

ECO BAVARIA

ALPS, BAVARIA, CULTURE

By Kristina Robr



Munich, Bavaria. City skyline in the evening light with the snow-covered Alpine mountains in the background.

Year round, cultural highlights in and around Munich abound, nature and landscape are just breathtaking, with a gigantic, snow covered Alpine mountain backdrop, with world-class ski-slopes, inviting to hike, as well as providing motifs for landscape-photography. Culturally and historically, you will get more than your fill! Take a refreshing break at organic restaurants and relax at eco-resorts.

BAVARIA is worth the trip, during any season, not just for a visit of the world-famous Munich Oktoberfest.



OCTOBERFEST IN MUNICH

September 22nd – October 7th, 2007

www.oktoberfest.de

MUNICH

Our favorite museums in Munich are the Franz Lenbachhaus, Alte Pinakothek, Neue Pinakothek (Monet, Manet, Caspar David Friedrich, Liebermann, Rodin) and Pinakothek der Moderne (Modern Arts). ▶▶▶



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Gingerbread Hearts – Sweet Souvenirs from the Oktoberfest

NATURAL LIVING GREEN TIPS

To responsibly enjoy your scenic drives through Germany, consider renting a low emission or hybrid car.

Make this a truly green trip by offsetting your carbon footprint and flight emissions! www.planktos.org

THE BUCHHEIM MUSEUM, LAKE STARNBERG, MUSEUM OF IMAGINATION & FANTASY, LAKE STARNBERG

The Buchheim Museum, Museum of Imagination & Fantasy, north of Bernried in Höhenried Park, is a must-see. Giant, wooden giraffe sculptures greet visitors in the museum's parking lot. The museum is located a short stroll through a lovely park down to the banks of the crystal clear, blue Lake Starnberg. The path is lined with old trees, charming ponds, Japanese pagodas and pieces of wood and metal art, reminiscent of images from Monet's garden and Van Gogh's Japanese motifs.

ARCHITECTURAL MASTERPIECE

The collections of the late Lothar-Günther Buchheim, painter, photographer, publisher and author of several art books and novels, some of which were turned into blockbuster movies (e.g. the famous "The Boat"), are housed in an open, multi-segment structure that reminds of a large boat. A unique, architectural feature is the deck bridge, forty feet above Lake Starnberg, providing museum visitors with a 180-degree view of aquatic life in and around the lake, the Lake Starnberg lakescape with grand contemporary and historical residences, onion-church towers, and the magnificent snow-covered Alpine Mountains to the South.



Buchheim Museum, boat-like exterior with grass roofs.



EXPRESSIVE WORKS OF ART

Often referred to as "four museums under one roof," the Buchheim Museum is as multifaceted as the late Buchheim himself and illustrates his versatile talents and interests. The core of the collection are Expressionist paintings, watercolors, drawings, woodcuts, etchings and lithographs predominantly by the artist group "Die Brücke" ("The Bridge"), including Nolde, Pechstein, Kirchner, Schmidt-Rottluff, Corinth, Beckmann, Kokoschka and Dix. The lower rooms house folk art and ethnological artistry, as well as Buchheim's own vividly colored work. Visitors leave the serene premises deeply inspired. www.buchheim-museum.de



Art, even on the entrance sign: Norwegian Landscape (Skrygedal) Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, 1911

FRANZ MARC MUSEUM, KOCHEL AM SEE

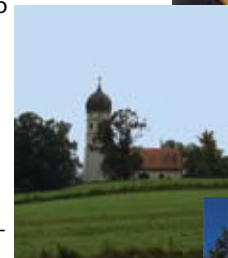
Franz Marc, co-founder of the "Blauer Reiter" ("Blue Rider") movement and artist group, is one of the most popular and beloved painters of the 20th century. The Franz Marc House in Kochel am See is nestled in a little forest and worth the short hike from the parking lot. Marc's motifs, mostly animals and some landscapes, mirror his ideas of a pure world by the use of crystal forms and clear, light colors. Here, you can enjoy works that offer a delightful, intimate and historical encounter with the artist. Concluding your art historical travel in time and homage to Franz Marc, you can visit his grave at the local church cemetery in Kochel am See. www.franz-marc-museum.de

Franz Marc, Jumping Horse, 1912, Collection Etta & Otto Stangl © Franz Marc Museum



THE BLUE RIDER

The "Blue Rider" ("Blauer Reiter"), historically and creatively the most influential artist community in Germany, was founded in December 1911. Members included Vassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc, Gabriele Münter, Paul Klee, August Macke, Alexander Jawlensky and Marianne von Werefkin. The name derives from a Kandinsky motif of the group's first exhibition almanach. The "Blue Rider" motif can be found at the handrail at the charming former residence of Kandinsky and Münter at the Gabriele Münter House & Museum in Murnau.



