

Destination Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest

You must, of course, have endless expectations about what you'll discover on your Bavarian adventure. Palaces straight out of fairy tales, strapping lads in lederhosen, onion-domed churches, beer halls where big-bosomed wenches juggle platters of roast pork, romantic valleys shrouded in fog and backed by the fierce verticality of the Alps. And they're all here, in truth. But they're only part of the mythology.

Bavaria can be as broad-minded as a view from the Zugspitze on a clear day and as narrow as the cobbled lanes threading through Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Its capital, Munich, is sexy, sophisticated and self-confident. It will seduce you with its irresistible *joie de vivre*, a trove of cultural delights and a relaxed flair that's prompted some to call it Italy's northernmost outpost.

Above all, though, Bavaria is successful. Its people earn more than anywhere else in Germany, the unemployment rate is the lowest nationwide, its schools and universities are at the top of the class, and sometimes it seems as though everyone you meet pilots the latest model Mercedes or BMW.

This is a region that cherishes its traditions yet enthusiastically embraces the future. Munich may be celebrating its 850th birthday in 2008, but just outside the city engineers are busy giving birth to the futuristic Galileo Satellite Navigation System. The European Aeronautic Defence & Space Company (EADS) builds Tornado fighter jets near Augsburg and biotech firms are feverishly searching for the cure for cancer. An openness towards innovation, a favourable business climate and a highly qualified workforce are all factors playing key roles in this success story.

Other defining factors are stability and conformity. It's simply not in the Bavarian character to rock the boat. For more than 700 years, one single family – the Wittelsbachs – ruled over the land, and even in democratic times only one party – the Christian Social Union (CSU) – has enjoyed uninterrupted power since WWII. Fiscal and social conservatism go hand in hand here. Same-sex couples may not register at the registry office or adopt children. Immigrants must sign up for integration courses or risk a cut in their welfare payments. Muslim teachers may not wear headscarves in school.

Still, Bavaria is a bewitching land and its people know it. Fortunately, they also know how to enjoy life. Beer gardens and street cafés hum with excited chatter as soon as the last winter storms disappear, and on weekends there's a veritable exodus to either the ski slopes, the hiking trails or the lake-shore beaches. It's a great place for visitors.

So what about the Black Forest? It may not have Bavaria's economic muscle but it, too, suffers from being reduced to a cliché, only it's cuckoo clocks instead of lederhosen. Bookmarked by forever-young Freiburg and stately Baden-Baden, it has more Michelin-starred chefs than any other German region. Its deep valleys, thick forests, Hänsel-and-Gretel houses and quaint traditions seem relics from a simpler past when our lives weren't ruled by laptops, iPods and GPS.

In southern Germany, dreamers and daredevils, romantics and gourmets, explorers and historians will all find ways to connect to this unique part of the world.

FAST FACTS: MUNICH & BAVARIA

Area: 70,549 sq km
Population: 12.5 million
GDP: €357 billion
Per capita income: €2570 per month (blue-collar), €3530 per month (white-collar)
Unemployment rate: 6.2%
Annual per capita beer consumption: 170L
Kilometres of autobahn: 2299
Passenger cars: 7.3 million
Students: 249,000
Overnight stays: 75 million
Museums: 1250

FAST FACTS: BLACK FOREST

Area: 13,000 sq km
Population: 3.43 million

Getting Started

Tourism infrastructure in Bavaria and the Black Forest is outstanding and families, urban nomads and backpackers will all find their needs and expectations met. Room and travel reservations are a good idea between July and August and around major holidays, but otherwise you can keep your advance planning to a minimum.

WHEN TO GO

Most people prefer to visit Bavaria and the Black Forest between May and September when sunny skies and warm temperatures are likely. This is the best time for hiking, cycling, water sports and other outdoor pursuits, hanging out in beer gardens and outdoor cafés, and partying at festivals or alfresco events. For more information, see the Events Calendar, p20. The shoulder seasons (March to May, and October) bring fewer tourists, surprisingly pleasant weather and a riot of colour: wildflowers in spring, foliage in autumn.

