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BAVARIANTIMES

News & Magazine for Grafenwoehr | Vilseck | Hohenfels

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Advertising:
Ads: Ivana Zang (responsible)
Sales: Stefan Neulinger | Phone: 0961/85-592
E-Mail: stefan.neulinger@bavarian-times.com
Klaus Sporr | Phone: 0961/85-291
E-Mail: klaus.sporr@ bavarian-times.com

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JACKSON LEGAL
Theresienstrasse 1
80333 Munich
Untere Bauscherstrasse 44
92637 Weiden i.d.OPf
info@jacksonlegal.de
www.jacksonlegal.de
Phone: +49 (0)89 20 500 85068

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7TH ARMY NCOA CHIEF INSTRUCTOR AWARDED

ONE OF BUNDESWEHR'S HIGHEST AWARDS



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Thompson, 7th Army Training Command, salutes after receiving the German Ehrenzeichen der Bundeswehr medal (Decoration of Honour of the Bundeswehr) at the basic leader course graduation ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Germany, Sep 24, 2026. The 7th Army NCOA mission is to train and develop future leaders who are adaptive, disciplined and ready to lead effectively at the squad and team levels.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany - During the basic leaders course graduation for class 09-26, Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Thompson, chief instructor for the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, was awarded the highest non-combat award from the Bundeswehr, the Ehrenzeichen der Bundeswehr or Medal of Honour of the Bundeswehr.

The award is endorsed by the Federal Minister of Defense in recognition of loyal service and exemplary performance of duty. It is typically presented by a disciplinary superior at the battalion commander level.

In exceptional circumstances, the award may also be presented to civilians or members of foreign armed forces who have rendered outstanding service to the Bundeswehr.

“This medal is very significant to me,” said Thompson. “It’s nice to see that all the planning and effort we put into this partnership with our German counterparts. I didn't do it for the award though, I did it for these young Soldiers so that they can get the chance to work with our Allies and see that building these multinational partnerships are important to us as Soldiers.”

“The partnership over the last two years with Sgt. 1st Class Thompson has been the most engaged we have been with our Bundeswehr partners and I couldn’t ask for a better NCO to be there to facilitate that,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Errol Brooks, commandant of the 7th Army NCOA. “Sgt. 1st Class Thompson is extremely passionate about what he does with this partnership and everything I've asked him to do for this partnership, he goes above and beyond.”

To earn this award, Thompson build a stronger partnership with the Unteroffizierschule des Heeres (German Army NCOA) in Delitzsch.

While the U.S. and German NCOAs' partnership has been around since 1992, it slowed down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the pandemic, Thompson worked with the German NCOA to build a bond that would affect around 3,000 Bundeswehr and U.S. service members.

“This partnership is very important to us,” said Capt. Marc Meissner, commander of the USH Lehr Group B, German NCOA. “When we started this partnership back up after COVID, it was hard to have time for our schoolhouses to hold events. He put a lot of effort to combine our schedules and find time in our schedules to train together.

"We started as allies, and then we developed into partners and now we are personally friends with the academy,” Meissner said.

The 7th Army NCOA mission is to train and develop future leaders who are adaptive, disciplined and ready to lead effectively at the squad and team levels. The 7th Army NCOA and the German Army NCOA have been partners since 1992 as an investment in the future for both nations and Soldiers.

“I have seen Sgt. 1st Class Thompson take this partnership and really grow it to what it is now. He has made it very functional and it's phenomenal what he has done,” said Sgt. 1st Class. Daniel Pureco, 7th Army NCOA chief of training. “We have received a lot of praise for what we do for this partnership and if there is anyone that deserves this award, I think it's him.”

| by **Sgt. Collin Mackall**

Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jemyiah Pangelinan

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U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria recognized 54 long serving employees during its Length of Service Ceremony Oct. 2, 2026 at the Tower View Conference Center, celebrating the dedication, loyalty and professionalism of personnel who have supported the garrison for decades.

USAG Bavaria Honors Record Number of 45-Year Employees at Length of Service Ceremony

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria recognized 54 long-serving employees during its Length of Service Ceremony Oct. 2, 2026 at the Tower View Conference Center, celebrating the dedication, loyalty and professionalism of personnel who have supported the garrison for decades.

Leaders thanked the honorees for their commitment and emphasized how long-term service strengthens continuity, institutional knowledge and community support.

Col. Derek G. Drouin opened the ceremony by welcoming host-nation leaders, civic partners and honorees:

> "This ceremony is about recognizing your achievements and thanking you for the lasting impact you have had on this garrison, our mission, and our communities."

This year's ceremony honored employees with service milestones ranging from 20 to 45 years, with the largest group – 18 employees – recognized for 45 years of service, marking the first time in the garrison's history that the 45-year cohort was the largest.

Col. Drouin spoke about the significance of decades-long dedication across changing missions in the Army and in Bavaria.

> "Through it all, you have provided continuity, expertise, and stability," he said. "You are trusted professionals, subject-matter experts, and an essential part of the institutional knowledge that sustains U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria."

Among the honorees was Rosalinde Claus, recognized for 45 years of service, currently working in information technology administrative operations.

> "Professional development has always been supported throughout my career," she said. "When I started working here, it was fascinating to learn about American culture. Working in customer service in my early years allowed me to meet many people and build friendships that have lasted decades, and that is something I truly appreciate."

The ceremony also honored Christian Dilling, an IT project manager celebrating 30 years of service.

> "Over the years, I've had every opportunity to grow and learn whatever I wanted," Dilling said. "After six departments and many different roles, I can say I've always had a great team and strong support from leadership. Every day is different, and there's a new challenge waiting – that's what makes the job so interesting. ... I also appreciate that we have the chance to train apprentices, pass on our knowledge and guide them as they develop, so that one day we can work alongside them as colleagues."

Honorees

45 Years
(18 employees)

- Arnold, Reiner
- Bauer, Albert
- Biermeier, Willi
- Claus, Rosalinde
- Danzer, Wolfgang
- Fodor, Peter A.
- Heinisch, Elisabeth
- Hohlruether, Claudia Maria
- Kliebhan, Roland
- Latorre, Angel M.
- Lehl, Hermann
- Plannerer, Max Josef
- Reid, Joseph A.
- Reil, Gerhard
- Roesler, Peter
- Siegler, Josef
- Soellner, Guenter
- Weinert, Reinhold

40 years
(4 employees)

- Brown Lathan, Sonya Valeria
- Fox, William F.
- Hall, William David
- Lang, Josef

35 years
(2 employees)

- Kastl Meier, Caecilia
- Leach, Cliffard A.

30 years
(3 employees)

- Brewitzer, Cristi Lynn
- Dilling, Christian
- Schuster, Michael

25 years
(14 employees)

- Dering, Iraida
- Elkouarati, Zine
- Ertl, Florian
- Grassler, Michael
- Green, Robert J.
- Jayawardhena Baeumler, Suranga
- Krieger, Andreas
- Messer, Guenter
- Preininger, Oliver
- Rosenstrauch, Nathaniel W.
- Smith, Marshall Lewis
- Sullivan, Yvonne
- Tucker, Timothy L.
- Wiesend, Bernd

20 years
(13 employees)

- Baeumler, Melanie
- Bauer, Alexander
- Bauer, Markus
- Cole, Sandra
- Eckert, Miriam
- Fischer, Patrick
- Kahraman, Hasan
- Kraus, Stephan
- Kugler, Manuel
- Luehr, Caroline
- Rittner, Dominik
- Schatz, Markus
- Stewart, Linda B.



Photo Credits: Ella Haendel (2)

Clifford Leach, accountable officer for the Logistics Readiness Center – Bavaria's central issue facilities at Vilseck and Hohenfels, also shared reflections on his career.

> "It's quite an honor for me," he said. "For 35 years I've been working with the Army, supporting the Army, which I love to do. I love supporting Soldiers and I love being around Soldiers. Once a Soldier, always a Soldier. I feel at home here."

> "I am the only American on my team," Leach continued. "My whole team is local national – but they are some of the best local nationals I've ever worked with, and I'm proud to call them my team."

Leadership applauded the honorees for contributions spanning decades, noting that the garrison's success relies on employees who bring deep expertise, continuity and long-standing commitment to the mission.



| by **Ella Haendel**

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR BRINGS MAYORS, MILITARY LEADERS TO HOHENFELS



Mayors and military leaders from the Hohenfels, Germany area stand together for a group photograph toward the end of the Community Connector Oct. 8, 2026 at Markt Hohenfels, Germany.

Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Bryan Gatchell, USAG Bavaria Public Affairs

HOHENFELS, Germany – Markt Hohenfels hosted U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, and other organization leadership and leaders from local communities for the Community Connector Oct. 8, 2026 at Markt Hohenfels, Germany. The recurring event was a forum for exchanging information about the installation and military activities taking place thereon; the event was also an opportunity for the host nation and military leaders to get to know each other better. The event took place in the town's culture center, the windows of which look out over Hohenfels and the high cliffs of its namesake.

Christian Graf, mayor of Markt Hohenfels, welcomed the guests, telling them it was good to meet since there were so many new leaders present. This was the first community connector to take place since both the German elections in March and the summer permanent change of station season. After he spoke, Graf introduced the deputy garrison manager for Hohenfels Angela Lane. "Your presence highlights our shared commitment to strengthening bonds between our communities," Lane said. "Our daily cooperation is a foundation of our strong partnership and cultural ties. True partnership rises from open communication. If any concerns or misunderstandings arise, please bring them to our attention immediately so we can address and resolve them together."

Col. Adam Latham, commander of the operations group for JMRC, followed Lane during the opening remarks. "I look forward to this opportunity to get to know you a little better, to understand our relationship," he said. Latham also offered the local leaders a glimpse into the busy training schedule JMRC has in the coming seasons. He also detailed the warfighting innovations JMRC was implementing as part of its thorough training program. "Part of our responsibility is preparing both U.S. forces and members of the Alliance to win in the first fight of their next war," Latham said. "It's important that we leverage cutting-edge technology."

The mayors received briefings on construction projects, housing occupation rates, upcoming events of interest to the community leaders, and information on the airspace boundaries. Following the presentation and a question-and-answer session, Lane thanked the attendees. "I just truly appreciate the attendance and the dialogue that we have, which keeps our communications transparent and our partnerships strong," she said. Graf, in a point to emphasize the decades of partnership between the cities and the training area, invited the attendees to take part in an exhibition and photographic lecture series about the long history of the training area. The group assembled for a photograph outside and returned indoors to share lunch.

For more on that and other Markt Hohenfels events, visit the page here (external link, no endorsement implied, auf Deutsch).

| by **Bryan Gatchell,** USAG Bavaria Public Affairs



Leadership from the U.S. Army and the local building authority shoveled a ceremonial pile of earth Oct. 20, 2026 to commemorate the start of construction for a locker room annex at the Hohenfels dining facility. Leaders from U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, the Logistics Readiness Center – Bavaria, the Corps of Engineers Europe District, and the Staatliches Bauamt Regensburg donned hardhats and flung dirt beside the Warrior Sports Café dining facility.

Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Bryan Gatchell, USAG Bavaria Public Affairs

LEADERS REALLY DIG HOHENFELS DINING FACILITY ANNEX PROJECT

HOHENFELS, Germany – Leadership from the U.S. Army and the local building authority shoveled a ceremonial pile of earth Oct. 20, 2026 to commemorate the start of construction for a locker room annex at the Hohenfels dining facility.

Leaders from U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, the Logistics Readiness Center – Bavaria, the Corps of Engineers Europe District, and the Staatliches Bauamt Regensburg donned hardhats and flung dirt beside the Warrior Sports Café dining facility.

"This project represents a direct, tangible investment in the quality of life for our food service team," said Angela Lane, deputy garrison manager of Hohenfels. "We are providing our dedicated workforce with a secure, clean, modern and accessible space to begin and conclude their shifts with dignity and comfort."

Currently workers at the dining facility have a locker area composed of modified shipping containers in an adjacent parking lot. The annex would give them a permanent facility in which to change before and after their shifts.

"It will have a great positive affect on the personnel working at the Warrior Sports Café," said Joseph Balum, director of LRC-Bavaria. "It is always great to celebrate improving our working environment and doing something for the benefit of our employees, especially our food service team, who keeps our Soldiers and community fed each and every day of the year.

"We have an all local national workforce here, and they take great pride in what they do," Balum continued. "They put out a great product and are very concerned about – a and proud of – what they do for the community here."

Currently the annex is expected to be ready for use by the employees in early 2028.

| by **Bryan Gatchell,** USAG Bavaria Public Affairs





UKRAINIAN CHAPLAINS STRENGTHEN RELIGIOUS SUPPORT SKILLS THROUGH 7ATC CHAPLAINCY COURSE

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) chaplains participated in the 16th iteration of the U.S. Army-led Ukrainian Chaplaincy Course, a 12-day program designed to strengthen religious support capabilities and prepare chaplains to share their knowledge with others throughout the AFU. Since the course began in April 2023, 319 Ukrainian chaplains have graduated from the program held in Grafenwoehr. While led by 7th Army Training Command chaplains, personnel deployed to support Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine have facilitated the courses as well as chaplains from other U.S. units in Europe, and Allied and Partner nations. The course combines instruction from U.S. Army chaplains with practical exercises, teach-backs and discussions focused on providing religious support in challenging environments. For Lt. Serhii Umantsiv, an AFU chaplain with the 137th Marine Battalion, 35th Brigade, the opportunity to learn from U.S. Army chaplains provided insight he can apply to his ministry in Ukraine.

“I came here to get more learning because your system of chaplaincy and my system of chaplaincy are a little bit different,” said Umantsiv. “I want to learn more and get something for my situation where I am in Ukraine.” The course is designed as a subject-matter exchange rather than a one-way transfer of information. U.S. Army chaplains teach military chaplaincy skills and staff processes while also learning from the Ukrainian chaplains about providing religious support during an ongoing war.

Lt. Col. Joshua Chittim, 7th Army Training Command chaplain, said the exchange allows both sides to learn from each other’s experiences. The first portion of the course focuses on staff officer skills and chaplain corps competencies, including religious support planning, battlefield circulation and developing courses of action. Students then apply those skills through practical exercises and opportunities to "teach-back" to other chaplains. The train-the-trainer model is an important part of the program because graduates will return to their units and pass what they learned. “We want them to take what they’ve learned and take it back,” said Chittim. For Umantsiv, that opportunity to bring new knowledge back to Ukraine is particularly important because the conditions facing Ukrainian chaplains can change quickly.

“Everyday, new challenges come,” said Umantsiv. The course addresses many of the responsibilities chaplains from any nation may encounter while supporting Soldiers, including caring for wounded and grieving personnel, addressing invisible wounds, suicide prevention, reintegration and planning religious support across a formation. Students also participate in brigade-level teach-backs based on Ukrainian doctrine. The exercises require them to develop and present lessons, giving them an opportunity to practice both the material and the skills needed to teach other chaplains. Umantsiv said the U.S. instructors presented the material in a way that made it accessible to the Ukrainian students, with interpreters helping ensure the information was understood.

“The U.S. chaplain instructors presented the material in a very simple way that Ukrainian chaplains could follow and understand,” said Umantsiv. “There was no pressure.” He also highlighted the value of the teach-back environment, where students could practice presenting information while receiving instruction and feedback. The exchange also gives U.S. Army chaplains an opportunity to better understand the realities of providing religious support during combat. Chittim said Ukrainian chaplains have shared lessons about adapting traditional approaches to religious support when operating under wartime conditions. Those experiences can inform how U.S. Army chaplains think about providing ministry in environments where movement, gatherings and other activities may carry additional risks. Umantsiv provided one example from his own experience in Ukraine. He described traveling to provide religious support to AFU Soldiers and encountering a rapidly developing threat from an unmanned aircraft. The experience reinforced for him that chaplains operating in a combat environment must remain adaptable and aware of changing conditions.

“In Ukraine, a chaplain needs to visit Soldiers downrange,” said Umantsiv. “You never know what you will encounter.” That reality is one reason Umantsiv values the exchange with U.S. Army chaplains. “It is very valuable to come here and learn from U.S. Army chaplains,” said Umantsiv. “The experience from your chaplaincy helps us overcome challenges.” The course also builds relationships and camaraderie through informal interactions among the participants. Chittim described Ukrainian and U.S. chaplains sharing time together outside the classroom, including a gathering where participants sang together. Those relationships complement the formal instruction and reinforce the course’s emphasis on exchanging experiences between chaplains. As Umantsiv prepares to return to Ukraine, he said he intends to apply what he learned based on the needs of the Soldiers he supports. “When I go back, while everything is still fresh in my head, I will try to use this experience according to the needs and situation,” said Umantsiv.

For the U.S. instructors, the goal extends beyond the completion of another course. By preparing Ukrainian chaplains to teach others, the program creates an opportunity for knowledge and experience to continue moving throughout the Ukrainian Chaplain Corps. The result is a continuing exchange in which U.S. Army chaplains share established religious support practices while Ukrainian chaplains bring firsthand experience from operating in a wartime environment. For Umantsiv, that exchange is ultimately about preparing chaplains to continue serving Soldiers when the circumstances around them change.