*Church in Münsing, Oberambach
Copyright: Kristina Rohr*

GABRIELE MÜNTER HOUSE, MURNAU

When visiting the Gabriele Münter House in the hills of Murnau, you have to conquer a short steep hill before you step back in time. The motifs of many of the famous paintings do not only depict Murnau and Alpine village landscapes, but also historical furniture and accessories that still furnish the colorful rooms. The original furniture, stair railing and murals were hand-painted by Kandinsky and Münter. When leaving the museum, you are awed by the view of one of Münter's favorite motifs, the church and castle, as well as her magnificent flower garden. Münter Haus, Kottmuellerallee, Murnau T: +49 8841-628881, Open Tu – Sun, 2 pm – 5 pm, www.murnau.de

Gabriele Münter House, Murnau



At the Schloss (castle) in Murnau, you will find a vast collection of "Blue Rider" work. The castle and the church have been favorite motifs of the artists. www.schlossmuseum-murnau.de



*Mural at the Münter House
Copyright: Kristina Rohr*

NATURAL LIVING TIP

Most museums are closed on Mondays, worldwide!

MUNICH, VIKTUALIENMARKT

The world famous outdoors farmers market, the Viktualienmarkt, in the historic city center, is a feast for all senses. A myriad of colorful booths showcase local, organic produce, Bavarian souvenirs, and exotic foods.

NATURAL LIVING RESTAURANT TIP

Bux at the Viktualienmarkt is an organic, vegetarian restaurant with a great buffet-style assortment of warm and cold dishes, soups, freshly squeezed juices and delicious, naturally sweetened desert selections. Seating is inside or on the inviting large patio under huge umbrellas.

Make sure you visit the *Frauenkirche*, the Toy Museum and last, but not least, the world-famous *Hofbräuhaus*, where you can get your share of nerve-protecting B-vitamins (e.g. in beer) in a historic setting. Open 9am-11:30 pm, www.hofbraeuhaus.de

BASIC BIO-SUPERMARKET

Walking distance from *Hofbräuhaus* you will find "Basic" - Germany's equivalent to America's "Whole Foods" - which includes a restaurant and deli. Westenriederstr. 35, T: +49 89-242089

NATURAL HOME DÉCOR

Grüne Erde, at the Viktualienmarkt, is a leading, upscale, natural lifestyle showroom with natural home décor accessories and very high-end, non-toxic, metal-free furniture.



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GREEN HOTELS

HOTEL CORBIN

Hotel Corbin is a modern, breakfast-business hotel, located in the center of Freising, close to the Munich airport. Business travelers and tourists instantly feel at ease with the hotel's friendly and accommodating staff, the warm interior colors and smooth shapes of the rooms and patio. A partially organic, wholesome, gourmet breakfast buffet prepares you for your business meeting or tourist excursion. Restful, quiet nights are guaranteed in thirty-four light-colored double rooms, furnished with all-natural materials. The rooms are free of radiation, boast soundproof doors, natural and hypo-allergenic bedding and incredibly comfortable latex mattresses.

Hotel Corbin, Freising, T: +49 81 61 88 69-0, www.corbin-hotel.de

*Hotel Corbin, non-toxic,
EMF-free sleep guarantee*

Copyright: Hotel Corbin



HOTEL SCHLOSSGUT OBERAMBACH

The Schlossgut is a former monastery and aristocratic residence turned organic resort and event hotel. Hotel Schlossgut, part of the Bio-Hotel chain, offers a magnificent sight above Lake Starnberg. Its Mediterranean-style rooms are built and furnished according to the highest environmental standards, including shielded electricity, non-toxic paints, beds equipped with latex mattresses and natural, waxed and oiled hardwood floors. You can choose your own bedding - organic down comforters and pillows, organic cotton or wool inlets and orthopedic, latex or organic whole-grain pillows. Housekeeping only uses organic cleaning products. Amenities include leading German organic skin and body care products. Swim in the naturally designed swimming lake or relax in the steam room or sauna in the adjacent little cottage. Spa treatments are available upon request. The all-organic breakfast buffet offers a variety of different whole-grain breads, spreads, jams, fruit salads, plain or fruity yogurts, eclectic cheese & meat assortments, pastries and juices. Three to six course, organic, gourmet lunches and dinners are by reservation only.

Hotel Schlossgut Oberambach, T: +49 08177 9323, www.schlossgut.de, www.biohotels.info

Hotel Schlossgut, snow-covered Alps and Lake Starnberg in the back Copyright: Kristina Rohr



*Hotel Corbin,
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