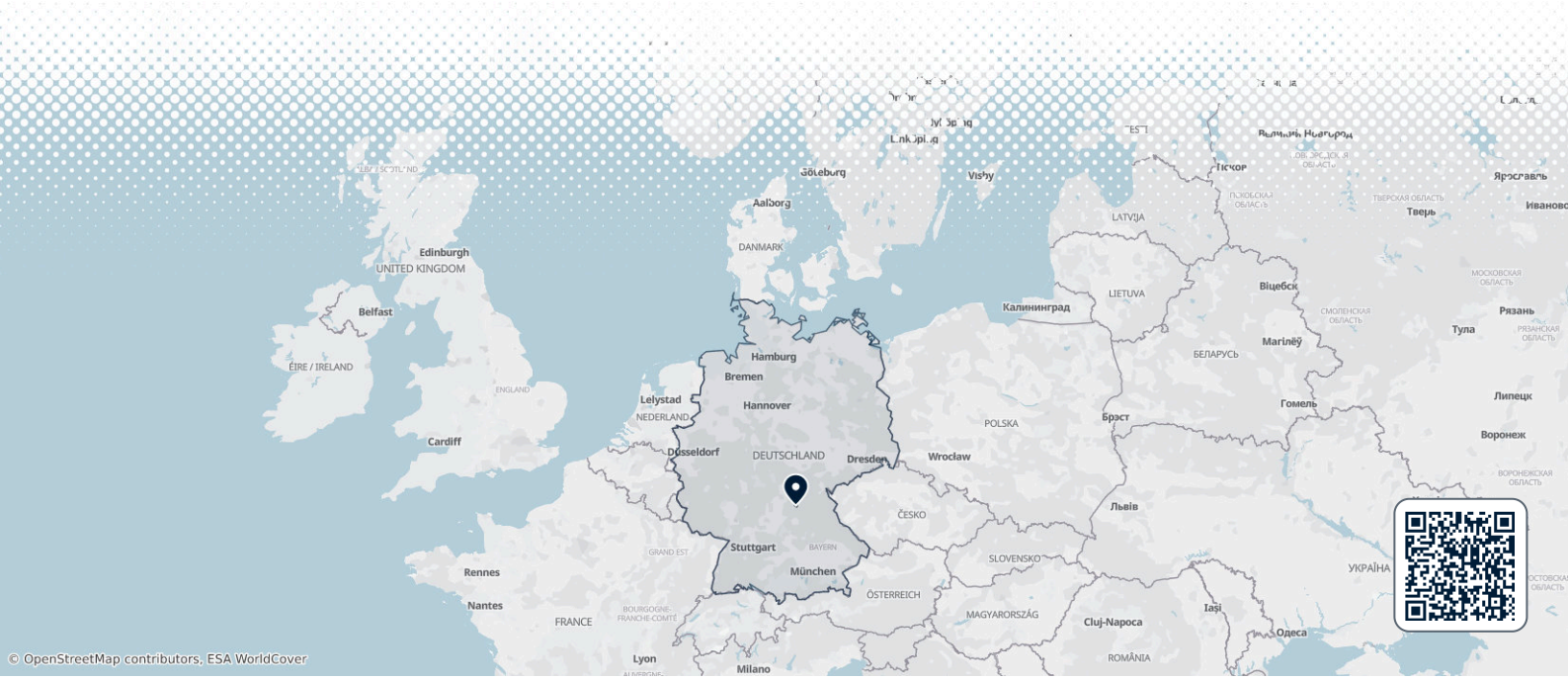


Bamberg

Bavaria · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bamberg is a small city in Upper Franconia, in northern Bavaria. Its old town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has a medieval street plan, many historic buildings. The city is built on seven hills, and the river Regnitz runs through the centre.

It suits a relaxed stay of one to three nights. You can see most sights on foot. The city is also known for smoked beer and for its beer cellars on the hills. Bamberg works well alone or as a stop on a Franconian trip with Nuremberg and Würzburg.

When to visit

Late spring, summer and early autumn are the best times to visit. Days are mild to warm and the beer gardens are open. Winter is cold and grey, with short days. The Christmas market makes December a pleasant time for a short stay.