“The situation in Ukraine is real, and it changes every day,” said Umantsiv. “You have to be creative.”

| by **Cpl. Thomas Dixon**

U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Thomas Dixon



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NEVER FORGET: US ARMY GARRISON BAVARIA HONORS 9/11 VICTIMS

Service members, local leaders, and first responders unite in Bavaria to mark the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – "We will never forget," pledged Brig. Gen. Terry R. Tillis during a commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The U.S. Army in Grafenwoehr held a Patriot Day ceremony to recall the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and to honor the victims. The ceremony marked the anniversary of the terrorist attacks. U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, led by Garrison Commander Col. Derek G. Drouin, and the 709th Military Police Battalion, under the command of Lt. Col. Danielle A. Champagne, hosted the memorial event. Emergency vehicles from the U.S. Fire Department, the Military Police, and the Bavarian Police were positioned on the parade field in front of the Water Tower, where flags flew at half-staff. Attendees included commanders and soldiers from U.S. and German (Bundeswehr) units, civilian staff, members of the U.S. and local fire departments, police officers, and representatives from various government agencies. Mayors Edgar Knobloch of Grafenwoehr and Thorsten Grädler of Vilseck were present to express the solidarity of the garrison communities. The ceremony began with a prayer from a military chaplain, followed by the playing of the national anthems.

The guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Terry R. Tillis, Commanding General of the 7th Army Training Command (7ATC). Reflecting on his own personal memories, Tillis noted that the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, changed his life, the military, and the nation. "We pause to remember the firefighters, police officers, first responders, medical professionals, soldiers, and citizens who demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of terror," said Tillis. Here in Europe – and in Germany in particular – their legacy is honored every single day through service.

"Operational readiness is not an abstract concept; it is our responsibility and our mandate. From Grafenwoehr to our various locations across Europe, we remain committed to our mission,"

Tillis stated.

He expressed gratitude for the steadfast partnership of allies, the genuine friendship with Germany, and the strong bonds shared with partners throughout Europe. "Today, as we commemorate Sept. 11, we reaffirm our pledge to honor the memory of those who perished, to learn from the past, and to protect our shared values and ideals for the future. We will never forget," Tillis concluded in his poignant address. Then, the timeline of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks was recounted. A total of 2,973 men, women, and children from 93 nations lost their lives in the terrorist attacks, with many others passing away later due to the long-term consequences. In their honor, a fire bell was rung in the "four-fives" pattern – a traditional signal used by New York City fire stations, consisting of five strikes repeated four times, to signify the death of first responders in the line of duty. The Grafenwöhr chapter of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) laid a wreath in memory of the victims. As a gesture of deep appreciation, Brig. Gen. Tillis and 7ATC Command Sgt. Major Michael Sanchez personally thanked each of the firefighters, military police officers, and Bavarian police officers present, shaking hands with every one of them.

| by **Gerald Morgenstern**

Photo Credit: Gerald Morgenstern

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U.S. Soldier assigned the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division reviews objective during exercise Combined Resolve 27-01 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 16, 2026. U.S. and Allied forces must be ready and postured with combat-credible capabilities to deter and defend against conventional and asymmetric threats in today's complex global security environment.

Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Bethany Galford

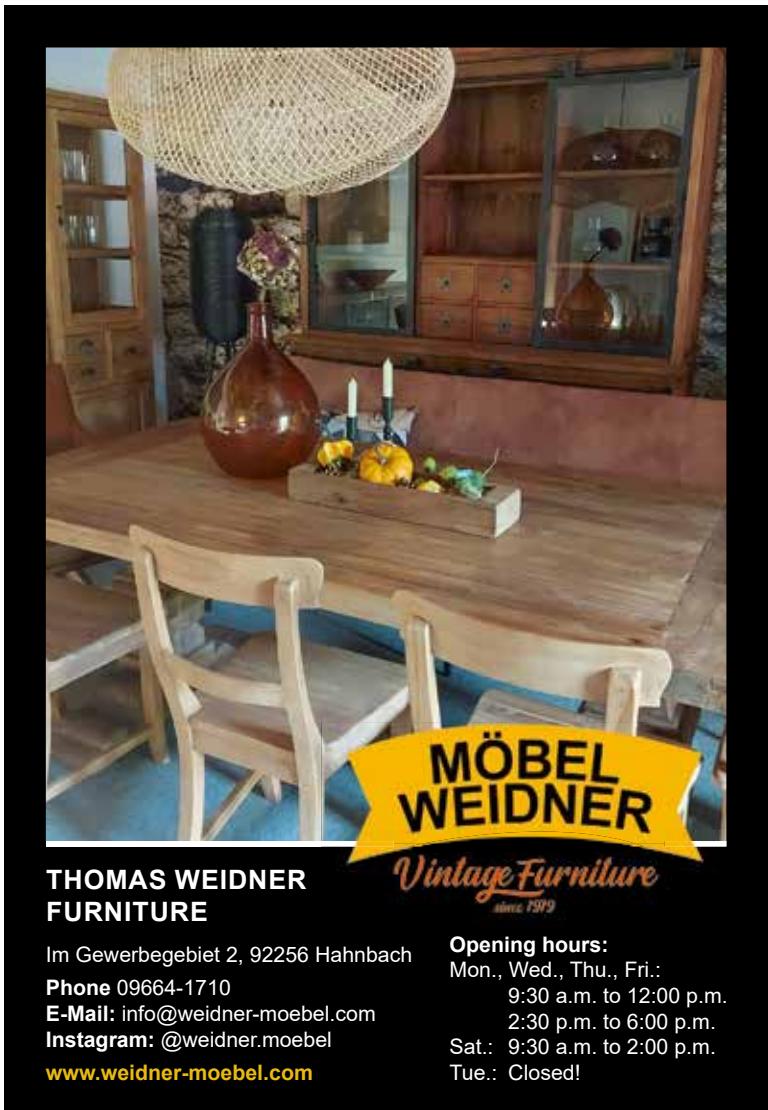
COMBINED RESOLVE PREPARES SOLDIERS, NATO ALLIES FOR MODERN BATTLEFIELD

HOHENFELS, Germany – Soldiers from 1st Armored Division participating in Combined Resolve are evaluating combat readiness, integrating emerging capabilities and strengthening interoperability with NATO allies during a multinational training exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The exercise, led by U.S. Army Europe and Africa, provides a training environment where units test their ability to execute missions, employ new systems and operate alongside allied forces in a combined-arms environment. Combined Resolve also allows units to evaluate how effectively their formations work together while adapting to the changing demands of the modern battlefield. Spc. Harry Clinton, a cavalry scout and unmanned aircraft system trainer assigned to the 474th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, supports the integration of unmanned aircraft systems by helping Soldiers develop the knowledge and skills needed to operate them. "My job is to help the master trainer get Soldiers licensed to conduct their initial licensing training, make sure they understand their positions and tasks, and know how to utilize them in a combat scenario," Clinton said.

UAS operations require coordination among Soldiers with different specialties. Clinton said drone strike platoons bring together personnel from multiple military occupational specialties to support operational requirements. "A drone strike platoon consists of your 15 series, your drone operators, your 19 deltas," Clinton said. "We all work together, jointly understanding each other's military occupational specialties and conducting operations based on the needs of the Army." The integration of unmanned systems reflects the drones' growing role in modern warfare. Training Soldiers to use these capabilities while coordinating with allied forces is a key part of preparing units for future operations. "So in today's modern battlefield, as we've seen, drones are now part of the biggest thing that goes on in the field," Clinton said. "What we're trying to do is catch up and get ahead of the game of drone operations with our NATO allies."

Through combined arms training and multinational cooperation, Combined Resolve gives participating units a chance to assess their capabilities, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen their ability to operate together. For Soldiers like Clinton, the exercise offers a chance to develop drone-operating proficiency while contributing to a broader effort to prepare U.S. and allied forces for the demands of the modern battlefield.

| by **Sgt. Steven Moseley**



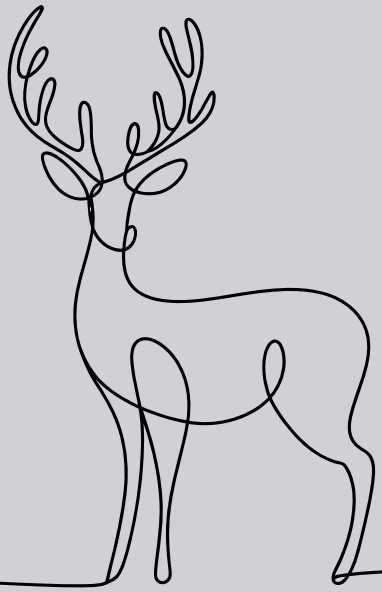
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A magnificent stag surrounded by hinds during the autumn rut in the wild.



DISCOVER GRAFENWOEHR'S "DEER HAVEN": WHERE MILITARY TRAINING MEETS PREMIER HUNTING

SEE HOW RESTRICTED ACCESS CREATES A BOOMING SANCTUARY FOR RED DEER, WILD BOAR, AND LOCAL HUNTERS.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – American soldiers often refer to the Grafenwoehr military training area as a "deer haven." The sound of rifle volleys and the thunder of artillery do not conflict with the presence of red deer; on the contrary, the training ground is the area richest in game in all of Germany – and, relative to its size, likely the area with the highest density of red deer in all of Europe. Large herds roam the forests and can be seen grazing in the expansive open spaces, completely unperturbed by military operations.

The prohibition on public access to the training ground, combined with the fact that the vast danger zones – the target areas – remain entirely free of humans, has a positive impact on the wildlife population.

The total number of red deer can only be estimated, though it can be inferred from annual culling figures, which typically range between 1,000 and 1,500 animals.

Outside of the periods reserved for military exercises, hunting is conducted through individual stalking. Dedicated hunters pay substantial sums – often several thousand euros – for the trophies of magnificent mature stags. These trophies, along with venison and timber production, provide a welcome and significant source of revenue for the Grafenwoehr Federal Forest Office.

Beginning in September, large-scale driven hunts are organized; these are conducted in a professional, ethical, and efficient manner to meet culling targets. The principle behind these driven hunts is to move the game slowly and calmly toward the hunters' stands, avoiding any panic. In this "deer haven," a large number of wild boar, roe deer, and other game species are also harvested. American hunters also participate in these hunts on the training ground; however, unlike in the United States, German law requires a formal hunting license to take part. To help individuals obtain a German hunting license, the U.S. Army in Europe offers courses that conclude with a formal hunting examination.

| by **Gerald Morgenstern**

HISTORY OF THE TRAINING AREA



"Grafenwoehr Training Area, Yesterday – Today – Edition 2024" is the title of the bilingual book by retired German Sgt. Major Gerald Morgenstern. The 288-page book, with more than 800 photos, not only presents the history of the training area since 1910 but also explores the development of the training area in recent times. The book also features comments from U.S. Army commanders and documents the development of Hohenfels Training Area. One chapter deals with red deer and hunting. "Grafenwoehr Training Area, Yesterday – Today – Edition 2024" is available in bookstores, in the military museum and at various sales locations on and off post. More information can be found, and online orders can be placed on the Facebook page "Grafenwoehr Training Area Book."

Photo Credit: Gerald Morgenstern (2); StockSynergy – stock.adobe.com



When you run out of steam during a stressful day, you need to recharge your energy.

BATTERY RUNNING LOW?

TIPS FOR A FRESH ENERGY BOOST IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Photo Credit: DJD/Hermes Arzneimittel/Pixel-Shot - stock.adobe.com

(DJD). Endless appointments and to-do lists, with hardly a moment to catch your breath – modern life often demands a great deal. It's no wonder that, at some point, your energy runs out, leaving you exhausted and unable to focus properly. When this happens, it's high time to bring your energy levels back to normal. A few simple tricks can help.

FRESH AIR AND LIGHT EXERCISE

Often, a bit of fresh air can make a big difference. Open the windows wide and take some deep breaths. Better yet, combine this with a few simple physical exercises – such as squats or arm circles – to get your circulation going and improve oxygen supply. Staying well-hydrated also provides a boost from within. For those who tend to forget to drink enough when under stress, a glass of water or a fruit spritzer can quickly improve how you feel. Coffee or green tea, consumed in moderation, can also provide a new burst of energy.

ENSURE AN ADEQUATE INTAKE OF NUTRIENTS

A good supply of essential nutrients is also vital for energy, concentration, and performance. These include, for instance, magnesium and vitamin B6, which contribute to normal energy metabolism, the reduction of tiredness and fatigue, and normal psychological function. These key nutrients are found primarily in nuts and seeds, whole-grain products, and legumes. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, however, it isn't always possible to meet your full requirements through diet alone. Some options – such as those with a strawberry flavor – are easy to incorporate into your daily routine; they're perfect for an afternoon slump at the office, while playing with your children, or during exercise – especially since magnesium also supports normal muscle function.

BREAKS AND POWER NAPS

Although not always possible, a quick power nap can be highly effective. Often, just ten to 15 minutes are enough to feel refreshed – but be careful not to nap any longer, or you might fall into a deep sleep and wake up feeling groggy and worn out. If a nap isn't an option, a short break can also help. Dancing to your favorite music, chatting with a colleague, or taking a quick walk can interrupt a stressful routine and help clear your mind.







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WINTER BLUES?
HERE COMES THE COUNTEROFFENSIVE

LIGHT, EXERCISE AND NUTRIENTS CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT IN DARK TIMES



Photo Credit: DJD/Diasporal/Morrina - stock.adobe.com (AI generated)

Sociability and regular exchange with others are particularly good for the soul.

(DJD). When the alarm goes off in the morning, it is often still pitch black. Getting up is difficult. You go through the day feeling tired and tense. You actually wanted to do something after work, but suddenly the sofa seems irresistible. The drive has been lost somewhere and all the plans feel exhausting. This is how the winter blues can creep in – and deprive many people of their ease in the cold season.

HOW TO BRING BACK THE MOMENTUM

Now it's high time to do something for yourself and against the winter gloom. Light and movement play an important role. While the skin needs UVB radiation from the sun for vitamin D production, brightness via the eyes influences the regulation of serotonin and melatonin and thus our internal clock. That's why it's worth spending the brightest hours of the day outside. A long walk of at least 30 minutes, for example during your lunch break, gets the body going, can reduce stress, promote well-being and prevent tension.

POWER FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

If you lack energy in winter, it's also worth taking a look at your diet. Fresh vegetables, whole grain products, nuts, seeds and legumes provide valuable vitamins and minerals. Magnesium and B vitamins in particular are important for muscles, nerves and energy balance: Magnesium contributes to normal energy metabolism, normal function of muscles and nervous system as well as normal psychological function. B vitamins also support energy metabolism and the nerves. The dietary supplement combines magnesium with vitamins B1, B2, B6 and B12 and is available as a 2-phase tablet and as a direct stick.

ADD SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL TO THE WINTER

It is also very important not to allow yourself to completely retreat. A chat with a friend, fixed appointments, cultural activities or little things that you look forward to after work help give structure to the days. Relaxation techniques promote stress reduction. Regular bedtimes are also good for your internal clock. So winter may not be your favorite season - but one in which you can optimally combine comfort and self-care.

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RECOGNIZING SEPSIS AND SAVING LIVES

(DJD). A flu-like illness, a bladder infection, or an infected wound – usually, these are nothing serious. Sometimes, however, they can escalate into a medical emergency within just a few hours: sepsis. It is one of the leading causes of death in Germany. The campaign "DeutschlandErkenntSepsis" ("Germany Recognizes Sepsis"), initiated by the Coalition for Patient Safety (Aktionsbündnis Patientensicherheit), aims to raise awareness about this underestimated danger.

MANY DEATHS ARE PREVENTABLE

Every year, at least 230,000 people in Germany develop sepsis, and at least 85,000 die from it. It is the third most common cause of death in the country – yet a large proportion of these deaths could be prevented. "Sepsis is one of the most frequent medical emergencies in Germany, yet it remains one of the least understood. As long as most people do not know how to recognize sepsis, we will continue to see preventable deaths," says Prof. Dr. Stefan Schröder, Chief Physician at the Artemed Hospital in Düren. Sepsis – often colloquially referred to as "blood poisoning" – is a life-threatening bodily response to an infection. The immune system spirals out of control, attacking not only the invading pathogens but also the body's own tissues and organs. Without treatment, this can rapidly lead to organ failure.

RECOGNIZING WARNING SIGNS IN TIME

What makes it particularly insidious is that the symptoms often resemble those of the flu. If an infection worsens and is accompanied by one or more warning signs – such as feeling unusually unwell, experiencing extreme pain, confusion, shortness of breath, a rapid heartbeat, a drop in blood pressure, skin that appears bluish, cold, or mottled, or high fever and chills – it could be sepsis. Kristina, who survived a severe streptococcal sepsis in 2019, knows just how rapidly and dramatically sepsis can develop. She urges others: "If you feel worse than you have ever felt before – truly, severely ill – and you have a gut feeling that something is very wrong, do not hesitate. Ask: 'Could this be sepsis?' Act quickly – act fast!"

