

Ammersee -- A New Species Near The Old Alps

I'd bet dollars to donuts that none of you out there won't find the scenery around the Ammersee completely, totally, and utterly gorgeous. How could you not, they're the foothills of the [Bavarian Alps](#). ;-)

The Alps are secondary to the Ammersee itself, a 47 square meter lake that's kind of deep — some 80 meters at its deepest point. No wonder a new species of fish wasn't discovered here until 2010 (it's the Ammersee-Kaulbarsch, BTW). But, then again, it's fed by the Ammer River, and water leaves by the Amper — so anything could make its way in.

I joke, but fishing is big on the Ammersee. So are all the watersports that you can do on (and under) the surface. However, if you're wanting to waterski you can only do it at the south end of the lake. Funny, that's how it is over at [Lake Starnberg](#).

Sailing and windsurfing are seriously fun activities, and a ride on one of the paddle ships is both romantic and fun. As I said before, no wonder all the urbanites from [Munich](#) (and [Augsburg](#)) come here to suck up the fresh air and burn off some steam.

FYI, traffic can get pretty backed up as the city folks make their way to the lake. I don't think the Celts who came this way via the Brenner Pass had these problems. ;-)

Some people prefer to stay on dry land (but still enjoy a lake view). So for those folks I'd recommend heading to Schondorf to walk along its promenade, or to sit at one of the lakeview beer gardens. Schondorf does have some history, which is seen at its mid-12th century Jakobskirche or the St. Anne Church (built 1499).

The water of the Ammersee plays a big part of life in Utting, where they're always holding some regatta or another. As well as an Arts & Crafts Market in July, a *Leonhardiritt* and Christmas Market (both in November). Any other time find one of its bike paths and cycle away.

In the Holzhausen village of Utting there's an Artists Colony, and every April to October the small museum at the *Künstlerhaus Gasteiger* is open.

[Herrsching](#) loves its location along the Ammersee just as much, which is why there's a lakefront promenade here too. This is a great place to rent a boat so you can enjoy the middle of the lake, or you can take a paddle steamer trek instead. Land lubber? It's all right, go visit the Archaeological Park instead — then go take a leisurely dip at the swimming area.

From here you can get to the *Schwedeninsel*, or Sweden Island. It got its name because during the [Thirty Years' War](#) many people from nearby [Dießen](#) escaped for their lives. Heaven knows how many people it could have held, since the island is only 180-meters by 170-meters.

Oh, I guess that is about 3 square kilometers, isn't it? Plenty of space for the nature reserve area that it is now. ;-)

Dießen isn't in any danger of being invaded by the Swedes (unless you know something I don't), so why not come see the town's St. George Church, the Marien Münster, or hike a bit of the King Ludwig Trail (that runs 120km from [Berg](#) to [Füssen](#)).

At the far north of the Ammersee is Inning, where you can horseback ride, or play tennis all you want. I like its *Weinfest* (Wine Festival) in mid-October, but I ain't gonna turn down a chance to go sailing on the Ammersee from here.

Heck, I won't miss any chance to see the Alps, any way I can get it. And in this case... I'll take it on the Ammersee.