



Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest



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PLAN YOUR TRIP

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Itineraries



Southern Germany Highlights

This itinerary takes in the best of the region in a whistle-stop tour of southern Germany's must-sees. You could spend months exploring the region but 10 days is just enough to tick off the essentials.

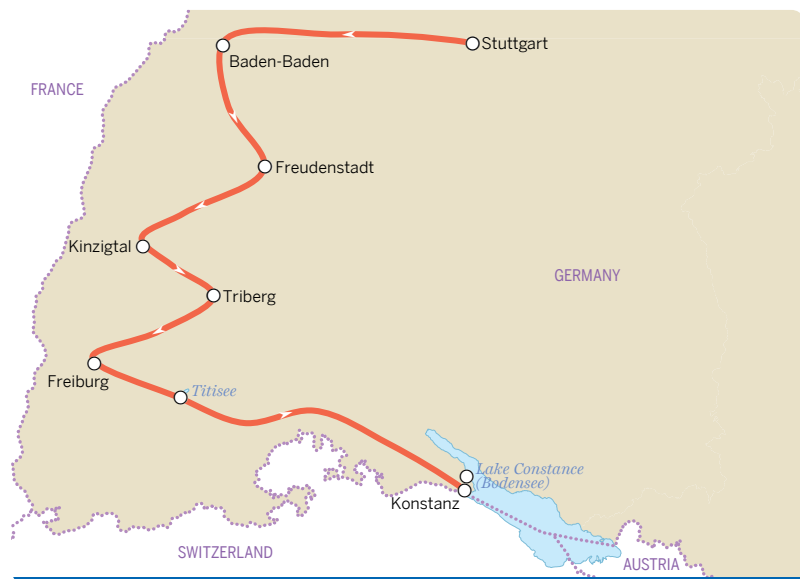
Kick off your southern odyssey in **Munich** where three days is barely enough time to sample the Bavarian capital's art and beer. A short hop north by train brings you to **Nuremberg**, the bustling capital of Franconia and a major draw for fans of both dark tourism and dark beer. Another train, another historic city, this time university town **Würzburg**, famous for its wines and the prince-bishop's residence. You're now at the northern terminus of the 350km-long Romantic Road. The most engaging stop along the route is **Rothenburg ob der Tauber**, a labyrinth of medieval streets and lanes with heaps of sugary architecture. The Romantic Road ends at the gates of **Schloss Neuschwanstein**, Bavarian king Ludwig II's fairy-tale pad and one of the world's most iconic 19th-century follies. Stop off at **Lindau** on the shores of Lake Constance en route to **Freiburg** in the southern Black Forest, where you can follow a tour of the Münster with a slab of the famous local gâteau.



Munich & the Alps

The Alps are a definite highlight of Bavaria and almost every visitor makes at least one trip to these famous peaks. This itinerary includes the best stop-offs and features everything from lakes in the foothills to a train ride to the top of the highest peak.

The route can be tackled as a point-to-point trip or as day trips from Munich; the German Alps are easily reachable by train from there. Beginning in **Munich**, you'll need at least three days to cover the essential viewing in this vibrant metropolis, perhaps reserving time for a spot of shopping and to visit some of the city's lesser-known sights such as the Olympiapark and BMW Welt. If there's time, the incredibly beautiful **Starnberger See** is an S-Bahn ride away. Pretty **Oberammergau**, famous for its once-a-decade passion play, is just over two hours (with changes) on the train from Munich Hauptbahnhof and makes a superb base for visiting King Ludwig II's Schloss Linderhof, an easy 12km hike. Then it's time to stand on the roof of Germany: the **Zugspitze** above Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the Bundesrepublik's highest peak. If you don't have your own wheels you'll have to backtrack all the way to Munich to reach the **Chiemsee**. Water sports are one of the big draws here, though most come for another of Ludwig II's palaces, Schloss Herrenchiemsee, set on an island (the Herreninsel) in the lake and accessible by ferry from the town of **Prien**. After a day of messing around on the *Wasser*, it's back into the mountains, this time the ranges around **Berchtesgaden** in Germany's extreme southeastern tip. Some intriguing Nazi history can be found here, particularly Hitler's mountain perch, the Eagle's Nest, now a seasonal restaurant that draws many visitors. For an equally photogenic escapade, take one of the electric boats from Berchtesgaden along the stunningly picturesque Königssee, surrounded by the Berchtesgaden National Park. From Berchtesgaden it's a short bus ride into Austria and a day or two of *Sound of Music*-mania in achingly beautiful **Salzburg**.



Stuttgart & the Black Forest

This zigzagging canter through Germany's southwest is for those who like a varied time on their travels – the route is a mix of cuckoo clocks and state-of-the-art luxury car museums, half-timbered villages and the big-city vibe of Stuttgart.