RAISING THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPSIS

Every hour counts. Calling emergency services immediately when sepsis is suspected – and explicitly mentioning that suspicion – improves your chances. Those at particularly high risk include people over 60, infants and young children, individuals with chronic illnesses, and those with weakened immune systems. The best protection is to prevent infections whenever possible or to ensure they are treated thoroughly. This includes staying up to date with vaccinations, washing your hands regularly, taking proper care of wounds, and treating every infection seriously.

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BRACES AND INVISALIGN



THE BIGGEST ISSUE WHEN BRUSHING YOUR TEETH

WHY CLEAN INTERDENTAL SPACES ARE IMPORTANT FOR YOUR MOUTH AND YOUR ENTIRE BODY

(DJD). A radiant smile, well-cared-for teeth, and fresh breath are quite attractive. For most people, brushing their teeth twice a day is a matter of routine. While this certainly contributes significantly to oral health, a toothbrush primarily reaches the visible surfaces of the teeth. In contrast, food particles and bacterial deposits – known as plaque – often accumulate in the tight spaces between the teeth.

PLAQUE PROMOTES INFLAMMATION

If plaque deposits are left to build up, they can lead to bad breath, tooth discoloration, gum irritation, and inflammation. If left untreated, this can develop into periodontitis – a condition that causes permanent damage to the supporting structures of the teeth and can even lead to tooth loss. The consequences, however, can extend further. The gums act as a natural protective barrier between the bacteria in the oral cavity and the rest of the body. When they become inflamed, it is easier for bacteria and pro-inflammatory substances to enter the bloodstream. Studies have shown links between periodontitis and various health conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

GENTLE CLEANING FOR INTERDENTAL SPACES

Thorough oral hygiene is therefore essential not only for a beautiful smile and a well-groomed appearance but also for your overall health. The right tools to use alongside a toothbrush depend on factors such as the size of the gaps between your teeth, the sensitivity of your gums, and the presence of dental implants, crowns, or bridges.

For many people, interdental brushes or cleaners are an excellent choice, while dental floss may be more suitable for very tight spaces. Interdental cleaners, in particular, are practical and easy to use. Their soft, flexible rubber bristles glide comfortably between the teeth; they are free from metal and latex, and are gentle on sensitive gums.

It is key that the chosen device can be inserted between the teeth without applying pressure. Ultimately, consistency is what matters: cleaning between your teeth daily, brushing twice a day, and attending regular dental checkups creates a solid foundation for both oral and overall health.

Photo Credit: DJD/Gum/Sunstar

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MOUTH BREATHING: WHY NASAL BREATHING MATTERS – ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Breathing through the nose is important for our health. The nose filters, warms and humidifies the air, while mouth breathing allows air to enter largely unfiltered. Occasional mouth breathing, such as during exercise or a cold, is normal. However, persistent mouth breathing can affect oral health and jaw development, especially in children.

HOW DOES MOUTH BREATHING AFFECT CHILDREN?

When children regularly breathe through their mouths, their lips often remain open and the tongue rests in the lower jaw instead of against the palate. This can influence jaw development and contribute to a narrow upper jaw, crowded teeth or an open bite.

Mouth breathing can also cause dry mouth, reducing saliva's protective effect and increasing the risk of tooth decay, gum irritation and bad breath.

WHY DO CHILDREN BREATHE THROUGH THEIR MOUTHS?

Common causes include:

- Enlarged tonsils or other anatomical obstructions
- Allergies
- A persistently blocked nose
- Habitual mouth breathing, even after the original cause has disappeared

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS LOOK OUT FOR?

Possible warning signs include:

- Frequently open mouth, even at rest
- Snoring or restless sleep
- Daytime tiredness and difficulty concentrating
- Persistent bedwetting after the age of six
- Frequent ear infections or hearing problems
- Speech development difficulties
- Dry mouth, sensitive gums or increased tooth decay

WHAT CAN HELP?

The first step is to identify and treat the underlying cause. Persistent nasal congestion should be assessed by a doctor, particularly an ENT specialist. Depending on the cause, treatment may include allergy management, speech therapy exercises or orthodontic treatment.

CONCLUSION: HEALTHY BREATHING STARTS WITH THE NOSE

Persistent mouth breathing should not be ignored, especially in children. It can affect jaw development, dental health and sleep quality. Encouraging nasal breathing, maintaining good oral hygiene and attending regular dental check-ups can help protect long-term health. Healthy teeth depend on more than brushing – the way we breathe matters too.



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Start driving immediately – no more scraping ice

Parking heaters provide extra warmth and safety in your car

(DJD). A cold interior, icy windows, and windshields that fog up the moment you step inside – for many drivers, a cold morning begins with scraping ice and shivering. But there is a better, more convenient, and time-saving way: a parking heater. It pre-warms the engine and the interior, and clears all the windows of ice before you even reach your car. Such a system can be retrofitted into almost any vehicle.

CLEAR VISIBILITY FROM THE START

Anyone who parks on the street or in an employer's parking lot knows how tedious scraping ice can be. Some drivers settle for just a small "peep hole" in the windshield, putting themselves and others at risk. A parking heater ensures all-around visibility by defrosting the windows at a pre-programmed time while also dehumidifying the air inside the vehicle. This effectively prevents fogging and significantly enhances safety behind the wheel in freezing conditions. For larger family vans and SUVs, a parking heater also saves you from having to perform awkward, strenuous stretches – reaching across large windshields with an ice scraper is often difficult. Furthermore, consider unpredictable weather events like heavy snowfall or prolonged cold spells – phenomena likely to become more frequent due to climate change. A parking heater can be retrofitted into almost any passenger car. You can control it however you prefer: via a wireless remote, an app, or directly from inside the vehicle – or even a combination of these methods.

Photo Credit: DJD/Webasto

A STRESS-FREE START FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUTERS

Families, in particular, benefit from this added safety and comfort. In a pre-warmed car, children can be buckled into their seats without wearing bulky winter jackets. This is safer, as the seatbelt can then fit more snugly against the body. Commuters save valuable time, and athletes don't have to sit in an ice-cold car while still sweaty after a workout. It's also better for the engine: the powertrain reaches its operating temperature more quickly, and the wear-intensive cold start is eliminated. Retrofitting a parking heater is straightforward, but it should be handled by professionals – after all, the unit must be connected to the fuel system, the cooling and ventilation systems, and the vehicle's electronics. Specialized workshops follow manufacturer specifications to ensure everything functions reliably. One more tip: the time spent driving after the ice has melted should be at least as long as the time the heater was running, in order to sufficiently recharge the vehicle's battery.

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"IN AN EMERGENCY, ACTING EARLY IS CRUCIAL"

(DJD). Safety in German motorway tunnels is of the highest priority. But what happens when an emergency occurs and help is needed immediately? In such moments, Thomas Weyrich keeps a clear overview. As an experienced operator and shift supervisor at the central operations control center in Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, he monitors a total of 42 kilometers of tunnel tubes. In his daily work, every second counts, and the right actions can mean the difference between life and death. In this interview, Weyrich explains why a call from an emergency phone station can save lives – and which mistakes should be avoided at all costs.

Why should one use the orange emergency phone stations inside a tunnel, rather than calling 112 or 110 from a mobile phone?

Weyrich: A call made via a mobile phone costs exactly the kind of precious minutes that we can save by using an emergency phone station. If you use a mobile phone, your call first reaches a general emergency dispatch center. They often do not have the precise location within the tunnel immediately at hand and must then contact us. Furthermore, these general dispatch centers have no visual access to the tunnel tubes. This leads to a loss of information and significant delays in initiating rescue operations. An emergency phone station on the other hand allows us to be informed immediately, enabling us to take action right away.

What happens after an emergency call is made?

While we gather general information, my team simultaneously begins implementing response measures. If we detect a serious scenario via our cameras – such as the presence of smoke – we immediately close off the affected tunnel tube (or the entire tunnel) using barrier systems, preventing further vehicles from entering and exacerbating the danger. At the same time, we alert the relevant emergency services and police department by transmitting a predefined incident response level. Each level precisely defines which fire departments, emergency medical services, and police units – and in what strength – are to be dispatched.

What are the typical mistakes to avoid?

The biggest issue we see is a lack of communication from road users, combined with a misjudgment of the situation. Often, drivers pull into an emergency lay-by but fail to report their presence. We then spot the stationary vehicle and are still required to investigate what is happening. Another common mistake is that road users do not exit their vehicles immediately when a problem arises. In the event of a fire, the first few minutes are critical. The greatest danger is not the flames themselves, but rather toxic gases and smoke. Our urgent advice: leave your vehicle immediately and get to safety!



German motorway tunnels are very safe. In an emergency, however, every second counts.



Photo Credit: DJD/Federal Highway Authority (3)



A Double-Pack Electric Revolution:



DELIVERING UP TO 78 MILES (125 KM) OF PURE ELECTRIC RANGE, THE SWEDISH PREMIUM SUVS XC60 AND XC90 SET NEW STANDARDS FOR ZERO-EMISSION DAILY DRIVING, BLENDING SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN WITH GOOGLE GEMINI AI TECHNOLOGY.

For car buyers torn between environmental consciousness and uncompromised long-distance capability, Volvo now offers the ultimate answer. The Swedish premium brand presents its most powerful plug-in hybrids to date: the refreshed, best-selling XC60 and XC90 models boast record-breaking all-electric ranges of up to 78 miles (approx. 125 km) and 73 miles (approx. 117 km), respectively. As a result, daily trips – such as the school run, the daily commute, or spontaneous weekend getaways – become effortless and entirely free of local emissions.

MAIN BODY: MORE THAN DOUBLE THE ELECTRIC RANGE AND FRESH DESIGN

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Volvo Unveils Record-Breaking XC60 and XC90 Plug-in Hybrids

The XC60, in particular, arrives with significant visual and technological enhancements:

- Exterior: A dynamic front fascia featuring a newly styled grille, redesigned bumpers, and a modernized interpretation of the iconic "Thor's Hammer" LED headlights emphasizes Scandinavian design language.
- Interior & Comfort: Inside, fine wood decor, ventilated Cardamom Nappa leather, and ambient lighting create a refined atmosphere of well-being.
- Safety & Driver Assistance: The latest radar systems, cameras, and sensors support active evasive maneuvers and emergency braking while offering a 360-degree camera with a 3D view.
- Smart Technology: The 11.2-inch display introduces the new Volvo Car UX. Thanks to the integration of Google Gemini AI, the vehicle can be controlled using natural language – ranging from route planning to managing messages.

The luxurious seven-seater XC90 also benefits from the upgraded powertrain specs, Volvo's renowned top-tier safety standards, and an optional Bowers & Wilkins surround sound system.

With the new T8 AWD Long-Range models, Volvo builds a crucial bridge toward a fully electric future. Thanks to regular over-the-air (OTA) updates, the vehicles remain continuously up to date via software even long after purchase. Production begins in late fall, with the first deliveries scheduled for early 2027 – a powerful statement for sustainable and relaxed premium mobility.

(Volvo Cars USA)



Photo Credit: Volvo Cars USA (2)

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THE LUXURY ROLLING LOUNGE:

THE ALL-NEW AUDI Q9 SETS NEW STANDARDS

With the all-new Q9, Audi expands its portfolio with a true luxury flagship: The brand's first full-size SUV combines outstanding spacious comfort, pioneering lighting technologies, and powerful performance tailored to the highest demands.





Cars have long been much more than mere means of transportation – for many people, they are turning into mobile living spaces. Built precisely around this core philosophy, Audi CEO Gernot Döllner presents the brand's new top-tier model: the Audi Q9. Boasting an imposing length of over 17.3 feet (über 5,30 Meter), the company completely redefines the full-size luxury segment, combining the finest materials with technological excellence. The new full-size SUV will roll into dealerships later this year.

The interior of the Q9 is uncompromisingly designed for luxury. The model comes standard with seating for seven, while an optional high-end six-seat configuration features power-adjustable captain's chairs in the second row, delivering a true business-class feel. For the first time at Audi, power-operated automatic doors provide even greater convenience when entering and exiting the vehicle – complemented by intelligent obstacle detection to reliably prevent collisions with oncoming traffic.

Spanning above the passengers is the largest panoramic sunroof in the brand's history: Spanning over 16 square feet (1,5 Quadratmeter) of glass area, it can open wide or be electronically dimmed using variable transparency control.

On the exterior, the Q9 impresses with a commanding front fascia, striking aluminum wheels up to 23 inches, and world-first innovations in lighting technology. Making its global debut in a production vehicle are the first-ever three-dimensionally curved digital OLED taillights. They seamlessly contour to the bodywork and enhance safety thanks to a wider illumination angle. This is complemented by innovative Digital Matrix LED headlights that intelligently shade out oncoming traffic while perfectly illuminating the road ahead.



Delivering the necessary thrust at launch is a potent 2.9-liter twin-turbo V6 engine producing 429 horsepower. Paired with an eight-speed Tiptronic transmission and standard quattro all-wheel drive, the SUV sprints from 0 to 60 mph in just 4.9 seconds. Thanks to an adaptive air suspension and all-wheel steering, the Q9 glides effortlessly over any road, while state-of-the-art driver assistance systems – such as SAE Level 2+ hands-free driving on highways – ensure relaxed travel.

The new Audi Q9 is far more than just a scaled-up SUV – it is a technological statement and a mobile sanctuary on wheels. Anyone seeking uncompromising space, premium comfort, and smart innovation will find their ideal vehicle right here. The U.S. market launch takes place later this year. We can certainly look forward to seeing when this impressive flagship will conquer roads over here!

(Audi of America)

Photo Credit: Audi of America (3)

EVOLUTION OF AN ICON: THE NEW MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS SETS NEW BENCHMARKS

With a sharpened design, electrified high-tech powertrain, and the AI-powered MB.OS operating system, Mercedes-Benz is redefining the midsize luxury segment.

Since 1982 and with over twelve million units sold, the C-Class has shaped its segment. Now, Mercedes-Benz is ushering in the next chapter of this success story: sportier, more intelligent, and more comfortable than ever, the new generation of the popular sedan makes its debut.

SPORTY ELEGANCE MEETS DIGITAL INTELLIGENCE

At first glance, the new C-Class captivates with a dynamic presence. The redesigned radiator grille features a striking chrome surround, surround lighting, and an illuminated central star. Inside, passengers are welcomed into a stylish sanctuary featuring premium materials, an enhanced Burmester® 3D Surround Sound System, and atmospheric ambient lighting.

The heart of the digital innovation is the new MB.OS operating system. The AI-powered MBUX Virtual Assistant acts as a personal companion: it engages in complex conversations, remembers context, and delivers precise answers. Thanks to Google integration and cloud-based AI, navigation remains effortless even in complex traffic situations.

"The new C-Class proves that continuity and innovation are not mutually exclusive. It delivers proven reliability alongside groundbreaking technology that creates real customer value," emphasizes Mathias Geisen, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG.

DYNAMIC POWERTRAIN AND MAXIMUM SAFETY

Confident performance is delivered by the further refined 2.0-liter turbocharged inline-four engine (255 hp / 295 lb-ft of torque) featuring 48-volt mild-hybrid technology and a new electric auxiliary compressor. A finely tuned suspension ensures agile handling while maintaining the signature long-distance comfort. Comprehensive driver-assistance systems, including MB.DRIVE PARKING ASSIST 360 and DIGITAL LIGHT, round out the package.

The market launch is scheduled for the first half of 2027.

(Mercedes-Benz USA)

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AN ELECTRIFYING FUTURE: THE ALL-NEW BMW X5 AND IX5 SET NEW STANDARDS IN THE EXECUTIVE SEGMENT

The fifth generation of the iconic SAV makes a compelling statement with five powertrain options – led by the first all-electric BMW iX5, featuring impressive range, cutting-edge "Neue Klasse" technology, and production at the US plant in Spartanburg.

Since its debut in 1999, the BMW X5 has redefined the Sports Activity Vehicle (SAV) segment and captured the hearts of millions of car enthusiasts worldwide. Now, this success story enters a revolutionary new chapter: The fifth-generation X5 pairs bold design with pioneering "Neue Klasse" innovations, offering the most diverse lineup of powertrains ever available in a BMW model.

The new model lineup leaves nothing to be desired, offering customers unprecedented choice: alongside combustion engine options with 48-volt mild-hybrid technology and a versatile plug-in hybrid, the all-electric BMW iX5 60 xDrive makes its celebrated debut. Powered by sixth-generation BMW eDrive technology, new 120-millimeter cylindrical cells, and a high-performance 800-volt architecture, it delivers an estimated range of around 435 miles (approx. 700 km), ultra-fast charging capability, and practical bi-directional charging functionality. Later down the road an iX5 Hydrogen featuring hydrogen fuel-cell technology will round out the portfolio.

The new X5 will be built at the storied Spartanburg plant in the US, marking the first time the facility produces a fully electric vehicle. Visually, the X5's familiar, commanding presence meets a striking front fascia defined by the vertically aligned "BMW Kidney Iconic Glow" grille and new double-X light signatures. Eleven exterior paint finishes and wheel options up to 23 inches allow for extensive customization.