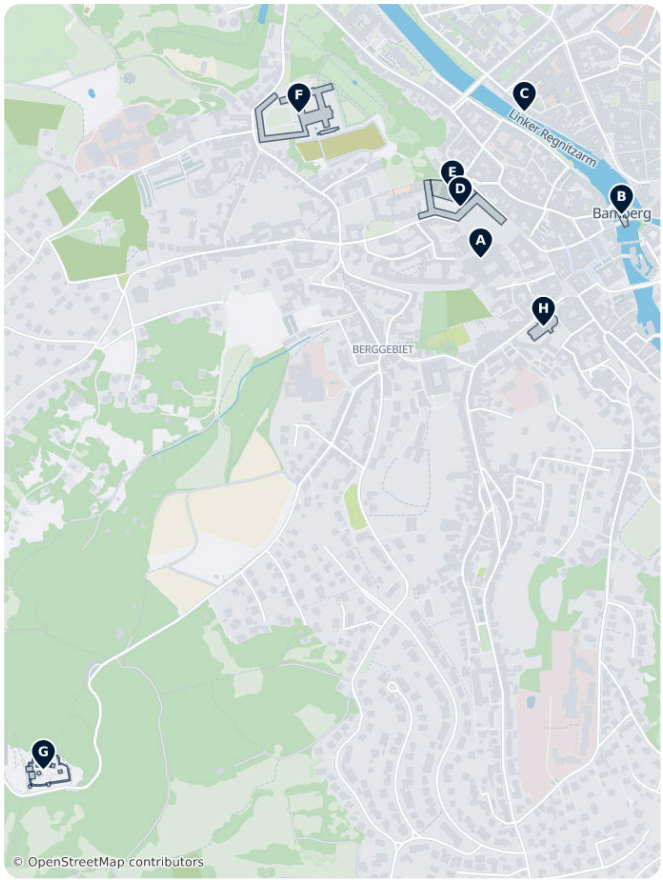
Sandkerwa is a large local festival in August. It has beer stalls, music and crowds around the Regnitz. Book your hotel early if you plan to come then.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like -1°	-2° / -12°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	9° / 17° Feels like 5°	0° / -6°	Dry air
April	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	4° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	8° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 31°	12° / 7°	12 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 33°	14° / 10°	14 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 34°	14° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	10° / 5°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 22° Feels like 12°	6° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 14° Feels like 4°	2° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -2°	-2° / -11°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- **A** Bamberger Dom is the main landmark on Cathedral Hill. It has four towers and a famous equestrian statue, the Bamberg Horseman. The tomb of Emperor *Henry II* and his wife is inside.
- **B** Altes Rathaus stands on an island in the middle of the Regnitz. Painted figures decorate its walls. You reach it by two bridges.
- **C** Klein Venedig is a row of old fishermen's houses on the river bank. The best view is from the bridges nearby.
- **D** Neue Residenz was the home of the prince-bishops. Its rooms show Baroque interiors and art.
- **E** Rosengarten lies behind the Neue Residenz. It has rose beds and a view over the old town roofs.
- **F** Kloster Michelsberg is a former Benedictine monastery on a hill. Terrace gardens surround the buildings, and the hill looks over the old town.
- **G** Altenburg is a hilltop castle south-west of the centre. The walk up gives you a wide view of the city.
- **H** Obere Pfarre - Zu unserer lieben Frau is a Gothic church on a hill in the old town. It is quieter than the cathedral.

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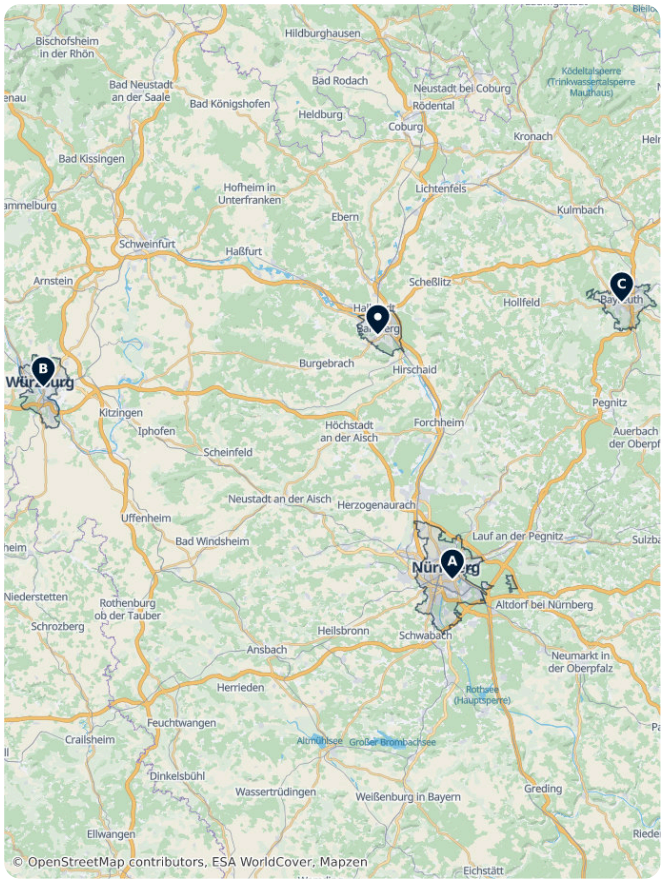
What to experience

