



BAVARIA

Bavaria, the largest federal state in Germany, boasts a scenic diversity comparable to none other; from the peaks of the Bavarian Alps to the windswept elevations of the Rhön and Bayerischer Wald stretch the foothills of the Alps, traversed by the meandering rivers of the Isar and Danube and punctuated by the glimmering waters of crystal-clear mountain lakes. Fine vintages are cultivated in the Main Valley, with Germany's most concentrated network of microbreweries spread out amongst the bizarre dolomite cliffs and magical dripstone caves of Franconian Switzerland. Numerous castles, palaces, churches and monasteries bear witness to the region's rich and turbulent history. Munich, the provincial capital, is not only famous the world over for its Oktoberfest and Hofbräuhaus but also a humming international centre of the arts.

The cities and countryside, lakes and mountains of Bavaria are portrayed here in over 200 photos. Lofty peaks and lush valleys, traditional festivals in major towns and tiny villages, magnificent buildings and historic sites make Bavaria a must on any German itinerary.



Details of our programme
can be found at
www.verlagshaus.com



Journey through



BAVARIA

Martin Slepmann & Ernst-Otto Luthardt



Stürtz

First page:
Each autumn, before the onset of winter, the cattle have to be driven down from their mountain

pastures (here in Pfronten/Allgäu). The occasion is one of merriment and celebration for both man and beast.

Previous page:
The Königssee, entirely surrounded by mountains, is one of the gems of Germany's Alpine lakes.

The tiny peninsula of St Bartholomä lies huddled at the foot of the Kleiner Watzmann,

the oldest parts of its pilgrimage chapel dating back to the 12th century.

Below:
Celebrating without music in Bavaria would be absolutely unthinkable. Here the band is playing in

Gmund (Tegernsee lake) for the feast of Corpus Christi procession.

Page 10/11:
From Ussenburg there are grand views of the Tegelberg and Säuling in the Ammergebirge, with the

Forggensee tucked in between them. The lake was created in 1954 when an enormous dam was erected across the River Lech.

Contents

12

Blues skies and snowy peaks – Bavaria

26

In Upper Bavaria and Bavarian Swabia

Page 38

Milk and cheese from the Allgäu

Page 68

King Ludwig II and his fairytale castles

76

“Franconia is a land blessed”

Page 86

Festivals, pilgrimages and ancient customs

Page 106

Bavaria’s “liquid nourishment” – beer

112

Ancient boundaries – the Upper Palatinate and Lower Bavaria

134 index

135 map

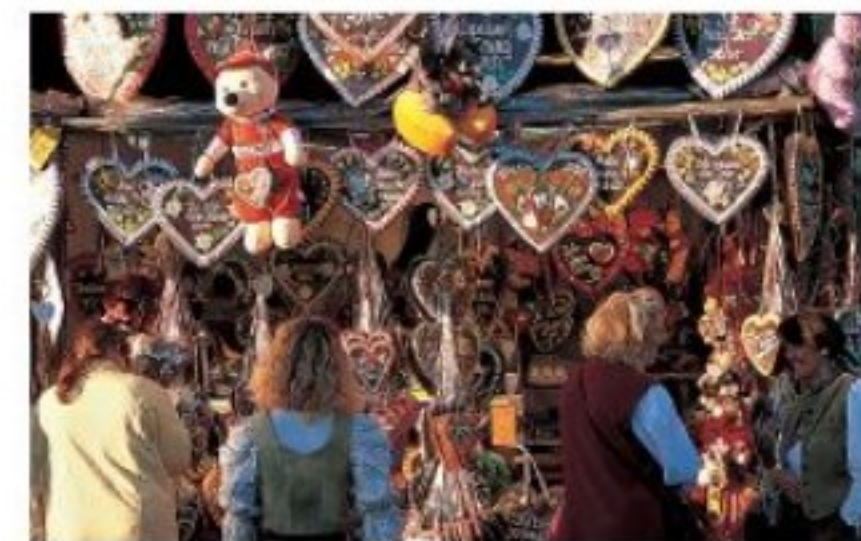
136 credits

*Right page:
The oldest parish church
in town is affectionately
known as "Old Peter" and
had to be completely
rebuilt following heavy
bombing during the
Second World War. From
the spire you have fantastic
views out over the city
with the town hall and
Frauenkirche.*

*Munich's Karlsplatz
was laid out in 1791 after the
city defences were torn
down by Karl Theodor,
after whom the square is
named. The elector was
not particularly popular
with his citizens, hence the
local name Stachus, still
used today.*

*Munich's Hofbräuhaus
is famous not just for its
beer but also for its
oompah bands and gutsy
waitresses. Possibly the
city's (if not Germany's)
best-known pub, it's
guaranteed to pull the
crowds and is often full to
bursting, seating 2,500 at
peak capacity.*





Above:
Beer tents are one of the major requisites of the Oktoberfest, enabling visitors to enjoy a litre or two (or three or four...) come rain or shine.