Inside, the new BMW Panoramic iDrive powered by the intuitive OS X operating system delivers a completely reimagined cabin and user experience. BMW Panoramic Vision projects essential information across the full width of the lower windshield, while the intelligent voice assistant responds even more naturally to spoken commands thanks to integrated Amazon Alexa+ AI. For the first time, a dedicated BMW Passenger Screen offers premium entertainment for the front passenger, while an intelligent driver attentiveness monitor enhances safety.

With the new BMW X5 and the all-electric iX5, the Munich-based premium automaker convincingly demonstrates how traditional comfort and sustainable future technology can seamlessly come together. The initial variants will roll out starting this fall, followed by the all-electric and additional models arriving at dealerships in early 2027. For those seeking maximum versatility, luxury, and state-of-the-art electric mobility, the new benchmark in its class has arrived. (BMW USA)



Photo Credit: BMW USA (3)





WELCOME TO J.B. LELL CAR DEALERSHIPs

Your EXPERT center for BMW brands.

Over the past years, Autohaus J.B. Lell has experienced healthy growth and expansion, driven by our commitment to quality and innovation. We have not only invested in top-qualified employees but have also continually broadened our range of products and services. Today, our dealerships in Schwandorf, Kümmersbruck, Weiden, Wunsiedel, and the MINI Haus in Schwandorf proudly carry the LELL name, standing as pillars of excellence in the automotive world.

The highlight of our modernization journey is the newly completed dealership in Schwandorf. Spanning along Industriestraße, it now includes a dedicated BMW ALPINA area that invites you to experience driving pleasure, innovation, and sheer confidence. Every detail has been designed to ignite your enthusiasm for automotive excellence.

In line with the future of mobility, our dealership is also home to a BMW i showroom, complete with the necessary charging infrastructure. Our team of BMW i specialists is fully trained to provide expert advice on the cutting-edge world of electric mobility. We invite you to experience this new era of premium and innovation firsthand. While our business has evolved over 40 years, one thing remains unchanged: Lell's dedication to providing exceptional customer service.

For us, your needs and desires always come first. Our dealerships represent a unique value proposition – outstanding service, personalized advice, and unwavering professionalism. We are constantly striving to exceed your expectations and enhance your experience. Thanks to our company's growth, our team now includes over 200 highly qualified professionals, ready to serve both local and international customers. For our international clientele, we offer English-speaking staff to ensure the same high level of service.Our priority is simple: meeting and exceeding the expectations of all our customers.

Our dealerships are equipped with state-of-the-art workshops, always feature the latest vehicle models, and offer exclusive promotions and events. Lell is more than just a car dealership – it's a hub for automotive enthusiasts, a place where customers, employees, and BMW fans come together to share their passion. Whether you're looking for BMW, BMW M, BMW i, or MINI, we are here to turn your automotive dreams into reality.

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info.wen@lell-bmw.de

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READY FOR THE NEXT ADVENTURE:

THE NEW 2027 FORD MUSTANG MACH-E TRAIL IN DETAIL



THE ALL-ELECTRIC CROSSOVER EXPANDS ITS HORIZONS: FEATURING INCREASED GROUND CLEARANCE, ALL-WEATHER GRIP, AND SMART OUTDOOR FEATURES, THE JOURNEY ITSELF BECOMES THE DESTINATION.

Anyone who loves the outdoors knows that the best adventures often begin far beyond the paved road – whether it's the bumpy gravel path leading to the trailhead parking lot, a damp meadow at the campsite, or the final stretch of sand before reaching the lake. It is precisely for these moments that Ford is introducing the new 2027 Mustang Mach-E® Trail. This all-electric crossover is designed for anyone looking to embrace an active lifestyle without compromising on electric power. With targeted off-road upgrades and well-thought-out features, the Mach-E Trail seamlessly blends everyday usability with a genuine spirit of exploration.

Increased Ground Clearance and Rally DNA for Rough Terrain
Available as an optional package for the Mustang Mach-E Select eAWD, the Trail focuses on functional hardware. The specially tuned suspension gives the EV a noticeable boost in ground clearance: an increase of 0.4 inches (10 mm) in the front and 0.6 inches (15 mm) in the rear.*

The steering system, distinct 19-inch High Gloss Dark Carbonized Gray aluminum wheels, and Michelin CrossClimate® 2 all-weather tires are sourced directly from its sporty sibling, the Mach-E Rally. This combination delivers confident traction – whether you're navigating fine gravel, muddy forest tracks, or snow-covered roads.

Design accents, such as the rugged Carbon Black front fascia and the exclusive Mach-E Trail logo on the center armrest, give the EV a distinctly bold, off-road presence.

Perfectly Equipped for the Great Outdoors

The Mach-E Trail delivers at the destination as well:

- **Pro Power Onboard (400W):** With outlets located in the cargo area and center console, you can power coolers, pumps for stand-up paddleboards, or camping lights directly from the vehicle's battery.
- **Flexible Transport Options:** The available Thule® roof rack system easily accommodates kayaks, mountain bikes, or cargo boxes.
- **Extended Range Standard:** For the 2027 model year, Ford is making the larger battery standard across the entire lineup (88 kWh usable capacity on Select and Premium models).

With the Mustang Mach-E Trail, Ford proves that electric mobility and outdoor freedom are a perfect match. The American automaker combines everyday comfort with just the right amount of off-road capability that outdoor enthusiasts and travelers need. Rounded out by advanced driver-assist systems like BlueCruise 1.5, even the drive there becomes a relaxing part of your vacation. The trail to adventure has rarely been this quiet, dynamic, and stylish. (Ford Motor Company)

Photo Credit: Ford Motor Company (2)

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BAVARIANTIMES

MERRY Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Bavarian Times-Team wishes you happy holidays, good luck and success in 2027.

We thank our readers, customers and business partners for the good cooperation in the past year.

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

- GIFT IDEAS
- QUIETNESS
- PATIENCE FOR THE BUSY HOLIDAYS
- TIME WITH THE FAMILY
- FRESH SNOW
- THE SMELL OF COOKIES
- A CUP OF HOT PUNCH
- HEALTH, PEACE AND HOPE FOR 2027
- THE SCENT OF SPRUCE
- CATCHY TUNE "LAST CHRISTMAS"

Photo Credit: ANR Production – stock.adobe.com

DISCOVER LOCAL CULTURE:

ICONIC BIG BAND SWING MEETS BAVARIA

Experience top-tier local artists blending Frank Sinatra hits with Bavarian cabaret in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

Photo Credit: krissikunterbunt – stock.adobe.com

PRESSATH, Germany – Under the motto "This Is How We Swing Back Home" ("So swingt's bei uns daham"), the **King-Size Big Band** and the musical cabaret duo Hubert Treml and Franz Schuier are set to ignite a humorous and sonorous musical fireworks display. Big band classics – such as Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" – will be performed in the Upper Palatinate dialect, while original songs penned by Treml and Schuier will be performed big band style.

Led by bandleader Markus König, the King-Size Big Band – a group of around 20 passionate musicians from the greater Weiden area – is renowned for its vibrant swing, Latin, and funk grooves. With impressive soloists, spirited compositions, sophisticated arrangements, wild improvisations, and the infectious energy of musicians who clearly love to play, the ensemble embodies everything that makes a big band so powerful and unique. The collaboration between these two outstanding acts from the Upper Palatinate promises a diverse and one-of-a-kind evening on Saturday, February 27, 2027, at the Pressath Civic Hall (Stadthalle). The event begins at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. Seating is unreserved, and Bavarian-style finger food will be served.

Tickets are available via OKticket or at the Bodner bookstore starting November 21.

| by **Franziska Nugent**

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

ON THE WEEKEND: THE KATHREIN MARKET IN WEIDEN INVITES YOU



Photo Credit: Stadtmarketing Weiden

WEIDEN, Germany – The days are growing colder, and the Christmas season is approaching. Have you started gathering ideas for Christmas gifts yet? Is your winter wardrobe ready, and have you finished your holiday decorating? On "Kathrein Sunday" – November 22, 2026 – shops in Weiden will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., inviting you to enjoy a relaxed shopping experience with the whole family. In addition to various special promotions, the latest products for the winter and Christmas season will be on display.

Furthermore, the Kathrein Market will offer a diverse array of goods starting as early as 10:30 a.m., with market booths set up from Issy-les-Moulineaux-Platz to Schlörplatz. The selection ranges from clothing, leather goods, and household items to holiday decorations, as well as a variety of sweet treats and savory snacks. Beyond these market offerings, local restaurants and cafés provide a culinary selection that leaves nothing to be desired.

| by **Stadtmarketing Weiden**

DISCOVER THE NEW ESCHENBACH NATIVITY TRAIL

ESCHENBACH, Germany – From Nov. 28, 2026, to Jan. 10, 2027, the local parish and the business association invite you to enjoy an enchanting discovery tour. This year, the town of Eschenbach (located 2 miles from Netzaberg) is bringing a truly special Advent atmosphere to its streets. Under the theme "Take a Peek!" ("Schau mal rein!"), the historic town center – centered around Marienplatz and Karlsplatz – is being transformed into a festively illuminated "Nativity Trail." The official opening will take place on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026, following the evening vigil mass, during the lighting of the Christmas tree at the town hall. Numerous lovingly crafted nativity scenes, displayed in windows and shopfronts, bring the Christmas story to life amidst the bustle of everyday life. A free flyer is available to guide visitors to every stop along the trail. For children, there is a puzzle-based prize game with some wonderful surprises in store. This joint project by the parish and the business association also welcomes donations to help support the initiative. Whether you are out for a family stroll or an evening walk, come and discover the magic of the Eschenbach Nativity Trail – on display until Jan. 10!

| by **Daniela Kleber**

Photo Credit: Kitty – stock.adobe.com



Photo Credit: Logo DAGA e.V.; DAGA e.V. / Matthias Plankl

CHRISTMAS CHEER, COMMUNITY POWER: DAGA'S BOOTH FUELS LOCAL CHARITY

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The German-American Joint Committee (DAGA) invites visitors to its booth at the Christmas Market in the garrison town of Grafenwoehr on December 5, 2026. Your purchase is a direct way to support charitable projects across the region. The following Saturday, December 12, 2026, the 'Winter Magic in the City Park' (Winterzauber im Stadtpark) event will take place again from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, hosted by DAGA e.V. DAGA has been an indispensable pillar for social initiatives and German-American friendship for over 70 years. President Helmuth Wächter emphasizes that every cup of punch and every treat purchased at the booth is a direct contribution to the public welfare. The revenue strengthens DAGA's financial foundation, enabling the organization to fulfill its most important missions: supporting citizens in need with the traditional Christmas parcels, presenting donation checks to local organizations, and supporting the Christmas Tree Lighting at Tower Barracks with punch and gingerbread. Visiting the DAGA booth is a simple yet effective way to actively participate in the community partnership and prove that the German-American community in the Upper Palatinate stands together.

| by **Editor**

13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET IN ESCHENBACH

ESCHENBACH, Germany – On Sunday, November 8, 2026, from 10 AM to 5 PM, talented local artisans and crafters invite you to explore, discover, and enjoy a wonderful selection of handmade treasures. One of the highlights awaits you in the charming courtyard, where cozy fire pits and a warm, welcoming atmosphere invite you to relax, gather with friends and family, and enjoy the festive surroundings.

| by **Daniela Kleber**

ADVERTORIAL

EXPERIENCE GRAFENWOEHR'S ADVENT MARKET: CAMELS, CHRISTKIND, AND HOLIDAY FUN

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany – Christmas is just around the corner. To mark the season, the town of Grafenwöhr is hosting the Upper Palatinate Advent Market on Saturday, December 5, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A German-American opening ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. Visitors to the Upper Palatinate Advent Market, held in the town park and the courtyard of the Culture and Military Museum, can look forward to a festive atmosphere, regional and international delicacies, Christmas goods, and a diverse, extensive musical program. As in the past two years, wood chips will be spread throughout the town park to keep visitors' feet dry, while new holiday decorations will ensure the park shines with festive splendor. Numerous local clubs and vendors will be offering a variety of Christmas items. The Culture and Military Museum will also be open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The stage program features something for everyone, ranging from brass bands and choirs to Christmas pop music. For families and younger guests, there will be live camels, a carousel, a popular raffle, and visits from St. Nicholas and Santa Claus – complete with gifts – along with other surprises. At 4:00 p.m., the traditional German-American welcome will take place, featuring a prologue delivered by the Grafenwöhr "Christkind" (Christmas Angel).

| by **Renate Gradl**

Photo Credit: krissikunterbunt – stock.adobe.com



CHRISTMAS 2026

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC: USAREUR-AF BAND & CHORUS HOST FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT IN GRAFENWOEHR



Photo Credit: Renate Gradl; TanyaK – stock.adobe.com

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The traditional holiday concert by the United States Army Europe & Africa Band and Chorus (USAREUR-AF) will take place this year on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Civic Center (Stadthalle). It is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit, as the U.S. military's big band – comprising more than 50 men and women – expertly performs a mix of modern and traditional Christmas songs, guiding the audience through an entertaining evening. The United States Army Europe and Africa Band & Chorus serves as a musical ambassador for America in Europe, aiming to strengthen partnerships with host nations through its performances. The ensemble plays more than 200 concerts annually across more than 20 countries. It will be exciting to see which songs – classic or modern – are featured this year. Will there be a musical waltz, or perhaps Rudolph dancing the mambo? Will "Jingle Bells" – or other bells – ring out? There will certainly be some deeply moving, soulful holiday melodies for the audience to enjoy. As in previous years, individual musicians and choir members will have the chance to shine as soloists. And who knows – there might even be a special guest named Santa Claus! One thing is certain: this holiday concert will once again serve as a wonderful early holiday gift.

| by **Renate Gradl**

EXPLORE LOCAL CULTURE:

BRING THE FAMILY TO PRESSATH'S 34TH ANNUAL CHRISTKINDLMARKT

PRESSATH, Germany – The town of Pressath invites you to its 34th Christmas Market on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026, from noon to 8 p.m. The market will span from Prof.-Dietl-Park and the courtyard of the Gasthof Heining, along Parkweg, and into Bahnhofstraße. Join us to soak up the festive atmosphere while enjoying a cup of mulled wine, hot Aperol, mulled gin, a cocktail, egg punch, or hot chocolate. In addition to numerous booths offering a wide array of treats – such as vegan stews, potato soup, sausage and game goulash, pizza, fries, bratwurst, *Käsekrainer* (cheese-filled sausages), Hungarian beef goulash with Spätzle noodles, lentil balls with potato curry, spring rolls, cinnamon rolls, chocolate-covered fruit, crêpes, waffles, popcorn, roasted almonds, macaroons, cookies, and more – there will also be plenty of arts and crafts to admire. Younger guests are well catered for, too: as always, the main attraction will be the arrival of the Pressath Christkind (Christ Child) and her angels, who will be handing out little surprises. There will also be a children's carousel, a coloring contest with fantastic prizes, and a scheduled visit from Saint Nicholas and his entourage. Another special highlight this year is the grand Christmas raffle organized by the local business association, featuring prizes with a total value of over 15,000 euros. Furthermore, the "Stoapfalz Deifl'n" group from Floß will perform a show in the Netto parking lot, reviving ancient traditions through their appearance as "Perchten" – figures clad in eerie masks and costumes.

Already have plans for Nov. 29? Then why not stop by Prof.-Dietl-Park during the third weekend of Advent? Just like last year, we will be hosting "Advent in the Park" there on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 4 - 8 p.m. Come and wind down your day with friends or family, enjoying a cup of mulled wine and light snacks amidst festive holiday lights.

| by **Franziska Nugent**

Photo Credit: krissikunterbunt – stock.adobe.com

ROCK YOUR BAVARIAN FRIDAY NIGHT WITH THE "COUNTRY DUDES"



Photo Credit: Country Dudes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – No other band captures the musical crossover of Bavaria and America quite like the "Country Dudes". Experience them in concert in the Grafenwoehr Jugendheim on Feb. 12, 2027 at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale online at www.okticket.de and will also be sold at the box office on the night of the concert.

The "Country Dudes" are four professional musicians from the region who love country music and want to tell their stories with their guitars, banjos and whistles – both in English and in German. Musically, anything goes, as long as it's fun: heartbreak ballads with a campfire vibe, driving country grooves and lyrics that have more depth than you'd expect at first glance. Clichés aren't played up – they're lovingly taken apart and reassembled in a whole new way. Look forward to a night of handmade music, polyphonic singing, real energy and the good feeling of never taking things too seriously.

| by **Pirmin Balk**



A FAMILY TIP FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:

THE GIANT ADVENT CALENDAR IN WEIDEN

WEIDEN, Germany – Just in time for December 1, Stadtmarketing Weiden is once again transforming the Old Town Hall into a giant Advent calendar.

This year, a "Christmas angel" accompanied by two smaller angels will open a decorated window each day, sure to bring a sparkle to children's eyes. Behind each window, a beautifully illuminated, Christmas-themed image – created by children – will be revealed.

The daily window-opening ceremony is accompanied by Advent stories and music, making it a delightful experience for visitors to the Christmas market. Naturally, small gifts provided by the window sponsors will also be handed out, helping to shorten the wait for Christmas Eve for the children.