- **Cycle along the Regnitz**: Paths on both river banks run through the city and out to the countryside. Follow the water to the quiet green edges of the city.
- **Walk through the Gärtnerstadt**: This district has market gardens that date back to the Middle Ages. It is part of the World Heritage Site. You see vegetable beds beside old townhouses.
- Hear the Bamberg Symphony: This well-known orchestra plays in the city's concert hall.
- Visit the Christmas market: Stalls fill the old town in the weeks before Christmas. It is a good way to see the city in winter.

Day trips

Bamberg is a good base for short trips in Franconia. Trains are the easiest option for the larger towns.

- **Forchheim**: about 15 to 20 minutes by train. A small town with half-timbered houses and a fortress. It is also a gateway to Franconian Switzerland.
- **Vierzehnheiligen and Banz Abbey**: about 45 minutes by car. A pilgrimage basilica and a former abbey face each other across the Main valley.
- A Nuremberg: about 30 to 45 minutes by train. A large city with a castle, old churches and museums.
- B Würzburg: about 1 hour by train. It has a Baroque palace and a wine-growing setting on the river Main.
- C Bayreuth: about 1 to 1.5 hours by train. The home of the Wagner festival and a Baroque opera house.
- Coburg: about 1 hour by train. A large hilltop fortress and a pleasant old town.
- Franconian Switzerland: about 45 minutes by car. A hilly area of limestone rocks, caves, castles and hiking trails. A car makes it much easier.



Where to explore

Other destinations in Franconia and Bavaria:

- For historic towns, see Regensburg on the Danube and Rothenburg ob der Tauber.
- For a spa town, see Bad Kissingen.
- For a big-city stop in the south, see Munich.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest major airport is Nuremberg (NUE). Take the train to Nuremberg, then the U-Bahn to the airport. Allow about 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes in total. Munich and Frankfurt airports are farther away and need a longer train ride.
- **By train**: Bamberg Hauptbahnhof has fast trains from Nuremberg, Munich, Würzburg and Berlin. Nuremberg is about 30 to 45 minutes away and Munich is about 2 hours. The station is about 15 to 20 minutes on foot from the old town, or a short bus ride. Book on Deutsche Bahn.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is compact. You can walk between most sights in 10 to 20 minutes. Some streets are steep and cobbled.
- **City buses**: Buses run in the city and to the hilltop areas. Bamberg uses the VGN ticket system. Buy tickets in the VGN app or at ticket points. See Stadtwerke Bamberg for bus information.
- Cycling: The city is flat along the river and hilly near the cathedral and the castle. Bike paths follow the Regnitz.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and walkable. Some streets are cobbled and the hills are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Bike paths follow the Regnitz. The hills near the cathedral and castle are steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. The old town is small and walkable. A car helps for Franconian Switzerland and other rural trips.
- **Parking**: Parking in the old town is limited. Use a car park at the edge of the centre and walk in.

Food & drink

Bamberg is known for Rauchbier, a smoked beer with a strong smoky flavour. Try it in the old town taverns. Brewery taverns also serve Franconian dishes such as roast pork with dumplings. Local onions are a speciality. You may find them stuffed with meat.

For a cellar-style beer garden, go up the hills east of the old town. Several breweries have shaded gardens there. Many visitors bring a picnic or order simple snacks.

Try Klosterbräu, a brewery tavern near the river. The streets around Sandstraße have many pubs and are lively in the evening.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Bamberg is a safe city for visitors. Violent crime is rare. Pickpockets can work in crowds, so keep your bag closed at festivals and on busy streets. Lock your bicycle, as bike theft is common in German cities. Take care on wet cobblestones and on the steep paths up the hills.

History

Bamberg grew around Cathedral Hill. The emperor *Henry II* made the city a bishop's seat in the early 11th century. His burial place is in Bamberger Dom.

For centuries prince-bishops ruled the city. They built Neue Residenz as their home. Church lands lost their independence at the start of the 19th century, and Bamberg became part of Bavaria.

