

BAVARIAN**T**IMES

News & Magazine for Grafenwoehr | Vilseck | Hohenfels

Yeah, it's for free



65th Annual Grafenwoehr German-American Volksfest

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Volksfest Season: Your Ultimate
Guide to Bavarian Fall

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The Perfect Weekend Trip to
the Danube Gorge

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only allow for the most difficult type of German air rescue, but also for intensive care transports from dusk to dawn but also supports rapid air medical evacuation of U.S. soldiers to/from the hospital by Black Hawk MEDEVAC.

Our perinatal, neonatal intensive care and oncology departments are among the best in the region for performing complex medical procedures. Our specialized departments are equipped to provide you with the best care and treatment as your strong healthcare partner in the Nordoberpfalz, now and in the future!

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IMPRINT | Edition #02 | 07/2026, 2nd Volume

A Publication of:

Oberpfalz Medien GmbH
Weigelstraße 16, 92637 Weiden
Internet: www.onetz.de | www.bavarian-times.com
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Circulation + Production

Circulation area: Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, Hohenfels
Print: Ortmaier Druck GmbH
Project management: Produktmanagement
Oberpfalz Medien GmbH

Editorial

Editor: Matthias Plankl (responsible)
Design & Layout: Laura Wiesgickl-Urban,
Ramona Hanisch, Doris Köppl
Cover picture: Matthias Plankl
Pictures: Adobe Stock



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Meet the Locals Making Bavaria Feel Like Home for US Troops

Discover how these 10 'Good Neighbors' support everything from the German-American Volksfest to Range Safety.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Ten distinguished individuals from communities hosting U.S. Army garrisons in the Upper Palatinate and Franconia were honored with the "Good Neighbor Award." The "Good Neighbor Award" was established in 2021 as a token of gratitude and appreciation. Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis, Commanding General of the 7th Army Training Command (7ATC), expressed his thanks for the commitment shown by host nation partners, noting how it has improved—and continues to improve – the quality of life for U.S. Soldiers, American civilians, and their families.

"We cannot fulfill our mission – which contributes to global security—without their support. Our civil-military relations are a vital local building block for international cooperation," said Tillis. The general also highlighted the significance of U.S. Consul General Dr. James Miller's presence; together with Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Fedorisin, he presented the certificates.

Frank Heinrich was nominated by 7ATC. A military history enthusiast, he supports ceremonies, change-of-command events, and the German-American Volksfest by displaying his historic military vehicles, including the legendary Bell UH-1D "Huey" helicopter.

Hohenfels **Mayor Christian Graf** was nominated by the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels. Through his connections and dedication, he has fostered and strengthened the partnership with the U.S. Army in Hohenfels and neighboring communities.

Mayor Peter Braun of Schmidmühlen was nominated by the JMRC for similar reasons.

Senior Forestry Director **Alexander Krone** was nominated by Training Support Activity Europe (TSAE), a division of the 7ATC. As the head of the federal forestry office, he plays a key role in protecting and preserving the landscape and natural environment of the military training area, while coordinating these efforts with live-fire and training activities.

Mayor Libor Picka of the Czech municipality of Bělá nad Radbuzou was nominated by the 2nd US Cavalry Regiment in Vilsbiburg. He supports the regiment's historical commemorations of "Operation Cowboy" – the rescue of Lipizzaner horses from Hostau near the end of WWII.

City of Grafenwoehr Fire Chief **Alexander Richter** was nominated at the suggestion of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade, the City of Grafenwoehr's partner unit. Richter, who also serves as an Assistant Fire Chief for the US Fire Department, advocates for the safety and well-being of US Soldiers and their families among local emergency response agencies. As a co-organizer of events such as the Maypole festival and celebrations within the military community, he fosters mutual understanding and good relations.

Another award went to retired Forestry Director **Axel Schulze-Bierbach**, who was nominated by US Army Garrison Bavaria. Garrison Commander Col. Stephen Flanagan highlighted Schulze-Bierbach's commitment within the central federal forestry administration. Drawing on his expertise in forestry, environmental law, and nature conservation, he played a key role in implementing numerous US Army construction projects at the military training area.

Gerhard Lindthaler from Freihung was also nominated by USAG Bavaria. As a reservist, he has long supported the partnership between the community of Freihung – along with its reservist association – and the 18th CSSB and the 702nd US Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company. He was a driving force behind many partnership events, such as performance marches and activities related to earning the Bundeswehr marksmanship award.

Additional "Good Neighbor Awards" went to **Georg Schimmel** from Herrieden and **Gudrun Williams** from Ansbach; both were nominated by US Army Garrison Ansbach.

| by Gerald Morgenstern



Soldier awarded Soldier's Medal for rescuing woman from Danube River

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – U.S. Army Sgt. Daniel T. Beltran, assigned to the 809th Multi-Role Bridge Company, received the Soldier's Medal April 24, 2026, at Tower Barracks, Grafenwoehr Training Area, for rescuing a drowning woman from the Danube River.

The Soldier's Medal is the Army's highest award for heroism not involving conflict with an enemy.

Beltran earned the award for his actions Sept. 12, 2024, when he entered the fast-moving Danube River near Ingolstadt, Bavaria, about 70 miles south of Grafenwoehr, without safety equipment during a training event.

Soldiers observed a 79-year-old woman floating face down in the water, unresponsive and drifting with the current.

The river, affected by recent flooding, was moving rapidly in cold conditions, with water temperatures estimated between 50 and 60 degrees.

Beltran said the urgency left little time to act. "In my mind, it was now or never," he said. "If I hadn't jumped in at that exact moment, the current would have carried her farther downstream."

After receiving approval, Beltran entered the water, swam against the current and brought the woman back to shore.

Once ashore, Beltran directed CPR as other Soldiers assisted, rotating chest compressions while he managed the woman's airway. She expelled water and began breathing before medics arrived.

Maj. Gen. Michael B. Lalor, commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, said the award reflects the Army's values.

"It's that combination of personal courage and selfless service, risking oneself to save another and make a difference," Lalor said.

Beltran said he did not expect recognition for his actions. "It was more my duty to try to help somebody when the opportunity was there," he said.

He credited his fellow Soldiers for the rescue. "It wasn't just me," Beltran said. "It was a group effort."

| by **Staff Sgt. Daniel Yeadon**

Photo Credit: San D | Masuda Akhtar – stock.adobe.com



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NEWS BRIEFS: Our Garrison in Pictures

At a Glance: Key Updates from U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria

A compact overview of the latest events at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria – captured in pictures. From community events to military news: Our news briefs inform you about what's happening at the garrison.

| by **Editor**



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Thomas Dixon

FISCHERFEST IN GRAFENWOEHR

- ▲ Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis, Commanding General of the 7th Army Training Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Fedorisin, Senior Enlisted Advisor of 7ATC, compete against Gerald Morgenstern, Honorary Chairman of Grafenwoehr, and Chaplain Manda Naresh, in a sautrog (pig trough) race during the annual Fischerfest (Fisherman's festival) in #Grafenwoehr, #Germany, June 27, 2026. The sautrog race is a Bavarian tradition in which teams of two race against each other in the water using paddles, pig troughs, and any means necessary to win in the friendly competition. This is just one event throughout the year where local communities invite U.S. Army representatives to take part in their cultural events.

ERIC J. GERESSY VISITS GTA



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Collin Mackall

- ▲ U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis (right), Commanding General of 7th Army Training Command, gives a brief to Eric J. Geressy (left), the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of War for Strategy, during a visit to Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany, June 1, 2026. 2CR provides V Corps with a lethal and agile force capable of rapid deployment throughout the European theater in order to assure allies, deter adversaries, and when ordered, defend the NATO alliance.

SMALL CLASS OF INTO WIDER WORLD

- ▼ USAG BAVARIA - HOHENFELS, Germany – Students of the 2026 graduating class of Hohenfels High School walked the stage, received their diplomas, and flung their graduation caps into the air as they enter adulthood June 5 at the Hohenfels Middle / High School football field.



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Collin Mackall

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY VISITS 2CR

- ▲ Secretary of the Army Hon. Dan Driscoll (middle) meets with senior leadership of the 2d Cavalry Regiment, during a visit to Germany in Vilseck, Germany, April 29, 2026. The purpose of the visit was to talk about 2CR's current Transformation in Contact efforts through a series of engagements with commanders and leaders that will be conducting Saber Strike 26 and Flytrap 5.0.

Continued on page 8



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

SUNLIGHT, SMILES LIGHT UP HOHENFELS KINDERFEST ... FOR A TIME

- ▲ USAG BAVARIA - HOHENFELS, Germany — A Family talks with an American Red Cross volunteer at the Hohenfels Kinderfest May 30, 2026 at the School Age Center field. Kinderfest brought on-post organizations, military units, garrison offices and directorates and more together to give Families with children a day out to enjoy sun, fun and one another's company.

ROSE BARRACKS COLOR RUN



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Francisco Torres

- ▲ U.S. Soldiers and civilians participant in a 5k Color Run/Walk for Child Abuse Prevention and Alcohol Abuse Awareness at Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany, April 17, 2026. Over 800 runners and walkers participated in the event in support of Child Abuse Prevention and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month.



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kammen Taylor



USAG Bavaria shines bright at 65th annual IMCOM TOPPERs Awards

Sgt. Michael Bradle receiving the award for Outstanding Military Debut Performance in a Play or Musical.

Photo Credit: Travis Thurston

DEVCOM BG VISITS GTA

- ▼ U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John B. Mountford, deputy commanding general for readiness of U.S. Army V Corps, arrives at 7th Army Training Command headquarters for a meeting with Brig. Gen. Robert Born of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command during a visit to Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 11, 2026. Born visited 7th ATC and toured Balli Air Field to strengthen partnerships, assess training capabilities, and enhance readiness and interoperability across the European theater.



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kammen Taylor

AMBASSADOR MATTHEW WHITAKER VISITS GTA

- ◀ U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Terry R. Tillis (Left), commanding general of 7th Army Training Command, talks with Ambassador Matthew Whitaker, the Permanent Representative of the United States to NATO, (Right) during a visit to the 7th Army Training Command's Balli Air Field in Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 8, 2026. The purpose of the visit was to show the importance of 7ATC's mission and the value of the GTA and HTA training complexes and the Soldier support eco-system.



Photo Credit: Gerald Morgenstern

AMERICA 250: INDEPENDENCE DAY

- ▲ Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom and Friendship in Grafenwoehr — Over 3,000 guests gathered at the iconic water tower parade field as U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria celebrated the 250th U.S. Independence Day. Hosted by Col. Stephen Flanagan and Brig. Gen. Terry Tillis, the event united American soldiers, families, and local German leaders. Highlighting the powerful German-American friendship, the historic celebration featured live music by PopRocks and concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Devin Klecan

U.S. ARMY CAVALRYMEN VISIT THE SITE OF A DARING WWII OPERATION COWBOY, HONORING THEIR UNIT'S STORIED PAST

- ▲ Commanders and senior enlisted advisors for the U.S. Army 2nd Cavalry Regiment ride horses from the city of Hostouň on the 81st anniversary of Operation Cowboy, Czech Republic, April 30, 2026. The ceremony honored the 81st anniversary of Operation Cowboy, an ambitious World War II mission that united American and German forces in a daring rescue of hundreds of Lipizzan horses as the war drew to a close. Soldiers joined Czech citizens for wreath-laying ceremonies, parades, and historical displays, continuing a tradition that links the current generation of regiment Soldiers to the unit's storied past.



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

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER DEVOTES FOUR DECADES OF PROFESSIONALISM AT HOHENFELS

- ▲ USAG BAVARIA - HOHENFELS, Germany — Colleagues stand with Dietmar Meier, center holding certificate, the outgoing airfield operations manager, on the tarmac of the airfield he dedicated his career to. Meier, who has more than four decades of experience at Hohenfels Army Airfield, concluded his career March 27, 2026 at the airfield.

BAVARIAN STATE PARLIAMENT VISITS U.S. ARMY IN BAVARIA



Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Spc. Thomas Dixon

- ▲ U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Terry R. Tillis, Commanding General of 7th ATC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul M. Fedorisin, Senior Enlisted Advisor for 7th ATC, welcome Ilse Aigner, President of the Bavarian Parliament, and members of the Bavarian Parliament to learn about the command's mission and capabilities in Grafenwoehr, Germany, April 17, 2026. During the visit, parliamentarians received an overview of USAG Bavaria operations and toured the motor pool of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade, where they explored military equipment and engaged directly with Soldiers.

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Maximize your festival time by using official parking lots and keeping no-parking zones clear for emergency services. Check the wind-shield numbers on your shuttle to ensure a direct return trip to your designated lot, as parking lot numbers correspond directly to the bus lines.

Skip the Volksfest Traffic:

OFF-POST SHUTTLE BUSES & PARKING

RETURN TRIP NOTICE:

All shuttle buses are marked with their corresponding stop number in the windshield. The buses will exclusively service their assigned stops.



PLEASE NOTE:

Only very limited parking space is available on-site; there are no specially designated parking facilities.

#1

Parking Lot & 'Waldbad'

(Outdoor Swimming Pool) Bus Stop

Navigation: Dießfurter Straße, 92655 Grafenwöhr

Bus Boarding Location: On the grounds east of Dießfurter Straße. Ample parking is available on both sides of Dießfurter Straße.

#3

Parking Lot & 'Postamt'

(Post Office) Bus Stop

Navigation: Alte Amberger Str. 28, 92655 Grafenwöhr

Bus Boarding Location: In front of the former post office building (now Bürger-Energiegenossenschaft West eG)

#2

Parking Lot & 'Feuerwehr'

(Fire Station) Bus Stop

Navigation: Thumbachstraße 73, 92655 Grafenwöhr

Bus Boarding Location: Behind the Grafenwöhr Fire Station building. Two large parking areas are available in the immediate vicinity of the fire station."

#4

Parking Lot & 'Gründerzentrum' Bus Stop

Navigation: Am Gründerzentrum 1, 92655 Grafenwöhr

Bus Boarding Location: Opposite the building at 'Am Gründerzentrum 1'. Ample parking is available in the 'Gründerzentrum' commercial area and next to the 'Rupprecht' auto repair shop."





TIP:

Bring enough **cash** for purchases as card payments are not accepted anywhere on the festival grounds. Both dollars and euros are accepted throughout the festival.

“BAVARIAN-AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE” – FROM AUGUST 1-3, 2026 IN CAMP ALGIERS

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The festival fosters German and American friendship and culture - living, working, and celebrating together. Carnival rides, beer tents, German and American food, displays of German and American Army equipment, retail booths, music, and dancing are highlights of Volksfest. The Volksfest is a family-style festival featuring live music performance from German and American bands. The festival kicks off on Friday, July 31, at 11 a.m. with the traditional tapping of the keg in the German fest tent. Regular festival operations will continue until midnight on that day. On Saturday, August 1, the fest is open from 11 a.m. to midnight, and on Sunday, August 2, the fest hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

A VARIETY OF ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUNG AND OLD

This year, the German-American Volksfest once again offers a colorful array of rides and activities for the whole family. From classic bumper cars, children's carousels, popular family rides like a roller coaster to more adventurous, high-flying and fast-paced rides – there's something for every age group. Of course, classic fairground booths and entertainment options are also available. Whether you're craving authentic Bavarian brass and traditional lunch or American-style rock, pop, and soul, our dual tent setup has you covered. From Friday's "Trachtenrocker" party to Saturday's family-friendly activities and live music, there's something for everyone.