HIGHLIGHT

On December 6, Saint Nicholas himself will open the Advent calendar window, bringing a special touch of Christmas magic with his visit.

ADVENT CALENDAR OPENING TIMES

Monday to Sunday: 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve: 11:00 a.m.

| by **Stadtmarketing Weiden**

Photo Credit: Stadtmarketing Weiden

ADVERTORIAL

UPPER PALATINATE SPARKLING LIGHTS
39TH CHRISTMAS MARKET IN AMBERG

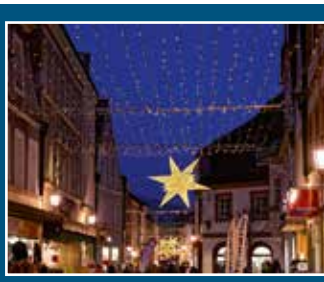
The air is filled with the scent of roasted almonds, gingerbread, and grilled sausages. The glow of the city's Christmas lights helps you forget the stress of everyday life. A total of 300 Christmas trees line the path from the train station to the Malteser building. The romantic Christmas market – nestled in the shadow of the St. Martin Basilica in the heart of Amberg's Old Town and extending to other locations – offers culinary delights and beautifully decorated booths. The market opens on Thursday, November 26, at 10:00 a.m., with Lord Mayor Fritz presiding over the official opening ceremony at 5:00 p.m. A special highlight: Every Saturday at 5:30 p.m., the town hall brass ensemble performs well-known Christmas carols from the balcony of the town hall – with opportunities for the audience to sing along. The program includes various other events taking place at the market and on the stage. Admission is free. From Thursday to Sunday, horse-drawn carriage rides are available, and a carousel is set up for children to enjoy at the market square. On Sunday afternoons, you can admire live animals brought by the Weiss Kümmersbuch animal rescue center.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. – "Schlager" (pop-folk) Christmas with "Nicki"

Sunday, Dec. 13, from 5:30 p.m. – The "Upper Palatinate Castle Devils" (Oberpfälzer Schlossteufel)

Friday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. – A contemplative Christmas with Brigitte Traeger



Amberger Weihnachtsmarkt
am Marktplatz

39th christmas market at the marketplace in Amberg

From November 26th to December 23rd

Opening times
Monday to Wednesday: 10.00 am to 8.00 pm
Thursday to Saturday: 10.00 am to 9.00 pm
Sunday: 1.00 pm to 8.00 pm



HIGHLIGHT
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2026 | SCHLOSSTEUFEL

Christmas deco throughout the city center.

Regional CHRISTMAS MARKETS

The Oberpfalz region, especially the area around Grafenwoehr, Vilseck and Hohenfels, has a lot to offer during the holiday season. Several Christmas markets invite visitors to spend the pre-Christmas season in a cozy atmosphere. Whether in historic downtowns or in idyllically located villages – there`s something for everyone to enjoy.

Kuchlbauers tower in Abensberg

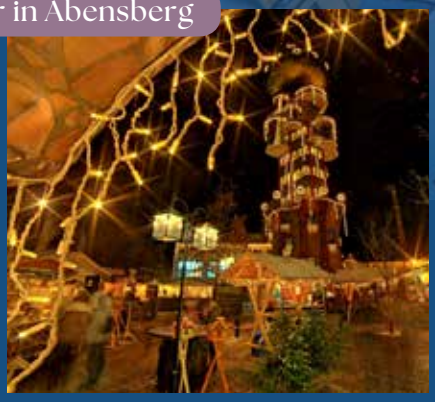


Photo Credit: Brauerei zum Kuchlbauer GmbH & Co KG, Abensberg

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AROUND HOHENFELS

Christmas Market Hohenfels
Opening hours: Dec. 5/6,2026
Address: Marktplatz, 92366 Hohenfels

Parsberg Castle Christmas
Opening hours: Nov. 20-22, 2026
Nov. 27-29, 2026
Address: Burgstraße 24,
92331 Parsberg

Beilngries Christkindl Market
Opening hours: Nov. 27-29, 2026
Dec. 4-6, 2026
Address: Stadtgraben/Sulzpromenade,
92339 Beilngries

Kuchlbauer's Tower Christmas Abensberg
Opening hours: Nov. 25 - Dec. 20, 2026
open from Wednesday - Sunday
Address: Kuchlbauer Bierwelt
Römerstraße, 93326 Abensberg

A sea of lights, arts and crafts, an atmospheric program and delicious delicacies make the wait for Santa Claus even more enjoyable for the whole family. Christmas melodies can be heard from several stages, an exciting children's program offers everything a child's heart desires, Santa Claus hands out sweets and in the heated underground car park you can watch artisans at work.

Advent Market Burglengenfeld
Opening hours: Nov. 27-29, 2026
Address: Auf der Burg,
93133 Burglengenfeld

Christkindl Market in Kelheim
Opening hours: Dec. 4-13, 2026
Address: Altstadt Kelheim,
Ludwigsplatz, 93309 Kelheim

Romantic Christmas Market in the spa park in Bad Abbach
Opening hours: Dec. 5/6, 2026
Address: Kaiser-Karl-V-Allee 5
93077 Bad Abbach

Lucrezia Market Regensburg
Opening hours: Nov. 27 – Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Haidplatz & Kohlenmarkt
93047 Regensburg

Neumarkt Christmas Market
Opening hours: Nov. 16 - Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Rathausplatz 1
92318 Neumarkt i.d. OPf.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AROUND VILSECK

Christmas Market Vilseck
Opening hours: Dec. 5-6, 2026
Address: Burg Dagestein
Schlossgasse 6, 92249 Vilseck

Christmas Market Amberg
Opening hours:
Nov. 26 till Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Marktplatz, 92224 Amberg

Adventstreff Grubenzauber auf Maffei
Opening hours: Dec. 5, 2026
Address: Nitzlbuch 27E
91275 Auerbach in der Oberpfalz

Advent Market „Pottensteiner Winterzauber"
Opening hours: Nov. 28/29, 2026
Address: Bürgerhausplatz, Marktplatz und Kurpark, 91278 Pottenstein

Christmas Market Pegnitz
Opening hours: Dec. 5/6, 2026
Address: Bartholomäus-Kirche
Marienkirche, 91257 Pegnitz



Photo Credit: ARochau – stock.adobe.com

The Lucrezia Market in Regensburg

Christmas Market Hersbruck
Opening hours: Nov. 26 – Dec. 23 2026
Address: Unterer Markt
91217 Hersbruck

Christmas Market Auf der Schanze in Sulzbach-Rosenberg
Opening hours: Dec. 10-13, 2026
Address: Auf der Schanze
92237 Sulzbach-Rosenberg

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AROUND GRAFENWOEHR

Kemnath Winter Garden
Opening hours: Nov. 28-29, 2026
Dec. 3-6, 2026, Dec. 10/12, 2026
from Thursday to Saturday
Address: 95478 Kemnath

Christkindles Market Bayreuth
Opening hours: Nov. 23 – Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Altes Schloss & Marktplatz
95444 Bayreuth

Adventsmarkt Grafenwoehr
Opening hours: Dec. 5, 2026
Address: Stadtpark, 92655 Grafenwöhr

Christmas Market Eschenbach
Opening hours: Nov. 30, 2026
Address: beim Taubnschuster /
Wassergasse, 92676 Eschenbach

Christmas Market Pressath
Opening hours: Nov. 29, 2026
Address: Bahnhofstraße, 92690 Pressath

Advent im Park Pressath
Opening hours: Dec. 5, Dec. 13 2026
Dec. 15 2026
Address: Bahnhofstraße, 92690 Pressath

Int. Christmas Pottery Market Thurnau Castle
Opening hours: Dec. 4 – 6, 2026
Address: Schloss Thurnau, Marktplatz 1
95349 Thurnau

Historic Christkindl Market Weiden
Opening hours: Nov. 26 – Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Unterer- & Oberer Markt
92637 Weiden i. d. OPf.

A uniquely romantic atmosphere awaits you in front of lovingly renovated old town houses with Renaissance gables. The Christmas market in Weiden in the Upper Palatinate has been documented since 1600, making it the second oldest Christmas market in Bavaria. The Old Town Hall, one of the many architectural gems in the old town, is transformed into Germany's largest Advent calendar every year. With live music and choir singing, two small angels and one large angel open one of the 24 windows of the historic building every day until Christmas, behind every window is a picture painted by children.

Franconian Hallway Christmas in Creußen
Opening hours: Nov. 28/29 2026
Address: In and around the Old Town Hall
Am Alten Rathaus 6, 95473 Creußen

Historic Christkindl Market in Weiden



Photo Credit: Andrea Schild-Janker

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AROUND GARMISCH

Christmas Market in Garmisch-Partenkirchen
Opening hours: Nov. 20, 2026 – Jan. 05, 2027
Address: Michael-Ende-Kurpark 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Mittenwald Christmas Market
Opening hours: Dec. 10 – 13, 2026
Address: Matthias-Klotz-Straße 82481 Mittenwald

Christmas Market Bad Kohlgrub
Opening hours: Dec. 6 2026 3:30 - 6 pm
Address: 82433 Bad Kohlgrub

CHRISTMAS MARKETS AROUND ANSBACH

Ansbach Christmas Market
Opening hours: Nov. 26 – Dec. 23, 2026
Address: Stadthaus, Montgelas- & Martin-Luther-Platz, 91522 Ansbach

Christmas Market Roth
Opening hours: Nov. 19 – Dec. 6, 2026
Address: Rother Marktplatz 91154 Roth

Erlangen Waldweihnacht
Opening hours: Nov. 23 – Dec. 24, 2026
Address: Schlossplatz, 91054 Erlangen

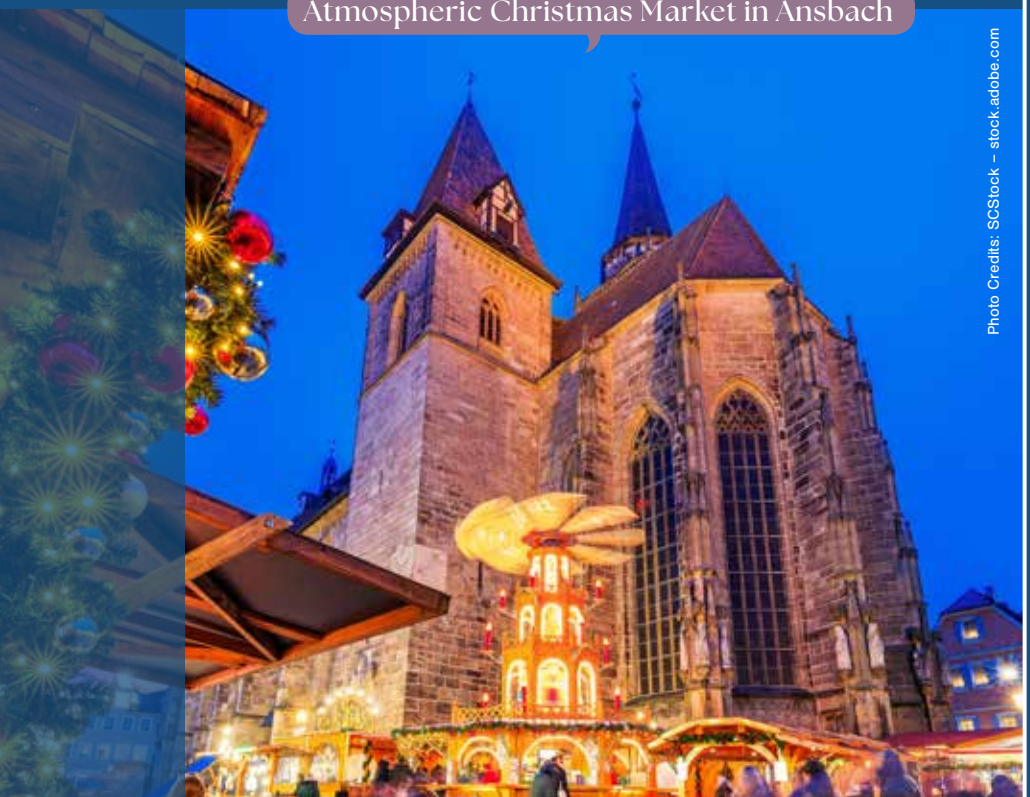
Christmas Market Gut Wolfgangshof
Opening hours: Nov. 27 – Dec. 20, 2026, (Fri–Sun only!),
Address: Weitersdorfer Str. 22 90513 Zirndorf - Anwanden

Christmas Market at Schillingsfürst Palace
Opening hours: Nov. 27 - 29, 2026
Address: Am Wall 91583 Schillingsfürst

The Princely Christmas Market at Schillingsfürst Palace offers a festive baroque setting on the first weekend of Advent. Highlights include the Christ Child's prologue from the palace balcony on Saturday evening, traditional handicrafts, and Alpine specialties. A diverse supporting program and a large nativity scene exhibition complement the experience.

NOTE:

For various reasons, the dates and opening times may change at short notice. Before planning a visit to the event, please check the website of the respective Christmas market or region or contact the local tourist office directly.



Atmospheric Christmas Market in Ansbach

Photo Credits: SCStock – stock.adobe.com

OTHER CHRISTMAS MARKETS & EVENTS IN BAVARIA

Bayreuth Winter Village
Opening hours: Oct. 15 2026 – Dec. 31 2026
Address: Am Alten Schloss in der Maximilianstraße, 95444 Bayreuth

The Bayreuth Winter Village is a popular alpine-style hut village located in the honor yard in front of the Old Palace. It opens unusually early in mid-October. Visitors enjoy a variety of mulled wines, savory delicacies, and an extensive program of après-ski and live music events. Admission is free.

Christmas Market Himmelstadt
Opening hours: Nov. 28/29 – Dec. 12/13, 2026
Address: Mainlände an der Mainbrücke zwischen Kirchplatz und Mainstraße, 97267 Himmelstadt

Himmelstadt has been known as the home of the Christ Child for many years. During Advent, well over 80,000 children from all over the world write to the Christ Child in Himmelstadt. When the Christmas post office opens its doors on the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 1, 2026), there is nowhere better to feel the Christmas atmosphere than here. The Himmelstadt Christmas market takes place around the Christmas post office. It has established itself as one of the most attractive and beautiful markets in the region, with changing music groups, a diverse children's participation program, storytellers and magicians, as well as a craft market and Christmas market café.

Bamberg Advent Market im Sand
Opening hours: Nov. 27/29 2026,
Address: Rund um die Elisabethenkirche, Obere Sandstr., 96049 Bamberg

Berchtesgaden Advent
Opening hours: Nov. 20 2026 – Jan. 3 2027
Address: Maximilianstr. 2 83471 Berchtesgaden

The Berchtesgaden Advent is a traditional and atmospheric Christmas market that takes place in the historic center of Berchtesgaden, surrounded by the Royal Palace, the Abbey Church, the town houses and the imposing backdrop of the Watzmann mountain.

| by **Editor**



EXPERIENCE
& ENJOY

20th Historic, Romantic Christmas Market at Guteneck Castle

Nov. 19 - Dec. 20, 2026

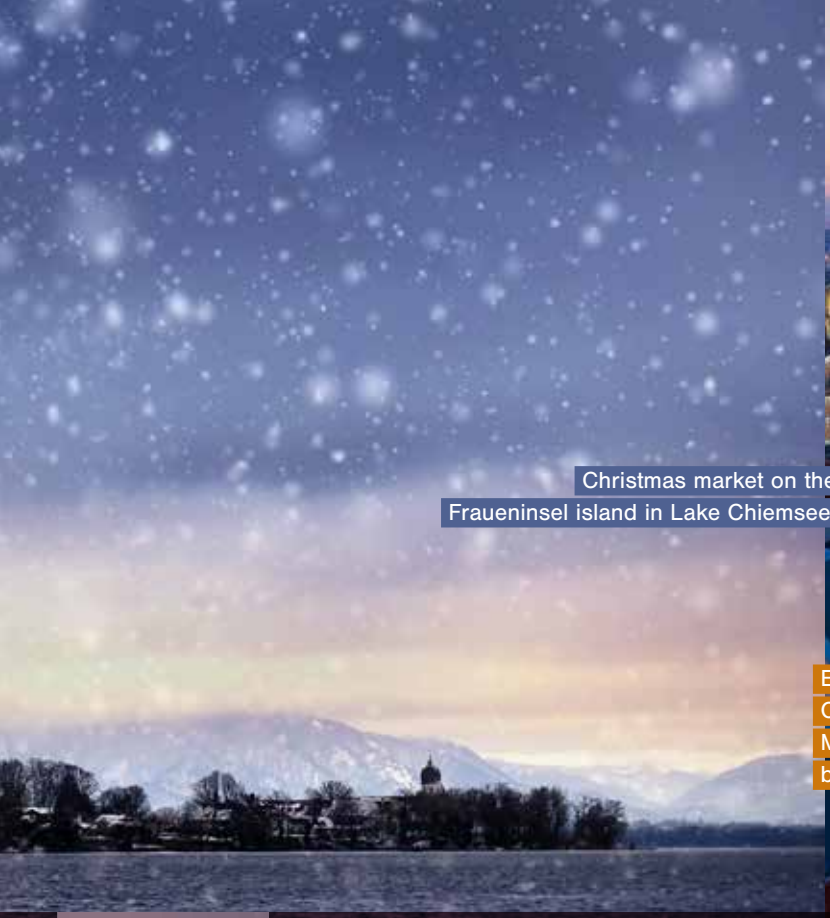
For the 20th time, the historic, romantic Christmas Market at Guteneck Castle opens its gates, transporting visitors into a fairytale world of Christmas.