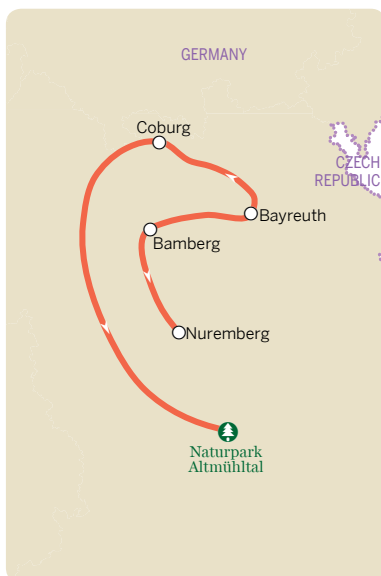
Begin with a couple of days exploring the galleries, stately plazas and vibrant night-life of regional capital **Stuttgart**. High on your agenda should be the city's regal heart, Schlossplatz, the Staatsgalerie's art treasures and evenings spent sampling local Rieslings in a *Weinstube* (wine tavern) or hanging out in Theodor-Heuss-Strasse's lounge bars. Car fans should race to the space-age Mercedes-Benz and Porsche museums. On day three, head west to **Baden-Baden**, a swish art nouveau spa town picturesquely nestled at the foot of the Black Forest's spruce-cloaked hills. Here you can wallow in thermal waters, saunter through the sculpture-speckled Lichtentaler Allee gardens and try your luck in the casino. Day four takes you south along the serpentine Schwarzwald-Hochstrasse (B500), with tremendous forest and mountain panoramas at every bend. Stop to glimpse Germany's largest square in **Freudenstadt** on your way to the curving **Kinzigtal**, the prettiest valley in this neck of the woods, with its orchards, vineyards and cluster of half-timbered villages. Your fifth day takes you to the Black Forest's most storied town, **Triberg**, where Germany's highest waterfall flows, the world's biggest cuckoo clock calls, and Claus Schäfer bakes *the* best Black Forest gateau using the original 1915 recipe. Work off the cake with a walk or cross-country ski in the wooded heights of Martinskapelle or Stöcklewaldturm. A scenic hour's drive from Triberg brings you to the sunny university city of **Freiburg**, close to the French border. Spend the day absorbing its easygoing flair in the Altstadt's quaint lanes, watched over by a monster of a medieval minster. Wind out your final day by the lake. Swinging east brings you to forest-rimmed **Titisee** en route to the watery expanse of **Lake Constance**, Central Europe's third-largest lake, flanked by quaint villages, vineyards, wetlands and beaches. An afternoon in **Konstanz** is just long enough to get a taste of this Roman-rooted city, where the historic alleys of the Altstadt wend down to a relaxed lakefront promenade.



Romantic Road

Germany's most popular tourist route winds its way for 350km through Bavaria's western reaches.

The Romantic Road begins at **Würzburg** where two days are enough to tour the impressive baroque Residenz and sample the region's wines. From here head south to magical **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** where you can lose yourself in the medieval lanes and celebrate Christmas every day. Your next destination is quaint little **Dinkelsbühl**, a medieval gem ringed by a complete set of town walls. More medieval defences ring **Nördlingen**, a less touristy but equally attractive stopover. Set aside some time to check out the story-book castle guarding the half-timbered village of **Harburg**, and to stroll through twee **Donauwörth** before hitting the city of **Augsburg**, the Romantic Road's biggest settlement boasting several worthwhile attractions. Many a church graces the Romantic Road but, to Augsburg's south, the one packing the mightiest punch is the luminous **Wieskirche**, a true baroque masterpiece. Contemplate King Ludwig II's flights of fancy at his whimsical castle, **Schloss Neuschwanstein**, where Germany's most popular tourist route comes to a fittingly fairy-tale climax.



Nuremberg & Franconia

Franconia has quite a different feel to it than southern Bavaria. Some of Bavaria's most intriguing museums, historical centres and cultural associations are in its north and this trip covers all the essentials.

The lively capital of Franconia, **Nuremberg** has bags to see and do – including the Nuremberg trials courtroom, the Germanisches Nationalmuseum and the Deutsche Bahn Museum – and an embarrassment of eateries to choose from when you return from exploring the region. A close second in Franconia's pecking order is Unesco-listed **Bamberg**, a confusion of ancient bridges, winding cobbled streets and riverside cottages, the air perfumed by numerous breweries producing the town's unique *Rauchbier* (smoked beer). An hour's train ride brings you to **Bayreuth**, famous for its annual Wagner Festival but a pleasant place to stroll any time of year. Around 100km north of Nuremberg, **Coburg** is memorable for its fortress, its British royal family connections and the longest sausages you'll ever eat served in the smallest bread buns. Round off your time in Franconia with a hike, bike or canoe trip (requiring more time) through the glorious **Altmühltal Nature Park**.

Behind the Scenes

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WRITER THANKS

Marc Di Duca

Huge thanks goes out to Robert Leckel of München Tourismus for his invaluable assistance and great ideas. I'd also like to thank all the staff of Bavaria's excellent tourist offices for their help, especially those in Landsberg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Augsburg and Bayreuth. Finally many thanks to my wife for holding the fort while I was away in Bavaria.

Kerry Christiani

I'd like to say *vielen Dank* to all of the locals, travellers and tourism pros who made the road to research a pleasure. Particular thanks go to Andrea Mauch in

Konstanz, Maren Schullerus in Baden-Baden, Anna Beyrer in Ulm, Yvonne Halmich in Karlsruhe, Christine Strecker in Freiburg, Sandra Nörpel in Stuttgart, and Stephanie Staudhammer in Salzburg.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, 11, 163344.

Cover photograph: Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Francesco Carovillano/4Corners ©

THIS BOOK

This 6th edition of Lonely Planet's *Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest* guide was researched and written by Marc Di Duca and Kerry Christiani, and curated by Marc. The previous edition was also written by Marc and Kerry. This guidebook was produced by the following:

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Thanks to Martina Brunner, Heather Champion, Deniz Ozkan, Kathryn Rowan, Renata Willi

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Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

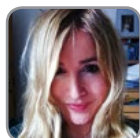
Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

6th edition – March 2019

ISBN 978 1 78657 377 3

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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