Photo Credit: Matthias Plankl (3)

Your Guide to Parking and Shuttles

ON-POST SHUTTLE BUSES

We highly recommend U.S. Department of Defense affiliated personnel utilize the on-post shuttle bus service that will run from the **Tower Barracks (Grafenwoehr) Main Exchange** and the **Rose Barracks (Vilseck) PXtra (Exchange)** to the festival area. On-post shuttles are for Department of Defense ID card holders. Pets are not allowed on shuttle buses. On Friday and Saturday, shuttle bus service begins at 11 a.m. and will run until 1:30 a.m. On Sunday, the shuttle begins at 11 a.m. and will run until 12:30 a.m. Shuttles will run every 30 minutes but times may vary based on traffic during the fest.

PARKING AREA INSIDE THE GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA

All vehicle traffic attending the Volksfest will enter Tower Barracks via Gate 6 off B299. Gate 6 will accept vehicles attending the Volksfest starting at 10 a.m. Vehicles that try to enter prior to 10 a.m. will be turned away. All vehicles and people are subject to search. Handicap parking is available on site. Please inform the Traffic Control Point staff and have your placard/decal available.



GATE 6

ACCESS



GATE 4

EXIT

NO-STOPPING AND NO-PARKING ZONES:

All motorists and pedestrians are requested to observe the no-stopping and no-parking zones to ensure that emergency operations by the police, and emergency medical services and others are not obstructed.



DONE.

HAVE FUN WITHOUT
THE STRESS



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Tip:

Schedules are subject to change. For the full program, scan the QR codes on-site. Prost to a fantastic weekend of music and culture.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AT MORE THAN 100 BOOTHS

The more than 100 booths offer a diverse selection of Bavarian delicacies, American classics, and international specialties to enjoy. Various field tents, as well as a large Bavarian and an American tent, are spread across the entire festival grounds, providing an authentic American and Bavarian flair, culinary diversity, and social gatherings with their distinctive look. A sampling of the food on offer: onion rose, crepes, ice cream, sweets, pastries, potato chips, Ochsenfetzen (sliced beef), Pastrami-Sandwich, Chinese pancakes, mini donuts, coffee, cake, langos, pretzels, special fries, giant skewers, fish specialties, Dotsch (a kind of German dish), Baumstriezel (a kind of German bun), corn on the cob, churros, candy fruit, slush ice, baked vegetables, choux pastry specialties, pizza, mushroom pancakes, doner kebabs, Thai-style burritos, punch, and much more.

US AND GERMAN ARMY WEAPONS DISPLAY

The US Army and German Armed Forces weapons display, which will be set up on the grounds of Motorpark 20, is open to all festival visitors. The exhibition offers a fascinating insight into modern military technology – from army vehicles and tanks to artillery pieces and helicopters, many of which can not only be admired up close but also boarded.

FESTIVAL ACCESS AND CAR ACCESS – CENTRAL PARKING LOT NEAR THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

Access to the installation: 100% identification check of all vehicle occupants will occur. Occupants over the age of 16 must provide an authorized government issued photo ID to the guard to be allowed entry. Children under the age of 16 will be granted access if accompanied by a family member or legal guardian of legal age (18).

The following documents are authorized for access: Valid passports/Valid personal ID card from 28 European Union countries, Installation pass/DBIDS card, Department of Defense identification cards, Temporary German ID

The following documents are not authorized: Travel documents, U.S. passport card, Driver's licenses, Residence permits, Refugee IDs/Substitute ID, Fake/manipulated ID cards

Nationals and residents of the countries listed on the Denied Countries List will not be allowed access to the installation and the fest.

| by Editor



LOCAL NATIONALS (IN GERMAN)

Scan the QR code for direct access for further details and regular updates.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: HOW YOUR VOLKSFEST VISIT SUPPORTS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – The German-American Volksfest, at Camp Algier, is about much more than just culture, music, and socializing – it is also a celebration of solidarity in action. Once again this year, the DAGA e.V. (German-American Community Council) is blending the "Bavarian-American Way of Life" with a clear social mission. As part of the Volksfest, the association warmly invites everyone to its charming Wine Tent (Weinzelt) on the festival grounds at Camp Algier. Visitors can look forward to a selection of fine wines paired with genuine hospitality – where enjoyment goes hand in hand with community engagement.

In addition, the association is once again providing an off-post park-and-shuttle service for all guests coming from the town of Grafenwoehr. Supported by the volunteer fire departments of the town and its surrounding districts, DAGA e.V. ensures a safe journey to the festival grounds – generating additional social value. Tickets are available for 4 Euros (round trip), and children up to 14 years old ride for free. Please note that pets are not allowed on the buses. All proceeds will go directly to charitable projects in the region, helping people right where support is urgently needed. The funds will benefit numerous institutions, including kindergartens, local clubs, and organizations. For example, the revenue helps sponsor the traditional Christmas Tree Lighting at Tower Barracks as well as the Grafenwoehr Volunteer Fire Departments. In this way, DAGA e.V. has been successfully connecting social gatherings with a true sense of community spirit for many decades.

Editor's Note: On-post shuttle buses are provided by U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria and are free of charge. Stop locations are at Tower Barracks (Grafenwoehr) near the Main Exchange and at Rose Barracks (Vilseck) near PXtra (Exchange). These buses are strictly available to DoD ID card-holders only.

| by Editor



DOD ID CARD HOLDERS

DOD ID card holders, scan the QR code for direct access to the most up-to-date information. For further details and regular updates, please visit the MWR Bavaria website and the U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria Facebook page.





The friendliest cultural festival in the Northern Upper Palatinate returns from August 7 to 9, 2026.

For three days, the State Garden Show grounds – right in the heart of Amberg – transform into a summer stage for top international acts.

From indie and pop to reggae and rock, plus hip-hop and soul: the diverse lineup ensures that people of all ages will find something they love. Add to that delicious food, cold drinks, and plenty of cozy spots to relax. And, of course, the most popular spot remains the same as always: right in front of the stage.

THE RECOMMENDATION:

EAT, CHILL, COCKTAILS, DANCE! #REPEAT

Grab your tickets for **Shanti Powa** (Austria), **Keanan Eksteen** (South Africa), **Django3000** (Chiemgau), **The Cool Quest** (Netherlands), **Sammy Milo** (Frankfurt), **Falschgeld** (Munich), and many more acts.

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR SOMMER IN DER STADT!



TICKETS:

WWW.SOMMERINDERSTADT-FESTIVAL.DE

Photo Credit: Noah Schott (2)



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2026**

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THE COOL QUEST | DJANGO3000
SAMMY MILO | FALSCHGELD**



AT THE AMBERG STATE GARDEN SHOW GROUNDS



USAG BAVARIA HOSTS WILDLAND FIRE EXERCISE

TO ENHANCE READINESS, COMMUNITY SAFETY

TOWER BARRACKS, Germany – U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria firefighters, 7th Army Training Command, Bundesforst Bayern, Bundeswehr, and the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade from USAG Ansbach came together for a Wildland Fire Exercise at the Grafenwoehr Training Area March 24, 2026. The exercise focused on extinguishing wildland fires with aerial support, ensuring readiness and improving coordination among the various agencies involved.

Due to extreme dryness during the summer months, small fires occur annually in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. These fires are typically extinguished quickly and efficiently by the local fire department. Nevertheless, larger fires that exceed the fire department's capacity would require aerial support, making this training critical for preparedness.

This training has been held annually since the Integrated Wildland Fire Management Program was established in 2021. It ensures that all parties are prepared to respond effectively to wildland fires, protecting both the training area and the surrounding community.

"We are conducting wildfire aerial bucket training in order to work integration between the Grafenwoehr Training Area and 12th CAB, to be able to better fight fires on the ranges here," said wildland fire program manager Maj. Robert Stetler, 7th ATC. "If it gets too large, it can threaten the infrastructure, we have the potential of losing targetry, losing ranges."

The exercise emphasized the importance of rapid response and integration to mitigate fires before they become a threat to infrastructure, ranges or the surrounding community. The ranges at Grafenwoehr are vital for training across Europe, U.S. Army Europe and Africa. Protecting these ranges from fire damage ensures their continued availability for military readiness.

"We can put fires out before they become a problem—that's going to keep us all safe, whether it's through smoke issues, the actual fire itself threatening Grafenwoehr, the town, Tower Barracks, Rose Barracks," Stetler said. "The more integrated we are, the quicker we can do that, and the less risk to the greater community."

The training was conducted in two parts: During the week prior, all parties involved reviewed procedures and protocols during a tabletop exercise. On March 24, during the practical part, controlled fires were set by the fire department within the training area and extinguished using helicopters equipped with water buckets.

The training used the CH-47 Chinook, the Army's only heavy-lift helicopter, equipped with a Bambi Max Bucket capable of holding close to 12,000 pounds of water.

The helicopters dipped their buckets into designated water sources. In this case water was extracted from the Schlatterweiher within the training area. These dip zones are carefully planned to ensure safety and efficiency during operations.

The exercise highlighted the importance of coordination among the U.S. Army, German armed forces, and the Federal Forest Service.

"Cooperation must function reliably, especially in an emergency," said Alexander Richter, USAG Bavaria assistant fire chief (operations). "To ensure this, responsibilities must be defined, and procedures and tactics must be discussed and practiced. Through these exercises, solutions are developed collaboratively that can be implemented in an emergency."

The training also tackled challenges such as language barriers and complex coordination processes.

"Communication is a huge topic," said Marvin Leistner, liaison for the Bundesforst. "Of course, there's the language issue, but the coordination processes are very complex. We are not pilots, and the pilots are not firefighters, so we have to practice ensuring everything works well together."

Pilots and crew members also gained certification during the exercise to perform water bucket drops.

"With us today, we have six pilots, and we have five non-crew members, the flight engineers and the crew chiefs," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Riedel, pilot in command of the water drop exercise. "The qualification is water bucket operations. The challenge [is] carrying the 12,000 pounds of water approximately 30 feet below the helicopter and just getting used to how the bucket of water will fly as well as how to employ that water against the fire with the various conditions, altitudes, and speeds. Then after this qualification, we can send them out as the crew without an instructor to fight fires."

By bringing together multiple agencies, certifying crews, and practicing real-life scenarios, the wild land fire exercise strengthens readiness, enhances safety, and fosters collaboration across U.S. and German organizations.

| by **Natalie Simmel**,
USAG Bavaria Public Affairs

FRIEBE RELINQUISHES RESPONSIBILITY AFTER THREE YEARS AS 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE'S SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER



Col. Francisco A. Cortez, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, pins the Legion of Merit on Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey R. Friebe during a relinquishment of responsibility ceremony at Tower Barracks Parade Field in Grafenwoehr, Germany, June 16, 2026. Friebe received the award for exceptionally meritorious service after serving three years as the brigade's senior enlisted leader and nearly 28 years in the Army.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – After nearly 28 years in uniform and three years as the senior enlisted leader of the 18th Military Police Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey R. Friebe thanked the Soldiers, leaders and Family members who shaped his Army career before relinquishing responsibility during a ceremony at Tower Barracks Parade Field, June 16, 2026.

The ceremony marked the formal transfer of responsibility through the passing of the brigade colors, a longstanding Army tradition symbolizing the authority and stewardship entrusted to a unit's senior enlisted leader.

During the ceremony, Friebe was also awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service as the brigade's command sergeant major.

Col. Francisco A. Cortez, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade, reflected on Friebe's role as his senior enlisted advisor and partner in command.

"The role of a command sergeant major is sacred in our profession," Cortez said. "To the Soldiers, the command sergeant major is the ultimate advocate, mentor and enforcer of discipline. To a commander, the command sergeant major is the most trusted advisor and an indispensable partner in command."

During Friebe's tenure, the brigade supported Operation Trident Spear, participated in two V Corps Warfighter exercises and executed missions across Germany, Italy and Belgium. The formation also played a key role in Defender 25 while providing law enforcement, corrections, explosive ordnance disposal and military working dog capabilities throughout the European theater.

Cortez said Friebe emphasized training and leader development across the formation while helping prepare Soldiers for increasingly complex missions.

Under his leadership, brigade units earned recognition for excellence across multiple mission areas, including military police operations, corrections and maintenance programs. During the ceremony, Cortez credited Friebe with helping establish the conditions for those achievements through his focus on standards, readiness and Soldier development.

"You changed Soldiers' lives for the better," Cortez said. "The NCOs and officers that were developed here will carry your lessons forward for the next two decades."

Command Sgt. Maj. Denice Malave, command sergeant major of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, said Friebe's leadership left a lasting impression on those who served alongside him.

"At the end of the day, I was very grateful to work with Jeff because he became one of the best brigade command sergeants major I have worked with in my 28 years in the Army," Malave said. "Just a great leader, great sergeant major and, most importantly, a great human being."

Malave also described Friebe as one of her strongest teammates and advocates within the command.

In his farewell remarks, Friebe thanked the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, civilian employees and Family members who contributed to the brigade's success during his time with the organization.

"I want to thank the officers, NCOs and Soldiers in the best military police brigade in the Army," Friebe said. "The Soldiers are the most important reason why I enjoyed coming to work every day."

Friebe also acknowledged the sacrifices made by his wife, Jamie, and their children during years of deployments, overseas assignments and relocations.

"You provided me the love and support so I could continue to be in this great profession," Friebe said. "I want to say thank you, and I love you very much."

Following the ceremony, Soldiers, Family members and leaders gathered to congratulate Friebe and his Family, marking the conclusion of his tenure as the brigade's command sergeant major. Friebe will depart Germany later this year for Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

| by **Staff Sgt. Daniel Yeadon**



In April 1944, Italy's leader "Il Duce" Benito Mussolini inspected his troops at the Vilseck South Camp alongside German General Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel.

FROM SÜDLAGER TO ROSE BARRACKS: INSIDE THE LEGACY OF 2CR AT VILSECK

FROM WWII AFTERMATH TO HOSTING "OLD IRONSIDES," EXPLORE HOW US FORCES AND GERMAN PARTNERS BUILT A LASTING COMMUNITY.

The history of the "South Camp" (Südlager) began with the expansion of Grafenwoehr Training Area in 1937–38. Villages had to be evacuated to make way for the camp's construction. The current U.S. housing areas within the South Camp are named after the former villages of Kittenberg, Grünwald, Altneuhaus, and Langenbruck. Construction of "Camp Altneuhaus" began in July 1937 and was completed in just eleven months. During World War II, the site served as a staging area for frontline troops, as well as for the Spanish "Blue Division" and the Italian "San Marco" Division.

General Heinz Guderian's "Panzer Staff" was also quartered in Vilseck for a while. On April 8, 1945, bombs fell on the South Camp, killing twelve soldiers. Finally, on April 21, 1945, units of the 3rd Army's 71st Infantry Division occupied the South Camp without encountering resistance.

ARMOR TRAINING CENTER AND GARRISON

Prisoner-of-war and refugee camp after 1945; armor training center; renaming to "Rose Barracks" in 1952; training center and school for combined arms and major U.S. Army weapon systems—these are just a few key milestones in the history of Rose Barracks.

The expansion of "Rose Barracks" was an event that shaped Vilseck, the training area, and the surrounding region just as significantly as the establishment of the South Camp in 1937. Between 1981 and 1991, the U.S. Army invested approximately one billion Deutsche Marks in the Vilseck garrison. Barracks, maintenance facilities, vehicle parks, infrastructure, and housing areas for Soldiers and their families were built. The residential buildings are all prefabricated structures that were shipped to Vilseck from the United States. Beyond its military use, the facility represents a massive economic and employment asset for the Vilseck region. In 1987, the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division



The "Altneuhaus Troop Camp" was built by the German Wehrmacht in 1937 and named after a former village. Between 1981 and 1991, the US Army expanded the site into what is now Rose Barracks, the home of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

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 extensively with the history of the Vilseck South Camp, today's Rose Barracks. "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."