Left page:
The marquees seem to get bigger and more comfortable each year, with long rows of tables and benches seating an enthusiastic host of (mostly inebriated) festival-goers.

Small photos, left:
Half the world homes in on Munich at Oktoberfest time to join the merry throng savouring both beer and fairground. The less intrepid will be pleased to spot the good old merry-go-round among the many positively mind-blowing contraptions.



Top left:
On St Leonard's Day
worshippers set off for
church in Kreuth in the
Tegernsee Valley in a
horse-drawn carriage.



Centre left:
Typical farmhouse in
Bayrischzell-Geitau.
Balconies run along the
front facade, cheerfully
adorned with window
boxes of glorious summer
pelargoniums and petunias.



The church is revered as
the oldest shrine devoted
to St Leonard in Bavaria.
The tradition of the Leon-
hardritt probably also has
its origins here.

Bottom left:
Rottach-Egern enjoys a
marvellous setting at the
point where the Rottach
and Weißach rivers flow
into the Tegernsee. The
steeple of the parish
church of St Laurentius
dominates this autumn
silhouette.



Below:
The Tegernsee enjoys a
splendid setting in the
Alpine foothills, just
50 kilometres (30 miles)
from Munich. Famous spas
and bathing resorts line
its shores, among them
Rottach-Egern (right) and
Bad Wiessee (left).

KING LUDWIG II AND HIS FAIRYTALE CASTLES

For someone known as The Dream King, it's appropriate that his castles look like something out of a fairy tale. In our prosaic, modern world, Ludwig II and Neuschwanstein, Linderhof and Herrenchiemsee still hold all the magic of a bygone age, drawing millions of tourists each year from all over the globe to Upper Bavaria.

King Ludwig II of Bavaria, son of Crown Prince Maximilian of Bavaria and Prussian princess Marie Friederike, was born in 1845. Following the early death of his father, to his absolute disgust Ludwig was made head of government at the tender age of 18. Despite his revulsion, he made an effort to be successful. His endeavours were recognised in 1883, three years before his mysterious death, by none other than the Prussian Imperial Chancellor Bismarck, who conceded that the king ruled "better than all his ministers". High praise indeed – with an ironic twist. Prussia's hegemonic politics and its two wars were something the sensitive Ludwig absolutely detested. He confided his misgivings to his dear friend Richard Wagner, dreading he would become "a puppet king without any power". Things in fact turned out worse than he feared; at the order of Germany's princes, Ludwig had to offer the imperial crown to his personal adversary, the king of Prussia.

These crass realities would probably have been the end of Ludwig if he hadn't found escape in another, fairy-tale world where he could be king as he saw fit. The Bavarian monarch was a great admirer of the French Sun King Louis XIV. Yet in his desire to honour their shared name he sadly failed to acknowledge that in the one-and-a-half centuries which separated him from the French regent, much had changed. The rest is history. In an attempt to make his wildest dreams come true – that of a poetic existence à la Lohengrin, Tristan and Tannhäuser – he soon found himself in dire financial straits. He grossly underestimated the capacities of the royal coffers, which for a Bavarian king of the bourgeois 19th century were far more modest than those of the absolutist French sovereign. Ludwig's castles swallowed up more funds than he could afford. Accused of bringing the country to ruin, he was deemed an incurable madman and certified. On 13 June 1886, the ill-fated ruler and his psychiatrist were found drowned in the Starnberger See.



Left: The best views of Schloss Neuschwanstein are had from the Marienbrücke, daringly suspended over the steep Pöllatschlucht gorge.

Above: King Ludwig II had Richard Wagner's opera "Lohengrin" in his mind's eye when he had Neuschwanstein erected on the ruins of Vorderschwangau.

