



# Bavaria

POP 12.6 MILLION

## Includes ➔

|                                    |     |
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| Bavarian Alps . . . . .            | 230 |
| Garmisch-Partenkirchen . . . . .   | 236 |
| Würzburg . . . . .                 | 248 |
| Rothenburg ob der Tauber . . . . . | 253 |
| Nuremberg . . . . .                | 265 |
| Bamberg . . . . .                  | 276 |
| Regensburg . . . . .               | 289 |

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Albrecht Dürer Stube (p274)
- ➔ Le Ciel (p247)
- ➔ Bürgerspital Weinstube (p252)
- ➔ Mittermeier (p256)
- ➔ August (p263)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Herrnschlösschen (p256)
- ➔ Petit Hotel Orphée (p291)
- ➔ Dom Hotel (p263)
- ➔ Hotel Deutscher Kaiser (p271)
- ➔ Elements Hotel (p291)

## Why Go?

From the cloud-shredding Alps to the fertile Danube plain, the Free State of Bavaria is a place that keeps its clichéd promises. Story-book castles bequeathed by an oddball king poke through dark forest, cowbells tinkle in flower-filled meadows, the thwack of palm on lederhosen accompanies the clump of frothy stein on timber bench, and medieval walled towns go about their time-warped business.

But diverse Bavaria offers much more than the chocolate-box idyll. Learn about Bavaria's state-of-the-art motor industry in Ingolstadt, discover its Nazi past in Nuremberg and Berchtesgaden, sip world-class wines in Würzburg, get on the Wagner trail in Bayreuth or seek out countless kiddy attractions across the state. Destinations are often described as possessing 'something for everyone', but in Bavaria's case this is no exaggeration.

And, whatever you do in Germany's southeast, every occasion is infused with that untranslatable feel-good air of *Gemütlichkeit* (cosiness) that makes exploring the region such an easygoing experience.

## When to Go

A winter journey along an off-season, tourist-free Romantic Road really sees the snow-bound route live up to its name. Come the spring, tuck into some seasonal fare as Bavaria goes crazy for asparagus during *Spargelzeit* (from late March). The summer months are all about the beer garden, and this is obviously the best time to savour the region's unsurpassed brews in the balmy, fairy-lit air. Autumn is the time to experience the dreamy haze of the Bavarian Forest and the bustle of Bavaria's cities, revived after the summer's time-out.

## Bavaria Highlights

1 Indulging your romantic fantasies at fairy-tale **Schloss Neuschwanstein** (p230)

2 Rack-and-pinioning your way to the top of the **Zugspitze** (p236), Germany's highest peak

3 Perching at the Eagle's Nest in **Berchtesgaden** (p246) to enjoy show-stopping Alpine vistas

4 Striking a trail through the tranquil wilds of the **Bavarian Forest National Park** (p304)

5 Going full circle around the town walls of quaint **Dinkelsbühl** (p257)

6 Messing around on the waters of the achingly picturesque **Königssee** (p245)

7 Revisiting Bavaria's Nazi past in **Nuremberg** (p265)

8 Going frothy at the mouth in the hundreds of superb **beer gardens, breweries and brewpubs** across the region