("Old Ironsides") was transferred from Middle Franconia to Rose Barracks. The 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division ("Big Red One") followed in 1996.

Since 2006, approximately 4,500 soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2CR) have been stationed in Vilseck. The regiment is the oldest active cavalry regiment in the US Army and boasts the longest history. Furthermore, Rose Barracks houses the Combined Arms Training Center (CATC) as well as the US Army Medical and Dental Command Bavaria.

News surfacing a few weeks ago regarding planned troop reductions—and the potential withdrawal of the 2CR from Vilseck—has once again raised eyebrows among the Bavarian hosts, echoing concerns from 2020. There has been no official confirmation from political or military authorities regarding this matter.

| by Gerald Morgenstern

WHETHER IT'S A LONG-DISTANCE JOURNEY
OR A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE:

DENGUE FEVER ALL-INCLUSIVE?

TRAVEL MORE RELAXED WITH
THE RIGHT PROTECTION

(DJD). The long-awaited cruise vacation to tropical regions is about to begin – the anticipation of sunny days and new experiences is high. But even a single, initially unnoticed mosquito bite during a shore excursion can be enough to become infected with the dengue virus. And it can be serious: It's not for nothing that dengue fever is colloquially known as "breakbone fever" because of the sometimes extremely severe headaches, muscle, and joint pain. Severe cases are possible, especially in children or people with underlying health conditions. Both primary and secondary infections with the virus can be fatal.

NOT ONLY LONG-DISTANCE TRAVEL CARRIES RISKS – DENGUE INFECTION IS POSSIBLE IN EUROPE

The dengue virus is transmitted by female mosquitoes – in Europe primarily by the Asian tiger mosquito, which is mostly active during the day. Although dengue is predominantly found in tropical and subtropical regions, it is increasingly spreading in Europe. In 2024, there were more than 300 cases of dengue fever in France, Spain, and Italy, transmitted locally by mosquitoes living in those countries. Dengue fever occurs primarily in long-distance travel destinations, but occasionally also in popular European tourist areas. To date, there have been no outbreaks in Germany, but the Asian tiger mosquito is already established in some regions, and the number of reported travel-associated dengue infections is higher than previously thought: In 2024, with 1,717 reported cases, it exceeded the number of locally transmitted tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) cases in Germany (686) by more than 2.5 times.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PROTECTION: AVOID MOSQUITO BITES

To protect yourself from the dengue virus while traveling, avoiding mosquito bites is the best approach.

THE TOP THREE TIPS ARE:

1. Wear light-colored, long-sleeved clothing.
2. Apply mosquito repellents containing DEET or Icaridin to your skin and impregnate your clothing with insecticides; available at pharmacies, among other places.
3. Use fly screens and mosquito nets, and utilize air conditioning (cool air makes mosquitoes less inclined to bite).

The Bavarian State Office for Health and Food Safety, for example, recommends protecting yourself from mosquito bites for 14 days after traveling to a dengue risk area, even at home. This is because, in cases of asymptomatic infection, the virus can be unknowingly transmitted: If bitten by a native Asian tiger mosquito during this period, it can transmit the virus to other people during its next blood meal. Good mosquito protection during and after travel can prevent this scenario. It is advisable to seek advice from a general practitioner or travel medicine specialist several months before your trip.

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NEW ORDERS SCHOOLS BEGINNINGS

MANAGING STRESS DURING PCS SEASON

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For many military families, summer means more than vacations and time away from school. It marks the beginning of PCS season, when Soldiers and their families prepare to leave familiar communities and establish new routines at a new duty station.

New orders often bring new opportunities, new friendships and new experiences. They can also bring uncertainty, stress and a long list of responsibilities that seem to grow by the day.

"PCS season is one of the most significant transitions military families will experience," said Lt. Col. Rebekah Broady, chief of the Department of Mental Health at Martin Army Community Hospital. "Even positive change can create stress. It's normal to feel excited, anxious, overwhelmed and hopeful all at the same time."

While children may be saying goodbye to friends, teachers, coaches and familiar routines, parents are often balancing housing decisions, travel arrangements, employment considerations and the logistics of relocating an entire household.

According to Broady, stress often appears in ways people do not immediately recognize. Difficulty sleeping, irritability, fatigue, trouble concentrating, changes in appetite and withdrawing from family or friends can all be signs that stress is beginning to take a toll.

"Many people assume they simply have to push through stress because it comes with military life," Broady said. "But recognizing stress early and taking steps to manage it can make a tremendous difference for both individual well-being and family readiness."

Army mental health professionals encourage families to focus on what they can control during periods of transition. Maintaining healthy routines, staying physically active and making time for meaningful connections can help create stability when many other aspects of life feel uncertain.

One tool mental health professionals frequently recommend is mindfulness, the practice of focusing attention on the present

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Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo by Jessie Hudson



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moment rather than becoming overwhelmed by everything that still needs to be done.

Broady said mindfulness does not have to be complicated. Something as simple as taking a few slow, deep breaths before moving on to the next task can help reduce stress and improve resilience.

To help manage stress during PCS season, Army mental health professionals recommend:

- Maintaining a regular sleep schedule.
- Staying physically active.
- Breaking large tasks into smaller, manageable goals.
- Talking openly with family members about concerns and expectations.
- Staying connected to friends, family and support networks.
- Scheduling time to rest and recharge during the moving process.
- Seeking help early when stress begins affecting daily life.

Military families often spend weeks preparing for a move while simultaneously saying goodbye to friends, coworkers and support systems. For children, the transition can be particularly challenging as they leave familiar schools and communities behind. Broady encouraged parents to pay attention to changes in behavior, mood and routines, noting that children often express stress differently than adults.

"Military families are incredibly resilient, but resilience does not mean facing challenges alone," Broady said. "Whether you're arriving at a new installation or preparing to depart, there are

resources available to support your mental health and well-being."

Through its Department of Mental Health and other support services, MACH remains committed to helping Soldiers and families maintain readiness during every stage of their military journey.

"Every duty station is different, but one thing remains the same," Broady said. "The Army takes care of its people. Wherever the mission takes you, don't hesitate to reach out for support when you need it."

For military families preparing for their next move, the message is simple: Take care of yourself, stay connected and remember that support is available every step of the way.

For immediate support or to learn more about available resources, military families can contact Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 or visit [MilitaryOneSource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil). The Department of War's Personal Property Activity has also launched a new website to assist with ensuring a seamless PCS process.



Your digital PCS companion. Got an upcoming PCS? You don't have to do this alone. Scan the code to go straight to the essential resources, checklists, and contacts keeping you and your family backed up every step of the way!"



| by **Jessie Hudson**



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BRACES AND INVISALIGN

CAN MY CHILD FLY WITH AN EARACHE?

MIDDLE EAR INFECTION: WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE TRAVELING

A middle ear infection is painful for children as it is; when flying, takeoff, landing, and pressure equalization can further aggravate the discomfort.

(DJD). Anticipation for the vacation is high, suitcases are half-packed, and suddenly the child complains of ear pain. Parents then worry: Can the flight still go ahead, or will it be an ordeal? In fact, a middle ear infection can significantly increase the risk of discomfort during takeoff and landing. It is one of the most common childhood illnesses; up to 80 percent of all children suffer from it at least once during their first three years of life. However, understanding the underlying factors and acting promptly allows parents to better assess when flying is feasible—and when it might make more sense to postpone the trip.

IMPAIRED PRESSURE EQUALIZATION DURING TAKEOFF AND LANDING

The Eustachian tube connects the middle ear to the throat and regulates pressure equalization, such as during takeoff and landing. If this tube is blocked by inflammation, that function is impaired. In infants and children, the tube is anatomically narrower and clogs more easily than in adults. This can cause the eardrum to become severely stretched and, in the worst-case scenario, injured.

SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROVIDE TARGETED SUPPORT

Children cannot always articulate their pain. Instead, they may seem irritable, tug at their ears, or become unusually quiet. Parents should take such signs seriously. Especially before setting off on a trip, it is advisable to have a pediatrician or ENT specialist confirm the child is fit to fly. This applies even if the infection has already been treated and symptoms have subsided. At the first signs of a middle ear infection, a product like Otofren, for example, is a suitable option for complementary therapy. This homeopathic combination remedy can support the healing of irritated mucous membranes and help alleviate symptoms.

SENSIBLE MEASURES WHEN FLYING

There are several simple measures that can make equalizing ear pressure easier during the flight itself. For infants and toddlers, breastfeeding, a bottle, or a pacifier often helps during takeoff and landing. Additionally, using a decongestant nasal spray before the flight can relieve the mucous membranes and help keep the Eustachian tubes open. However, if ear pain is severe or worsens, the trip should be postponed if possible.



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SUMMER FUN WITHOUT BITES

(DJD). Red welts, agonizing itching, skin like a crumb cake: mosquito bites are a common "side effect" of wonderful summer days outdoors. At the lake or on a picnic in the park, you're often not alone, but surrounded by these hungry bloodsuckers. While they don't usually transmit diseases in Germany, the bites can become inflamed, for example, from scratching, and cause considerable discomfort, especially for children. It can be significantly more dangerous on vacation: in many popular travel destinations, including in Europe, mosquitoes can transmit tropical diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, chikungunya, or West Nile fever.

REPELLENTS KEEP BLOODSUCKERS AWAY

For uninterrupted summer and vacation enjoyment, it's essential to keep mosquitoes away as much as possible. As a first step, Professor Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg recommends the use

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES AT HOME AND ON VACATION

of repellents, i.e., mosquito-repellent products. Anti Brumm Lotion, with its proven active ingredients icaridin and eucalyptus citriodora oil, as well as nourishing dexpanthenol, is a family-friendly and practical option. It reliably protects adults and children from one year of age during summer activities at home. In tropical regions, where stronger protection is needed, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends, among other things, the active ingredient DEET, which is contained in Anti Brumm Ultra Tropical. It is considered particularly effective and has been used successfully for many decades.

LONG, LIGHT-COLORED CLOTHING OFFERS PROTECTION

In addition to mosquito sprays and lotions, there are other measures to avoid bites. Appropriate clothing can make a significant difference: Long-sleeved tops and long trousers made of sturdy, light-colored fabrics are ideal. It's best to go outdoors freshly showered, as the smell of sweat attracts the flying bloodsuckers. And since many mosquitoes become particularly active at dusk, it can be advisable to head home in good time. At home, fly screens on windows and doors can provide protection; in tropical regions, a mosquito net over the bed is essential.

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ROBOT FACE, HORSESHOE, AND OIL CAN

WHAT DO DASHBOARD WARNING LIGHTS MEAN, AND WHEN IS IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED?

(DJD). Suddenly, something lights up in your peripheral vision – somewhere between the speedometer and the tachometer. A symbol you've never consciously noticed before is flashing yellow or red on the dashboard. Was that always there? Is it serious? Dashboard warning lights speak a language of their own. While some symbols – like a stylized oil can – are easy to interpret, others leave even experienced drivers scratching their heads.

WARNING LIGHTS AND THEIR COLORS

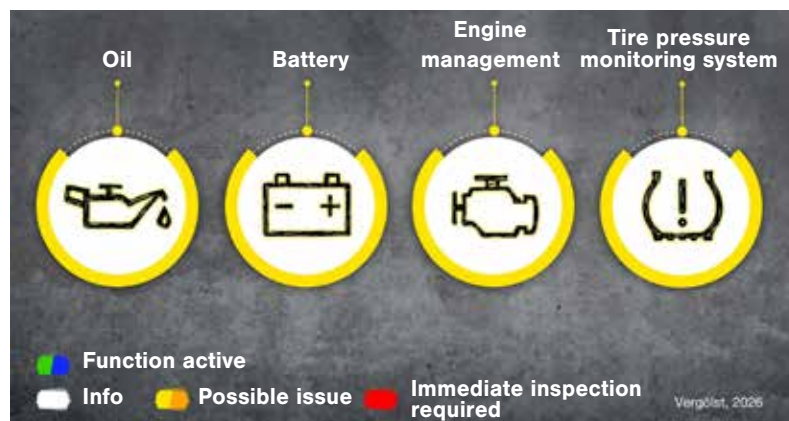
The system follows a simple logic based on color. Green and blue lights indicate non-critical states; they simply show that a function is active – such as the high beams or the rear fog light being switched on. Yellow or orange lights, however, send a clear message: a problem is developing, so have it checked soon. A red light indicates that a serious problem has already occurred. "In this case, it is best to pull over immediately and contact a professional auto repair shop," recommends Otis Kortlücke from the Vergölst workshop chain. "Ignoring a red light risks expensive damage or, worse, compromises your safety." Four symbols appear particularly often. For instance, if the battery warning light – a small box with plus and minus signs that looks a bit like a mischievous robot face – illuminates while driving, there is an issue

with the power supply. The alternator is usually the culprit, and a professional inspection is strongly recommended. The yellow engine symbol can indicate a problem with the engine management system. If it glows steadily yellow, you should head to a workshop soon. However, if it flashes, there is a risk of damage to the catalytic converter and exhaust system; in this case, you should slow down and have the vehicle checked as soon as possible.

RED MEANS: STOP THE CAR, CONTACT A WORKSHOP

The oil can symbol with a dripping dot can convey two different messages: if it indicates an oil change is due, you still have some time. However, if the symbol points to low oil pressure—and lights up red – every minute counts. In this case, the rule is: stop immediately, turn off the engine, and call a workshop. You can find local contacts at www.vergoelst.de, for example. Tire pressure is also important: the symbol – a horseshoe shape with an exclamation mark – looks more harmless than it actually is. Incorrect pressure affects more than just fuel consumption; a slow puncture can be life-threatening at high speeds because the tire can overheat and, in the worst-case scenario, burst. If you see this light, you should check the pressure promptly at the nearest gas station and visit a workshop if the warning recurs.

Illuminated warning lights in the vehicle should never be ignored.



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A Vehicle Check prevents Breakdowns

(DJD). Suitcases are packed, the route is planned, and anticipation is building. Yet nothing ruins the start of a vacation faster or more thoroughly than a breakdown at the nearest motorway interchange. According to an ADAC study, the car remains – by a wide margin – the most popular mode of transport for vacation travel in Germany (44 percent). To ensure the road trip doesn't become a source of frustration, a thorough vehicle check at a workshop beforehand is highly recommended. After all, few things are more stressful than waiting for a tow truck in scorching heat with a fully loaded car and impatient children.

SAFETY THROUGH A PROFESSIONAL CHECK

Many auto repair shops offer special deals just in time for the vacation travel season. These usually focus on brakes, tires, and lighting – components that are crucial for driving safety. Workshop professionals also inspect the engine compartment, wiper blades, and fluid levels (oil, brake fluid, and washer fluid). A critical eye is always cast on the car battery, as ADAC statistics show it remains the number one cause of breakdowns. "You shouldn't wait to replace an old battery until it fails completely and prevents you from continuing your journey," advises Bosch expert Luisa Schmid. Deep discharge, in particular, can cause problems. A helpful tip for the road: carrying a portable charger ensures a power supply in an emergency, making it a worthwhile purchase for more than just campers. Electric cars, meanwhile, require a specialized check for their battery systems.