This Advent journey begins on Nov. 19, with the formal opening taking place on Nov. 21 – marked by a historic procession featuring medieval reenactment groups and fanfare ensembles, accompanied by a spirited musical performance. Leave the pressures of everyday life behind and unwind: across the expansive castle grounds – lovingly decorated down to the finest detail – visitors can explore the many facets of the festively illuminated estate. Numerous market booths and refreshment areas invite you to discover a variety of delights, ranging from savory treats to sweet indulgences. A curated selection of exhibitors enhances the experience, showcasing a diverse array of products and gift ideas. Whether whimsical, original, handmade, trendy, minimalist, or sophisticated – there is something for everyone. Prepare to be surprised! A charming and varied program of events is sure to delight visitors of all ages. Scattered throughout the castle grounds, you will find St. Nicholas, a beautifully crafted puppet theater, a nostalgic carousel, a miniature train, friendly animals, atmospheric music, and enchanting artistic performances.

A special gathering spot – and a true highlight for many – is the campfire. Here, you can soak up the unique atmosphere while enjoying a cup of hot mulled wine or punch – a moment that bridges the "here and now" with the magic of days gone by.

GUTENECK CASTLE CHRISTMAS MARKET
FROM NOV. 19 TO DEC. 20, THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS,
EXCEPT NOV. 22 (TOTENSONNTAG/SUNDAY OF THE DEAD)





Christmas market on the Fraueninsel island in Lake Chiemsee.



Every year before Christmas, the Striezel Market is held in Dresden's baroque old town.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS 2026

THESE ARE GERMANY'S MOST BEAUTIFUL

More than 3,000 Christmas markets are waiting in Germany this year with mulled wine and gift booths. But: Which ones are worth it? During Advent, most people have at least one Christmas market visit firmly in their schedule. You don't just want to visit the market around the corner? Then pay attention: We'll show you a selection of particularly beautiful Christmas markets in Germany in 2026 that are worth a visit or even a weekend trip.

And because not all Christmas markets are the same, some stand out for their special atmosphere or highlights: On the Fraueninsel island in Lake Chiemsee, a Christmas market takes place in a kitschy, romantic setting, in Traben-Trarbach you can stroll through underground wine cellars, in Dresden you will find the oldest Christmas market in Germany, and in Aachen a giant gingerbread figure watches over the hustle and bustle.

1. REITERLES MARKET ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER

The Reiterles market in Rothenburg ob der Tauber has a centuries-old tradition - as the name suggests. The "Reiterle" is a figure from Germanic legends. It was considered an emissary from another world who floated through the air with the souls of the deceased in winter. The performances of the Reiterles are a highlight of the Rothenburg Christmas market.

Where could this tradition be better showcased than in a city whose landscape of roofs and towers is so special? During Advent, the scent of mulled wine and old Franconian pastries mixes with the cold winter air in the picturesque setting between the church and the town hall. More than 50 booths are set up.

A must-try: the Rothenburg snowball, a fried, crumbly egg dough with various fillings

Date: Nov. 20 – Dec. 23, 2026, closed Nov. 23;
Address: Marktplatz 1, 91541 Rothenburg ob der Tauber
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Photo Credit: Anna | tomertu – stock.adobe.com



Photo Credit: Landeshauptstadt Dresden, Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung / Sylvio Dittrich

2. CHRISTMAS MARKET ON THE FRAUENINSEL ISLAND IN LAKE CHIEMSEE

The backdrop of this Christmas market is pure romance: surrounded by the waters of Lake Chiemsee and the snow-capped mountains, a Christmas market will also be held on Fraueninsel in 2026. The journey there is also special because you first have to get on the boat.

On the first two weekends of Advent, the picturesque Fraueninsel island is transformed into a winter wonderland. At around 80 festively lit booths, visitors can discover handicrafts such as nativity figures and other wood carvings as well as many other gift ideas. There are also delicacies such as mulled wine, fish specialties, hot chestnuts and Kaiserschmarrn.

Date: on the first two Advent weekends from Thursday to Sunday (Nov. 26-29 and Dec. 3-6)
Opening hours: Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., all other day from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.











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HOURS OF BUSINESS

Tuesday – Thursday: 5 PM – 1 AM
Friday & Saturday: 5 PM – 2 AM
Sunday: 5 PM – 1 AM

3. NUREMBERG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas market in Nuremberg is not only one of the most beautiful, but also one of the oldest Christmas markets in Germany. Traditionally, the market is opened with the prologue of the Christ Child (November 27 at 5.30 p.m.). Every year, visitors from all over the world come to the main market. And it's worth it! In the wooden booths of the "little town made of wood and cloth," the traders offer, among other things, hand-made decorations for the Christmas tree. With mulled wine, you can enjoy Nuremberg gingerbread, traditional Zwetschgenmännle (plum men) made of dried plums or Nuremberg grilled sausages. A highlight is the Nuremberg children's light parade.

Date: Nov. 27–Dec. 24, 2026; **Address:** Old Town of Nuremberg
Opening hours: Monday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., November 29, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4. FLEET CHRISTMAS HAMBURG

A Christmas market with a maritime flair awaits you in Hamburg at the Fleet Christmas. Without street noise, without bright lighting: In the run-up to Christmas, you can stroll along the booths on the Alsterfleet right by the water and enjoy Feuerzangenbowle, great suckling pig or doughnuts. Two vintage sailing boats with festive lighting come to visit from the Övelgönne museum harbor.

If you are going on a city trip to Hamburg, it is also worth visiting the other Christmas markets in Hamburg, for example the one run by Roncalli (yes, the circus people!) at the town hall, on Jungfernstieg and in the Hafencity. Or how about the crazy Santa Pauli Christmas market on the Reeperbahn?

Date: Nov. 19 – Dec. 22, 2026; **Address:** Fleetinsel, Hamburg
Opening hours: Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

5. STRIEZEL MARKET DRESDEN

The Dresden Striezel market is Germany's oldest Christmas market. It will open its doors for the 592th time in 2026. The highlight: the 14-meter-high Erzgebirge pyramid is the focus of the market. In the children's adventure world, Santa Claus opens a door of the Advent calendar every day. In the Christmas workshops, you and your family can watch the master craftsmen and bakers at work.

Our tip: eat a Kräppelchen with your mulled wine - one of the specialties. This is a deep-fried dough pastry with powdered sugar. And be sure to try the famous Dresden Stollen!

Date: Nov. 25 – Dec. 24, 2026; **Address:** Old Town of Dresden
Opening hours: daily 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Nov. 26 from 4 p.m., Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

6. STUTTGART CHRISTMAS MARKET

The booths glitter with Christmas spirit, illuminated fir trees stand on their roofs. In the center of the Baden-Württemberg state capital, the Stuttgart Christmas market stretches from the New Palace to the market square. A picturesque antique market takes place on Schillerplatz, where around six traders offer rarities and curiosities.



The traditional look of the Nürnberg Christmas market serves as an example for many Christmas markets, such as the one in Chicago, for example.



Christmas market in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

The Christmas market was first mentioned in documents in 1692, but its roots go back much further. It is one of the oldest Christmas markets in Europe. Typical souvenirs from the Stuttgart Christmas market are nutcrackers in all shapes and colors.

Date: Nov. 25 – Dec. 23, 2026; **Address:** City center, Stuttgart
Opening hours: Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Nov. 25 from 5 p.m., official opening at 6 p.m. in the courtyard of the old palace

7. MUNICH CHRISTMAS MARKET

It is the most traditional Christmas market in the city: At the Christmas market on Marienplatz you can get lots of handicrafts at around 130 booths on 20,000 square meters. The booths are decorated with fir branches and bright decorations. The highlight is the 30-meter-high Christmas tree in front of the town hall, which is decorated with 2,500 lights and will be there until January 6, 2027.

The market was first mentioned in 1310, when it was still called the St. Nicholas Market. Today it has a beautiful extension to the Rindermarkt, where you can get wonderful flame-grilled salmon grilled over beech wood. A few steps further, a large nativity market is held where eleven booths offer and exhibit nativity scenes, nativity figures and accessories.

Alternative program: The Tollwood Winter Festival on the Theresienwiese (where the Oktoberfest is also celebrated) offers organic dishes from all over the world. And you can also get a tattoo.

Photo Credit: Sabrina | tomertu – stock.adobe.com; Pfitzinger, Rothenburg / FrankenTourismus

Date: Nov. 24–Dec. 24, 2026; **Address:** Marienplatz and surrounding area, 80331 Munich
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8. LEIPZIG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas market in Leipzig is unique: Nowhere else in the world is there such a large free-standing Advent calendar. It takes up an entire house facade, and every day a new, colorful and illuminated picture is revealed behind a flap. The Leipzig Christmas market is one of the oldest and most traditional Christmas markets in Germany. It was first mentioned in 1458. The organizers rely on nostalgia, for example with a historical multi-storey carousel. In addition, around 300 booths are set up in the historic old town. At the Historical Christmas Market at the Naschmarkt you can also gain insights into the old arts and crafts traditions. You can also drink a hot mead in style. There are also many activities for children, for example the fairytale forest, the elf workshop and carousels. And there is even a Christmas consultation hour.

Date: Nov. 24 – Dec. 23, 2026; **Address:** Markt, 04109 Leipzig
Opening hours: Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Nov. 22 and Dec. 23 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; on Dec. 23 only the booths on the market square remain open until 8 p.m.

9. COBURG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The romantic Coburg market square is transformed into a small Christmas town during Advent. The half-timbered houses between the historic town hall and the old ducal chancellery and the glittering lighting make it one of the most atmospheric Christmas markets in Franconia, Bavaria. The entrance to the Coburg Christmas market is formed by four illuminated gates decorated with fir branches. It gets romantic under the sky of lights around the Prince Albert monument and at the fireplace. Craftsmen and craftswomen from the region show off their skills in the workshop. The approximately 40 huts are decorated with lights, Christmas figures and fir branches. A nostalgic children's carousel nestles into the ambience. On Sundays, Christ Child and Santa Claus visit the market and hand out sweets.

Date: Nov. 27 – Dec. 23, 2026; **Address:** Marktplatz, 96450 Coburg; **Opening hours:** daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., food and drinks until 9.30 p.m.

10. ANNABERG CHRISTMAS MARKET

Embedded in the backdrop of the historic old town of Annaberg-Buchholz with the largest late Gothic hall church in Saxony, a special Christmas market will also be set up in 2026: pyramids, candle arches and Christmas trees will make the "whole city shine like a Christmas mountain." The center is the Annaberg Christmas market with the market pyramid, the large Christmas tree, the gnome town with the colourful miniature workshops and the Christmas huts with their traditional offerings. The around 80 booths are built in a typical Erzgebirge style and thus create a special flair.



Christmas market in Stuttgart. For one, it's among the oldest Christmas markets in Europe, with a document tracing its roots all the way back to 1692.

Tip: The region is particularly well-known for the Annaberg Christmas Stollen, folding stars from Buchholz, Upper Erzgebirge trimmings, cheerful wooden "Männeln" and Annaberg bobbin lace.

Date: Nov. 27 – Dec. 23, 2026; **Address:** Markt 1, 09456 Annaberg-Buchholz; **Opening hours:** Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

11. ERFURT CHRISTMAS MARKET

A 25-meter-high fir tree, an eight-meter-high Christmas pyramid and around 15 almost life-size, hand-carved figures as well as a fairy-tale forest: the Erfurt Christmas market attracts visitors with many special features. 200 wooden houses are set up between Domplatz, Fischmarkt, Schlösserbrücke, Anger and Willy-Brandt-Square. This makes the Christmas market in Thuringia's capital one of the largest in Germany. Of course, you have to try the well-known specialties, such as the Erfurt Schittchen and the Thuringian Bratwurst. The booths also sell handicrafts - from Christmas tree decorations to blue-printed textiles and pottery to Erzgebirge folk art.

Date: Nov. 24 – Dec. 22, 2026; **Address:** Domplatz in Erfurt
Opening hours: Sunday to Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 10 p.m., on the opening day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

12. UNDERGROUND CHRISTMAS MARKET

This is an extraordinary treat: In Traben-Trarbach there is an underground Christmas market, the wine-night market. It takes place in a network of five historic wine cellars underground. You enter the market through a festively lit tunnel, the so-called "Schrotgang," which leads from the banks of the Moselle river directly into the heart of the underground venue. There, winemakers, artisans and exhibitors present their wine, jewelry, decorative items and other gift ideas.

Extra tip: In the fresh air, in the courtyard of the Moselschlösschen, a small hut village has been set up. You can also buy Christmas treats outside there.

Date: Nov. 20, 2026 – Jan. 3, 2027 on weekends and special opening days; **Address:** Am Bahnhof 5, 56841 Traben-Trarbach
Opening hours: Nov, 21 – Dec. 28, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Dec. 29/30 and Jan. 2/3, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed on Nov. 23 and Dec. 24/25. Admission: Adults 5 Euros, children under 16 free.

| by **Editor**

Photo Credit: Photoperle | tomertu – stock.adobe.com; Pfitzinger, Rothenburg / FrankenTourismus

CHRISTMAS 2026

10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE GOING TO A CHRISTMAS MARKET

FROM MULLED WINE SECRETS TO THE DEPOSIT TRAP: THESE TEN INSIDER TIPS WILL ENSURE YOUR NEXT STROLL THROUGH A CHRISTMAS MARKET IS RELAXED, DELICIOUS, AND TRULY UNFORGETTABLE.



The air is filled with the scent of roasted almonds, cinnamon, and hot mulled wine; thousands of lights glow against the winter darkness, and festive music plays on every corner – for many of us, a visit to a Christmas market is the very essence of winter romance. Yet, if you dive into the bustling market scene unprepared, you might quickly run into trouble: an ATM that's out of service, freezing feet in the slush, or the frustration of poor exchange rates and sticky souvenir bags. **To help you fully enjoy this magical season without getting overwhelmed by the chaos, we've put together the essential insider tips.** Find out what really matters – from the best strategy for handling your mugs to the perfect timing for capturing the most beautiful photos.

1

Carry cash AND card – Many booths take cards now, but cash is still king at plenty of markets.

2

Ask for a clean mug – If you're keeping that cute mulled wine mug as a souvenir, ask for a clean one so your luggage doesn't smell like wine spills.

3

Don't just drink mulled wine – Try Feuerzangenbowle (boozy mulled wine on fire!) or regional specialties like hot apple cider.

4

Scope out food booths with lines – Long lines = local-approved deliciousness. Trust us, it's worth the wait!

5

Share food – Market portions are HUGE, so split snacks with your partner to try more goodies.

6

Return mugs easily – You don't need to hunt down the exact booth where you bought your drink! On most markets, any vendor participating in the deposit system will refund your deposit (though on smaller markets, return points may be limited).

7

Bring a backpack – Perfect for carrying souvenirs and snacks without juggling bags.

8

Plan your timing – Go around sunset. You'll get to enjoy the festive lights while avoiding the peak crowds.

9

Check the local currency – In places like Prague, paying in Euros means you'll end up overpaying. Use local cash to save money!

10

Pack layers and waterproof shoes – Cold, wet feet are a recipe for a Christmas market nightmare. Wearing the right layers and a sturdy pair of boots will save the day.

Photo Credit: Good Studio – stock.adobe.com





DISCOVER THE ETSDORF ASPHALT CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS WONDER

EXPERIENCE A BREATHTAKING HOLIDAY DISPLAY MADE OF OVER 3,500 DONATED ORNAMENTS JUST A SHORT DRIVE FROM GRAFENWOEHR, VILSECK OR HOHENFELS.

From road surface to sparkling work of art: With thousands of donated Christmas tree baubles and the quiet sounds of the stream, the simple asphalt chapel in Etsdorf is transformed into a magical place of wonder at Christmas time.

When the days outside become shorter and the cold winter weather moves across the Upper Palatinate, something wonderful happens on the edge of the forest in Etsdorf. The asphalt chapel there - a fascinating building by the artist Wilhelm Koch from 2002 - sheds its austere, dark garb and is transformed into a magical Christmas miracle. From the end of November, the archaic space made of street asphalt will become a place full of splendor, magic and living community.

A HEAVEN MADE OF THOUSANDS OF CHRISTMAS STORIES

The centerpiece of the Christmas redesign is the impressive “Christmas tree baubles sky”. Every two years, the small sacred building inside blossoms into new life: people from the region and beyond donate their old, beloved Christmas tree baubles to the project instead of throwing them away. From the beginning in 2019, an overwhelming tradition has developed. There are now well over 3,500 colorfully mixed glass balls floating under the roof of the chapel.

