City of Culture
City of Beer
City of Baroque
City of Art
Fascination – World Heritage

Living history: Travel back through time!

The Old Town Hall standing proud in the River Regnitz.
Emperor Heinrich II founds the Bishopric of Bamberg in 1007. The city becomes the centre of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

Come and enjoy this fascinating city, a city steeped in history and culture, authentic to the core, vibrant and lively, romantic and enchanting, impressive and sublime!

World Heritage City since 1993
Bamberg is blessed with one of Europe’s largest intact old town centres. Endowed with a huge number of single monuments from a whole millennium, Bamberg epitomises the idyllic image of a city whose roots stem from the Middle Ages. The World Heritage site comprises three historical settlements: the episcopal City on the Hills characterised by imposing architecture; the civic Island City, the vibrant heart of trade and commerce, and the Market Gardeners’ District with its long tradition of market gardening that still lives on today.

Unique artistic synthesis
In the city centre, the history of architecture is all-pervading. Indeed, Bamberg can be described as a picture book of architectural styles. Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and styles from the Modern Age are all represented. A unique atmosphere fills the air of this enchanting city with its narrow, winding lanes and the parting waters of the River Regnitz.

Where culture comes alive
Today, this old imperial and spiritual centre is more vibrant than ever. Bamberg is a growing hub of trade and commerce, an inspiring university town, endowed with a rich cultural and a vibrant art scene. Combined with a plethora of renowned beers, culinary specialities and beautiful landscapes in and around Bamberg, this World Heritage City offers its residents true quality of life.

Milestones in Bamberg’s History

1007 Emperor Heinrich II establishes the Bishopric of Bamberg. Bamberg becomes the centre of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

1047 Pope Clemens II. dies and is interred in Bamberg’s Cathedral (only papal tomb north of the Alps).

1237 Rebuilt in 1185 after a fire, the Cathedral is consecrated. The late Romanesque / early Gothic edifice featuring the Bamberg Horseman is still considered a highpoint in German architecture.
City on the Hills

Franconia’s answer to Rome, built on seven hills.

The spires of the Imperial Cathedral are imposing, dominating the skyline to this day.
Enchanting squares, narrow lanes, Baroque façades and a mediaeval ambiance make Bamberg’s old town so unique.

Seven hills
The topography of the city built on seven hills has lent it the nickname “Franconian Rome”. The most striking edifices – the Imperial Cathedral, the Baroque New Residence and the Old Court – are all located on Cathedral Hill, the spiritual and temporal powerhouse of the Bishopric of Bamberg from the 11th century until 1802. The hills, the imposing Altenburg Castle and the heaven-bound spires of the churches create a beautiful backdrop for this uniquely special town.

City on the Hills
Whereas the higher settlements are dominated by ecclesiastical buildings and institutions, the area below the Cathedral is home to the trades, breweries and mostly bourgeois and sometimes palatial architecture.

Imperial Cathedral
This house of worship with its four spires is one of Germany’s most impressive examples of Late Romanesque – Early Gothic architecture. It accommodates the burial place of Pope Clemens II († 1047), the only papal tomb north of the Alps. The first Cathedral, consecrated in 1012, was an endowment from Emperor Heinrich II. The imperial tomb of ruler Heinrich and his consort Kunigunde, the Altar by Veit Stoß and the Bamberg Horseman are among the most prominent works of art inside the Cathedral. Even to this day, the identities of both the Horseman and its sculptor remain a mystery. The Diocesan Museum is next to the Church and boasts some unique treasures.

Old Court, New Residence and Rose Garden
The Old Court with its “beautiful gateway” and the romantic inner courtyard framed by half-timbered buildings, form the heart of the once imperial and episcopal palace. The 17th century New Residence lies opposite with its State Apartments and the unique Imperial Hall. The inner courtyard of the New Residence by architect Johann Leonhard Dientzenhofer reveals the enchanting Rose Garden, based on plans by Balthasar Neumann. The Garden commands a breath-taking panoramic view of St. Michael’s Monastery, the rooftops of the Old Town and the surrounding countryside.

Discovering Bamberg on Tourist Bus 910
The city bus line 910 takes you from the Old Town Hall, over Cathedral Square and up to Michaelsberg, right through the heart of the World Heritage City! Available from Tourist Information as a single ticket or as part of the BAMBERGcard!

Milestones in Bamberg’s History

1386-1387 The first Town Hall (Old Town Hall) is built on an artificial island in the River Regnitz.