A PLEASANT CLIMATE FOR LONG-DISTANCE DRIVES

A functioning air conditioning system is also indispensable on hot days. It ensures not only a comfortable interior temperature but, more importantly, healthy and clean air. Checking the compressor and condenser ensures the system cools efficiently and the journey remains safe for the health of all occupants. Replacing the cabin air filter is equally essential; experts recommend a change at least once a year or after 15,000 kilometers of driving. High-performance models purify the air by removing viruses, germs, mold, fine dust, and pollen. Finally, before loading up the car, check the expiration date of the first-aid kit. Driving with incomplete or expired kits risks a fine during a traffic stop.



Photo Credit:DJD/Robert Bosch (2)

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VOLVO EX60

Volvo Cars has officially unveiled the highly anticipated Volvo EX60 in North America, launching order books for U.S. customers. Debuting in New York City, this game-changing premium electric SUV enters the market's largest EV segment with an attractive starting price of \$58,400 (MSRP). For American expats and military personnel living in Europe who keep a close eye on U.S. automotive milestones, the EX60 represents a major leap forward in electric mobility, combining Scandinavian design with long-range freedom.

REDEFINING EV RANGE AND FAST CHARGING

One of the biggest highlights of the new Volvo EX60 is its ability to eliminate range anxiety. Built on Volvo's most advanced electric platform to date (SPA3), the vehicle is engineered for both daily commutes and epic weekend getaways.

- **Impressive Range:** While the initial launch features the P6 and P10 AWD variants, the upcoming P12 AWD configuration will offer up to 400 miles of all-electric range on a single charge.
- **Ultra-Fast Charging:** Thanks to its high-tech 800V architecture, drivers can add up to 173 miles of range in just 10 minutes – about the time it takes to grab a quick cup of coffee.



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MAKES NORTH AMERICAN DEBUT: NEXT-GEN ELECTRIC SUV

- **Tesla Supercharger Access:** The EX60 is the first Volvo equipped with a native North American Charging Standard (NACS) port, granting adapter-free access to over 29,000 Tesla Superchargers across the nation.

"The Volvo EX60 addresses the biggest barriers for U.S. consumers to switch to an EV, delivering the range Americans want, at a competitive price," said Luis Rezende, President, Volvo Car Americas.

NEXT-GEN SAFETY AND AI INTEGRATION

True to Volvo's legacy of safety leadership, the EX60 introduces HuginCore, a powerful core computing system inspired by Norse mythology. This system utilizes a suite of advanced sensors to continuously monitor the car's surroundings, making it a truly software-defined vehicle capable of over-the-air updates.

Additionally, the EX60 will be the first Volvo car to launch with Gemini, Google's new AI assistant. Fully integrated and highly personalized, Gemini allows drivers to manage complex tasks through natural, multi-turn conversations. This keeps eyes on the road and hands on the wheel, drastically reducing central display distractions.

Occupants will also benefit from a boron steel reinforced safety cage and Volvo's world-first multi-adaptive safety belt, which offers tailored protection for front-row passengers.

TRIM LEVELS AND ORDERING DETAILS

U.S. consumers can now configure their vehicle online. At launch, buyers can choose between the P6 and P10 AWD powertrains across two distinct equipment levels:

- **Plus Trim (\$58,400):** Comes well-equipped with a 15-inch OLED touchscreen featuring Google Built-in, Pilot Assist, a 21-speaker Bose Premium Sound system, and the comprehensive Safe Space Technology suite.
- **Ultra Trim:** Adds premium luxuries such as ventilated Nappa leather upholstery, a 28-speaker Bowers & Wilkins Premium Sound system, a dimmable electrochromic panoramic roof, and integrated heated booster seats.

With its competitive pricing, massive range, and cutting-edge tech, the Volvo EX60 is poised to become a favorite for premium EV buyers.

Photo Credit: Volvo Car USA

(Volvo USA)

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THE 2027 GMC SIERRA 1500:

For truck enthusiasts who demand uncompromising capability and luxury, GMC has just raised the bar. The next-generation **2027 GMC Sierra 1500** has been revealed ahead of its late 2026 launch. Boasting a bold exterior, an immersive digital cabin, and groundbreaking sixth-generation Small Block V8 engines, this is the truck all others will be measured against. Whether you need a reliable powerhouse for heavy towing or a refined ride for long-distance travel, the next-gen Sierra delivers GMC's signature "Professional Grade" ethos like never before.

UNCOMPROMISING SIXTH-GEN V8 POWER

At the heart of the 2027 Sierra 1500 lineup is a pair of all-new, sixth-generation **5.7L and 6.6L Small Block V8 engines**. Engineered for peak durability, these powerplants feature advanced combustion, cooling, and fuel-injection systems that optimize power and torque across any driving scenario – from daily commutes to rugged trailering. The powertrain lineup also includes an enhanced TurboMax engine with best-in-class standard torque and a class-exclusive Duramax diesel. Every engine variant is seamlessly paired with a smooth **10-speed automatic transmission** for precision control.



REDEFINING THE PREMIUM AMERICAN TRUCK

DENALI ULTIMATE: THE PINNACLE OF FULL-SIZE LUXURY

For those who refuse to compromise on comfort, the flagship **Denali Ultimate** trim redefines premium trucking. Under the hood sits a standard 6.6L V8 – the most powerful naturally aspirated engine in its class. Inside, the cabin elevates refinement with forged wood accents, a panoramic sunroof, and an incredible **60+ inches of combined digital displays**, including:

- **A 16.3-inch infotainment screen** with class-exclusive articulation and hidden storage.
- **An 11.5-inch front passenger entertainment screen** with an articulating cover.
- **A 15-inch Head-Up Display (HUD)** and a 12.2-inch Driver Information Center.

To top it off, a 16-speaker Bose Premium Series audio system with headrest-mounted speakers delivers an immersive sound experience, while a three-year subscription to **Super Cruise** offers hands-free driving capability – even while towing.

AT4X: UNMATCHED OFF-ROAD PRECISION

If adventure calls, the **AT4X** trim offers serious off-road domination. Built to conquer demanding terrains with precision, the AT4X features a 2-inch factory suspension lift, front and rear e-locking differentials, and **Sierra-first 35-inch Goodyear Wrangler Territory MT tires**.

New **Multimatic Jounce Control Dampers** effortlessly manage high-speed impacts, while the exclusive Timber Mahogany leather interior ensures you arrive in style and comfort.

COMING TO DEALERSHIPS SOON

The full 2027 Sierra 1500 lineup – including Pro, Elevation, AT4, Denali, and the extreme AEV Edition – is expected to arrive at GMC dealerships before the end of the 2026 calendar year. Stay tuned for official technical specifications closer to the on-sale date!

(GM USA)

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COSMIC COMEBACK: RAM LAUNCHES LUNAR EDITIONS OF 2500 POWER WAGON AND REBEL



Ram is celebrating the recent total lunar eclipse with an out-of-this-world announcement: the return of the Lunar Edition packages for the 2026 Ram 2500 Power Wagon and 2500 Rebel. These heavy-duty trucks combine rugged American capability with a sleek, space-inspired design that is sure to turn heads, whether you are cruising the Autobahn or exploring the European countryside.

CELESTIAL STYLING MEETS HEAVY-DUTY GRIT

The Lunar Edition package (\$1,995) wraps the trucks in a striking Ceramic Grey Clear-Coat with a Diamond Black Crystal lower body. It features a color-matched grille, gloss black graphics, and blacked-out wheels (17-inch for the Power Wagon, 20-inch for the Rebel). Inside, the cabin offers premium Natura Plus black leather seats accented by vibrant Copper-head Orange stitching. Drivers will also find an exclusive alloy console badge and a secure, lockable Mopar console safe for their valuables.

UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE

Built on the tech-heavy Level 2 Equipment Group, these trucks boast a massive 14.5-inch touchscreen and a 17-speaker Harman Kardon sound system.

- Ram 2500 Power Wagon: Powered by a 6.4-liter HEMI® V-8 (405 hp), it features a factory lift, electronic locking differentials, and a 12,000-lb. WARN winch. Starting at \$86,385.
- Ram 2500 Rebel: Equipped with the 6.7-liter Cummins turbo diesel, it delivers a massive 1,075 lb.-ft. of torque and up to 19,890 lbs. of towing capacity. Starting at \$93,885.

Both models are backed by a 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, offering ultimate peace of mind for truck enthusiasts.

(Stelantis)

Photo Credit: FCA Group / Ram Trucks

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THE NEW 2027 BMW M2 WITH M xDRIVE:

Car enthusiasts, rejoice! BMW M GmbH is rewriting the rules for its most beloved compact powerhouse. For the first time ever, the legendary German automaker is bringing its intelligent all-wheel-drive system to the compact high-performance segment with the highly anticipated 2027 BMW M2 with M xDrive. If you love the thrilling, unadulterated driving pleasure of a classic M-car but want the confidence to tackle rain, ice, and winding European backroads, this is the machine you've been waiting for.

UNCOMPROMISING POWER MEETS MAXIMUM TRACTION

Under the hood, the new M2 retains its beating heart: a ferocious 473 hp six-cylinder in-line engine featuring BMW M TwinPower Turbo technology. However, the real magic lies in how that power hits the pavement. The M xDrive all-wheel-drive system uses an electronically controlled multi-plate clutch to seamlessly split power between the front and rear axles. Purists don't need to worry, though: the system features a heavy rear-wheel bias. In normal driving conditions, the M2 behaves like a traditional rear-wheel-drive sports car. The front wheels only step in when extra grip is absolutely necessary.

Working alongside the Active M Differential, the car offers unparalleled directional stability and agility. Whether you are navigating a wet autumn afternoon in Germany or pushing the limits on a weekend track day, the M2 delivers an incredibly sure-footed performance.

TRACK-READY PERFORMANCE STATS

Thanks to the enhanced traction of the M xDrive system, the new BMW M2 gets a significant boost in acceleration.

- 0 to 60 mph: Just 3.6 seconds (0.3 seconds faster than the rear-wheel-drive model).
- 0 to 124 mph (200 km/h): A blistering 12.8 seconds.
- Top Speed: Electronically limited to 155 mph, which can be raised to 177 mph with the optional M Driver's Package—perfect for those unrestricted stretches of the Autobahn.

Photo Credit: BMW Group United States (3)

An 8-speed M Steptronic transmission comes standard, as do staggered M alloy wheels (19-inch front, 20-inch rear) and high-performance M Compound brakes for ultimate stopping power. Want to customize your ride? The M Setup menu allows you to switch the car into a pure 2WD mode with DSC deactivated for classic, drift-friendly rear-wheel action.

EXPRESSIVE STYLE AND GLOBAL PRODUCTION

The 2027 model also gets a visual upgrade. Buyers can choose from five metallic and three solid paint variants, alongside six stunning BMW Individual finishes. Most notably, the striking BMW Individual Borusan Turkish Blue will be available on an M2 for the very first time.

Following its status as the best-selling high-performance model from BMW M GmbH in 2025, production for this new iteration will kick off in August 2026 at the BMW Group Plant San Luis Potosi in Mexico, with the official market launch slated for late summer 2026.

"The new BMW M2 with M xDrive opens the next chapter in the story of an icon," says Alexander Karajlovic, Vice President for Development at BMW M GmbH. "It is very much a driver's car, but it also elevates its high-performance abilities to a new level."

(BMW Group USA)

BAVARIA'S COMPACT ROCKET GETS

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE



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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 dedica-

tion 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.

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VOLKSFEST SEASON:

Freshly tapped festival beer, the aroma of roasted almonds, and the colorful sea of lights from Ferris wheels – Bavaria's fair season holds a special place in the hearts of millions. Whether it is a world-famous mega-event or a cherished regional tradition with deep historical roots, Bavaria's festgrounds offer a unique blend of thrills, Bavarian conviviality, and living heritage. To help you keep track of everything while planning, we have gathered the most important and delightful fairs in southern Germany and researched the dates for 2026.

A regional overview of traditional highlights

WEIDEN VOLKSFEST (FALL FAIR)

- **2026 Dates:** September 17 – September 21, 2026
- **Character:** A wonderfully cozy and authentic festival in the Upper Palatinate that makes the hearts of local fest enthusiasts beat faster.
- **Highlight:** The traditional opening parade and the spectacular Friday fireworks display that lights up the night sky over Conrad-Röntgen-Straße.

AMBERG MICHAELI-DULT

- **2026 Dates:** September 25 – October 4, 2026
- **History:** Believe it or not, the Amberg fests are older than the Munich Oktoberfest! Elector Rupert granted the city of Amberg the right to hold these fests as early as 1364. The festivals originated from large trade markets, as Amberg was a strategic trading hub between Nuremberg and Prague. Today, celebrations take place twice a year at the festgrounds.
- **Character:** Amberg knows exactly how to thrill the crowds. The Dult fests at the exhibition grounds offer a perfect blend of modern fairground fun and traditional beer-tent hospitality.
- **Culinary cult status:** Amberg bratwurst specialties paired with a freshly tapped "Dult beer" from one of Amberg's historic breweries, such as the Bruckmüller brewery.

- **The highlight:** Spectacular fireworks that traditionally light up the night sky, as well as Sunday shopping during the fall edition.

REGENSBURG FALL DULT

- **2026 Dates:** August 28 – September 13, 2026
- **History:** For two centuries, the people of Regensburg have flocked to the Dultplatz, the festgrounds, at Oberer Wöhrd, right on the banks of the Danube. The fair reflects the city's UNESCO World Heritage atmosphere and is strictly (yet charmingly) divided into two areas: the dazzling amusement fair and the nostalgic market fair, where traveling merchants offer genuine handicrafts, spices, and household goods.
- **Culinary cult status:** Grilled Regensburg Knacker sausages, traditionally served in a bread roll with sweet mustard, horseradish, and a pickle (the famous "Knackersemmel mit allem" or "Knacker roll with the works"). It pairs perfectly with Dult beer enjoyed in the Hahn tent or the historic Glöckl tent.
- **Character:** Situated right by the Danube, this traditional Upper Palatinate festival is split into two wonderful worlds: the "amusement fair" featuring thrilling rides and the cozy "market fair," which invites visitors to stroll and browse at a leisurely pace.
- **The highlight:** The traditional opening procession and keg tapping in the Glöckl tent, as well as the lively "Ladies' Nights" featuring discounted ride prices.

GILLAMOOS ABENSBERG

- **2026 Dates:** September 3 – September 7, 2026
- **Character:** One of Lower Bavaria's oldest and most emotionally significant festivals. Gillamoos is far more than just a fair—it is a cult classic, a pilgrimage site, and a legendary meeting place.
- **History:** Gillamoos is no ordinary folk festival; it is a Lower Bavarian institution and one of the world's oldest fairs, with roots documented as far back as 1313. Originally established as a pilgrimage to a chapel dedicated to Saint Giles (St. Gilg am Moos), Gillamoos continues to blend deep faith, serious commerce (at the livestock market), and an unbri-dled party atmosphere.

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO BAVARIAN FALL

From Munich's massive "Wiesn" to the cozy charm of the Upper Palatinate: All the dates, highlights, and iconic elements for the perfect festival-tent fall in 2026.

- **Culinary Cult Classic:** Steckerlfisch (fish on a stick) grilled fresh over charcoal, traditionally enjoyed in the outdoor seating area.
- **The Highlight:** "Political Gillamoos" on the festival Monday. Top politicians from all parties take turns appearing in the various beer tents, engaging in spirited, traditional oratorical duels.

