

Bavarian Alps

The **Bavarian Alps** are part of the Alps and are located in Germany at the southern end of the federal state of Bavaria and continue across the border into Austria. The region is considered one of the most beautiful landscapes of Germany and ranks as one of the most scenic places in all of Central Europe. This is where German or Bavarian stereotypes of lederhosen, drindls, bratwurst, and glistening alpine peaks come true. Ironically it only composes less than 10% of Germany's total area. It is also a very rural area, abundant with wildlife and many glacial lakes and thick fir tree forests. It has much in common, both culturally and geographically with its neighbors Tyrol and Salzburg Province in Austria than rest of Germany to the north. It is a place where traditions are still very strong and also the birthplace of the current pope.

Understand

History

Bavaria used to be an independent kingdom and you can visit the royal castles in the mountains. It joined the German Empire in 1861 and has been part of Germany ever since. It is the largest federal-state in contemporary Germany.

Get in

The closest major cities are Munich, Salzburg and Innsbruck. The border to Austria is open to passport free travel. There are both excellent road and rail links from the above cities. Freeways (Autobahns) can get jammed during the summer tourist months in Bavaria.

See

- **Chiemsee**
- **Neuschwanstein and Füssen**
- **Garmish-Partenkirchen**
- **Oberstdorf**
- **Bad Reichenhall**
- **Mittenwald**
- **Berchtesgaden**

Do

Hiking or "wandering'" in German, is a major pastime in the summer months. Skiing and snowboarding are quite popular at the high quality (yet small) resorts found in southern Bavaria.

Drink

Bavaria is known for some of the best beer on the planet!

Sleep

Lodging

Bavaria's youth hostels (*Jugendherbergen*) are the only ones in Germany who have an age limit! If you are over 26 years of age you are out of luck! The Bavarian Alps are a major tourist and vacation destination inside Germany so there are thousands of guesthouses or *pension* in the area. Cities also have hotels that are more pricey and less charming.

Stay safe

There are no major cities in the Bavarian Alps so dangerous drivers and mountain roads and wildlife may be your only real concern. Mountain safety is the key when going to higher altitudes as every year tourist's die in accidents because of reckless behavior and poor planning.

For more info see: www.wikipedia.org

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