With the exception of winter sports, activities between November and February are likely to focus more on culture and city life. Expect short daylight hours, grey skies, low temperatures, and reduced opening times or seasonal closures at museums and other sightseeing venues. Many smaller lodging properties, especially in rural areas, close down through November until early December. The ski season usually kicks off in early to mid-December, moves into full swing after New Year and winds down sometime in March.

For related information, see Holidays (p316).

TRAVELLING RESPONSIBLY

Since our inception in 1973, Lonely Planet has encouraged readers to tread lightly, travel responsibly and enjoy the magic independent travel affords. International travel is growing at a jaw-dropping rate, and we still firmly believe in the benefits it can bring – but, as always, we encourage you to consider the impact your visit will have on both the global environment and the local economies, cultures and ecosystems.

Fortunately, travelling responsibly within Bavaria and the Black Forest is comparatively easy. Take advantage of the excellent public transport system, use a bicycle and build your itinerary around more than Neuschwanstein,

See Climate Charts on p315 for more information.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Memorising a few basic words in German (p331)
- Valid travel and health insurance (p317)
- A cholesterol meter (all that meat!)
- Hotel or camping reservations when travelling outside the cities in summer (p312)
- Sturdy and worn-in walking shoes for hiking
- Loose pants to accommodate a potential beer belly
- Good maps or a GPS for finding your way on country roads or in the mountains
- A raincoat, rainproof shoes and/or umbrella for those days when the sun is a no-show
- Nerves of steel for driving on the autobahns
- A set of smart clothes for hitting big-city clubs, the opera or fancy restaurants
- This book and an open mind

Rothenburg and other impacted hot spots. This book is full of ideas for getting you off the beaten path.

For background on the wider environmental issues facing Bavaria and the Black Forest and how these are being tackled, see the Environment chapter (p52).

Getting There & Away

Travelling to southern Germany by land may be easier and more comfortable than you think. Coming from London, for instance, you could catch the Eurostar train after work, switch to a night train in Paris and be in Munich for breakfast. There are also daytime and overnight trains to Munich and Freiburg from numerous other European cities. See p324 for details.

Although slower and less comfortable, riding the bus is another option, especially if you're headed to a place not served by train. Details are on p323.

If you're driving, consider hiring an efficient car – preferably a hybrid – rather than using your own vehicle, especially if it's older. And decline those 'free' upgrades – that bigger car may be a petrol guzzler. Consider ride-sharing (p327). If you do choose to fly, offset your carbon emissions; see www.climatecare.org, www.terrappass.com or www.sustainabletravelinternational.org for details.

Local Transport

Even if you're travelling by car, consider ditching it at least part of the time. Getting around between towns or to tourist attractions and trailheads by train or bus is usually uncomplicated and inexpensive since timetables are often designed with visitors' needs in mind. In some communities overnight guests get to ride for free. Low-emission or alternative-fuel bus fleets are increasingly common.

Accommodation

Many properties follow simple eco-initiatives, such as offering you the option of reusing your towels and sheets, replacing plastic or Styrofoam cups with glass and dropping prepackaged items from the breakfast buffet. Guests can often borrow bicycles for free or a small fee. Newer hotels are sometimes built using local and/or ecofriendly materials. Recycling is *de rigueur*.

You can help raise awareness among hotel staff by thanking them for any ecofriendly programs they offer; if they don't have any, encourage them to do so and provide a few constructive hints.

Food

Fortunately, chefs in the Black Forest and Bavaria love working with local, seasonal and often organic ingredients, so eating like a 'locavore' shouldn't be a tall order. Farmers markets abound and sometimes local farmers sell their product at roadside stands. Choose restaurants that make use of organic produce whenever possible and only order fish, seafood or meat that's from sustainable sources. If carrying a bottle of water, refill it in bathrooms or at water fountains. Take fast food off the menu.

Responsible Travel Schemes

BayernTour Natur (www.stmugv.bayern.de/aktionen/tournatur/veranstaltungen.htm) Searchable database of more than 2600 eco- and nature-related events – from guided hikes to bird-watching – taking place throughout Bavaria between May and October.