1489 The Bamberg Purity Law for beer is passed – 27 years before the world-famous Bavarian Purity Law.

1595-1631 The witch hunt in the Bishopric of Bamberg continues until the death of Prince Bishop Johann Georg II., Fox of Dornheim and takes many hundreds of lives.
Island City

The vibrant centre –
a shopper’s paradise

The Old Town Hall with its Baroque frescoes and the medieval timber framework is one of Bamberg’s most famous landmarks.
Today, the Island City is the pulsating heart of Bamberg, evolving from its civic roots.

The Bridge Town Hall

The Old Town Hall is quite a curiosity. Legend has it that the Bishop of Bamberg refused to give the townsfolk an inch of his land for the construction of a town hall. In response, Bamberg’s citizens rammed stakes into the River Regnitz and created an artificial island in the middle of the river, upon which they built the first Town Hall, known today as the Old Town Hall. Of particular interest are the Baroque frescoes on the façades. This beautiful building boasts the prestigious Rococo Hall and is home to the Ludwig Collection Collection of faience and porcelain of the Baroque era.

Little Venice

The former fishermen’s settlement along the left tributary has been affectionately dubbed Little Venice. The idyllic row of mostly mediaeval houses prop each other up along the river shore, creating a romantic ensemble.

Vibrant and lively

It is a real pleasure to shop at one’s leisure in this vibrant World Heritage City or to rest one’s tired feet in one of the many inviting street cafés. Bamberg has much to offer in the way of hospitality – from cozy, rustic, wood-panelled taverns to hip student bars, and from traditional Franconian to international haute cuisine. Many of Bamberg’s famous faces appreciated its inns, among them, the Romantic all-round artist E.T.A. Hoffmann, who lived and worked here from 1808 to 1813.

In the centre, mainly in the pedestrian zone, several major events and traditional markets take place throughout the year, all of which are extremely popular.

Shopping tips:

The Island City is a paradise for shoppers! The wide choice of stores offers everything from luxury confectionary and extravagant accessories to edgy fashion and original objects for the home. Art and antiques, from exquisite to affordable, are in abundance in the antiques district, nestled between the Cathedral and the Old Town Hall. In the summer months, the reputed Art & Antiques Weeks attract many visitors to the town.

www.bamberg.info/shoppen
www.bamberger-antiquitaeten.de

Milestones in Bamberg’s History

1693-1746 Bamberg goes Baroque under the Prince Bishops Lothar Franz and later Friedrich Karl von Schönborn.

1802 The Bishopric of Bamberg now belongs to Bavaria.

1808-1813 E.T.A. Hoffmann, the famous all-round Romantic artist, lives and works in Bamberg.
Market Gardeners’ District

Centuries-old structures original in character

A clearly signposted trail takes visitors through the heart of the Market Gardeners’ District. A host of images and accounts of the market gardeners’ and wine growers’ traditions and customs provide fascinating insights into this part of the World Heritage City.
The extensive cropland and typical market gardeners’ homes are a truly unique urban feature – right in the heart of the World Heritage City. These fields have been used to grow vegetables ever since the Middle Ages. Fresh vegetables are still cultivated in close proximity to the splendour of mediaeval and Baroque architecture. Without the Market Gardeners’ District, Bamberg would never have become a World Heritage Site!

Typical market gardeners’ homes

Single-storey houses with high pitched roofs, small windows and large wooden gates – at first glance, the streets lined with the original homes of the market gardeners do not give up their secrets. Whenever a gate opens, passers-by can gain a glimpse of the courtyards and fields behind. These fields yield a selection of regional vegetables, including typical local specialities that have been grown here for centuries: The “Bamberg Hörnla”, for example, is a potato with a nutty flavour, coveted by epicures; Bamberg’s garlic is a unique variety, whilst its onions, herbs, savoy cabbage and horseradish are among the district’s main crops. Even the liquorice root, which has a centuries-old tradition in the town, is being cultivated again.

The World Heritage gardeners

Today, around two dozen families tend the historical fields in this urban landscape. Their produce can be found at Bamberg’s weekly market and in the local restaurants. Buying at source is an experience in itself. The viewing platform along the “Market Gardeners’ Tour” offers an interesting view of both former and existing market gardening plots.

The “Market Gardeners’ Tour” provides fascinating insights: the viewing platform in Heiliggrabstraße commands a wonderful view of the district!