Kloster Michelsberg shows the city's monastic past. The river trade and the market gardens shaped daily life in the lower town. UNESCO listed the old town as a World Heritage Site in 1993.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

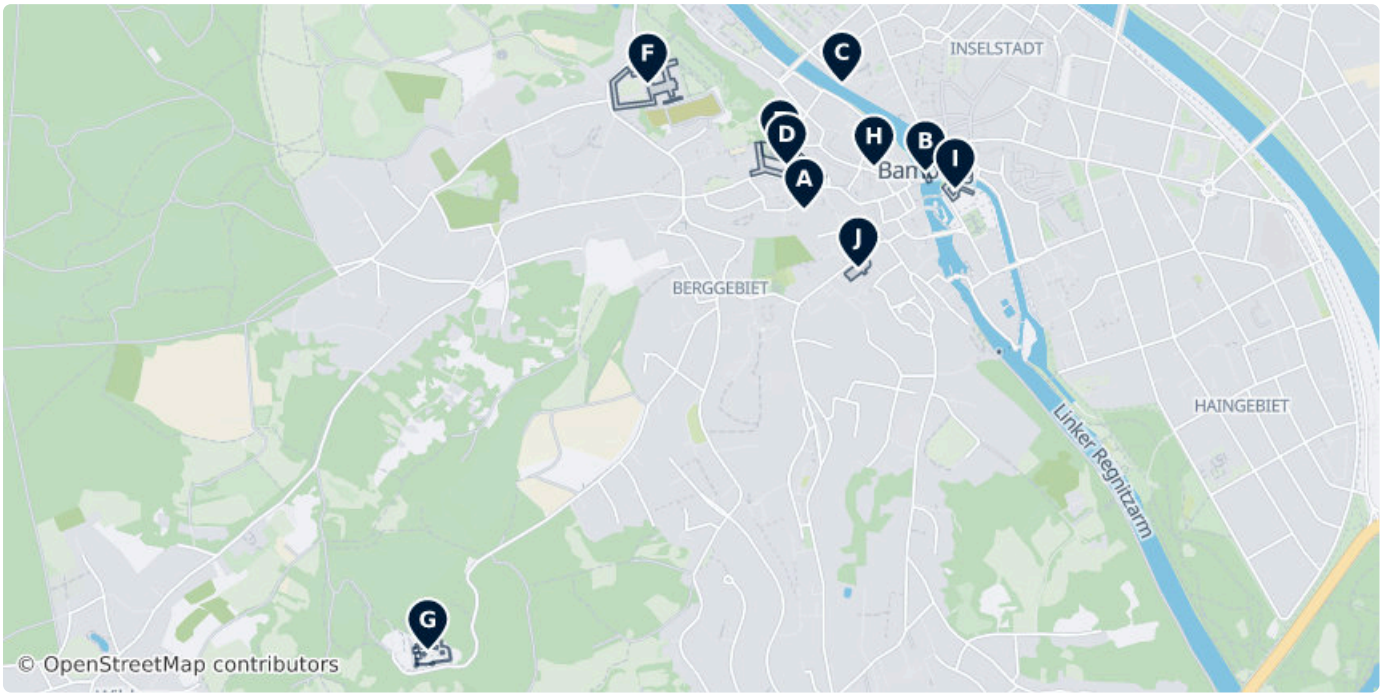
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230 V · 50 Hz

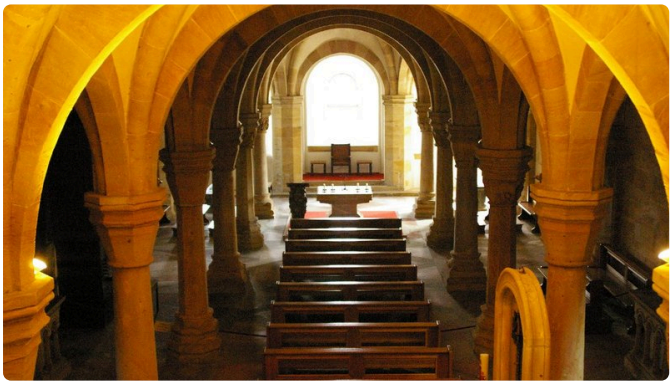
LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bamberg Essentials

Bamberg's UNESCO-listed Old Town is defined by its three historical districts: the episcopal Bergstadt, the bourgeois Inselstadt, and the Gärtnerstadt. This selection features the 13th-century Cathedral with its four towers, the iconic Old Town Hall suspended over the Regnitz River, and the medieval Altenburg castle. Visitors can explore the half-timbered fisherman's houses of Little Venice, the baroque Rose Garden at the New Residence, and sample traditional smoked beer at the historic Schlenkerla brewpub.