The king's bequest

Ludwig's bequest to us are his castles. Ruined Hohenschwangau, for example, was initially only to be turned into a humble baronial abode. The original plans were soon abandoned, however, in favour of designs for a romantic four-storey edifice on a monumental scale. In his mind's eye was a Bavarian version of the palace at the gigantic Wartburg in Eisenach. The king even travelled incognito to Thuringia to see the castle for himself and gain inspiration. Yet time was not on his side. When he died, only part of his dream home of Neuschwanstein was finished. The rest was completed posthumously in accordance with his wishes and ideas.

In comparison with this fantastic construction set against its bizarre Alpine backdrop, Schloss Linderhof seems extremely unassuming and private. And the park, too, with its contrived Venus Grotto, Moroccan House and Oriental Pavilion, symbolises more a personal preoccupation of the king with foreign myths and cultures rather than something public. Once the monarch had glided through the palace gates in his golden Rococo sledge he was alone, with only his staff to bother him. Linderhof was incidentally the only one of his building projects he saw completed.

His third castle, Schloss Herrenchiemsee on Chiemsee lake, was to be a "new Versailles". In 1878 the foundations were laid for a huge building whose main façade actually trumped that of the prototype. The king, who usually only came to his island palace at night, attached great importance to detail, insisting that the furnishings be copied from the French originals. While Paul Verlaine celebrated the regent as the "last true king of this century", others angrily called him a mad squanderer. Ludwig, in his own words, claimed to be neither, professing to "remain an eternal puzzle".

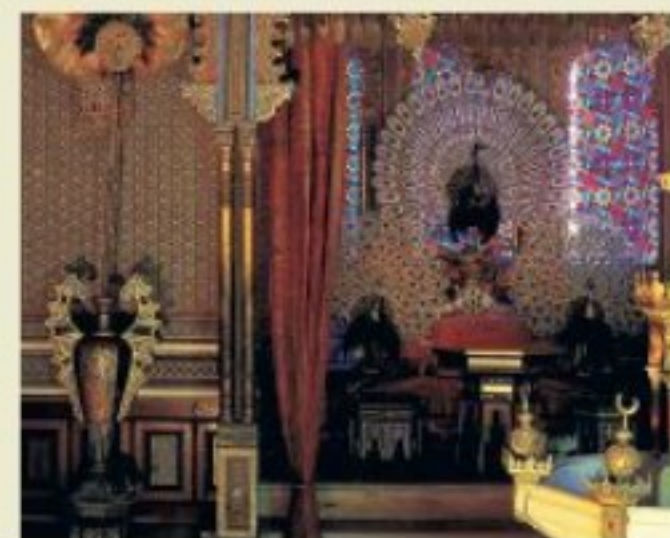


Top right: The Hall of Mirrors, the King's Bedchamber and the incredibly elaborate main staircase are the most popular rooms at Schloss Herrenchiemsee, designed by Julius Hofmann.

Centre right: King Ludwig II, shortly after his ascension to the throne in 1864. His architectural projects proved too adventurous for his advisors, leading to his certification and subsequent deposition in 1886.

Right: The Oriental Pavilion is one of the many follies scattered about the park at Schloss Linderhof. Initially created for the World

Exhibition in Paris in 1850, the pavilion encapsulates the colour and form of the Arabic world, with the fantastic Peacock Throne as its centrepiece.





Above:
Würzburg's first bridge over the Main was erected in the 12th century. The current version was built between 1473 and 1543 and reconstructed after the Second World War. The stone edifice is reserved for pedestrians only and guarded by eleven saints and the Frankish King Pippin, father of Emperor Charlemagne.

Right:
After marvelling the many artistic and architectural exhibits at Marienberg Fortress in Würzburg a bite to eat under shady trees is an absolute must.



Above:
The Nikolausberg in Würzburg first became a place of pilgrimage during the Thirty Years' War. As its humble chapel was soon unable to cope with the onslaught of visitors, between 1748 and 1752 Balthasar Neumann erected the present church, known as the Kuppel or "little chapel".

Left:
Würzburg's local landmark is Festung Marienberg. Once the centre of episcopal power, it now houses two museums. The highlight of the Mainfränkisches Museum are the many sculptures by Tilman Riemenschneider; the Fürstentum Museum charts the history of Würzburg and describes the life and times of the prince-bishops.