Don’t miss this gem of a museum in the heart of the Market Gardeners’ District. The traditional market gardener’s house, the kitchen and vegetable gardens take visitors on a journey back in time to 1900, into the world of a local market gardening family, providing cultural historical insights into urban vegetable, liquorice and wine-growing traditions.

Our tip: Market Gardeners’ and Wine Growers’ Museum

Milestones in Bamberg’s History

1946 The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra is formed.

1993 Bamberg’s Old Town becomes a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Bishopric of Bamberg celebrates its millennium.

2012 Bavarian Horticultural Show triggers rejuvenation of the Market Gardeners’ District and ERBA Park.
Bamberg is the true metropolis of beer, boasting no fewer than 9 working breweries within the city, producing around 50 different beers, not forgetting the 60 breweries in the surrounding area, offering around 300 beers. This is truly unique! It is small wonder, therefore, that Bamberg is located in the heart of the region with the world’s highest density of breweries and the greatest variety of beers.

The beers are all crafted to traditional recipes! The history of Bamberg is thus closely entwined with the history of beer. The sale of beer is first mentioned in Bamberg in 1093.

The Bamberg beer region is worth exploring on foot or by bike.

www.bamberg.info/aktiv
Bamberg – a Star in “Beer Heaven”

Bamberg attracts the connoisseurs of beer!

Centuries-old beer tradition
The oldest evidence of a brewery in Bamberg dates from 1122 when Bishop Otto I bestows brewing rights upon the Benedictine Monks at St. Michael’s Monastery. Today, it is home to the Franconian Brewery Museum. Moreover, Bamberg has its own purity law, which is actually 27 years older than the world-famous Bavarian Purity Law from 1516 that still stands today. Both purity laws dictate to this day that only “water, malt and hops” be used in the brewing process – the only ingredients that make a good beer! In 1818, Bamberg was home to 65 breweries – with a population of just 17 000!

Beer enthusiasts from all over the world delight in the diversity of top and bottom-fermented speciality beers, that can be savoured in the cosy and historical brewery inns or at one of the traditional beer cellars. This wide array of beers is complemented by seasonal specialities such as cellar beers in summer, bock beers in autumn and other special brews before Easter, all of which send beer lovers into raptures!

Traditional beer cellars
Bamberg’s beer gardens are known as beer cellars and are located on the city’s hilltops. Since time immemorial, the ground below has been riddled with an extensive network of tunnels, offering ideal conditions for the brewers to ferment and store their beers. It, therefore, made sense to enjoy the beer fresh at source, marking the birth hour of the beer gardens! And because they are situated above the beer cellars, the locals traditionally say they are going “on” rather than “to” the cellars!

Unique diversity of beer
This brings us to the surrounding area. Often perched on the sandstone slopes, the local cellars not only offer smooth beers but also beautiful country settings and a taste of idyllic village life. Not forgetting, of course, the Franconian specialities and the full spectrum of typical regional dishes.

Discover beer at its best on the BierSchmecker®Tour
A detailed beer map allows you to experience the full spectrum of Bamberg’s beers! The popular BeerTasting®Tour (max. 6 people) reveals the diverse character of the breweries, their beers and their history. Visitors to the Brewery Museum will learn lots of fascinating facts about Bamberg’s beer production and traditions.

€ 22.50
Beer Map – the gateway to liquid gold
Breweries and brewery inns, heavenly beer cellars, beer gardens and much more: Explore Bamberg’s beer worlds with our beer map, also available in English.

The Beer Map, BierSchmecker®Tour and other information and souvenirs relating to “liquid gold” can be found at Tourist Information.
Sound of Music!

Musical diversity guarantees wonderful experiences and great entertainment.

The Concert Hall

- Bamberg’s Concert and Congress Hall is a prolific venue for concerts and musical experiences as well as conferences and congresses. It is the home of the Bamberg Symphony and the big names in show business!

- www.konzerthalle-bamberg.de

Bamberg has a fascinating musical landscape

- Besides its world-ranking orchestra, the city boasts a rich and well established musical tradition. Bamberg features many superb musical ensembles – often including members of the Bamberg Symphony – offering a diverse selection of outstanding live shows, reflecting a multitude of different musical styles. Audiences who love chamber music, for example, can look forward to an annual series of concerts, many of which take place in enchanting settings, such as the Rose Garden in the grounds of the New Residence, the Baroque Seehof Palace and other impressive historical buildings in and around Bamberg. These marvellous backdrops turn an event into a double treat! The top-class, open-air concerts on Cathedral Square are truly unique.