A Bamberg Cathedral

Bamberg Cathedral is a church in Bamberg, Germany, completed in the 13th century.

Domplatz 5, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.89071, 10.88252)

Nov-Mar Mo–Su	08:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Mo–Su	08:00–18:00

bamberger-dom.de



B Old Town Hall

Built on an artificial island in the Regnitz River, this landmark is accessible by two bridges. It features 18th-century frescoes and houses the Ludwig Collection, one of Europe's largest porcelain exhibitions.

Obere Brücke, 96047 Bamberg, Germany
(49.89158, 10.88685)

Tu–Su	10:00–16:30



C Klein Venedig

A row of 17th-century half-timbered houses along the Regnitz River. This former fisherman's district is characterized by tiny gardens and wooden balconies, best viewed from the opposite riverbank.

27 Fischerei, Bamberg 96047, Germany
(49.89361, 10.88386)



D Alte Hofhaltun

A Renaissance building complex that served as the bishop's residence. It features a courtyard surrounded by half-timbered structures and houses the Historical Museum, showcasing the city's cultural history.

Domplatz 8, 96049 Bamberg, DE (49.89173, 10.88189)

Apr-Sep Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Oct-Mar Mo–Su	10:00–16:00

schloesser.bayern.de/deutsch/schloss/objekte/bam_hof.h...



E Rose Garden

Baroque garden at the New Residence containing over 4,500 roses. It features statues by Ferdinand Tietz and offers a viewpoint overlooking the red-tiled roofs of the old town and St. Michael's Monastery.

1 Ottoplatz, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.89206, 10.88165)

Apr 01-Sep 30 Mo–Su	09:00–18:00
Oct 01-Mar 31 Mo–Su	10:00–16:00



F St. Michael's Monastery

Michaelsberg Abbey or Michelsberg Abbey, also St. Michael's Abbey, Bamberg is a former Benedictine monastery in Bamberg in Bavaria, Germany.

10D Michelsberg, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.89359, 10.87694)



G Burg

Medieval castle perched on Bamberg's highest hill. Dating back to 1109, it served as a defensive fortification and bishop's residence, offering panoramic views of the Franconian countryside.

Altenburger Straße, 96049 Bamberg, Germany
(49.88058, 10.86910)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

altenburgverein.de



H Schlenkerla

Schlenkerla is a historic brewpub in Bamberg, Franconia, Germany renowned for its smoked Aecht Schlenkerla Rauchbier.

6 Dominikanerstraße, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.89169, 10.88501)

Mo–Su 09:30–23:30

schlenkerla.de, +49 951 560500



I Schloss Geyerswörth

Former city palace and residence of the prince-bishops, primarily built in the 14th and 16th centuries. The complex features a Renaissance-style facade and is located in the heart of the old town.

Geyerswörthstraße, 96047 Bamberg, Germany
(49.89118, 10.88790)



J Obere Pfarre

14th-century Gothic parish church containing a notable painting by Tintoretto. It is characterized by its high choir and a distinctively shaped, asymmetrical tower.