MICHAELISKIRCHWEIH FÜRTH

- **2026 Dates:** October 3 – October 14, 2026
- **Character:** The undisputed "Queen of Franconian Church Festivals" and recognized Intangible cultural heritage. What makes it special: It is a purely street-based festival that

winds directly through Fürth's beautiful city center, rather than taking place on a cordoned-off festground.

- **Culinary Cult Classics:** Franconian Kühle (specifically "Knieküchle"—fried pastries), freshly baked carp, and the essential Franconian bratwurst.
- **The Highlight:** The magnificent Harvest Festival parade on the second Sunday, which draws tens of thousands of enthusiastic spectators to the streets. As a running gag, get yourself the legendary "Brunzkärtla" – the charming Fürth restroom season pass for the fair days.

Continued on page 32



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THE GIANTS OF FESTIVAL TENT CULTURE

If you're looking for something on a grander scale, there is no getting around these absolute crowd-pullers. These four festivals break attendance records year after year and offer a fair atmosphere on a truly unique scale.

MAJOR FOLK FESTIVALS IN BAVARIA & BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

GÄUBODENVOLKSFEST STRAUBING

- **2026 Dates:** August 7 – August 17, 2026
- **History:** Founded in 1812 by King Maximilian I Joseph as an agricultural association festival, it has grown into Bavaria's second-largest folk festival. Locals in Straubing affectionately call it their "slice of paradise." What makes it special is the blend of revelry in seven huge, uniquely designed festival tents and the adjacent "Ostbayernschau" – a consumer trade fair featuring over 700 exhibitors.
- **Culinary Cult Status:** The "Straubing feeling" tastes like a massive, freshly prepared *Kaiserschmarrn* (shredded pancake) served in a cast-iron pan or a hearty portion of roast ox.
- **Insider Tip for 2026:** The monumental opening parade on Friday (August 7) sees over 3,500 participants – featuring historical costumes, marching bands, and magnificent horse-drawn carriages – making their way through the city. A spectacular display of color!

OKTOBERFEST MUNICH (THE "WIESN")

- **2026 Dates:** September 19 – October 4, 2026
- **History:** The world's largest and most famous folk festival celebrates its 191st edition in 2026. Originating in 1810 to mark the wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese (hence the name "Theresienwiese" for the festgrounds), this mega-event now attracts around six million visitors from all over the globe each year. For those seeking a sense of historic conviviality, the "Oidn Wiesn" (Old Wiesn) in the southern section offers the charm of bygone decades, featuring vintage fairground rides and traditional brass band music.
- **Culinary highlights:** The classic Wiesn-Hendl (half a roast chicken), the legendary Ochsenbraterei (roast ox tent), and the world-famous, extra-strong Munich Oktoberfest beer brewed by the city's six traditional breweries.
- **Insider tip for 2026:** If you miss the ceremonial tapping of the first keg on September 19 in the Schottenhamel tent, try visiting the festival tents on a weekday around lunchtime. Between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., you can experience the authentic, relaxed conviviality typical of Munich locals before the international party atmosphere kicks in for the evening.

CANNSTATTER VOLKSFEST (STUTTGART WASEN)

- **2026 Dates:** September 25 – October 11, 2026
- **History:** Founded in 1818 by King Wilhelm I of Württemberg and his wife Katharina as a harvest festival following severe famines, the "Wasen" is now the world's second-largest folk festival and the proud Swabian counterpart to Munich's Oktoberfest. The unmissable landmark at the heart of the Neckarpark is the 26-meter-tall, elaborately decorated wooden "Fruit Column" (Fruchtsäule).
- **Culinary highlights:** Swabian cuisine reigns supreme here! Crispy Göckele (roast chicken) meets Maultaschen (filled Swabian pasta) with butter sauce, Kässpätzle (cheese noodles), and oven-fresh Dönnerte (Swabian-style pizza).



- **Insider tip for 2026:** The Landwirtschaftliches Hauptfest (LWH) – a major agricultural fair – takes place concurrently with the folk festival on a three-year cycle (from September 27 to October 4, 2026). A fascinating behind-the-scenes look at modern agriculture – perfect for a family outing.

NUREMBERG FALL FEST (NÜRNBERGER HERBSTVOLKSFEST)

- **2026 Dates:** August 28 – September 13, 2026
- **History:** The Nuremberg fest, held by the idyllic Dutzendteich lake, boasts a rich tradition dating back to 1826 (originally a tribute to King Ludwig I). Today, the festgrounds are considered among the most modern, clean, and safe in all of Europe. Nuremberg's showmen set the standard for accessibility, sustainability, and the use of state-of-the-art, energy-efficient LED technology in their high-tech rides.
- **Culinary Icon:** Authentic Nuremberg roasted Bratwurst sausages—traditionally grilled over a beechwood fire and served in a Weggla (bread roll) or with sauerkraut inside the festival tent.
- **Insider Tip for 2026:** Take advantage of the various theme days! From "Ladies' Night" with great discounts and the atmospheric "Nachtkind-Markt" (Night Child Market) to spectacular Asian-themed evenings, Nuremberg offers an incredibly diverse program of events at the festgrounds.

TIP: If you want to experience major festivals like Oktoberfest or the Gäubodenvolksfest without the stress, visit during weekday lunch hours. Away from the evening party bustle, you can truly savor the cozy atmosphere inside the tents – and you can usually find a seat without a reservation.

CONCLUSION: READY FOR THE PERFECT FALL FAIR SEASON?

Whether you're seeking an adrenaline rush on state-of-the-art rides, want to experience the political spectacle of the Gillamoos fest up close, or prefer the cozy atmosphere of the fall fest in Weiden, the festival landscape of Bavaria and southern Germany offers the perfect highlight for every taste. The exact dates have been set – now it is up to you to make the table reservations, lay out the traditional attire, and experience the incomparable zest for life of Bavarian culture firsthand!



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THE HERBSTDULT FEST INVITES
YOU TO REGENSBURG FROM
AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 13

GREAT ATTRACTIONS AT THE LARGEST FOLK FESTIVAL IN UPPER PALATINATE

Three festival tents, two fish tents, a beer village and around 100 other attractions – these are the two Regensburg Dult fests in May and in the fall. From August 28 to September 13, the city of Regensburg hosts and invites you to the largest folk festival in the Upper Palatinate. All program and site information can be found on the Internet at www.r-dult.com.

For a total of 17 days, the Dultplatz on the Protzenweiher between the Danube and the canal presents itself to visitors in a very colorful way. On the one hand, there is the amusement dult with its tents, rides, amusement booths such as throwing, shooting and spicker booths as well as numerous candy traders, and on the other hand, the goods dult, which invites visitors from all generations to stroll and shop. From socks to pans, traditional clothes to shaving brushes, everything that makes everyday life easier is concentrated in one place.

And with this ease, you can then immerse yourself in the colorful hustle and bustle of the shopping streets. In addition to the wide range of attractions, there are special days during the Dult for senior citizens (always on Mondays), for families and children (always on Wednesdays) and - very popular - the "Girls' Night," on which ladies of all ages can try out the rides at a reduced price and are treated to other discounted offers throughout the Dultplatz. Girls' Night is always on the second Thursday of the Dult. There is good news to report about the variety of beers. Festival beers and beer specialties from Regensburg's three foundation breweries are offered. As far as the food is concerned, everyone can choose according to taste and budget. Apart from the classics such as chicken, knuckle of pork, pretzels and bratwurst, there are also vegetarian dishes, burgers and salads - not to mention the fish on offer, which is a special feature among Bavarian folk festivals.

Visually, the Regensburger Dult is characterized by the Ferris wheel and the two large festival tents - Hahn and Glöckl - which can be seen from afar. There will be two special highlights on Friday, August 28, and Friday, September 11, at 10 p.m.: with the certified and themed high-altitude fireworks displays, the organizers not only captivate the people on the fest grounds, but also the city and the surrounding area. With special program items such as Dult church services, several charity events and a backstage tour behind the scenes of the fairground companies, the Dult can easily inspire three generations to visit the Dult together.



www.r-dult.com

REGENSBURG AUTUMN DULT. AUG 28 — SEP 13



Let's go for
Family Fun!



Fireworks

FRI, Aug 28, 2026

FRI, Sep 11, 2026

starting at 10 p.m.



Senior Citizens Day

MON, Aug 31, 2026

in the Glöckl fest tent

MON, Sep 07, 2026

in the Hahn fest tent

starting at 1 p.m.



Kids & Family Day

WED, Sep 02, 2026

WED, Sep 09, 2026

Special fares twice all rides

all day long



Ladies' Night

THUR, Sep 10, 2026

Special offers for every lady regardless of age

starting at 6 p.m.



Table reservations www.gloeckl.net

Phone: 0941 - 200 756 77

(fest tent office starting at 1 p.m.
only during the fest)

Phone: 0941 - 8979 5626

dult@hahnzelt.de

www.hahnzelt.de

WHAT IS A KIRWA?

KIRWA-DATES

A Kirwa, also called a Kirchweih, is a traditional festival that is celebrated in many places in the Upper Palatinate. Its origins lie in the Middle Ages and go back to the consecration of a church. The Kirwa is characterized by fest tents, music, dancing and culinary delights. It is a meeting place for the whole community and offers the opportunity to celebrate together. Many places have their own customs and traditions that are associated with the Kirwa. These often include parades or the setting up of a Kirwa tree (= a decorated tree).

The Kirwa is an expression of a sense of community and connection to one's own homeland. It is an integral part of the regional culture and is passed on from generation to generation. The exact processes and names of the Kirwa can vary depending on the region. In Franconia, for example, it is called "Kerwa," in Upper Bavaria it is called "Kirta" and in other regions there are other names.

| by Editor

KIRWA 2026		LOCATION
07/31 – 08/03/2026	Betzenberger Kirwa	Ortsmitte / Festplatz, Betzenberg, 92263 Birgland
08/01 – 08/03/2026	Lengenfelder Stodlkirwa	Kirwastodl Lengenfeld, 92245 Kümmersbruck
08/01 – 08/03/2026	Ursulapoppenrichter Kirwa	Dorfplatz Ursulapoppenricht, 92256 Hahnbach
08/07 – 08/10/2026	Traßlberger Kirwa	Festplatz Traßlberg, 92284 Poppenricht
08/08 – 08/10/2026	Engenthaler Stodlkirwa	Kirwastodl Engenthal, 91235 Hartenstein
08/08 – 08/10/2026	Riedener Kirwa	Marktplatz / Festbereich, 92286 Rieden
08/13 – 08/17/2026	Hirschbacher Kirwa	Dorfplatz / Festzelt, 92275 Hirschbach
08/14 – 08/15/2026	Mooser Kirwa	Dorfplatz Moos, 92245 Kümmersbruck
08/14 – 08/16/2026	Kümmreuther Kirwa	Festplatz Kümmreuth, 92281 Königstein
08/14 – 08/17/2026	Hohenkemnather Kirwa	Dorfplatz Hohenkemnath, 92289 Ursensollen
08/15 – 08/17/2026	Mendorferbucher Kirwa	Dorfstadt Mendorferbuch, 92277 Hohenburg
08/15 – 08/17/2026	Unterammerthaler Wiesenkirwa	Festwiese Unterammerthal, 92260 Ammerthal
08/21 – 08/24/2026	Sulzkirchener Kirwa	Dorfplatz Sulzkirchen, 92342 Freystadt
08/22 – 08/24/2026	Schlichter Kirwa	Marktplatz Schlicht, 92249 Vilseck
08/22 – 08/24/2026	Thanheimer Kirwa	Dorfplatz Thanheim, 92276 Ens Dorf
08/22 – 08/24/2026	Theuerner Kirwa	Dorfplatz/Portnerstraße, 92245 Kümmersbruck
08/28 – 08/30/2026	Ettmannsdorfer Kirwa	Festplatz Ettmannsdorf, 92421 Schwandorf
08/28 – 08/31/2026	Deckersberger Kirwa	Dorfplatz Deckersberg, 91230 Happurg
08/28 – 08/31/2026	Köferinger Kirwa	Dorfplatz/Gemeindehaus Köfering, 92245 Kümmersbruck
08/28 – 08/31/2026	Sinnleithener Kirwa	Festzelt Sinnleithen, 92265 Edelsfeld
08/29 – 08/31/2026	Aschacher Kirwa	Dorfplatz Aschach, 92272 Freudenberg
08/29 – 08/31/2026	Breitenbrunner Kirwa	Dorfplatz Breitenbrunn, 92237 Sulzbach-Rosenberg
08/29 – 08/31/2026	Kirwa St. Michael Amberg	Robert-Koch-Straße 62, 92224 Amberg
08/29 – 08/31/2026	Süßer Stodlkirwa	Kirwastodl Süß, 92256 Hahnbach
09/04 – 09/07/2026	Schwendner Kirwa	Dorfplatz Schwend, 92263 Birgland
09/05 – 09/06/2026	Hirschauer Kirwa	Marktplatz, 92242 Hirschau
09/05 – 09/07/2026	Ebersbacher Stodlkirwa	Kirwastodl Ebersbach, 92249 Vilseck
09/05 – 09/07/2026	Schmidmühlner Kirwa	Marktplatz / Ortsmitte, 92287 Schmidmühlen
09/05 – 09/07/2026	Wellucker Gmoi Kirwa	Festplatz Welluck, 91275 Auerbach in der Oberpfalz
09/12 – 09/14/2026	Freudenberger Kirwa	Dorfplatz / Hauptstraße, 92272 Freudenberg

A Dreamlike Summer Evening:

"WEIDEN DREAMS" INVITES YOU

WEIDEN, Germany — On July 24, 2026, it's time once again for "Weiden Dreams" (*Weiden träumt*)! From 7:00 p.m. to midnight, musicians and artists will showcase their versatility, transforming the city center into a dreamlike landscape with a wide array of performances. Various bands and artists will provide entertainment throughout downtown. Whether instrumental or vocal, the musical spectrum is broad, featuring a repertoire that ranges from oldies and jazz to upbeat *Schlager* hits, rock, and pop. As an added highlight—and with the kind support of Weiden City Works—the musical acts will be illuminated by colorful light sculptures towering into the sky, making the performance locations visible from afar. The Old Town Hall will also be bathed in special lighting; E5-Events will make the building in the heart of the historic district glow with vibrant color. The arts and crafts market at the *Unterer Markt* will also shine in brilliant colors. There, artisans will present a wide variety of handcrafted treasures and offer selected pieces for sale. Store opening hours will be extended specifically for this event. Shops downtown will offer special attractions, and a wide range of dining options ensures that every culinary wish is fulfilled. Of course, this is just a brief glimpse into the extensive evening program of the "Weiden Dreams" cultural and shopping night. Come and enjoy the music and artistic performances! City Marketing Weiden wishes you a wonderful summer evening!

| by **Stadtmarketing Weiden**

SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE SCHÖNBERG NATURAL STAGE:

experience funk, soul and rock 'n' roll live

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Two summer concerts invite you to enjoy great music and dance on Grafenwoehr's beautiful Schoenberg Nature Stage this July and August. First up is Soul Station No. 10 on Friday, July 24, at 8 p.m. Ten musicians from the region will light up the stage with a firework of the greatest funk, soul and rock 'n' roll hits. Songs like "I Feel Good," "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" and "Soul Man" will keep you dancing and grooving all night long. Then, on Friday, August 28, at 8 p.m., the self-proclaimed Orange Soul sensation "Tanquoray" will bring even more summer vibes with an unforgettable mix of original songs and classics, ranging from '80s funk and authentic blues to pop and country. "Where the sound of soul meets American roots" is the band's motto. Tickets for both concerts are available at the box office or in advance at reduced prices via www.okticket.de.

| by **Pirmin Balk**

FROM "COUNTRY ROADS" TO BRASS:



DUTCH AIR FORCE CHOIR HITS GRAFENWOEHR

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A special musical evening awaits visitors at Grafenwoehr city auditorium on Saturday, September 19, at 7 p.m. The Men's Choir of the Royal Netherlands Air Force will join the Grafenwoehr Town Band for a memorable charity concert in support of a good cause. Admission is free, but guests are kindly invited to make a donation benefiting children with cancer through the local childhood cancer charity. The choir consists of veterans of the Royal Netherlands Air Force and selected Grafenwoehr for this unique performance because of the close connection between the town and the NATO training area. Audiences can look forward to a selection of beloved classics, including What a Wonderful World, Take Me Home, Country Roads and You'll Never Walk Alone, performed a cappella by the choir. The evening will also feature traditional brass music by the Grafenwoehr Town Band, as well as several pieces performed together by both ensembles, promising a varied and inspiring concert experience for all generations.

| by **Pirmin Balk**

Photo Credit: Jan van Aelst



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JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

BUCKET LIST

FOR THE ALPS AND THE BAVARIAN FOREST

LIVING IN EUROPE PROVIDES AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BEST VACATIONS. FIGURING OUT WHERE TO GO OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON CAN BE OVERWHELMING WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO. IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET AWAY, STAY IN AN IGLOO. FOLLOWING ARE SOME BUCKET-LIST WORTHY ITEMS TO CONSIDER:

1) EIBSEE NEAR GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN



Stand-up paddling or a rowboat ride on the emerald-green Eibsee, situated right beneath the Zugspitze. It is the quintessential postcard scene!

