.41, arrive Brussels Midi 17.35
depart Brussels Midi 18.51, **arrive London St Pancras 19.57**

It would also be possible to join the trip by flying to Munich, where the airport is connected to the central station by train, or by taking the Nightjet sleeper train to Munich from either Paris or Brussels. Contact us to discuss options.

Passport and Entry Requirements

Your passport must be issued less than 10 years before the date you enter the country and valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave. If you hold a British passport, you are able to travel to the Schengen area (including France and Germany) for up to 90 days in total in any 180-day period without a visa.

From 12th October 2025, The European Union's new Entry/Exit system will begin. When travelling into and out of the Schengen area, you may need to have your fingerprints and your photo taken.

For up-to-date information, check www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/germany

TO BOOK

Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT £450 PER PERSON, SECOND INSTALMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £700 (to cover committed costs)
BALANCE DUE 13/03/2026**

INCLUDED: Return train travel from London St Pancras, local transport and entry fees on excursions as specified in the itinerary. Eight nights' accommodation, all meals from breakfast day 2 to breakfast day 9 EXCEPT lunch day 2. Services of leaders and guides.

NOT INCLUDED: Meals: lunch/dinner day 1, lunch day 9. Refreshments. Travel insurance.

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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Photos: front (clockwise from top): Alpine Chouse on Zugspitze, Globeflower on Karwendel, *Primula minima* on Karwendel, Siberian Iris at Murnau Moos. **Page 3** (from top): Eibsee, Spring Gentian on Karwendel, Ring Ouzel at Wankberg, Cynthia's Fritillary at Wankberg

A trip report from our 2025 holiday to the Bavarian Alps can be found on our website.