Below:
The Basilica of the Holy Trinity in Gößwein-stein is just one of the architectural masterpieces Balthasar Neumann has bequeathed to Franconia. Gößwein-stein Castle in the back-ground allegedly provided Wagner with a model for his Castle of the Holy Grail in Parsifal.

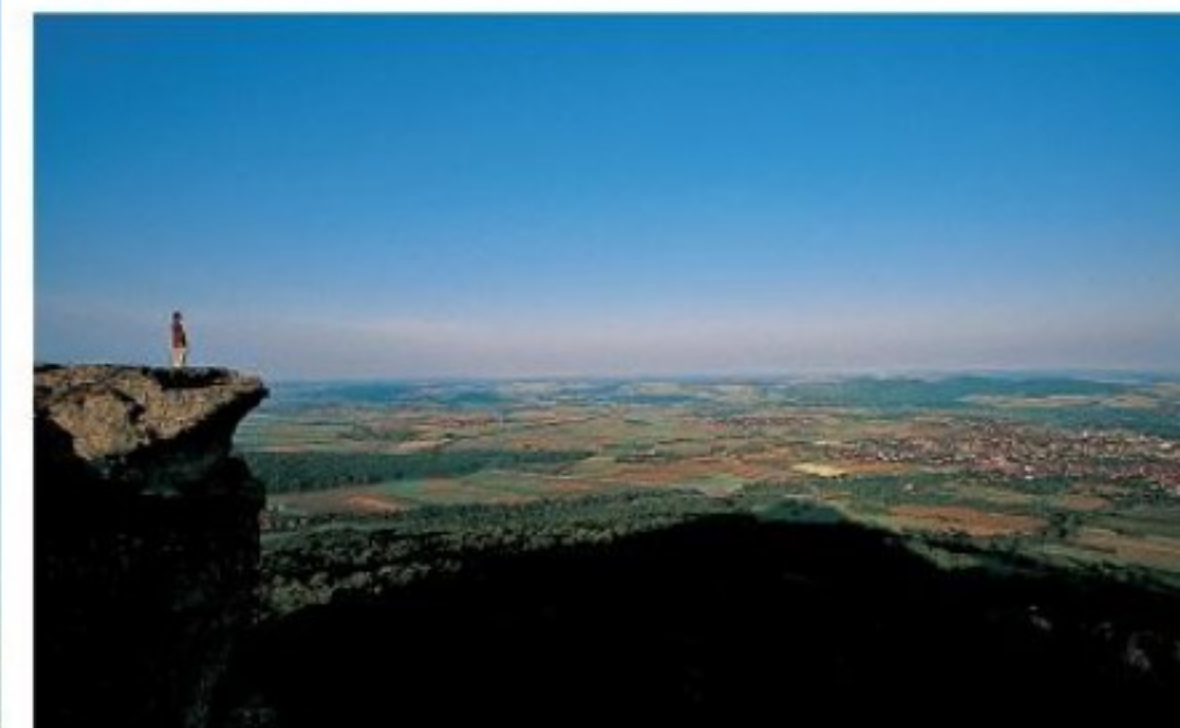
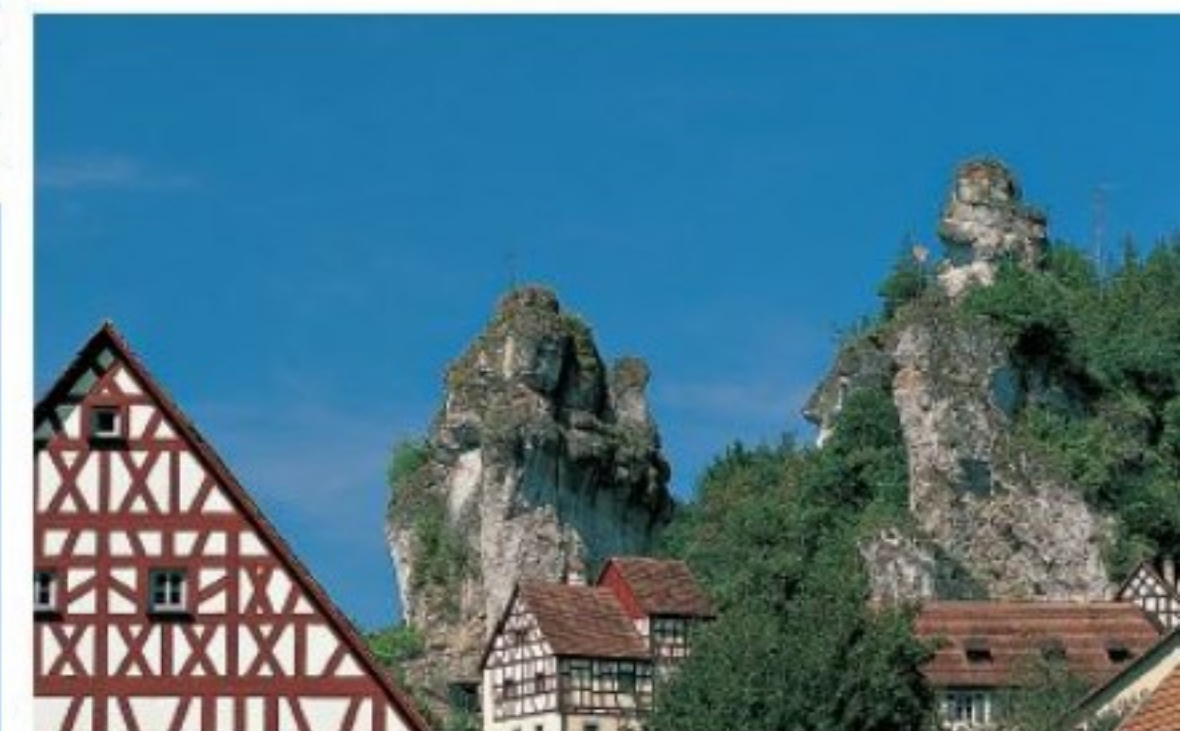
Top right:
Tüchersfeld is the perfect embodiment of the romanticism of Franconian Switzerland. The little village snuggles up to the jagged dolomite precipices which overhang it. Two castles once guarded the passage through the valley.