- Both early and contemporary music likewise have their place around the town.

- Not surprisingly, jazz enthusiasts also get their money’s worth in Bamberg – for example, in the jazz club, a quaint vaulted cellar in the heart of the Old Town. Every August, thousands of music fans flock to the free Jazz & Blues Festival when Bamberg grooves to the sound of world-class stars. The Klezmer Days and the Guitar Concerts often attract leading artists, whilst regional folk music is experiencing a major revival.

- www.bamberg.info/musik-veranstaltungen
The Bamberg Symphony

Cultural ambassador par excellence

The question is: What would Bamberg – and Germany’s history – be without the comparatively young Symphony Orchestra? The answer was once aptly expressed by impressionist composer Claude Debussy: »Music is an unbridled, effervescent art, an art that needs to be free, as free as the elements, the wind, the heavens, the sea.« Bamberg without the Symphony would be a city without a heart, a city with no air to breathe. The Symphony has deep roots in its home town and enjoys a level of local support other orchestras can only dream of. With 6,000 subscriptions sold every season, it is clear that Bamberg’s locals identify with and feel very much part of “their” orchestra. In the seventy years since its foundation, the Bamberg Symphony has not only evolved into the musical centre of the region, but has become one of the best travelled symphony orchestras in Germany, being the first to perform abroad again after the war. Having held more than 7,000 concerts in more than five hundred cities and sixty countries around the world, it ranks as a cultural ambassador for Bavaria and the whole of Germany. This illustrious role was shaped by its cooperation with Bavarian broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk, which started in 1950 when the legendary Joseph Keilberth was appointed head conductor. The many CD recordings featuring the complete Schubert symphonies and the award-winning Mahler cycle are significant high points of the recent past: The Bamberg Symphony has long since been considered one of the best Mahler orchestras in the world. The numerous award-winning recordings immortalise this music, making it accessible far beyond the boundaries of this musical city.

Even before I had a chance to conduct this jewel among European orchestras, I had been a huge admirer. They are an embodiment of orchestral culture, with everything imagined by this term. With the Bamberg Symphony, every phrase can turn into a little miracle, and every concert is a transfiguration.

Jakub Hrůša, Chief Conductor from September 2016

www.bambergsymphony.com
Contemporary art

The International Artists’ House Villa Concordia accommodates six German and six foreign artists every year, who show their works from the fields of art, literature and music in the beautiful Baroque water palace, presenting them to the general public at around 80 events spread over the year. Modern sculptures stand proud in the heart of the Old Town, including large works by renowned and world-famous artists such as Botero, Plensa, Mitoraj, Luginbühl, Lüpertz, Wortelkamp and Avramidis. These modern works of art create an array of exciting and contrasting views in the historical city. Modern art enthusiasts have plenty of opportunity to explore a plethora of other sculptures and exhibitions. Several art trails in the surrounding region provide exciting insights into art combined with gentle exercise. “River Faces” comprising sandstone sculptures, some several metres high, can be found along the Auenweg Obermain trail. “Franconian Tuscany” to the east of Bamberg offers several routes based on art in the great outdoors.

www.bamberg.info/kunst  www.villa-concordia.de
Museums and Collections

Here is a small selection of museums in and out of town. A full list of museums is available at: www.bamberg.info/museen

Natural History Museum and Ornithological Hall

The origins of Bamberg’s Natural History Museum go back 200 years – it was then that the famous “Ornithological Hall” was created – a unique work of art and a museum in a museum.

New Residence

The New Residence of Bamberg’s Prince Bishops was started in 1613. The two wings on Cathedral Square were erected by Johann Leonhard Dientzenhofer in 1697 – 1703. The more than 40 state apartments are filled with stucco ceilings, furniture and rugs from the 17th and 18th centuries. Featuring 16 larger-than-life images of the Emperor, the frescoes in the Imperial Hall are the work of Melchior Steidl. Besides the Prince-Elector’s apartments and the Prince Bishop’s apartment, the Picture Gallery with old German and Baroque paintings is particularly worth seeing. The Rose Garden in the Residence courtyard commands an enchanting view of the town.

Ludwig Collection

Strasbourg faïence and Meißen Porcelain are at the heart of the Ludwig Collection in the Old Town Hall. The mostly Baroque exhibits bear witness to the splendid lives and exquisit tableware of the 18th century. The exhibition is adjacent to the famous Rococo Hall that once housed Bamberg’s city councillors.