2) PARTNACH GORGE NEAR GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN



A visit to the Partnach Gorge in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The roaring waters within the narrow gorge offer a spectacular natural display. Afterward, head up to the Nebelhorn – bathed in fall hues – for a panoramic view.

3) OVERNIGHT STAY IN AN ALPINE HUT



Spend the night in an authentic alpine hut (e.g., in the Chiemgau region), complete with a traditional hearty snack platter. Waking up to the sound of cowbells and watching the sunrise over the peaks is an unforgettable experience.

4) GROSSER ARBER MOUNTAIN



A hike up the Großer Arber, the "King of the Bavarian Forest." In September, the air often holds a touch of fall magic. Enjoy the view looking down at the Großer Arbersee lake, framed by forests that are slowly changing color.

5) GLASSBLOWING ARTISTRY IN THE BAVARIAN FOREST



The Bavarian Forest is world-renowned for its centuries-old tradition of glassblowing. Along the "Glass Route" (e.g., in Bodenmais or Zwiesel), travelers can watch master craftsmen at work and even blow their own glass souvenir.

6) BAVARIAN FOREST NATIONAL PARK



Late summer marks the most magical time of year for the Bavarian Forest National Park. A true bucket-list experience is the tree-top walk in Neuschönau; here, visitors stroll at the level of the treetops and enjoy views across an endless sea of forest.

AMERICAN IN **BAVARIA** DICTIONARY

Here is your "**American in Bavaria Dictionary**" – organized for everyday use, ranging from medical care to social interactions.

In Bavaria – especially around the garrisons in Grafenwöhr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels – language is much more than just grammar. It's a door opener. While in northern Germany you say "Moin," you can get by with standard German in Bavaria, but a few words of dialect will win you the hearts of the locals (and maybe even a free beer).

1. HEALTHCARE & PHARMACY (OFF-POST MEDICAL CARE)

What to do when the on-post clinic is closed or you need help quickly.



Term	Pronunciation (US-Phonetic)	Meaning/ Context	Insider-Tip
Notaufnahme	Note-owf-nah-meh	Emergency Room (ER)	For genuine, life-threatening emergencies. For minor ailments, go to a general practitioner (Hausarzt) or use the after-hours medical service.
Apotheken-Notdienst	Ah-po-tay-ken Note-deentst	Pharmacy emergency service	German pharmacies are closed at night and on Sundays. However, there is always a designated pharmacy in the area open for emergencies on a rotating basis.
Rezeptpflichtig	Re-tsept-pflight-ikh	Prescription-only medication	Prescription-only medication. Many medications available off-the-shelf in US supermarkets (e.g., stronger painkillers or allergy medication) require a prescription in Germany.

FACTS: RULES OF CONDUCT (OFF-POST)

1. THE PAPER TRAIL:

Never throw away official German mail, even if you cannot read it. Deadlines for contract cancellations or legal responses become legally binding the moment the letter arrives in your mailbox.

2. SUNDAY IS SACRED:

Laws regarding Sunday quiet hours mandate that absolutely no noise be made on Sundays. No lawn mowing, no drilling holes in walls, and no loud outdoor parties.

2. ROAD RULES & MOBILITY (ON THE ROAD IN THE OBERPFALZ)

Navigating Bavarian traffic safely – off the autobahns.

Term	Pronunciation (US-Phonetic)	Meaning/ Context	Insider-Tip
Rechts vor Links	Rekhts for Links	Right-before-left right of way	Right-of-way rule where the vehicle approaching from the right has priority. The most dangerous traffic rule for US drivers: At intersections without signs, the vehicle coming from the right ALWAYS has the right of way.
Blitzer	Blit-ser	Pharmacy emergency service	German speeding tickets—costing hundreds of euros—arrive by mail. There is no "tolerated" 5 mph margin above the limit as there is in the US.
Rettungsgasse	Ret-toongs-gusse	Prescription-only medication	Emergency corridor created during traffic jams. As soon as traffic on the autobahn slows to a crawl, this corridor MUST be formed (between the left lane and the adjacent lanes). Heavy fines apply!
Promillegrenze	Pro-mill-eh-gren-seh	Blood alcohol limit (0.05%)	In Bavaria, the rule is: If you drink, don't drive. You lose your license at 0.05% BAC; even lower levels can lead to license loss in the event of an accident.



TWO WORLDS, ONE CALENDAR:

HOW HOLIDAYS SHAPE LIFE AROUND U.S. GARRISONS IN THE FALL

The comprehensive holiday guide for the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck region from August to November—an overview of days off for both US forces and the Bavarian population.

As the leaves turn colorful in late summer and fall, the Upper Palatinate (Oberpfalz) presents a fascinating phenomenon: the coexistence of Bavarian tradition and the American way of life surrounding Grafenwoehr Training Area. Who works when? Why are some shops closed while the U.S. base is bustling with activity – or vice versa? A look at the calendar reveals that the coming months hold a logistical and cultural puzzle that is significant for both German employees and their American neighbors ("Soldiers and Civilians").

✓ FOCUS ON BAVARIAN AND ✓ GERMAN HOLIDAYS



AUG. / OCT. / NOV.

The fall season kicks off with a regional peculiarity that directly affects the communities surrounding the military training areas:

ASSUMPTION DAY (Saturday, August 15, 2026):

This is a statutory public holiday in Bavaria – though only in municipalities with a predominantly Catholic population. Since Grafenwoehr and Vilseck fall into this category, local German shops and government offices remain closed on Saturday. For U.S. offices on post, however, it is a regular workday.

DAY OF GERMAN UNITY (Saturday, October 3, 2026):

The only nationwide statutory holiday during this period unfortunately falls on a Saturday. Nevertheless, local supermarkets outside the military installations remain closed.

REFORMATION DAY (Saturday, October 31, 2026):

Not a statutory holiday in Bavaria, though it is in Northern and Eastern Germany. Why does this matter to us? Freight forwarders and commuters should anticipate disruptions to logistics routes, particularly when goods are delivered via Northern German ports such as Bremerhaven.

ALL SAINTS' DAY (Sunday, November 1, 2026):

A "quiet" yet statutory public holiday throughout Bavaria (as well as in North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, and Baden-Württemberg). The following Monday is a regular workday.

✓ THE US CALENDAR: LONG WEEK- ✓ ENDS AND "HOLIDAY HOURS"



SEP. / OCT. / NOV.

For American soldiers, civilian employees, and their families, fall brings some important dates that often result in extended weekends known as "training holidays."

LABOR DAY (Monday, September 7, 2026):

This American holiday grants U.S. civilians and soldiers **a well-deserved long weekend.** Regular duty operations are suspended on post.

COLUMBUS DAY (Monday, October 12, 2026):

Another U.S. federal holiday. U.S. civilians and soldiers **a well-deserved long weekend.** Regular duty operations are suspended on post.

VETERANS DAY (Wednesday, November 11, 2026):

One of the **most important U.S. holidays honoring veterans.** Offices on post are closed on this Wednesday. Important for shoppers: On-post facilities such as the PXs, commissaries, and post offices may close earlier than usual.

✓ SUMMARY ✓ FOR THE REGION

The coexistence of these holidays requires some planning but also offers a perfect opportunity for intercultural interaction. When Americans celebrate Labor Day in September, many families head out to enjoy the Bavarian countryside or visit local restaurants. Conversely, members of the U.S. community often take advantage of German weekly markets when their own facilities close early on U.S. holidays. Anyone who keeps an eye on their schedule navigates a busy fall with ease.

| by Editor

SIGNAL STRENGTH & HIGH-SPEED DATA:



THE BEST NETWORK AROUND YOUR GARRISON

DON'T GET STRANDED IN A DEAD ZONE — HERE'S HOW GERMANY'S TOP PROVIDERS STACK UP AT MILITARY TRAINING AREAS AND IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

A stable internet connection is a true lifeline these days – whether for video calls with family, UHD streaming, or lag-free on-line gaming. Germany's digital infrastructure often holds surprises: fiber-optic connections are far from universal, and thick concrete walls can act like a Faraday cage, blocking mobile signals.

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM – THE INFRASTRUCTURE MARKET LEADER

If you're looking for reliability and maximum coverage, Telekom is hard to beat. Its 5G/LTE network offers the best signal penetration on military installations and across the vast terrain of the Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels Training Areas. At home, their VDSL lines impress with stability; even though speeds in rural areas are often capped at 100–250 Mbit/s, the connection is dedicated – meaning speeds don't drop in the evening, even when the whole neighborhood is streaming.

TKS – THE TAILORED ON-POST SOLUTION

TKS (a Vodafone company) is located right in the Exchange building and is designed specifically for the OCONUS community: English-language support, seamless setup, and even American TV. Since TKS relies on Vodafone's infrastructure, coverage is excellent – though it comes at a higher price per megabit compared to a direct contract.

easyMobile 5G rounds out the lineup as a VAT-free, contract-free 5G plan for ID card holders: unlimited calls/texts, speeds up to 1 Gbit/s, EU roaming, and English-language service.

VODAFONE – THE HIGH-SPEED CABLE CHAMPION

Vodafone operates Germany's largest coaxial cable network and is often the fastest choice for off-post housing in cities or modern apartment complexes. Where available, cable internet delivers peak speeds of up to 1,000 Mbit/s – unbeatable for

THE 6-STEP CHECKLIST

1. **Check availability** online before looking for an apartment.
2. **Test indoor reception** in the barracks beforehand.
3. **Obtain a VAT form** from the Tax Relief Office.
4. **Invest in a high-performance router** (e.g., Fritz!Box).
5. **Subscribe to an independent VPN service** separately and set it up on your own router behind the modem—this ensures all devices automatically register a US location.

gaming and multi-device households. The catch: as a "shared medium," speeds can drop during peak times. Additionally, the mobile network shows noticeable gaps in the forests of the Upper Palatinate or the Eifel – precisely in regions of military significance.

O2 (TELEFÓNICA) – THE BUDGET-FRIENDLY DATA POWERHOUSE

O2 is an attractive option for families with high mobile data needs, thanks to affordable, truly unlimited plans. The network is fast and modern in cities like Stuttgart or Wiesbaden. However, signal strength often drops in rural garrison communities because O2 historically held fewer low-frequency bands (700/800 MHz) – frequencies that penetrate walls much better than high-band 5G signals. It is worth testing the connection before signing a contract.

| by **Editor**

MASTER THE GERMAN RAIL NETWORK: HOW TO TRAVEL LIKE A PRO AND AVOID HEFTY FINES

FROM THE *DEUTSCHLANDTICKET*
TO THE *BAYERN-TICKET* —
YOUR GUIDE TO
STRESS-FREE WEEKEND
GETAWAYS AWAY FROM POST.



Whether you've just completed your PCS move to Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, or Hohenfels, or are a seasoned OCONUS veteran counting down the days to your DEROS, Deutsche Bahn (DB)—Germany's rail network — is your best ticket to exploring Europe, escaping Autobahn traffic jams, and getting around like a local.

However, switching from U.S. highways to German rails comes with a steep learning curve. Between strict cancellation deadlines, clear distinctions between local and long-distance services, and digital payment hurdles, a long-awaited weekend trip can quickly turn into a costly encounter with a German train conductor. Here is everything you need to know to master the rails like a pro.

LOCAL VS. LONG-DISTANCE: THE TWO WORLDS OF THE GERMAN RAIL NETWORK

The most common mistake U.S. military personnel make is boarding the wrong train. The German rail system is strictly divided into two categories — and your ticket rarely covers both.

The "White Fleet" (Long-Distance): These are the fast, aerodynamic high-speed trains. ICE (Intercity Express), IC (Intercity), and EC (EuroCity) connect major hubs like Nuremberg, Munich, and Frankfurt at speeds of up to 300 km/h. For these, you need a route-specific ticket from Point A to Point B.

The "Red Fleet" (Local/Regional): Regional and commuter trains, identifiable by designations such as RE (Regional-Express), RB (Regionalbahn), and S-Bahn. They make more frequent stops and form the backbone of regional travel.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Regional tickets—including the Deutschlandticket and the Bayern-Ticket — are strictly prohibited on ICE, IC, and EC trains. Boarding a long-distance train with a regional

ticket constitutes fare evasion. The penalty: a minimum of €60 due immediately, plus the regular long-distance fare — with no room for negotiation.

THE €63 COMMUTER TICKET: THE DEUTSCHLANDTICKET

For daily commuters and occasional travelers, the Deutschlandticket (D-Ticket) is arguably the most attractive deal in Europe. For a monthly flat rate of €63.00 (as of 2026), you get unlimited travel on all regional trains (RE, RB, S-Bahn), subways, trams, and buses throughout the country.

EXPERT TIP:

TRAIN-SPECIFIC BOOKING — AND WHAT APPLIES IN THE EVENT OF DELAYS

If you book a long-distance ticket at a "Sparpreis" (saver fare), you are legally bound to the specific train number and departure time printed on the ticket — a requirement known as *Zugbindung* (train-specific booking). If you miss that train—perhaps because your car wouldn't start or there was a long traffic jam at the barracks gate — you are left with a worthless ticket.

However, this rule changes if Deutsche Bahn itself is the cause of the delay: if the app indicates that you will reach your final destination with **a delay of 20 minutes or more**, the train-specific booking requirement is automatically lifted. From that moment on, you may take the next suitable train heading toward your destination — even a higher-category ICE train — at no extra cost. **Recommendation:** Take a screenshot of the delay notification in the app immediately, just in case the conductor asks for proof.