Each individual ball brings its own story with it - from past family celebrations, bright children's eyes and festive evenings in the living room at home. Together they form a floating architecture of color, light and reflection. While the dark material of the chapel ensures peace, the spherical sky reflects the celebration of love in a very special way: a sky made of objects from this world that peacefully takes up the basic theme of becoming and passing away.

SENSUAL CONTEMPLATION: LIGHT, MUSIC AND ENCOUNTERS

The Christmas set-up appeals to all the senses. The light is refracted through the three colored discs in red, yellow and green - which act like traffic light signals, but here ensure deceleration - and immerses the spherical sky in an almost mystical atmosphere. This visual experience is accompanied by gentle sounds on Advent Sundays: Johann Sebastian Bach's Art of the Fugue sounds quietly in the room. Like the musical motifs, the thousands of balls combine to form a multi-voiced work of art.

The path to the chapel takes visitors along the atmospheric “Kreuze-Weg”, which combines rural remembrance culture with modern art. Anyone looking for space after a contemplative retreat will find the EUROPE TEMPLE on the opposite side of the valley - a natural monument made up of 47 columnar oak trees, which, as an open counterpart to the sheltered chapel, invites you to think about community.

A CELEBRATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The special installation invites you to pause, marvel and linger throughout the winter. A highlight of the Christmas season is the traditional New Year's drink at the chapel, where residents and guests meet with steaming mulled wine, hearty food and music to welcome the New Year together.

FESTIVE DATES AT A GLANCE:

- **Nov. 22 – Jan. 15:** The Christmas tree ball heaven is open to visitors every day.
- **Sat., Nov. 21:** Festive hanging of the donated Christmas tree baubles.
- **Sat., Jan. 9:** New Year's drink at the chapel with mulled wine, sausages and music.

Experience this unique place of peace and splendor - a trip tip for the whole family that will warm hearts and make the Advent season unforgettable.

| by **Wilhelm Koch**

Photo Credit: Marcus Rebmann (4)





FUN, MUSIC, AND TRADITION: EXPERIENCE GERMANY'S LEGENDARY CARNIVAL SEASON UP CLOSE!

When trumpets sound, candy flies, and colorfully dressed revelers dance everywhere, then it's here: the fifth season! Whether it's Carnival, Fasching, or Fastnacht – all of Germany celebrates life, community, and a bit of mischief.

A FESTIVAL FULL OF JOIE DE VIVRE

Few countries celebrate the end of winter as exuberantly as Germany. Carnival has ancient roots – once, people banished the dark season with noise and masks. Later, it evolved into the joyful festival before Lent. Today, millions of visitors from all over the world are drawn to these bastions of joy every year.

CARNIVAL, FASCHING, OR FASTNACHT?

- **Carnival:** At home in the Rhineland – loud, colorful, and organized. Cologne, Mainz, and Düsseldorf are the most famous hotspots. Shout: "Helau!“ in Mainz and Düsseldorf and ”Alaaf!" in Cologne.
- **Fasching:** Celebrated primarily in Bavaria and Austria – with masked balls and costume parties. Shout: "Helau!"
- **Fastnacht:** In the southwest, for example in Rottweil or Villingen-Schwenningen, the tradition of old carnival guilds with carved wooden masks lives on. The cry: "Narri-Narro!"

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CARNIVAL SEASON

- **NOVEMBER 11, 11:11 A.M.**
  Official start of the Fifth Season
- **WOMEN'S FASTNACHT (THURSDAY)**
  Women symbolically assume power
- **ROSE MONDAY**
  Huge parades with floats, music, and candy
- **VIOLET TUESDAY**
  Children's parades and final events
- **ASH WEDNESDAY**
  End of the celebrations – beginning of Lent

Insider tip: Cologne's Rose Monday parade is one of the largest in Europe – over a million spectators line the streets!

CUSTOMS & ENJOYMENT

- Colorful costumes and creative masks are a must.
- The famous carnival speeches provide laughs with satire and wordplay.
- In southern Germany, witches, devils, and ghosts dominate the scene – a touch of the Middle Ages is in the air.
- And of course: Berliners or Krapfen (filled, doughnut-style pastry) and other sweet treats are a must!

THE LARGEST CARNIVAL PARADES IN GERMANY

Carnival is one of the most popular traditions in Germany. On Rose Monday ("Rosenmontag") in particular, the largest parades make their way through cities, attracting millions of visitors.

RHINELAND (CARNIVAL)

- **Cologne:** The Rose Monday parade is the largest and most famous, drawing up to 1.5 million visitors.
- **Düsseldorf:** The Rose Monday parade is known for its politically themed floats and attracts up to 1 million visitors.
- **Aachen, Bonn, Koblenz, Trier:** These cities host large Rose Monday and Carnival parades. In Bonn-Beuel, the *Weiberfastnacht* (Women's Carnival) festivities are also well-known.

RHINELAND-PALATINATE AND HESSE

- **Mainz:** The Rose Monday parade is one of the largest in Germany and is broadcast on television, attracting up to 500,000 visitors.
- **Frankfurt and Wiesbaden:** Both cities host large Carnival parades.

SOUTHWEST

A characteristic feature here is the "Narrensprung" (fools' procession), featuring participants in wooden masks and "Häs" – traditional costumes worn by the "Narren" (fools/jesters). The Carnival parades in Rottweil, Villingen-Schwenningen, Elzach, Offenburg, and Konstanz are famous for this.

BAVARIA AND FRANCONIA

- **Munich:** The Carnival parade on Shrove Tuesday ("Faschingsdienstag") is the city's largest.
- **Franconia:** Würzburg, Nuremberg, and many smaller towns also host Carnival parades.







NORTH AND EAST

- **Braunschweig:** The "Schoduvel" is one of the largest Carnival parades in the north.
- **Bremen:** The Samba Carnival is a unique event with a Brazilian flair.
- **Cottbus:** This city hosts a Carnival parade that incorporates Sorbian-Wendish customs (such as "Zampern").

CARNIVAL PARADES IN THE REGION

In the Upper Palatinate and Franconia, Carnival is traditionally celebrated with colorful parades, imaginative costumes, and plenty of music.

CARNIVAL PARADES IN THE NORTHERN UPPER PALATINATE (AROUND GRAFENWÖHR AND VILSECK)

Carnival parade in 92660 Neustadt a.d. Waldnaab
Carnival parade in 92690 Pressath
Carnival parade in 92676 Eschenbach i.d.Opf.
Carnival parade in 92711 Hammerles (Parkstein)
Carnival parade in 92648 Vohenstrauß
Carnival parade in 95643 Tirschenreuth
Carnival parade in 95679 Waldershof
Carnival parade in 92256 Hahnbach
Carnival parade in 91275 Auerbach i.d.Opf.
Carnival parade in 92249 Vilseck
Carnival parade in 95478 Waldeck
near Kemnath

CARNIVAL PARADES IN THE SOUTHERN UPPER PALATINATE (AROUND HOHENFELS)

Carnival parade in 93155 Hemau
Carnival parade in 92277 Hohenburg
Carnival parade in 93176 Beratzhausen
Carnival parade in 93128 Regenstauf/Diesenbach
Carnival parade ("Chinese Carnival") in
92345 Dietfurt an der Altmühl

CARNIVAL PARADES IN FRANCONIA

Carnival parade in 91278 Pottenstein
Carnival parade in 95444 Bayreuth
Carnival parade in 91287 Plech
Carnival parade in 91344 Waischenfeld

The main parades generally take place in the days leading up to Ash Wednesday. In 2027, Rose Monday (Rosenmontag) falls on Feb. 8. You can usually check the exact dates and parade routes starting in January on the websites of local municipalities, local media outlets, or the event organizers.

THE KRAPFEN: A SWEET CULT PASTRY WITH TRADITION

A Krapfen – also called a Berliner in some regions – is the German equivalent of a doughnut. It consists of airy yeast dough that is deep-fried in hot fat and then filled with various kinds of jam, vanilla cream, chocolate, eggnog cream and other sweet fillings. It is then dusted with powdered sugar or rolled in sugar or chocolate. Its distinctive feature is the light-colored ring in the center, which forms during frying because this part is not immersed in the fat. In short: The Krapfen is Germany's filled doughnut – only without the hole, but with jam and other fillings and plenty of tradition.

| by **Editor**



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From week-end trips to big-mountain freeriding - how to conquer the winter season in Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, and Germany.

Alpine Horizons: The Ultimate Europe Ski & Winter Guide

Central Europe offers ideal conditions for winter sports enthusiasts, with world-class ski resorts located within easy driving distance of U.S. installations in Germany. The Alps feature hundreds of miles of groomed runs, snow-reliable glaciers, and unforgettable landscapes. From quick day trips to high-alpine freeride adventures, this editorial guide highlights the top winter sports destinations across five countries.

AUSTRIA: THE ALPINE ALL-ROUND POWERHOUSE

Austria delivers the ultimate mix of high-altitude terrain, top-tier infrastructure, and legendary hospitality (Gemütlichkeit).

- **Ischgl / Paznaun:** High-alpine, extremely snow-reliable, and world-famous for its nightlife and entertainment. Expect over 140 miles (230 km) of connected runs stretching across the border into Samnaun, Switzerland.
- **Saalbach-Hinterglemm-Leogang-Fieberbrunn:** Known as the "Skicircus," this is one of Austria's largest interconnected resort networks – ideal for anyone looking to rack up endless miles on the slopes.
- **Zillertal Valley (incl. Mayrhofen & Hintertux):** The ultimate all-rounder for groups. While the Hintertux Glacier guarantees snow at elevations up to 10,660 feet (3,250 m), Mayrhofen attracts freestylers with its famous Vans Penken Park.
- **Glacier Early-Starters:** Looking to hit the slopes as early as October? Head to Hintertux, the Stubai Glacier, Kitzsteinhorn, or Sölden.
- **Snowboard & Freeride:** Kitzsteinhorn, Mayrhofen, and Saalbach offer world-class terrain parks and vast deep-powder bowls.

SWITZERLAND: PREMIUM EXPERIENCES & HIGH-ALPINE FREERIDE

Choosing Switzerland comes with a slightly higher price tag, but rewards you with unmatched scenery and legendary vertical drops.

- **Zermatt / Cervinia:** Ski in the shadow of the iconic Matterhorn at elevations reaching nearly 12,750 feet (Klein Matterhorn, 3,883 m) – with seamless access across the border into Italy.
- **Verbier (4 Vallées):** The mecca for experts and off-piste enthusiasts, featuring steep couloirs and challenging freeride terrain.
- **Laax / Flims:** Europe's premier freestyle destination. Home to one of the world's largest halfpipes and several snowparks, Laax is the epicenter of the snowboarding scene.
- **Davos-Klosters & St. Moritz (Engadin):** Expansive, historic resorts offering incredible variety and classic alpine glamour.

ITALY: SCENIC VIEWS, GREAT DINING & FANTASTIC VALUE

Italy offers breathtaking backdrops, a relaxed atmosphere, and top-tier mountain hut dining at reasonable prices.

- **Dolomiti Superski:** A titan in the Dolomites. A single ski pass unlocks iconic areas like Val Gardena, Alta Badia, and Kronplatz (South Tyrol), as well as Cortina d'Ampezzo and Arabba (Veneto). Enjoy hundreds of miles of slopes, including the famous Sellaronda circuit.
- **Sulden (Solda) & Schnalstal (Val Senales):** High-altitude, snow-reliable, and ideal for early-winter or late-spring trips.
- **Livigno, Bormio & Cervinia:** Livigno stands out for its high snow reliability and duty-free status (perfect for gear and tax-free shopping).

FRANCE: THE GIANTS OF THE SKIING WORLD

France is home to massive interconnected ski domains – perfect for maximizing mileage without hitting the same trail twice.

- **Les 3 Vallées (Val Thorens, Méribel, Courchevel):** The largest interconnected ski area in the world, boasting over 370 miles (600 km) of slopes. Val Thorens sits at 7,545 feet (2,300 m), ensuring premium snow conditions.
- **Tignes / Val d'Isère:** Glacier access and demanding terrain for freeriders and advanced skiers.
- **Paradiski (La Plagne / Les Arcs) & Les Deux Alpes:** Excellent options for families, snowboarders, and terrain park fans.

Photo Credit: Sina Ettmer | wjarek – stock.adobe.com

- **Chamonix-Mont-Blanc:** The global epicenter of extreme skiing. Legendary for the ~12-mile (20 km) Vallée Blanche, an un-groomed high-alpine glacier descent.

(Safety Note: High crevasse risk; this route should only be attempted with a certified mountain guide and proper glacier safety equipment.)

GERMANY: PERFECT FOR DAY TRIPS
When time is short or you want to make a spontaneous weekend break, German ski areas offer short drive times from most U.S. garrisons.

- **Zugspitze:** Germany's highest ski resort features natural snow conditions and a long season stretching into late spring.
- **Oberstdorf / Kleinwalsertal (Nebelhorn, Fellhorn/ Kanzelwand, Söllereck):** The largest resort area in the Allgäu Alps with modern lifts. While the peaks aren't all directly connected by slopes, they share a single pass and shuttle network.
- **Garmisch-Classic & Spitzingsee:** Easily accessible from Munich and ideal for quick day trips depending on snow conditions. (Drive time from Ansbach or Stuttgart is approx. 3 to 3.5 hours each way – making it better suited for a full weekend).
- **Fichtelgebirge & Bavarian Forest:** Compact, budget-friendly, and perfect for beginners, families, or quick weekend trips from bases like Grafenwöhr and Vilseck.

FAST FACTS

- **Quick-Reach vs. Big-Mountain:** Use Germany for quick day trips (Zugspitze/Oberstdorf) and reserve Austria, Switzerland, or France for multi-day getaways.
- **Tolls & Vignettes:** Austria and Switzerland require highway toll stickers (Vignette). Note that the Swiss vignette is only sold as an annual pass. Austria also charges extra tolls (Sondermaut) for specific tunnels and passes (e.g., Brenner, Tauern, Arlberg), while Italy and France use distance-based toll booths.

THE 5-STEP CHECKLIST

1. Gear Check & ODR Rental: Rent equipment in advance on base at Outdoor Recreation (ODR) or get your personal gear tuned (edges and wax) at a local ski shop.
2. Vignette & Tolls: Purchase your Austrian or Swiss highway vignette online or at gas stations near the border. Factor in specialized mountain tolls in Austria as well as toll booths in Italy and France.
3. Check Weather & Avalanche Reports: Check current avalanche advisory levels before every tour across all alpine countries. If heading off-piste, an Avalanche Beacon (LVS), shovel, and probe are mandatory – along with the know-how to use them.
4. Book Lift Passes Online: Many major resorts (e.g., Dolomiti Superski, Les 3 Vallées) offer dynamic online pricing with early-bird discounts.
5. Winter Tires & Snow Chains: Mind country-specific legal requirements. Austria mandates winter tires under winter conditions between Nov 1 and April 15. France mandates winter tires or chains in designated mountain zones, and Italy enforces regional dates. Keep snow chains in your trunk – and practice putting them on at home first.

| by **Editor**

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Head for the Snow! Winter Sports Around Grafenwöhr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels

Within a radius of about 50 km (30 miles) around Grafenwöhr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels, you'll find numerous small winter sports facilities. Nearly all the ski lifts in the Upper Palatinate (Oberpfalz) are small hillside surface lifts (T-bars or rope tows) with just one or two lifts. They are especially ideal for beginners, families, and quick day trips. If you're looking for larger slopes, you'll need to head out to the Fichtel Mountains (Fichtelgebirge) or the Bavarian Forest (Bayerischer Wald).

NOTE: The listed lift counts include all types of lifts, including magic carpets (conveyor lifts) and beginner training lifts.

UPPER PALATINATE (OBERPFALZ)
- Fahrenberg, 92648 Vohenstrauß (2 lifts)
- Wurmstein Lift, 92696 Flossenbürg (1 lift)
- Eschenfelden, 92275 Hirschbach (1 lift)
- Brennberg Lift, 92268 Etzelwang (1 lift)^
- Johannisberg, 92272 Freudenberg (1 lift)
- Monte Voggo, 92318 Neumarkt-Voggenthal (1 lift)
- Monte Sperlasso, 92355 Velburg (1 lift)
- Höllzachersbuk, 92360 Mühlhausen-Sulzbürg (1 lift)
- Schneitweg, 93128 Regenstauf (1 lift)
- Frauenzell, 93179 Brennberg (1 lift)
- Schmalzlalm, 93189 Rettenbach (1 lift)

UPPER FRANCONIA (OBERFRANKEN) – NORTH OF GRAFENWÖHR
- Ochsenkopf, 95493 Bischofsgrün (South Side) / 95686 Fichtelberg (North Side) (4 lifts)
- Klausen Lifts, 95694 Mehlmeisel (5 lifts)
- Bleaml Alm, 95686 Fichtelberg-Neubau (1 lift)

MIDDLE FRANCONIA (MITTELFRANKEN) – WEST OF HOHENFELS
- Schlossberg Osternohe, 91220 Schnaittach (1 lift)
- Rothenberg, 91220 Schnaittach (2 lifts)
- Hohenstein, 91241 Kirchensittenbach (2 lifts)
- Entenberg, 91207 Lauf an der Pegnitz (2 lifts)
- Landerzhofen, 91171 Greding (1 lift)

LARGER / FURTHER SKI RESORTS (AT LEAST 100 KM / 60+ MILES AWAY)
- Hohenbogen, 93453 Neukirchen beim Heiligen Blut (4 lifts)
- Arber (Great Arber / Großer Arber), 94252 Bayerisch Eisenstein (6 lifts)
- Geißkopf, 94253 Bischofsmais (8 lifts)
- Almberg / Mitterdorf, 94158 Philippsreut (8 lifts)
- Markbuchen / Predigtstuhl, 94379 Sankt Englmar (5 lifts)
- Pröller Skidreieck, 94379 Sankt Englmar (3 lifts)

TIPPING IN GERMANY

1) Gratuity guidelines

UNSPOKEN RULES VARY
Tipping etiquette differs across countries, cultures, and situations, and rules are not set in stone.