Levi Strauss Museum

This internationally multi-award-winning museum recounts the story of Levi Strauss at his birthplace in Buttenheim, near Bamberg. After emigrating to the USA, he was immortalised by his world-famous product Levi’s jeans. The Museum Shop stocks various items for denim fans and collectors.

A perfect companion: lots of Bamberg for little money!

An English guided tour with a PDA, admission to the most important museums, unlimited use of the inner-city buses and many extras are all included in the three-day BAMBERGcard.

for just €14.90 per person

www.bamberg.info/bambergcard
Welcome all Gourmets!

Let us take you on a culinary journey of discovery

Franconian specialities

Traditional hearty dishes found in and around Bamberg include Schäuferla (pork shoulder), Klöß‘ (dumplings) and Bratwürste (grilled sausages). With each new season, many local restaurants and inns complement these staples with healthy, fresh produce from the region. Be it asparagus, trout or carp, lamb or game, these regional specialties are prepared with care and great skill and are not to be missed. The traditional cold snack is also held in high esteem, with bread-based dishes featuring regional specialties such as Gerupfter (creamy cheese mix), Pressack (brawn), Zwetscherbaames (beef jerky), Ziebeleskäs (onion with cottage cheese) and much more.

Seasonal specialities:
Asparagus, carp & co.

Thanks to the fertile, sandy soil along the Regnitz valley, asparagus has been cultivated in the region for a good 300 years. The delicate, thick-stemmed white asparagus has an established place in the culinary calendar from the end of April to June; the same is true of mushrooms, black salsify and horseradish. The region is also well known for fresh seasonal specialties such as carp, trout and fish sourced from the River Regnitz, as well as game.

Wine from Bamberg

For some time now, Bamberg has been offering its own exquisite Franconian wine known as the “Bamberger Stiftsgarten Silvaner Kabinett”. On the slopes of St. Michael’s Monastery, this dry white wine not only has a long history, but is unique in the beer city of Bamberg. Presented in a typical Franconian bocksbeutel bottle, it is available, among others, from Tourist Information.
Quality from the Market Gardeners’ District

Bamberg Hörnla potato

Bamberg’s market gardeners mainly sell produce that has been grown in the eponymous town district or produced by Bamberg’s market gardening businesses. When buying such local produce customers can rest assured that they are getting fresh, top-quality goods at fair prices whilst contributing to the survival of the historical Market Gardeners’ District in the World Heritage City. One of the most famous specialities is the age-old potato variety “Bamberger Hörnla”. Described by experts as wonderfully nutty and “like bacon”, this potato is experiencing a renaissance. This traditional variety has received a protected geographical indication (PGI), meaning that Hörnla potatoes have to have been cultivated and harvested here!

Franconian bread and cold meats

The local butchers and bakers are skilled artisans who take pride in their work. Many typical specialities based on in-house recipes have been closely associated with the region for centuries and so, it is hardly surprising that bread and cold meats from Bamberg can be found in well-known delicatessens in Berlin and Munich. Traditional custom bakes are known far and wide, such as Seelenspitze, a braided yeast bread, Bamberger Hörnla, a kind of croissant, and the farmer’s loaves with their anise and caraway seed aroma. A typical regional treat for special occasions are Hutkrapfen (hat doughnuts) and ausgezogene Krapfen (knee doughnuts) associated with the Kirchweih parish festival season.

The popular Bamberger Bratwurst, the rich selection of sausages from Pressack to Stadtwurst, the ham specialties, from hearty to fine, and Zwetschgenbaumes (beef jerky) are just a few of the culinary delights Bamberg has to offer.

Welcome to beer heaven

Bamberg’s traditional beers have earned themselves legendary status and are truly without compare. The large number of breweries and the enormous variety of beer specialities are unique. Despite deeply rooted traditions, emerging beer trends are embraced, offering completely new and unfamiliar flavours for those accustomed to conventional brews. What better place to find tradition, enjoyment and relaxation than at the beer cellars on a balmy summer’s night, supping fresh beer and indulging in a hearty snack? In the colder months of the year, the rustic brewery inns are wonderful places to savour delicious beers and tasty Franconian specialities whilst meeting and mixing with the locals – an unforgettable experience!

www.bamberg.info/biergenuss
Boasting lavish state apartments and a sumptuous interior décor, the New Residence provides an impressive insight into the lives of the Prince Bishops. The State Gallery holds a prestigious collection of old German and Baroque paintings. In 1604, building work started on the New Residence on Cathedral Square, and in the period from 1697 to 1703 Prince Bishop Lothar Franz von Schönborn had the two Baroque wings erected by Johann Leonard Dientzenhofer. The main highlight is undoubtedly the lavishly decorated Imperial Hall by Melchior Steidl.