Climate Neutral Travel (www.dasferienland.de/klimaneutral-reisen.asp#rechner, in German)

The Schonach/Triberg region in the Black Forest offsets CO₂ emissions caused by its visitors by donating money towards a World Wildlife Fund project in Nepal. Fill out the short form with your name, distance travelled by car and by train, and send it by email.

TOP 10

France

**BLACK
FOREST**
BAVARIA
Czech
Republic
• MUNICH

BOOKS

Great storytelling opens up a window on a country's culture and the psyche of its people. Get ready for your trip by curling up with these books shining the light on various facets of southern Germany.

- Gladius Dei* (1902), Thomas Mann
- Caspar Hauser* (1908), Jakob Wassermann
- Success* (1930), Lion Feuchtwanger
- The Brecht Memoir* (1991), Eric Bentley
- Where Ghosts Walked: Munich's Road to the Third Reich* (1996), David Clay Large
- Letters Back to Ancient China* (1998), Herbert Rosendorfer
- Lola Montez: A Life* (1998), Bruce Seymour
- Against the Stream: Growing Up Where Hitler Used to Live* (2002), Anna Rosmus
- Massacre in Munich: The Manhunt for the Killers Behind the 1972 Olympics Massacre* (2005), Michael Bar Bar-Zohar and Eitan Haber
- Sophie Scholl & the White Rose* (2007), Jud Newborn and Annette Dumbach

MOVIES

Grab a bowl of popcorn and get in the mood for your Bavarian adventure with some of these flicks, made by a cast of top international directors.

- Triumph of the Will* (1935) Director: Leni Riefenstahl
- Sissi* (1955) Director: Ernst Marischka
- Ludwig* (1973) Director: Luchino Visconti
- Veronika Voss* (1982) Director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder
- Autumn Milk* (1989) Director: Joseph Vilsmaier
- The Nasty Girl* (1990) Director: Michael Verhoeven
- The Enigma of Caspar Hauser* (1995) Director: Werner Herzog
- Hierankl* (2003, in German) Director: Hans Steinbichler
- Munich* (2005) Director: Steven Spielberg
- Sophie Scholl – The Final Days* (2005) Director: Marc Rothmund

FESTIVALS

Bavarians are party people, especially during the balmy summer months when the festival season is in full swing. Here's our list of favourites, but also have a look at the Events Calendar on p20 and the Festivals & Events section in the destination chapters.

- Erlanger Bergkirchweih (p227) – Erlangen, May
- Zelt-Musik Festival (p289) – Freiburg, June to July
- Tollwood Festival (p110) – Munich, late June to mid-July
- Kinderzeche (p269) – Dinkelsbühl, mid-July
- Salzburger Festspiele (p176) – Salzburg, late July to late August
- Richard Wagner Festival (p239) – Bayreuth, late July to August
- Gäubodenfest (p203) – Straubing, August
- Oktoberfest (p108) – Munich, mid-September to early October
- Leonhardifahrt (p145) – Bad Tölz, 6 November
- Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt (p217) – Nuremberg, late November to 24 December

Umweltsiegel (www.umweltsiegel.de) Ecofriendly hotels and restaurants as certified by the Bavarian state government.

Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (www.woof.de) Volunteering on organic farms, including dozens in southern Germany.

COSTS & MONEY

Outside major cities such as Munich and Nuremberg, Bavaria can be quite reasonably priced. You should be able to live comfortably on €120 to €150 per day (per person, travelling as an adult couple). For mere survival you'll need to budget from €40 to €70, but this will have you camping or sleeping in hostels, preparing your own meals or eating snack food, and limiting your entertainment. For ideas on how to stretch your euro further, see p315.

Comfortable midrange accommodation starts at about €80 for a double room with breakfast in cities, and €50 in the countryside. Many hotels and hostels have special 'family rooms' with three or four beds, or will supply sleeping cots for a small fee. For more on travelling with kids, see p314.

A two-course meal in an average restaurant costs between €20 and €30 per person, including a beverage. The bill will be lower if you stick to cafés and casual eateries and skip alcoholic drinks. Kids' menus or dishes are quite common.

