

SLEEPING AROUND

Who's the most powerful ruler of them all? For a new

EUROPE

series, one photographer found answers—in the bedroom.



HERRENCHIEMSEE
Herreninsel, Germany

King Ludwig II of Bavaria built such extravagant castles, including this one modeled on Versailles, that he was called the Fairytale King. But his bankrupting spending habits (among other eccentricities) earned him a more enduring moniker: Mad King. GUIDED TOURS ONLY, HERRENCHIEMSEE.DE (© BAYERISCHE SCHLOSSERVERWALTUNG)



CHATSWORTH HOUSE
Derbyshire, England

In 18th-century England, Lord Chamberlains had first dibs on the furniture of deceased kings, which is how the fourth Duke of Devonshire ended up with the damask bunk of George II, who reportedly died in it. As they say, one man's deathbed is another man's status symbol. OPEN JANUARY-MAY, CHATSWORTH.ORG



HOUGHTON HALL
Norfolk, England

Sir Robert Walpole wasn't a king, but as England's first prime minister he considered himself deserving of just as fabulous a bed for his home at Houghton. The velvet and gilt trimmings alone cost £1,200. That was in 1732; today it would be more than \$300,000. OPEN APRIL-OCTOBER, HOUGHTONHALL.COM



CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES
Versailles, France

Marie Antoinette regularly redecored her apartments at Versailles to suit her taste du jour. She did the same with her private chambers, which were accessed via a secret door next to her bed and where she could take a break from royal obligations—and, presumably, her husband. CHATEAUVERSAILLES.FR