LOOK TO THE LOCALS
Your sponsor, your friend or your tour director is a great resource and can help you understand any cultural nuances associated with gratuities at your destination.

ALWAYS CARRY COINS
One consistent practice throughout Europe? Tips are not usually accepted on credit cards, so be prepared with a few small bills and coins in the local currency.

IT'S PERSONAL
Since it's a gesture that shows appreciation for the quality of service you received, tipping is at your discretion.

GOOD SERVICE
Tipping is customary for good service, typically around 5-10 % of the bill.

WITHHOLIDNG MEANS
Withholding a tip means you are discontent with the service provided, especially for waiters and hairdressers.

EXTRAORDINARILY
If you tip more than 5-10 %, it means you were extraordinarily content with the service provided.

2) Tipping Hotel Personnel

- Give € 1-2 per piece of luggage to porter
- Leave € 2-5 per night for housekeeping

3) Tipping Craftsmen

- Offer coffee/drinks/small snacks
- Two craftsmen need three hours for your new kitchen: € 5-10 per person
- Two roofers fix your roof for multiple days: € 20-30 per person

4) Tipping Rules in Germany at a glance

- **Waiter:** 5-10 % or round up
- **Hairstylist:** 5-10 % or round up
- **Taxi Driver:** 10 % or round up
- **Hotel Personnel:** € 2-5 per night for cleaning personnel
  € 1-2 per piece of luggage for porter
- **Craftsman:** One-day services:
  € 5-10 per person
  Multiple days:
  € 20-30 per person

5) Eating out in Europe

To avoid any uncertainty at the end of a meal, here's a breakdown of what the cultural expectations about tipping are in each country.

ROUND UP THE BILL, OR TIP UP TO 5%
Slovenia | Switzerland

TIP UP TO 5% FOR A CASUAL MEAL (10% IF MORE FORMAL)
The Baltics (Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania) | Croatia
Greece | France | Luxembourg | Macedonia
Montenegro | Nordic Countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland & Iceland) | Spain

TIP UP TO 10%
Albania | Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria
Bosnia & Herzegovina | Germany | Hungary
Italy | Ireland | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Serbia
Slovakia | United Kingdom | The Netherlands

TIP UP TO 15%
Czech Republic

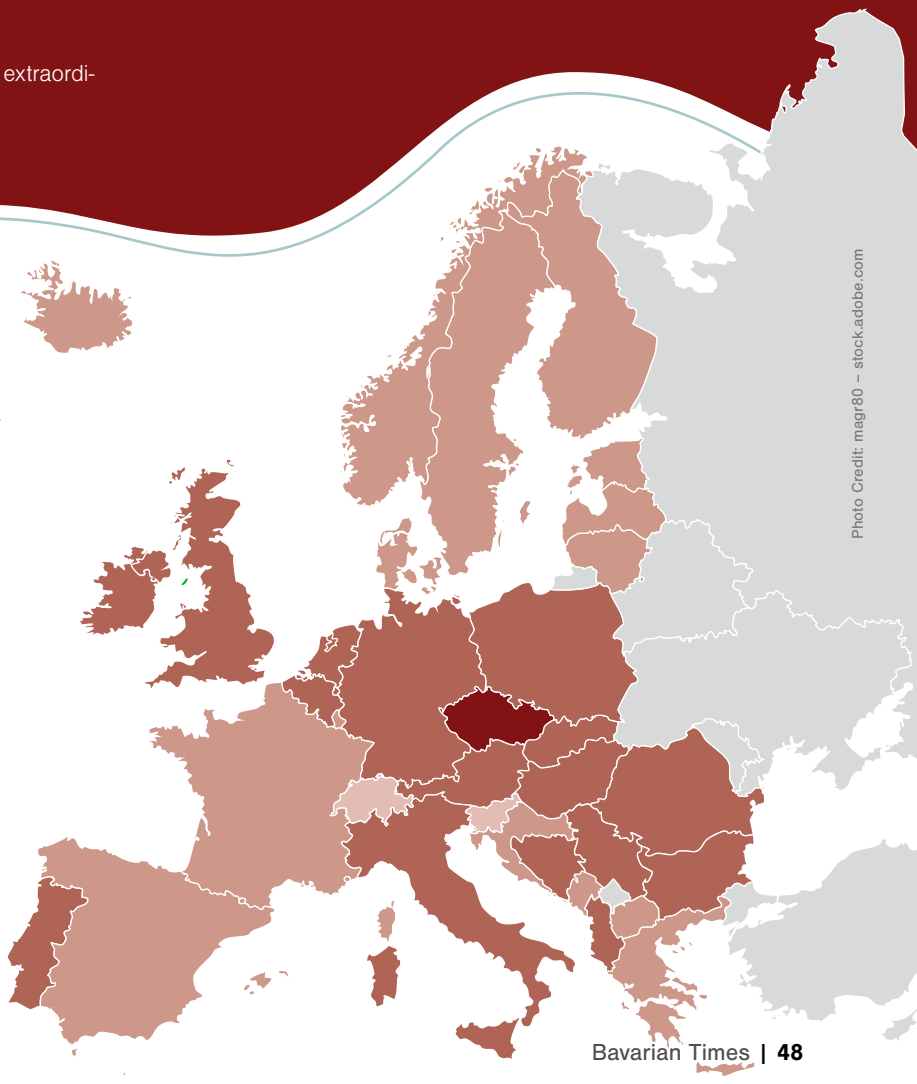
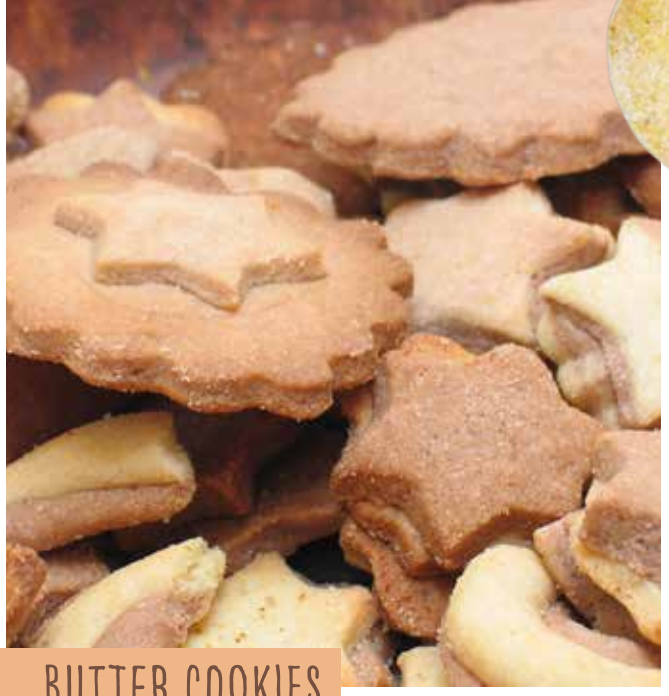


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BUTTER COOKIES OR SHORTBREAD COOKIES

The perfect project for when children want to help with the baking. They can be decorated to your h eart's content.

Preparation time: approx. 60 min.
Baking time: approx. 8–10 min.

INGREDIENTS:

- 300 g (2 1/3 cups) flour
- 200 g (1 cup) cold butter
- 100 g (1/2 cup) sugar
- 1 egg (size M)
- 1 pinch of salt

For decoration: cing (powdered sugar + lemon juice/water), colorful sprinkles, chocolate glaze, or chopped nuts.

PREPARATION:

1. Quickly knead all ingredients into a smooth dough, cover, and chill in the refrigerator for about 45 minutes.
2. Working in portions, roll out the dough on a floured surface to a thickness of about 3–4 mm.
3. Cut out shapes using various cookie cutters (stars, hearts, Christmas trees) and place them on a baking sheet.
4. Bake at 180°C (356°F) using top/bottom heat for about 8–10 minutes, until lightly golden.
5. Once cooled, decorate as desired with icing and sprinkles.

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CLASSIC VANILLA CRESCENTS (MÜRBE VANILLEKIPFERL)

Vanilla crescents melt in your mouth and are among the absolute favorites in Germany.

Preparation time: approx. 45 min.
Baking time: approx. 10–12 min.

INGREDIENTS:

- 250 g (2 cups) flour (Type 405 / or use standard all-purpose flour)
- 210 g (1 cup + 6 tablespoons) cold butter (cut into small pieces)
- 100 g (1 cup) peeled, finely ground almonds
- 70 g (Roughly 1/2 cup) powdered sugar
- 1 packet of vanilla sugar (or 1 tsp vanilla extract)

For dusting: 1 cup of powdered sugar mixed with 2 packets of vanilla sugar

PREPARATION:

1. Quickly knead the flour, butter, almonds, powdered sugar, and vanilla sugar – either by hand or using a food processor – until a smooth shortcrust dough forms.
2. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and let it rest in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour.
3. Divide the dough into smaller portions, roll them into thin logs, and cut these into smaller pieces. Shape each piece into a small crescent and place them on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C (356°F) using top/bottom heat (or approx. 160°C/320°F for a convection/fan oven) for 10 to 12 minutes, until the tips are lightly browned.
5. While still warm (handle with care!), roll the crescents in the vanilla-powdered sugar mixture.

Pro-tip from German grandmothers:
Shape the crescents while the dough is still well-chilled. If it gets too warm, it will easily fall apart. Store them in a tin – they taste even better after a few days!





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EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS BAKED GOODS:

A TRANSATLANTIC TRADITIONS GUIDE





Being stationed in Europe during the holidays offers a rare, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: the chance to immerse yourself in centuries-old continental traditions. While the aroma of classic American gingerbread and chocolate chip cookies is hard to beat, the Advent and Christmas season across Europe unveils an entirely new world of the art of baking. Discovering local treats is about more than just trying something new – it is an enriching way to create lasting memories while abroad and to bring a touch of European culture into your own holiday celebrations.

SWEET TRADITIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Baking is a cornerstone of European winter festivities, with each country offering its own unique flavors, textures, and stories. Whether you are hosting an Advent open house or looking for a fun weekend baking project to enjoy with your children, these regional specialties provide a wonderful introduction to the continent's confectionery craft.

- **AUSTRIA – Linzer Cookies (Linzer Augen):** These delicate, sandwich-style shortbread cookies are a staple of the Austrian pastry tradition. They feature a signature cutout "window" that reveals a delicious filling of redcurrant or raspberry jam, finished with a light dusting of powdered sugar.

- **SWITZERLAND – Basler Brunsli:** Hailing from the town of Basel, these naturally gluten-free cookies are made with chocolate, almonds, and a blend of spices. They combine fine dark chocolate, ground almonds, cinnamon, and cloves into a moist, crumbly, and decadent treat that carries the evocative scent of the Swiss Alps in winter.

- **ITALY – Panettone:** A towering masterpiece from Milan, this airy, dome-shaped leavened cake is packed with candied fruits and raisins. Traditionally sliced into wedges and served with sweet dessert wine or espresso, it remains the iconic centerpiece of Italian holiday tables to this day.

- **FRANCE – Bûche de Noël:** The modern French "Yule log" traces its origins back to ancient Celtic logs burned during the winter solstice. It consists of a rich chocolate sponge cake rolled with buttercream ganache, meticulously decorated to resemble a snow-covered tree trunk.

- **SWEDEN – Pepparkakor:** These paper-thin, exceptionally crisp Swedish ginger biscuits balance the sharp bite of ginger with the warm notes of cinnamon and cloves. They are an essential part of any *fika* break during the dark Scandinavian winter.

- **NETHERLANDS – Speculaas:** These spiced shortcrust biscuits are pressed into traditional wooden molds before baking. They are infused with aromatic Dutch "speculaaskruiden" – a precise blend of spices including cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, cardamom, and white pepper.



- **UNITED KINGDOM – Mince Pies:** An absolute must-have for the British Christmas season. These bite-sized pastry shells are filled with "mincemeat" – a rich, spiced mixture of dried fruits, citrus peels, and brandy (note: while this filling historically contained actual meat, today it is entirely sweet).

EXPERT PRO TIP

The secret behind European-style butter: Compared to standard butter found in the U.S., European-style butter contains less water and a higher fat content (typically 82% or more). When baking delicate shortcrust pastries – such as *Linzer Augen* (Linzer cookies) or *Brunsli* – using authentic European-style butter is a total game-changer; it prevents the pastries from spreading in the oven and ensures a melt-in-your-mouth texture that conventional American butter simply cannot achieve.

Photo Credit: nsphotostudio | Maria Shchipakina | WhimsyCharmery – stock.adobe.com

MEETING POINT FOR TECH PROFESSIONALS – THE CONRAD PROFISTORE WERNBERG

For more than a century, Conrad Electronic has been the go-to address for technology and electronics.

The family-owned company now focuses on the B2B sector. However, the Conrad Profistore in Wernberg is open to all residents of the Upper Palatinate region who also rely on professional-grade technology for their homes.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS FROM A SINGLE SOURCE

A new monitor, a spare part for your washing machine, or a specialized measuring device? Innovative smart home technology or the latest consumer electronics? The Conrad Profistore in Wernberg is the central hub for business and private customers to meet all their technological needs smoothly and quickly from a single source.

A RELAXED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

At the Wernberg store, tech enthusiasts will find everything they need for the smooth implementation of their projects, explains Profistore Manager Roland Riedlbauer: "From electronic components and tools to the latest consumer electronics: In addition to a huge product selection, we focus on special services for a relaxed shopping experience, easy accessibility, and fast availability."

A WIDE SELECTION, EXPERT ADVICE

Upon request, the on-site team also assists customers in finding the right technology for their needs. "Whether you're looking for a new sound system, need help choosing smart home devices, or want to solve a tricky electronics problem – we're happy to advise you personally. We're also here to help with questions about specific products or picking up online orders," says Roland Riedlbauer.

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Christmas Starts Here.
MAKE IT A FUNKY X-MAS

Celebrate the season with Funky X-Mas 2026, the jam of the year and a festive soul and funk gathering in Amberg. Tanquoray - the orange soul sensation - reunites with Ashonte Dolo Lee, the former voice of Tanquoray and Grand Slam Funk. The members of the Grand Slam Funk family bring the party spirit, big grooves and plenty of reasons to dance and sing along. The Casino-Saal opens at 8 pm, from then on DJ Lampert will get the guests in the mood with funky tunes, disco dance, and house before the jam of the year starts at 9:30 PM. Get ready for a long party night full of old school sounds like you would experience at home in the states. The best gifts are the ones you get before Christmas.

FRIDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2026
Casino-Saal, Amberg · Doors and Start 8 pm / Showtime 9:30 pm / + Aftershowparty
Advance €16 · door €20 · Eventim / OKticket
Early-bird tickets for 12€ are available (exclusive online and only until November 15)

Photo Credit: Gerhard Schmidt (2)

A Perfect Easter Treat
FOR MUSIC LOVERS

Spend Easter Monday with :Coffee :Music :Repeat, a live concert full of jazz, pop and soul. The distinctive voices of Diana Laden and Lena Hiltel meet the piano of Toby Mayerl, the guitar of Michael Dandorfer, and male vocals from Dusty Guest. Expect familiar favourites, soulful moments and an intimate, unfiltered live sound in the welcoming atmosphere of The Kaffeeladen. Choose the 4 pm or 8 pm performance and make it a special night out - or a memorable Christmas gift for someone who loves live music.

MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2027
Kaffeeladen, Sulzbach-Rosenberg
Two performances: 4 pm & 8 pm
Advance €20.50 · door €25 · Eventim / OKticket

TICKETS TODAY, MEMORIES FOREVER!

FUNKY X-MAS 2026
TANQUORAY
Ashonte DOLO Lee
GRAND SLAM FUNK

CHRISTMAS starts here!
Friday Dec 18, 2026
Casino-Saal AMBERG
start 08:00 pm, concert 09.30 pm

a perfect easter treat...
FOR MUSIC LOVERS

COFFEE MUSIC REPEAT

THE BEST OF
Jazz-, Pop- and Soulmusic

Eastermonday Mar 29, 2027
Kaffeeladen Sulzbach-Rosenberg
first show 04.00 pm I second show 08.00 pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.tnt-promotion.de AND AT ALL OFFICIAL TICKET OUTLETS