Car-hire costs vary widely but you can figure on spending at least €45 per day for a medium-sized car, plus petrol.

TRAVEL LITERATURE

To get in the mood for your trip, consider reading some of the following titles, written by travellers who have visited Bavaria before you.

A Tramp Abroad, by Mark Twain, is a literary classic containing keen and witty observations gathered during his travels in Europe, including a walking tour of the Black Forest and the Alps with his friend Joseph H Twitchell.

Katherine Mansfield's *In a German Pension* is a collection of satirical short stories inspired by her stay in Bavaria as a young woman.

It's a tough slog, but Claudio Magris' *Danube* certainly has its moments. Part travelogue, part meditation, it follows the great river through Bavaria and beyond, reflecting on events that took place along it and the people who've lived here.

Patrick Leigh Fermor's *A Time of Gifts* is a keen and readable account of the author's epic journey on foot from Holland to Turkey, passing through Bavaria along the way, in the years before WWII.

Three Men on a Bummel, by British author Jerome K Jerome, is a delightful comic tale that follows three English gentlemen on their cycling trip through the Black Forest in the 1890s.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Bavarian Government (www.bayern.de) Official Bavarian state government site with good general background information.

Bavarian Tourism Association (www.bayern.by) Official site loaded with useful information on all aspects of travel to and within Bavaria.

Black Forest Tourism (www.blackforest-tourism.com) Loaded with preplanning tips on sights, culture, sport, nature and special events.

Castles in Bavaria (www.schloesser.bayern.de) Overview of all palaces, fortresses, residences and castles in the state.

Expats in Bavaria (www.expats-in-bavaria.com) Especially useful for expats but also with relevant information for visitors.

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com) Travel news and summaries, the Thorn Tree bulletin board, and links to more web resources.

HOW MUCH?

Latte macchiato
€2.80-3.50

One hour of parking (in
a public parking space)
€1-2

Cinema ticket €5-9

Pack of 17 cigarettes €4

U-Bahn ticket (Munich)
€2.20

See also Lonely Planet
index on inside front
cover.

Events Calendar

From samba to jazz, historical re-enactments to epic beer drink-ups, Mozart to religious pilgrimages – the party never stops in Bavaria and the Black Forest. Nearly all events highlighted in this short chapter are described in greater detail in the destination chapters, which also list festivals of local importance.

JANUARY–MARCH

HORNSCHLITTENRENNEN 6 Jan
Hilarious celebration in Garmisch-Partenkirchen with locals racing downhill on historical sleds once used for bringing hay and wood to the valleys (p139).

MOZARTWOCHE Late Jan
Salzburg's Mozart Week (p176) draws an impressive list of internationally renowned conductors, soloists and orchestras.

FASCHING (CARNIVAL) Jan/Feb
During the six-week pre-Lent period preceding Ash Wednesday, many towns celebrate with costumed street partying, parades, satirical shows and general revelry, especially in Munich (p110). In the Black Forest, the biggest celebration is the Willinger Fasnet (p299).

APRIL–MAY

MAIFEST 30 Apr
On the eve of 1 May, the May Festival celebrates the end of winter with villagers chopping down a tree to make a *Maibaum* (maypole), painting, carving and decorating it, and staging a merry revelry.

INTERNATIONALE JAZZWOCHE Apr–May
The International Jazz Week (p166) draws the crème de la crème of musicians to Burghausen, near the Austrian border.

NÖRDLINGER PFINGSTMESSE May
On Pentecost (Whitsuntide) weekend, scores of regional traders exhibit their wares at a huge market (p270) with beer tents, food stalls and entertainment in Nördlingen on the Romantic Road.

AFRICA FESTIVAL Late May
Bongo drums, hot rhythms and fancy costumes turn the banks of the Main River in Würzburg

into Europe's largest festival of black music with international performers (p258).

JUNE–AUGUST

FESTSPIELE EUROPÄISCHE WOCHE

Mid-Jun–Late Jul
The European 'Festival Weeks' (p206) event is a well-respected international music and cultural festival held in venues in Passau and across the border in Upper Austria and the Czech Republic.