THE 5-STEP CHECKLIST

YOUR ACTION PLAN FOR A SMOOTH TRAIN JOURNEY

- 1. Download and set up:** Install the DB Navigator app, create an account, add your credit card, and activate your bank's 3D Secure procedure.
- 2. Choose the right strategy:** Frequent local/regional travel over a month > *Deutschlandticket* (€63). Group day trip within Bavaria > *Bayern-Ticket*.
- 3. Filter your route:** Enter your destination in the app and, under "Options" > "Means of transport," deselect ICE/IC/EC. This ensures the app displays only connections valid for your regional ticket.
- 4. Check platform and seat:** Check platform details and delays in the app before departure. For ICE trips, a seat reservation (€5.50 in 2nd class) is worth it so the group can sit together.
- 5. Manage subscription:** If you only plan to use the *Deutschlandticket* for a limited time, submit a cancellation under "My Subscriptions" immediately after purchase—before the deadline on the 10th of the month passes.

However, the D-Ticket is not a standard tourist ticket; it is an ongoing digital subscription. This is precisely where many military personnel fall into a financial trap: the subscription renews automatically. If you wish to use it for only a single month – for instance, when family is visiting – you must cancel it no later than the 10th of the current month. Missing this deadline by even a single day results in an automatic charge for the following month.

FOR WEEKEND TRIPS: THE BAYERN-TICKET

If you are planning a one-day group excursion within Bavaria – such as a brewery tour in Bamberg or a visit to Neuschwanstein Castle – the Bayern-Ticket is your best choice. The pricing structure significantly rewards groups:

COST PER PERSON:

1 > €34 > €34.00	4 > €64 > €16.00
2 > €44 > €22.00	5 > €74 > €14.80
3 > €54 > €18.00	

Note the time restrictions: On weekdays (Monday through Friday), the Bayern-Ticket is valid only from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 a.m. the following day. This rule is intended to prevent tourists from overcrowding early commuter trains. This restriction does not apply on weekends and public holidays; on those days, the ticket is valid starting at midnight.

IMPORTANT: All travelers must have their names entered on the ticket before the journey begins. Train conductors verify the names against identification documents.

THE DIGITAL COMMAND CENTER: THE DB NAVIGATOR APP

The DB Navigator app is the essential tool for train travel in Germany. It allows you to plan routes, track delays in real time, view platform changes, and store your digital tickets.

U.S. personnel often face a technical hurdle here: while the app accepts standard U.S. credit cards, the German payment system requires the 3D Secure protocol (identity verification via Visa or Mastercard). Ensure this feature is enabled in your banking app – ideally before you find yourself needing to buy a ticket on the platform under time pressure.

FAST FACT:

THE 10-DAY RULE: THE *DEUTSCHLANDTICKET* IS A ROLLING MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION. CANCEL BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH—OTHERWISE, THE FOLLOWING MONTH WILL BE BILLED AUTOMATICALLY.

THE VAT FORM DILEMMA

A common question: Can military personnel use VAT forms to save the 7% VAT charged on train tickets? The honest answer is no – at least not in practice.

Deutsche Bahn's ticket machines and digital apps are not technically designed to process VAT forms. Theoretically, they can be presented at a DB Travel Center at major train stations, but for digital subscriptions like the Deutschlandticket, this is not possible there either. Since the tax rate for local public transport is already reduced to 7%, the bureaucratic effort usually outweighs the actual savings. Recommendation: Use your VAT forms for larger expenses – such as car repairs or purchases made off-post.

| by Editor

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- September, 2026
- November, 2026



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EXPERIENCE THE OLDEST UNIVERSITY IN COIMBRA, PORTO'S FAMOUS TILES, AND THE SPLENDOR OF BRAGA.

While many vacationers prefer the Algarve in the south of Portugal for relaxation, the country's spiritual side can be discovered in the north and northwest.

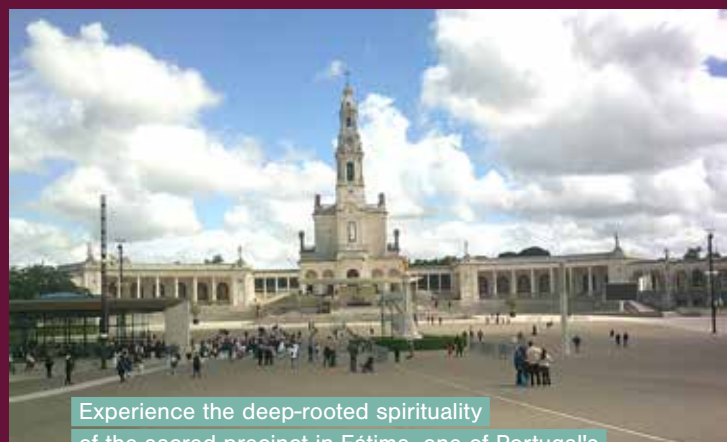
Historic towns, picturesque villages, and breathtaking landscapes await visitors in the fascinating cities of Lisbon, Tomar, Nazaré, Fátima, Coimbra, Porto, and Braga. Each of these places offers unique insights into Portuguese culture, history, and religious traditions.

Lisbon, the capital of Portugal since the 12th century, has a population of around 500,000, with three million people living in the greater Lisbon region. Perched on the southern bank of the Tagus River, the *Cristo-Rei* (Christ the King) statue overlooks Lisbon with outstretched arms, standing right next to the 25 de Abril Bridge. Even from the base of the statue, one enjoys a magnificent view of the river and the city. Among the city's many landmarks is the *Torre de Belém* (Belém Tower). Right on the banks of the Tagus, monuments commemorate 33 important Portuguese figures from the Age of Discovery; depicted among them are Prince Henry the Navigator, Vasco da Gama, and Ferdinand Magellan.

Tomar is the city of the Knights Templar. Here, visitors can view the *Janela do Capítulo* (Chapter House Window), a famous masterpiece of Manueline architecture. This monumental window is located on the west façade of the *Convento de Cristo* (Convent of Christ) church and is world-renowned for its opulent maritime stone carvings.

In the fishing village of Nazaré, there is a breathtaking view of the bay and the giant waves that crash against the shore. Here, you might even encounter the local market woman known for wearing seven skirts. In the past, women would wait all week for their husbands while wearing seven skirts, removing one each day...

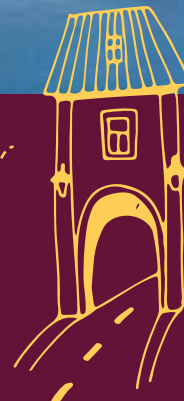
The highlight of a spiritual journey is the pilgrimage site of Fátima. The Chapel of the Apparitions, housing the statue of Our Lady, stands on the exact spot where Mary appeared to the



Experience the deep-rooted spirituality of the sacred precinct in Fátima, one of Portugal's most fascinating pilgrimage destinations.



As one of Europe's longest suspension bridges, the Ponte 25 de Abril defines the skyline of the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.



three shepherd children on May 13, 1917. In the evening, visitors can participate in church services, the recitation of the Rosary, and candlelight processions.

The University of Coimbra, situated on the banks of the Mondego River, is a fascinating site. It embodies the very best of what Portugal has to offer in the fields of science, art, technology, and culture. It has both witnessed and shaped seven centuries of Portuguese history. As the oldest university in Portugal—and one of the oldest in Europe—it has defined the character of the area over time, earning it the title "City of Students." The Joana Library houses a collection of more than 300,000 volumes.

A walk along the Atlantic coast is delightful, as is a visit to picturesque Porto, Portugal's second-largest city. The city boasts numerous beautiful tile murals, such as those found in the railway station. Portugal is also home to a wide range of cork products, derived from the country's cork oak trees.

In addition to tiles and cork, the country features many cathedrals. One of Portugal's most significant landmarks is the Bom Jesus do Monte sanctuary, located on the hills overlooking the episcopal city of Braga. Visitors can safely make the descent using the historic water-ballast funicular, built in 1882. A pilgrimage walk along a section of the Camino de Santiago or the Camino de Fátima is also a must-do experience.

| by **Renate Gradl**





ROAD TRIP TO ALSACE

DISCOVER STRASBOURG'S MILITARY HISTORY AND CULTURE

From medieval fortifications to the modern seat of European diplomacy, Strasbourg offers deep insight into an architecture of survival, reconciliation, and timeless Alsatian charm.

THE ASYMMETRICAL MASTERPIECE: GOTHIC INNOVATION BENEATH A SINGLE SPIRE

Strasbourg Cathedral (Cathédrale Notre-Dame) ranks among the world's most impressive examples of Gothic architecture. Its most striking feature is its pronounced asymmetry: the single completed spire (the north tower) was finished in 1439, while the planned south tower was never built due to changing financial circumstances and structural concerns.

Built from the region's characteristic pink Vosges sandstone, the cathedral changes color depending on the position of the sun. Unlike contemporary structures such as Notre-Dame in Paris, the cathedral consistently employs the Rayonnant and Flamboyant styles of the Late Gothic period. Intricate stone tracery, standing free from the walls, gives the structure an almost weightless appearance. Inside, visitors will find a 16th-century astronomical clock – a mechanical masterpiece of Renaissance science.

LA PETITE FRANCE: FROM TANNERY GRIME TO PICTURE-PERFECT IDYLL

Behind its fairytale aesthetic, the La Petite France district – also known as the Tanners' Quarter – conceals a gritty past. Its steep roofs with open attics were used to air-dry animal hides, while proximity to the River Ill allowed for the rinsing of leather; back then, the canals were little more than open sewers. Even the name stems from a hospice that once isolated soldiers suffering from syphilis. Its transformation into today's popular tourist destination demonstrates how a city can turn working-class neighborhoods into cultural landmarks.

STONE AND IRON: THE VISIBLE SCARS OF BORDER CONFLICTS

Strasbourg's cityscape serves as a physical timeline of the struggle between France and Germany. Following the war of 1870, the German Empire annexed Alsace-Lorraine and shaped the Neustadt (New Town) with Wilhelmine Historicism, wide boulevards, and imposing structures like the Palais du Rhin – deliberately designed to overshadow the historic Old Town. Walking between these districts, one immediately recognizes how architecture was employed as a means of projecting psychological power.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF DEFENSE: VAUBAN'S TACTICAL FLOODING

The Barrage Vauban and the Ponts Couverts (Covered Bridges) behind it showcase the art of medieval and early modern defense within a compact area. When artillery rendered old defensive towers obsolete, the fortification engineer Vauban constructed this massive sandstone barrier in the 1680s. In the event of an attack, sluice gates could flood the entire area south of the city, trapping enemy forces in the mud. Its rooftop terrace, combined with the towers of the Ponts Couverts, enabled a lethal crossfire.

THE ORANGERIE: PEACE AND POWER

Laid out in the 18th century as an English-style landscape garden – featuring winding paths and ponds in contrast to the rigid Baroque garden style – the Orangerie park lies in the city's northeast. Situated right next to the European Quarter, home to the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, it stands as a symbol of Strasbourg's transformation from a contested fortress city into an emblem of European reconciliation.

WINSTUB VS. BISTRO: THE CULINARY DIFFERENCES

A bistro serves classic French cuisine – steak frites, croissants, espresso. A Winstub is an Alsatian wine tavern offering a rustic atmosphere and a menu deeply rooted in the region's shared German-French history. In addition to the well-known Flammkuchen (Alsatian flatbread), three local classics are well worth trying:

- Choucroute garnie: Sauerkraut cooked in white wine, served with sausages, bacon, and boiled potatoes.
- Baeckeoffe: Potatoes, onions, and three types of marinated meat, slow-cooked for hours in white wine.
- Spätzle à la crème: Alsatian egg noodles with a creamy sauce and robust Munster cheese.

| by **Editor**

WEEKEND TRIP TO POLAND:

A CHECKLIST FOR BUYING CERAMICS

Just a few hours' drive east of the German border lies a true cultural gem: the charming Silesian town of Bolesławiec, world-renowned for its legendary Polish stoneware. For many Soldiers and their families, a weekend trip to historic Bolesławiec has become something of a tradition. It is about more than just sightseeing; it is a quest for timeless heirlooms – lasting mementos of their time stationed in Europe that will endure for generations.

CRAFTSMANSHIP THAT WITHSTANDS ARMY LIFE

What makes Bolesławiec ceramics so special? The answer lies in the perfect blend of aesthetics and extreme durability. Crafted from a unique white clay found only in the Bóbr and Kwisza river basins, every piece is fired at temperatures exceeding 1,200 degrees Celsius.

The world-famous "peacock eye" pattern and deep cobalt blue hues are still applied by hand today using specialized sponge stamps and brushes. Each piece is unique and built to last a lifetime.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BEST MANUFACTURERS

First-time visitors can easily feel overwhelmed by the dozens of shops available. It is best to head for the three major "big players," each with its own distinct character:

- **Zakłady Ceramiczne "BOLESŁAWIEC":** The oldest and largest state-owned manufacturer. Here, you will find the absolute classic, traditional patterns. The huge "seconds" (or "second-choice") department is particularly appealing, offering items with minor imperfections at drastically reduced prices.
- **Ceramika Artystyczna:** This artists' cooperative is renowned for its exquisite, limited-edition "Unikat" (unique/signature) patterns. Anyone looking for opulent showpieces for the Thanksgiving table or intricately detailed Christmas decorations will find what they need here.

- **Manufaktura:** A favorite among the younger generation. Here, traditional techniques are combined with modern, Scandinavian-inspired, or minimalist patterns that fit perfectly with contemporary American interior styles.

GETTING THERE FROM US INSTALLATIONS

Traveling from major US installations in Germany is straightforward thanks to the well-developed Autobahn network. From the US Army Garrison Bavaria (Grafenwoehr/Vilseck), the drive via Görlitz takes just under 3.5 to 4 hours. From the Kaiserslautern (Ramstein) or Stuttgart areas, expect a drive of about 6 to 7 hours – ideal for a long four-day weekend.

Start outside the center: Begin your tour at the large factory outlets in the industrial areas on the outskirts of town. They offer ample parking, and the selection is far greater than in the market square.

| by Editor

INSIDER TIP:

The "Gatunek II"

If you plan to assemble a complete dinnerware set for your kitchen, head straight for the "second choice" shelves (*Gatunek II* or *Gatunek III*) at the outlets first. Polish quality control standards are extremely strict. A plate is often designated as "second choice" simply because a tiny blue dot was stamped a millimeter away from the pattern, or because there is a barely visible air bubble in the glaze on the underside. In everyday use, absolutely no one notices these "flaws." Yet, you save 30 to 50 percent off the regular price, effectively allowing you to double your collection budget.

ADVENTURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP:



JUST A SHORT DRIVE FROM GRAFENWOEHR AND HOHENFELS: DISCOVER MONUMENTAL HISTORY, CAVES, AND THE WORLD'S OLDEST MONASTERY BREWERY.

When the weekend approaches and you're craving a change of pace, finding a destination that perfectly blends historical depth, natural wonders, and family fun isn't always easy. Fortunately, the region surrounding the Altmühl Valley and the Danube—practically in the backyard of the Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels military installations—offers the perfect getaway. This area combines monumental architecture with centuries-old traditions, making it a must-visit destination for your next long weekend.

The Stone Gateway: The Danube Gorge Nature Experience

Your journey begins at the breathtaking Danube Gorge (Donaudurchbruch), an extraordinary geological formation where the Danube River carves its way through limestone cliffs rising up to 40 meters high. The best way to explore this canyon-like stretch of the river is on a relaxing passenger boat trip departing from Kelheim.

Visitors frequently praise the magnificent panoramic views from the open-air decks and marvel at how impressively the steep rock faces frame the water. The boat trip offers families an ideal opportunity to unwind and enjoy the unspoiled nature of the Bavarian heartland without the stress of battling heavy highway traffic.