Bamberg’s location on seven hills means that the odd summit has to be conquered to appreciate some of its sights. This is certainly the case with Altenburg Castle, perched on the highest of the seven hills and one of the city’s main landmarks. The romantic restaurant and its beer garden are well worth a visit, while admiring the castle and the panoramic views. The castle itself is first mentioned in 1109 and was home to Bamberg’s bishops in the 14th and 15th centuries until it was almost completely destroyed in 1553. In the Romantic period, the Altenburg was rebuilt; all that is left of the mediaeval origins are the 33-metre-high castle keep and sections of the circular wall.

Seehof Palace

Seehof Palace in Memmelsdorf is a popular destination, located no more than two kilometres from Bamberg’s boundaries. In 1686, Bamberg’s Prince Bishops had the palace built according to plans by Antonio Petrini. The refurbished cascade, its water features and several preserved sandstone sculptures by Ferdinand Tietz bear witness to the former splendour of the Rococo Garden.

www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch/palace
Weissenstein Palace

Weissenstein Palace near Pommersfelden ranks among Germany’s largest Baroque palaces. During the rule of Prince Bishop Lothar Franz von Schönborn, the best known architects of the day created a splendid edifice of European standing. The main highlight is the lavishly decorated three-storey staircase. The décor inside this monumental palace is rare in terms of its harmony and beauty. The park is a wonderful place for a stroll. An extensive gallery contains significant works by French, Italian, German and Dutch artists, including paintings by Brueghel, van Dyck and Rubens.

www.schloss-weissenstein.de

Greifenstein Castle

Greifenstein Castle near Heiligenstadt started off as a castle that was destroyed during the Peasants’ War in the early 16th century and subsequently rebuilt. In 1691-93, Prince Bishop Marquard Sebastian Schenk von Stauffenberg had Greifenstein fundamentally restored and transformed into a Baroque palace.

www.schloss-greifenstein.de

Giechburg and Gügel

Traveling between Bamberg and Bayreuth, two historical buildings loom on the approach through Scheßlitz: Giechburg Castle and Gügel Chapel. First mentioned in 1125, subsequently burnt to the ground several times but always rebuilt, Giechburg Castle and Restaurant remain a popular destination, commanding a fantastic view of the surrounding countryside.

“A The Castle Road”

The Castle Road starts in Mannheim and leads through unmissable destinations such as Heidelberg, Rothenburg and Nuremberg before reaching Bamberg via Franconian Switzerland and continuing on to Coburg. The attractions along this popular holiday route are linked together like a pearl necklace and take visitors on a journey back in time!

www.burgenstrasse.de

A guided tour of the castle in German costs €7 – foreign visitors are given a handout, available in a wide variety of languages.

Please note that many castles and palaces are NOT open all year round!
Our region provides plenty of options for nature and active holidays, as we have an excellent infrastructure with some sensational offers, catering both for hobbyists and ambitious professionals!

Action, thrills and fascinating nature experiences – what do you fancy?

Cycling around Bamberg

Didn’t bring your bike? No problem! You can rent a bike from several local rental shops. The region around Bamberg offers a large selection of long-distance cycle routes and themed tours, easy routes and circular tours for hobby cyclists. The levels of difficulty vary from easy in the river valleys to more challenging routes elsewhere. It’s an exciting place for mountain bikers: the area to the east of Bamberg, near Heiligenstadt, is a much-loved paradise for mountain-biking.

www.bamberg.info/radfahren
Exploring on foot

■ Wandering through the World Heritage City
There are many ways to explore the idyllic natural aspects of Bamberg on foot: e.g. the “Schöpfungsweg” will take you on a roughly 5km walk through Michelberg Forest. The river trail, a barrier-free path following the course of the river, illustrates the central role water has always played in the city. Information on additional routes and themed walks – some of which are in English, such as the Market Gardeners’ Trail – is available from Tourist Information.