ZELT-MUSIK FESTIVAL Late Jun–mid-Jul
The Tent Music Festival is a huge three-week festival (p289) held in Freiburg with theatre, cabaret, stand-up comedy acts, concerts, DJs and kids' entertainment.

SONNWENDFEIER 20 Jun
The summer solstice is greeted on the eve of 21 June with big bonfires lit on mountaintops throughout Bavaria.

TOLLWOOD FESTIVAL Late Jun–mid-Jul
Crowds flock to Munich's Olympiapark for this popular world-culture festival (p110) with concerts, theatre, circus, readings and other fun events. Also in November.

LANDSHUTER HOCHZEIT Jul
Every four years 2000 townspeople in Landshut dress up in historical costume to re-enact a royal wedding held in 1475 (p215). The next celebration is in 2009.

OPERNFESTSPIELE Jul
This month-long opera festival (p110) brings international high-calibre talent to the Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

BAVARIAN JAZZ WEEKEND Mid-Jul
Major jazz festival (p198) brings international top talent and thousands of fans to shake their booties at various stages in the old town of Regensburg.

CHRISTOPHER STREET DAY Mid-Jul
Gay, lesbian, straight or transgender – everybody comes out to party at Munich's flashy gay parade (p110). Provocative costumes, rainbow flags, techno music and naked torsos guaranteed.

KINDERZECH Mid-Jul
Children from Dinkelsbühl re-enact how their city was saved from devastation during the Thirty Years' War, along with music and the usual merriment (p269).

SAMBA FESTIVAL Mid-Jul
This orgy of song and dance draws a quarter of a million people to Coburg for three days of exotic and colourful costumes, high-energy music and sexy dancing (p242).

ST ANNAFEST Late Jul–early Aug
The enormously popular St Anna Festival (p227) is a 10-day beer party taking over an 'enchanted' forest near Forchheim.

RICHARD WAGNER FESTIVAL Late Jul–Aug
Politicians, blue-bloods, industrialists and other movers and shakers mingle with actual opera lovers during this prestigious festival (p239) held in Bayreuth.

SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE Late Jul–Aug
One of the most important classical-music festivals in Europe, this event (p176) features everything from Mozart to contemporary music, opera and theatre.

GÄUBODENFEST Aug
This epic Oktoberfest-style drink-up and occasion of much revelry draws about a million people to little Straubing for 11 days starting on the second Friday of August (p203).

BREISACHER WEINFEST Aug
This wine festival (p296), held on the last weekend of August, features the coronation of a wine princess, plus lots of wine tasting, concerts and a huge fireworks display over the Rhine.

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

REICHSSSTADT FESTSTAGE Early Sep
Rothenburg ob der Tauber re-enacts its medieval history during the Imperial City Festival (p266).

GROSSE WOCHE IFFEZHEIM Early Sep
Grand Festival Week (p303) is Germany's answer to Ascot and draws world-class jockeys and famous horses to the Iffezheim racecourse near Baden-Baden.

OKTOBERFEST Mid-Sep–early Oct
Millions of people can't be wrong (p108). Enough said. *Prost!*

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

LEONHARDIFAHRT 6 Nov
This major procession honours the patron saint of horses, St Leonard, and features townsfolk dressed in traditional garments, as well as brass bands and flower-festooned horse carts. The most famous version of this is in Bad Tölz (p145).

CHRISTMAS MARKETS Late Nov–24 Dec
Celebrate the holidays at glittery Christmas markets with mulled wine, gingerbread cookies and shimmering ornaments. The markets in Munich (p111), Nuremberg (p223) and Freiburg (p289) are the most famous, but smaller ones sometimes have more local flavour.

ADVENTSKALENDAR Dec
Gengenbach in the northern Black Forest turns its town hall into a giant advent calendar (p310) with each of the 24 windows opening one 'door' at a time to reveal festive scenes painted by well-known artists.