- **Highlights:** Spectacular limestone gorges easily accessible via excursion boats.
- **Advantage:** Highly family-friendly, featuring comfortable seating and onboard service.
- **Drawback:** Very popular during the summer months; arriving early is strongly recommended to secure a parking spot.

A Living Tradition: History and Hospitality

As soon as you step off the ship, you find yourself in the courtyard of Weltenburg Abbey, a Benedictine monastery founded around 620 AD. This historic site is home to a magnificent abbey church—built by the renowned Asam brothers in the European Baroque style—which is considered an absolute masterpiece.

Beyond its spiritual and architectural significance, the monastery houses one of the world's oldest monastic breweries, in continuous operation since 1050. In the courtyard's shady beer garden, visitors can enjoy hearty Bavarian specialties perfectly paired with the world-famous dark beer, "Weltenburger Kloster Barock Dunkel."

- **Highlights:** An ancient Benedictine monastery featuring a world-famous, magnificent Baroque church.
- **Culinary Tip:** Authentic Barock Dunkel beer, brewed right on-site.
- **Atmosphere:** A relaxed, traditional Bavarian beer garden set in a historic courtyard.

The Crown of Kelheim: Monuments and Memorials

Perched high atop the Michelsberg overlooking the town of Kelheim stands the monumental Befreiungshalle (Hall of Liberation). Commissioned by King Ludwig I of Bavaria, this massive rotunda serves as a memorial to the victories over Napoleon during the Wars of Liberation in the early 19th century.

The exterior façade impresses with colossal buttresses flanked by 18 allegorical statues representing the various German tribes. Inside the vast domed hall, 34 white marble figures of Victoria (the goddess of victory) join hands in an eternal circle. The acoustics beneath the dome are legendary, and the climb to the outdoor gallery rewards you with a sweeping panoramic view of the Altmühl and Danube valleys.

- **Highlights:** A monumental 19th-century Neoclassical monument honoring historic military victories.
- **Best View:** A spectacular 360-degree panorama of the river landscape from the outer edge of the gallery.
- **Benefit:** Exceptionally well-preserved architecture that offers significant educational value regarding history, making it ideal for families.

Underground Worlds: Echoes of the Ice Age

If you follow the route a little further northwest into the Altmühl Valley, the journey takes you underground—into the fascinating

THE PERFECT WEEKEND TRIP TO THE DANUBE GORGE



Photo Credit: erlebe.bayern – Thomas Linkel

Schulerloch dripstone cave. This unique cave once served as a natural shelter for Neanderthals and Ice Age animals, such as the prehistoric cave bear.

Today, well-lit paths guide visitors through chambers filled with impressive stalactites and stalagmites. A definite highlight of the tour is a unique, modern 3D projection show; projected directly onto the rugged cave walls, it visually brings the story of Earth's formation to life.

- **Highlights:** Historic dripstone cave featuring safe, easily navigable tour paths.
- **Atmosphere:** Consistently cool interior temperatures (approx. 9°C), providing perfect relief from the heat of summer.
- **Special Feature:** A fascinating light and video show explaining the cave's geological formation.

A Surreal Masterstroke: Architecture in Abensberg

The final stop takes you a short distance to the South to the town of Abensberg, where you can marvel at the striking Kuchlbauer Tower. This 35-meter-tall architectural masterpiece was conceived by the world-famous Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser and completed after his death.

The tower stands on the grounds of the Kuchlbauer Brewery and defies all traditional rules of geometry: it captivates visitors with its curved lines, colorful mosaic tiles, and a massive golden dome at the top. Inside, you will find an interesting exhibition on the traditional brewing process and various art displays, while the observation deck at the top offers a magnificent view of the Hallertau – the world's largest hop-growing region.

- **Highlights:** A surreal art tower that blends imaginative architecture with local brewing culture.
- **Distinguishing feature:** The gleaming golden onion dome crowning the tower is visible from afar.
- **Advantage:** A truly unique visual experience that stands in stark contrast to traditional Bavarian architecture.

THE 5-STEP CHECKLIST

1. **CHECK OPENING HOURS:** Look up seasonal hours in advance; some attractions, such as the cave, may be closed in winter or are closed on specific days.
2. **THE RIGHT GEAR:** Wear sturdy, non-slip hiking shoes for the stairs inside the cave and the paths leading up to the monuments.
3. **DRESS WARMLY:** Pack a light jacket or fleece, even in the height of summer—temperatures inside the cave remain a cool 9°C year-round.
4. **HAVE CASH READY:** Keep Euro coins handy for parking ticket machines and small kiosks along the riverbank.
5. **PARK SMARTLY:** Use the large central parking lots in Kelheim and take the boat as your primary means of transport to the monastery.

Expert Tip: If you are planning a visit to the monastery brewery, avoid the midday rush. Instead, take one of the later afternoon boats through the Danube Gorge. The lower angle of the sun bathes the limestone cliffs in perfect light for photos, and you will arrive at the beer garden just as the large tour groups are leaving – allowing you to enjoy your Bavarian dinner in blissful peace.

| by Editor



Adrenaline & Cave Worlds:

WHY POTTENSTEIN IS YOUR PERFECT SEPTEMBER WEEKEND DESTINATION

Just a stone's throw from Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, the Pottenstein Adventure Rock (*Erlebnisfelsen Pottenstein*) and the Franconian Switzerland region offer action-packed thrills, mystical underground worlds, and the start of the traditional carp season – making for an ideal, budget-friendly fall for families with teenagers.

Pottenstein: Nestled in the dramatic valleys of Franconian Switzerland, this historic town becomes the perfect basecamp for active families in September. When the late-summer sun brings temperatures to a comfortable level for outdoor activities, it is the perfect time to swap the military training grounds for summer toboggan runs, skywalks, and cave systems that are millennia old.

Vertical Thrills: The Pottenstein Adventure Rock For families with teenagers seeking an adrenaline rush, the Pottenstein Adventure Rock is the heart of the action. The park is tailor-made for young people who love speed.

THE 4-POINT CHECKLIST: PLANNING YOUR TRIP

- 1 PACK LAYERS AND A JACKET:** Even if it's T-shirt weather at the adventure rock, the temperature inside the Devil's Cave (Teufelshöhle) remains a constant 9°C. Be sure to pack a warm jacket or hoodie in your backpack.
- 2 CHECK OPENING TIMES:** It's worth taking a quick look at the current operating hours for the high-ropes course and the summer toboggan run before leaving.
- 3 HAVE CASH (EUROS) READY:** Credit cards are accepted at the adventure park, but at many traditional inns and hiking trail parking lots, cash is king.
- 4 CHOOSE STURDY FOOTWEAR:** Sturdy sneakers or lightweight hiking shoes are essential for the high-ropes course and the steps inside the Devil's Cave, which can be damp and slippery.



The "Himmelsleiter" (Ladder to Heaven) is an accessible observation tower near Pottenstein. From there, you get a magnificent view of the town of Pottenstein and the Pottenstein adventure crag in the Püttlach Valley.

A definite highlight is the "Frankenbob," one of Germany's most modern rail-based toboggan runs, where riders race down the valley through high-speed curves. Those looking for the sensation of free flight can hop on the "Hexenbesen" (Witch's Broom) – a suspended ride that guarantees a genuine roller-coaster feel high above the cliffs.

The "Skywalk" offers sweeping views of the valley: this 130-meter-long viewing platform extends far out over a 65-meter drop, providing the perfect spot for breathtaking photos. Right next door, a high-ropes course awaits with challenges for all skill levels; from beginners to experienced climbers, everyone can find a suitable challenge at dizzying heights.

A Fascinating All-Weather Attraction: The Devil's Cave (Teufelshöhle)

September weather in Germany can be unpredictable, but Pottenstein has a built-in alternative for bad weather: the famous Devil's Cave. As the largest of the roughly 1,000 caves in

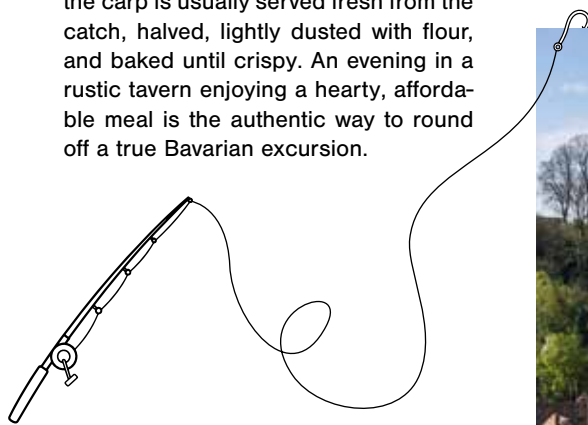
FAST FACTS

- Conveniently Close: Just 45 to 60 minutes northwest of Grafenwoehr and Vilseck – ideal for a spontaneous day trip without a long drive.
- Budget-Friendly: Single tickets for the toboggan runs cost just a few euros; tiered family passes are much easier on the wallet compared to large theme parks.
- Teen-Approved: High-speed thrills at the adventure rock combined with the mysterious depths of the Devil's Cave – exactly the kind of mix that excites teenagers.

Franconian Switzerland, this underground natural wonder is an absolute must-see. Massive stalactites and stalagmites, along with the perfectly preserved skeleton of a prehistoric cave bear, captivate visitors. With a constant year-round temperature of 9°C, the cave offers a welcome way to cool off in late summer – or shelter from a fall shower.

Culinary Highlight: Carp Season Starts

September marks the official start of the legendary carp season in Franconian Switzerland. Following an old tradition, the fish is served only during months containing the letter "R" – meaning from September through April. In traditional, family-run inns, the carp is usually served fresh from the catch, halved, lightly dusted with flour, and baked until crispy. An evening in a rustic tavern enjoying a hearty, affordable meal is the authentic way to round off a true Bavarian excursion.



| by Editor

Visit the enormous DEVIL'S CAVE!

Please note: In the Devil's Cave, there are over 400 steps. Photography is allowed only without flash! Please stay with the group!

The residents of this region had named the tremendous cave gorge the „Teufelsloch“ (Devil's Hole) hundreds of years ago. But after the discovery, as one could see the huge dimensions of the cave, it was called „Teufelshöhle“, which means „Devil's Cave“.

➤ „Devil's Hole“

is the first hall in the cave, is 30 feet high and above it there are 50 feet of stone. 27 years

further there was a cave-in. In October 1922 the cave-explorer, a mining engineer called Prof. Dr. Hans Brandt, gave the order to break a passage through the cave-in. His workers had to dig 30 feet before they found the natural course of the cave. During the next ten years the cave was extended to one mile, which can be visited up to now.

Right behind the entrance, one can see the first limestone- formations. The „Pope's Crown“, the „Organ“ and the „Curtain“. They are between 10 000 and 12 000 years old.

The limestones hanging from the ceiling are called stalactites and the ones growing out of the ground are the stalagmites. To build up 1 mm of limestone it takes 13 years. Next to our journey into „Devil's Cave“ is

Bears Grotto. Visitors can see even a complete skeleton of a cave bear. The bear was approximately 12 feet high and his weight was 900 pounds. After passing the „Nibelung Grotto“ the visitor enters the

➤ „Barbarossa Dome“.

In this hall one can see „Barbarossas Beard“ which forms a fine waterfall. A stalagmite arising from the ground in the form of a Pagoda Pillar „Emperor Barbarossa“ is the most beautiful formation in the cavern and it is 200 000 years old.

If the visitor looks downwards in the „Barbarossa Dome“ he can see the deepest location of the cave: it is situated 230 feet below the upper surface of the cavern. The visitor has to go up „Mount Calvary“ and after he has reached the last step, he can see

the multi-colour illuminated „Crucifixion“ to his right. After the „Three-Kaisers-Grotto“ and the „Witches Shaft“ the visitor enters the

➤ „Colossal Hall“.

This cave is 42 feet high and above it there are 147 feet of stone. In this hall one can find the two oldest limestones of „Devil's Cave“. The first stalagmite resembles a „tree“, the other one is called „Goliath“. Their age is thought to be over 300 000 years.

Then one walks through the „Candle Hall“ and finally reaches the exit. As the exit is 82 feet higher, the visitor has to pass a romantic gorge to get back to the entrance.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING!

Fascination Devil's Cave

Pottenstein/Fränkische Schweiz

Detailed information for our guests is available at the

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Phone: 09243-70841
www.pottenstein.de
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THE KING OF NEW YORK DELIS:

Why the Pastrami Sandwich Makes Us Weak at the Knees

When people think of the ultimate street food indulgence, a specific image often springs to mind: a towering sandwich with paper-thin, succulent slices of meat peeking out, gently embraced by melted cheese and a touch of sharp mustard. The pastrami sandwich is no longer just a New York phenomenon; it has catapulted from traditional Jewish delis in Manhattan straight into the hearts and stomachs of foodies around the globe. But what makes this storied masterpiece so irresistible, and how can you create the perfect version at home? Join us on a culinary journey that is guaranteed to whet your appetite.

A JOURNEY FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO MANHATTAN

The story of pastrami is a tale of migration and ingenious food preservation. Before the advent of refrigeration, meat supplies had to be preserved through curing and smoking. The word "pastrami" is thought to derive from the Romanian term *a păstra*, which simply means "to preserve."

THE ANATOMY OF THE PERFECT SANDWICH

While the absolute classic in New York – "Pastrami on Rye" – is served in a minimalist style on rye bread with bold mustard and a dill pickle on the side, fantastic variations have emerged around the world.

For the perfect at-home experience, we recommend high-quality, freshly baked sourdough or moist rye bread. Generously spread the inner sides with good mustard. Ideally, the pastrami should be sliced paper-thin against the grain and served warm. Don't be afraid to pile the meat high – a true deli sandwich should be a bit of a challenge to bite into! For an even richer experience, add a slice of slightly melted Swiss cheese (such as Emmental or Gruyère) and some mild sauerkraut or coleslaw.

A BITE OF CULINARY HERITAGE

The pastrami sandwich is far more than just a quick snack; it is a piece of culinary heritage that brings people together. It tells the story of traditions adapting to new circumstances to create something entirely new and brilliant. Whether you prefer the traditional, minimalist approach or a modern twist with avocado and chili, the interplay of salty, smoky, spicy, and tangy notes creates a true explosion of flavor in every bite. Definitely give it a try or pay a visit to the nearest authentic deli – your taste buds will thank you!

| by **Editor**



Photo Credit: annapustynnikova – stock.adobe.com

**A BLEND OF TRADITION AND STREET FOOD TREND:
THIS CULT SANDWICH—FEATURING CURED BEEF BRISKET,
SPICY MUSTARD, AND SOURDOUGH BREAD—IS TAKING
THE CULINARY WORLD BY STORM.**

THE SECRET LIES IN PATIENCE:

THE PREPARATION PROCESS

Authentic pastrami is not for the impatient. It requires craftsmanship, precision, and – above all – plenty of time. The process consists of three key steps that transform the meat, making it incredibly tender and packed with flavor:

1 THE CURING:

The beef brisket first rests for several days (often one to two weeks) in a spiced brine infused with garlic, pepper, and coriander.

2 SEASONING AND SMOKING:

After rinsing, the meat is coated in a signature spice crust – or "rub" – typically made from coarse black pepper, coriander seeds, paprika, and garlic. It is then gently hot-smoked over hardwoods like beech or hickory.

3 STEAMING:

To ensure the brisket's connective tissue melts completely and the meat achieves its legendary, tender texture, it undergoes a final, intensive steaming process before serving.

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.

LOOKING FOR TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, AND GREAT SERVICE?

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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