

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

all our profits are donated to nature conservation



8th to 16th June 2027 (8 nights)

BAVARIAN ALPS

relaxed mountain wildlife and walking, by train

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 *Dactylorhiza* marsh orchid) and home to singing Common Rosefinch, White-backed Woodpecker and Whinchat; scarce butterflies such as Woodland Brown, Geranium Argus and Dusky Large Blue; high mountain specialities 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.

PRICE £2,885
single room supplement £500

Full Board

TOUR LEADER Philip Precey

PAYMENT
deposit £450
instalment £700
due on confirmation of holiday
balance due 9th March 2027

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1 train to Munich
Day 2 Munich Botanic Garden
Day 3 Mittenwald
Day 4 Zugspitze
Day 5 Murnauer Moos
Day 6 Wankberg
Day 7 Oberammergau
Day 8 Karwendel, to Munich
Day 9 return to London

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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 Tuesday 8th 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.

Day 2 Wednesday 9th June. A short tram ride away from our hotel, we will visit Munich's impressive botanical gardens and the nearby Schloss 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 Thursday 10th 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 soak up some of the alpine atmosphere before dinner.

Day 4 Friday 11th 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 2,962 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 Saturday 12th 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 Sunday 13th June. Today we head back to Garmisch Partenkirchen to catch the cable car up to the summit of the nearby peak of Wank. At 1,780 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 Monday 14th 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 Musk Orchid and the rare Moor King Lousewort *Pedicularis sceptrum-carolinum*.



Day 8 Tuesday 15th June. Today we will walk out from the hotel to the cable car up to the top of the Karwendel at 2,244 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, while Alpine Accentor, Snowfinch and Ptarmigan are also strong possibilities at this altitude.

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. Wednesday 16th June**), taking the train via Frankfurt to Brussels, and the Eurostar home.

TOUR LEADERS

Philip Precey is a Director of Wildlife Travel, who has led more than 100 holidays including our two previous visits to Bavaria, a part of the world he has visited many times over the past 20 years, including a short spell living in Munich.

Depending on final group size, Philip will be joined by a second Wildlife Travel leader. Between them, our leaders will ensure that you have a wonderful holiday and get the most out of your visit to the mountains of southern Germany.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

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.

During our stay in Mittenwald, we will take our breakfasts and evening meals at our hotel, and will take picnic lunches with us each day.

In Munich, we will have lunch at the café in the Botanic Gardens on Day 2, and dinner in a local restaurant in the city centre on Day 8.

All meals are included in the holiday price from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 9.

TRANSPORT

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

GROUP TRAVEL

Train schedules for 2027 are not yet released, but should be similar to 2026, as follows:

8 th 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
16 th 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.



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. Where possible, we will adapt our excursions accordingly.

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.

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 2027 (exact date yet to be confirmed), UK passport holders will need to apply for the ETIAS European Travel Authorisation to visit Schengen countries. This must be applied for online prior to travel. Once granted, your ETIAS will be valid for 3 years.

For up-to-date information, check www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/germany where you can also sign up for email alerts for your destination.

PRICE

£2,885 per person, £500 single room supplement, full board

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 2, lunch/dinner Day 9. Refreshments. Travel insurance. ETIAS costs.

PAYMENTS

Deposit amounts are shown on page 1 of the holiday information pack. **Payments should be made by bank transfer to Sunvil**, using the details given on the booking form, or by posting a cheque made payable to Sunvil Holidays, to the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post any payments to our Cambourne address**.



BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAY

If you have any queries about your holiday or need to talk to someone about your booking, please contact us here at Wildlife Travel. We can make sure that you are given the correct the information and get your questions answered more quickly. We would ask that you **please DO NOT contact Sunvil direct**, to avoid confusion.

COMPLETING THE BOOKING FORM

We do sometimes have more than one set of dates for the same destination, so please make sure you fill in the 'destination' and 'dates' for the holiday you wish to book on.

Please also make sure you complete the section concerning health and fitness: write 'none' if this is the case, but please don't leave that section blank.

If possible, **please fill in the booking form electronically**, by typing directly into the pdf form, save your changes, and then **email the form back to us at wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org**. Alternatively, you can post a paper copy to Sunvil Holidays, using the address given on the booking form. Please **DO NOT post bookings to our Cambourne address**.

SUNVIL HOLIDAYS

This holiday is booked through our tour operator, Sunvil Holidays, CAA-ATOL Licence 808, a member of ABTA (V6218), IATA and AITO. All payments are made to them, and your money and booking are protected accordingly.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please ensure you have read all the information given in the holiday leaflet and booking pack, paying particular attention to the entry requirements, health and fitness information, and details of what is and isn't included in the holiday price.

In order to ensure that this holiday suits you, it is imperative that you read the information on health and fitness in the holiday leaflet, and in the 'general information' section of the booking pack, and **let us know of any issues that may affect your participation in the holiday PRIOR TO BOOKING**.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory for our trips outside the UK. You should ensure that any pre-existing medical conditions are covered. We recommend having insurance in place as soon as your booking is confirmed, in the event of your cancellation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Your booking should be acknowledged with a week, usually sooner. **If you have not heard back from us within a week of sending your booking form, please let us know:** emails and post both go astray, and we wouldn't want you to lose your place on a trip.

You will receive a welcome letter from us, which will tell you if the holiday has already reached minimum numbers or not. Please **DO NOT arrange any additional travel or accommodation that you may need** until the holiday has been confirmed as going ahead.

When the holiday reaches the minimum numbers to be confirmed, we will send you a confirmation letter, including a confirmation invoice from Sunvil, with details of payments due, flights or trains included in your booking, and an ATOL certificate where appropriate.



thank you for travelling with us

www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

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