NIKOLAUSTAG 5 Dec
On the eve of 5 December, children put their boots outside the door hoping that St Nick will fill them with sweets and small toys overnight. Badly behaved children, though, may find only a prickly rod left behind by St Nick's helper, Knecht Ruprecht.

SILVESTER 31 Dec
During the German New Year's Eve celebrations, the new year is greeted with fireworks launched by thousands of amateur pyromaniacs.

Driving Tours

ROMANTIC ROAD

One week / 450km

After soaking up the vibrant atmosphere of **Würzburg** (p254), carve your way south through the Tauber Valley to the magnificent palace at **Weikersheim** (p261) and the astounding Riemenschneider altar in **Creglingen** (p262). Lose yourself in the tangle of medieval laneways in magical **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** (p262) and continue southwards, via fetching little **Feuchtwangen** (p268), to **Dinkelsbühl** (p268) and **Nördlingen** (p270), which are both embraced by ancient town walls. Set aside some time to check out the storybook castle guarding the half-timbered village of **Harburg** (p271), and to stroll along the canalside park at **Donauwörth** (p271) before hitting the energetic city of **Augsburg** (p272). Countless churches grace the Romantic Road but, to Augsburg's south, the one packing the mightiest punch is the luminous **Wieskirche** (p280). Contemplate King Ludwig II's flights of fancy at his whimsical castle, **Schloss Neuschwanstein** (p283), and then wind your way west through the Alps to wrap up your romantic roadtrip on Lake Constance's idyllic island of **Lindau** (p286). Alternatively, you can kick off your trip in Lindau and finish in Würzburg.

I can't deny that I'm a romantic at heart, but it's the road tripper in me that really loves this route, given its endless possibilities for detours. While my main road highlights include Rothenburg and Harburg, unplanned side trips invariably reveal gems destined to become new favourites.

CATHERINE LE NEVEZ



BLACK FOREST TO BAVARIA

Two to three days / 235km

Your adventure begins with a romp through the cobbled alleyways of **Freiburg** (p289), nestled beneath the fiery red-brick Münster. Bid the sunny university city adieu to climb the L124, which corkscrews up through fir forest and affords snapshot vistas of the valley below. If you're driving in winter, make sure you have *Winterreifen* (winter tyres). Pause for knockout views of the Rhine Valley and Alps from **Schauinsland** (p295) before zigzagging north to Kirchzarten and the L127, past deep-green woodlands dappled with purple foxglove in summer. Soon the voluptuous domes of the Benedictine abbey in **St Peter** (p297) slide into view, rivalled in the beauty stakes by the candy-pink pilgrimage church in nearby **St Märgen**. On the B500, **Lachenhäusle** is a great pit-stop for local ham, honey and schnapps. Enjoy your goodies over views of gently rising hills fading off into a watercolour distance. Veer right onto the L180a, a sublime country road that wriggles past meadows of ripening corn, hip-roofed farmhouses and cows grazing the pastures. From the rural village of **Urach**, shadow the gurgling Breg upstream on the L172/L180 to **Vöhrenbach**, picturesquely tucked into the folds of the countryside. The L173 serves up more dreamy scenery on lanes bristling with firs and pines. It's time for a well-deserved break at Ackerloch Grillschopf in **Unterkirnach** (p300) before edging east to explore medieval **Villingen** (p299). To continue onto Bavaria, hop on the A81 towards Singen, an attractive highway traversing the Schwarzwald-Baar plateau. After Engen, you'll snatch your first glimpse of the castle-topped **Hegau volcanoes** and shimmering **Lake Constance** (p286). Skirt the eastern shore on the A98/B31, past vineyards, apple orchards and **Birbau**'s postcard-perfect baroque church. Round out your drive with a few bevies on the palm-fringed promenade in **Lindau** (p286).

It's hard to cherry-pick the Black Forest, but this offbeat route dishes up some of its juiciest scenery. The winding backroads bewitch me with their lazy hills and misty vales, fairy-tale woodlands and villages oozing earthy authenticity. Every last crumb is poetry in motion.