■ Walking in the surrounding countryside
You can discover a whole host of walks in the great outdoors, to castles and churches, or to sources of wine and beer. In a nutshell, you can choose from an abundance of walks that appeal to the whole family. The countryside around Bamberg offers the beauty of nature coupled with wonderful cultural insights. Themed walks are also an attractive alternative. The 13 Brewery Trail, for example, is a 32km day trip through gently rolling landscapes to 13 different breweries! The Half-Timbered House Trail whisks you away to idyllic villages peppered with the picturesque half-timbered buildings so typical of this region. A variety of coach trips depart from Bamberg to visit particularly popular areas in the surrounding countryside. Highly frequented, long-distance walking routes also lead through Bamberg, and start or end here.

Water activities

■ Bamberg and the surrounding area is rich in water and perfect for water sports! The Rivers Regnitz and Main as well as the smaller rivers in the region are ideal for a wide array of water sports – a great opportunity to explore the area’s many waterways! There’s something for everyone with exhilarating, wild-water kayaking, relaxed canoe and gondola rides, classical river cruises and more!

■ Climbers’ paradise
In Franconian Switzerland, visitors to Bamberg have at their feet a climbing region that ranks among the most accessible in the world. With more than 6,500 routes riddled with holed rock faces and overhangs, towers and sheets of rock, climbers can scale the cliffs to their heart’s content. For many years, the Route Action Directe was considered the hardest and most challenging free-climbing route in the world. For non-professionals, the courses at the Kletterwald Veilbronn treetop climbing centre offer a unique adventure and family fun all round.

www.bamberg.info/klettern

www.bamberg.info/wasser
Bamberg can look back on a unique, centuries-old tradition of creating nativity scenes, turning a visit to Bamberg during the Advent and Christmas season into an unforgettable experience for both young and old. It is a sight rarely seen elsewhere and it illustrates just how important Christmas is to the Bamberg area and how the people of Bamberg like to show it! From the end of November to 6 January and beyond, the World Heritage City is transformed into a town of nativity scenes, featuring no fewer than around 40, often very different “stations”. Historical and modern, large and small nativity scenes, made from stone, wood, plastic, paper and much more are scattered across the churches, museums, buildings and public places. Every year, new exhibits are added. Not only that, but the church nativity scenes change as Christmas draws ever closer. The special show at the Nativity Museum is worth a visit and complements the diversity of exhibits on show every year. Besides the many nativity scenes in the city, the surrounding area boasts a fascinating “Nativity Landscape”. In Schlüsselfeld and Heiligenstadt, for example, two nativity trails and the Alte Schule Museum in Hirschaid are transformed into nativity museums.

www.bamberg.info/krippen
During the Christmas season, festive lights magically illuminate the Baroque façades, whilst the varied culinary specialities are celebrated in the cafés and taverns. And then, of course, there are the many atmospheric events such as Christmas concerts and enchanting theatre performances! Several Advent and Christmas Markets likewise help shorten the weeks to Christmas. The biggest is the traditional Christmas market on Maxplatz in the pedestrian zone which runs from the end of November to 23 December. It is the perfect place to buy unusual Christmas gifts in an authentic and fragrant atmosphere. The specialities, that are available here only during Advent and Christmas, are known throughout the world and include delicious Lebkuchen and Franconian mulled wine. When enjoyed together, you know: “This is the taste of Christmas!”.

And other treats such as Spekulatius biscuits, vanilla Hörnla and aniseed cookies are as much a part of these special weeks of the year as the festive beers from Bamberg’s breweries. The diversity of delicious treats shows just how important the loveliest time of the year is to Bamberg’s locals! The surrounding area also has an abundance of charming, small markets such as the romantic Advent Market in Frensdorf.

www.bamberg.info/weihnachten

Winter is a great time to travel

The World Heritage City of Bamberg is a popular destination, attracting tourists from all over the world. People visit Bamberg practically all year round to explore and discover the many facets of Franconia’s answer to Rome. Our tip: Take advantage of the quieter winter months to have a World Heritage experience of a different kind! Particularly at this time of year, you can enjoy the unique cityscape at your leisure, whilst savouring to the full the romantic atmosphere of a town that has been standing for over a thousand years…

Dream town at dream prices

Our attractive travel package in the winter months!

Take advantage of our off-peak prices to discover and enjoy the fascination of this World Heritage City!
• 2 overnight stays incl. breakfast
• BAMBERGcard
from € 66
Discover Bamberg!

Bamberg is an artistic synthesis that has evolved over 1000 years: Experience and enjoy its winding lanes, romantic squares, unique sights, art, culture and local specialities. Treat yourself to a short break in one of Germany’s most stunning cities!