Centre right:
With its sheer drop down to the River Main, the Staffelberg was the ideal place to establish a Celtic oppidum. Far below it in

the water meadows lies the little town of Staffelstein where in 1492 mathematical genius Adam Riese first saw the light of day.

Bottom right:
In 1985 the Judenhof at the foot of Tüchersfeld's twin towers of rock was turned into a museum devoted to Franconian Switzerland.

The buildings (erected 1758–1762) replaced the lower defences of the town's castle and housed the Jewish community until 1872.



Below:

With one house glued to another and a tiny alleyway the sole passage between them, Kramgasse in the old part of Regensburg illustrates just how little space there was within the confines of the town walls during the Middle Ages.



Right:
View through the pillars of the Walhalla monument out across the Danube plateau. The neo-Greek temple jutting out on the horizon was built near Donaustauf by Leo von

Klenze, court architect to King Ludwig I. It houses the busts of famous Germans, with a strongly male predominance; just six women feature in this Teutonic hall of fame.



Above:
One of the most impressive dynastic towers in Regensburg is the Haus zum Goliath. With part of the foundations dating back to the Roman period, the

north facade boasts a huge likeness of David and Goliath, painted in 1573 by the then most popular fresco artist in southern Germany, Melchior Bocksberger.

Right:
The Alte Linde beer garden in Regensburg is an atmospheric place to pay homage to King Gambrius, who is said to have invented the art of brewing and is today the patron saint of brewers.





Left page:
It was King Ludwig I's idea to build a hall of liberation, the enormous Befreiungshalle, on the Michelsberg in Kelheim, with his architects Friedrich Gärtner and later Leo von Klenze providing the plans. The temple was opened to the public in 1863, 50 years after the bloody Battle of the Nations at Leipzig.

Just outside Kelheim the Danube has carved its way through a mighty stone obstacle. In a process taking millions of years the river has bored a channel through the mountain to create a magnificent gorge. It was here that in 760 a small monastic cell was made the abbey of Weltenburg, still a functioning monastery.

The valley of the Altmühl River has lost much of its undiluted charm through the construction of the new Main-Danube Canal. Today you have to search long and hard for unspoiled stretches of water, such as this one near Riedenburg.

Page 126/127:
View of the old town of Passau from the pilgrimage church of Mariahilf. Passau originated as a Celtic fort which became the Roman camp of Bojoduro. In c. 200 AD a castle was erected on the hill in the old town, manned by a Batavi cohort. Their name was in turn used to designate the military camp: Castra Batava. Over the course of the centuries Castra Batava was changed to Passau.