KERRY WALKER



BEST OF BAVARIA

Two to three weeks / 1500km

Kick off in **Munich** (p73), where museums, nightlife and brewpubs form a trifecta of treats. Go royal at Ludwig II's **Schloss Linderhof** (p143), then stand on the roof of Germany: Zugspitze above **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** (p136). Head east via the B2, then pick up the scenic lakeside toll road along **Walchensee** (p148) to get to **Bad Tölz** (p145), the heart of the Tölzer Land (p145) and to **Tegernsee** (p149), the playground of the rich and famous. Head east to **Chiemsee** (p150) via the A8 to admire more Ludwig II follies at Schloss Herrenchiemsee, then take a back route along the B305 through the **Chiemgau Alps** (p154) via **Reit im Winkl** (p154), **Ruhpolding** (p154) and **Inzell** (p154). Listen to the famous philharmonic orchestra in **Bad Reichenhall** (p155), then squeeze in a day among the mountains, lakes and intriguing, if dark, history of the **Berchtesgadener Land** (p157) before catching *Sound of Music*-mania in achingly beautiful **Salzburg** (p167). Admire Europe's longest castle in **Burghausen** (p165), combined with side trips to **Altötting** (p163), the 'Lourdes of Germany', or **Markt am Inn** (p209), Pope Benedict XVI's birthplace. From here head to postcard-pretty **Passau** (p204), an Italianate town at the confluence of three rivers, followed by the **Bavarian Forest** (p209) for hiking and stopping at **Frauenau's** glass museum (p213). Turn your compass towards **Regensburg** (p194), a university town with a nearly impeccably preserved medieval core, then hit Kelheim for the boat ride to **Kloster Weltenburg** (p203) and follow the river through the idyllic **Naturpark Altmühltal** (p243) river valley to Beilngries. From **Nuremberg** (p217), a major draw for history buffs, continue north on the A9 to Pegnitz to pick up the B470 through the dramatically eroded **Fränkische Schweiz** (p236). **Bamberg** (p230), famous for its pristine Altstadt and breweries, is next. Finish up exploring the **Franconian Wine Country** (p260) before picking up the Romantic Road itinerary (p22) in **Würzburg** (p254).

I always feel like a kid in a candy store when traveling in Bavaria: the selection is vast, everything looks tasty, but my budget is limited and I can't hang around forever. When pushed to make up my mind, these are stops and routes I'd pick.

ANDREA SCHULTE-PEEVERS

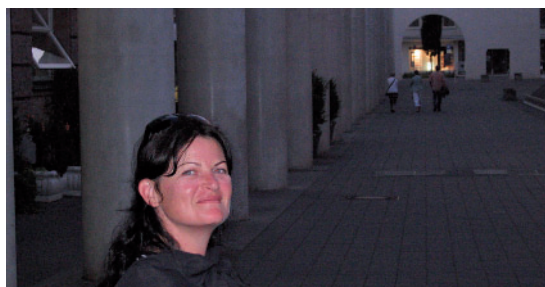


On the Road



Andrea Schulte-Peevers *Coordinating Author*

This is me (second from right) at the Munich Oktoberfest (p108) displaying my usual quiet dignity, fearlessly confronting the locals on their own turf and enduring their insufferable rituals in my quest to spiritually bond with them and deliver the truth of their ways. Pain, deprivation – but not the lack of anything to drink – such is the harsh life of a Lonely Planet writer.



CATHERINE LE NEVEZ Every time I take in Nuremberg's towering medieval walls, grand hilltop castle and cavernous beer halls (not to mention its beer!) it leaves me awestruck. But I'm most awestruck of all when I'm standing alongside the Way of Human Rights' pillars, contemplating the city's depth of compassion, courage and inspiration.



KERRY WALKER Berchtesgaden National Park is pure drama. I'd joined day-trippers on the early morning boat across the glassy Königssee to St Bartholomä, the trailhead for the **Eiskapelle walk** (p70). The sun shone on the soaring pinnacles of the Watzmann, glacial brooks and fields ablaze with yellow arnica. It was a magnificent start to a short, spectacular hike far from the madding crowd.

See full author bios page 339

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