- 2 nights with breakfast
- Guided tour “Fascination – World Heritage”
- Admission to the following museums:
  - Diocesan Museum
  - Natural History Museum
- Guided Tour of the New Residence
- Franconian bratwurst meal with a 0.5l mug of beer
- Bamberg pralines
- Bamberg bag

From € 86

Lots of Reasons to Visit Bamberg…

Experience the fascination of this World Heritage City!

The World Heritage City of Bamberg is multifaceted, having far more to offer than the “conventional reasons for travelling” such as art, culture and good food! The surrounding area likewise has a whole host of attractions. This is why we have put together a small selection of special experiences and attractive ideas. We hope that your travels bring you to Bamberg and we would be pleased to assist you at any time!

Parties, festivals and other highlights

Be inspired by some of the exciting events that draw people to Bamberg every year:

- Concerts by the Bamberg Symphony
- The summer Kirchweih Festivals
- International Magicians’ Festival
- Bamberg’s Art and Antiques Weeks
- Jazz & Blues Festival
- Christmas and Nativity Town

Events & Dates at

www.kultur.bamberg.de
www.bamberg.info/veranstaltungen
Your partner in planning your trip to Bamberg!

BAMBERG Tourism & Congress Service is the city’s official tourist information centre. Offering a comprehensive service, we will take care of all your needs, whether you’re looking for accommodation, a guided tour, an adventure package or tickets. Located in the heart of the World Heritage City, we at Tourist Information can welcome you to Bamberg 360 days of the year. Our shop contains selected souvenirs, typical local specialities and much more!

Tourist Information is open from:
Monday to Friday  9.30am-6pm
Saturday: 9.30am-4pm, Sundays and bank holidays: 9.30am–2.30pm
Shrove Tuesday, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve: 9.30am–12.30pm
Closed: Good Friday, All Saints, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, New Year

We are located in the city centre:
Geyerswoertstrasse 5 • 96047 Bamberg

www.bamberg.info

Our themed package deals!
Discover Bamberg!

**Bamberg’s Delicacies**
“Eating and drinking keep body and soul together” – put together your own indulgent hamper of specialities from in and around Bamberg. You will see: Bamberg tastes good!

- 2 nights with breakfast
- **BAMBERGcard**
- 3 course Franconian meal: Franconian liver dumpling soup – ¼ roasted farmer’s duck with creamed savoy cabbage and dumplings – apple fritters with vanilla ice cream incl. drink
- Vouchers for typical Bamberg specialities (½ l Schlenkerla smoked beer, a “Bamberger Hörnla” (croissant), a Leberkäsbrötchen (meat loaf roll), a “Spirit & Pleasure Package” comprising six pralines and 4cl of the finest Franconian Rosenhut fruit schnapps)

From € 113

**“Brewery Pilgrimage”**
The amber nectar enjoys a special status in Bamberg and surroundings. There’s nothing quite like having a friendly chat or celebrating life over a “mug of beer”. This mini group trip allows you to enjoy selected beers and listen to the master brewer’s stories on the “pilgrimage” through his brewery.

- 2 nights with breakfast
- **BAMBERGcard**
- Guided tour of “Bamberg and its Liquid Gold”
- Smoked Beer Experience menu with comments from the master brewer
- “Brewery Pilgrimage” through the brewery inn with beer-tasting and snacks
- Evening snack: “Blaue Zipfel” (sausages), bread and 0.5 l Bamberg beer
- Admission to the Franconian Brewery Museum (April – October)
- “Bamberg Beer Worlds” brochure

From € 153 Bookable for groups of 10 or more

**Bed and City ticket**
A compact and affordable city break to Franconian Rome. Includes accommodation and the **BAMBERGcard**. You can elaborate your stay by adding any of our extra packages.

- 2 nights with breakfast
- **BAMBERGcard**

From € 70

www.bamberg.info/paketreisen
Inselstadt
(Island District)

Bergstadt
(City on the Hills)
**Travel**

**By car**
Bamberg is easily accessible with good motorway and major road links.

**By train**
Bamberg is an important rail junction and ICE and IC (InterCity Express and InterCity) station, and is located, among others, on the Berlin – Munich route. Good connections are also in place to Nuremberg and Würzburg.

**By plane**
The nearest airport is in Nuremberg (50km from Bamberg). The international airports in Munich and Frankfurt are around 250km away – easily accessible by public transport.