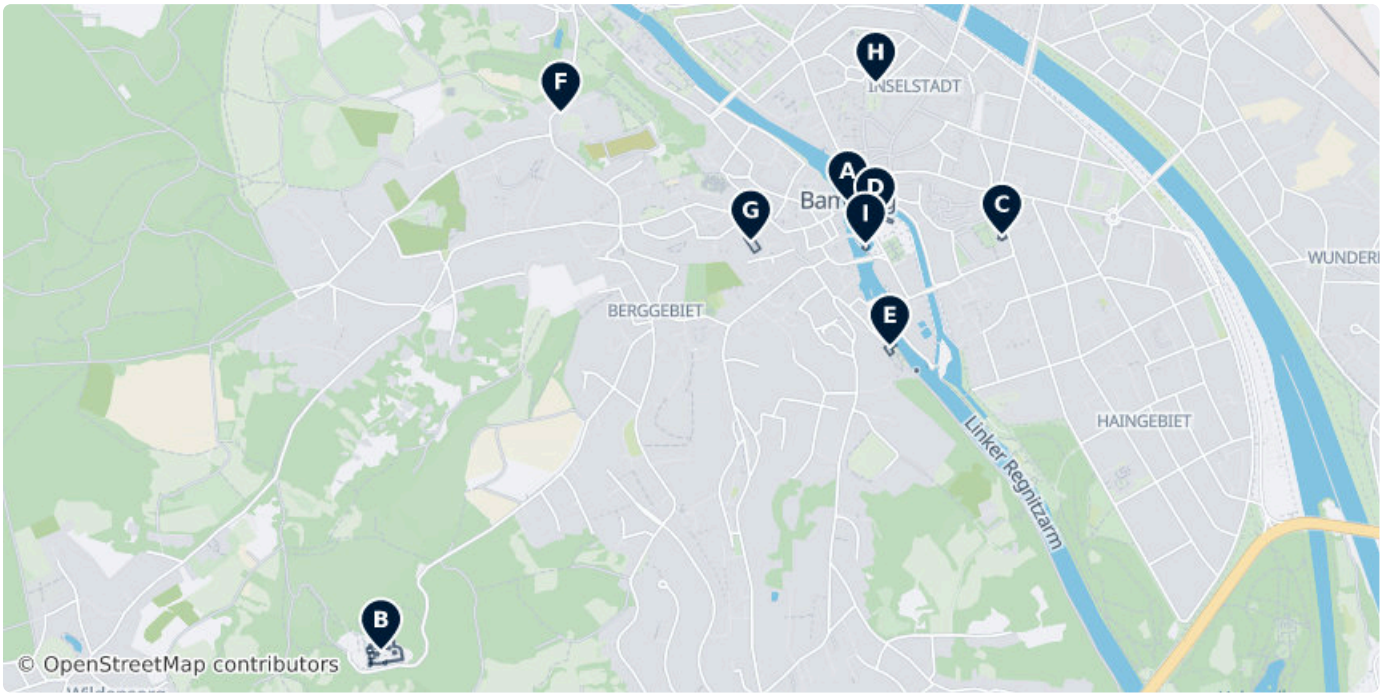
Frauenplatz, 96049 Bamberg, Germany
(49.88936, 10.88445)

Nov-Mar Mo–Su 09:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

obere-pfarre-bamberg.de

Best of Bamberg

Explore Bamberg's UNESCO World Heritage core, from the Old Town Hall perched on the Regnitz river to the medieval Altenburg castle overlooking the city. This selection includes the Renaissance Schloss Geyerswörth and specialized museums like the Diözesanmuseum, which houses 11th-century imperial textiles, and the Natural History Museum's historic Bird Room. These sites highlight the city's history as a seat of Prince-Bishops and its evolution through Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque architectural styles.





A Old Town Hall

Iconic 14th-century building constructed on an artificial island in the Regnitz river. It features external frescoes and houses the Ludwig Collection of porcelain and faience.

Obere Brücke, 96047 Bamberg, Germany
(49.89158, 10.88685)

Tu–Su 10:00–16:30



B Burg

Medieval castle dating to 1109, situated on Bamberg's highest hill. It features a 33-meter keep and served as a defensive refuge and residence for the city's bishops.

Altenburger Straße, 96049 Bamberg, Germany
(49.88058, 10.86910)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

altenburgverein.de



C Villa Dessauer

The Villa Dessauer is a mansion in Bamberg, Germany, which is used as an art gallery by the local City Council.

Hainstraße 4a, 96047 Bamberg, DE (49.89076, 10.89271)

Tu–Th	10:00–16:00
Fr–Su	12:00–18:00

museum.bamberg.de/stadtgalerie-bam... , +49 951 87 1142



D Schloss Geyerswörth

Former city residence of the Prince-Bishops, built in the 14th century and redesigned in Renaissance style. It is notable for its red-brick tower and riverfront location.

Geyerswörthstraße, 96047 Bamberg, Germany (49.89118, 10.88790)



E Internationales Künstlerhaus Villa Concordia

Baroque mansion on the Regnitz riverbank that serves as an international residence for artists, writers, and composers. It hosts regular exhibitions and cultural events.

Concordiastraße 28, 96049 Bamberg, DE (49.88804, 10.88845)

villa-concordia.de



F Franconian Brewery Museum

Devoted to the history of the trade, both in the city and in the country.

Maienbrunnen 10f, 96049 Bamberg, DE (49.89376, 10.87593)

Mo–Fr	13:00–17:00
Sa–Su	11:00–17:00

brauereimuseum.de, +49 951 53016



G Diözesanmuseum Bamberg

Located in the cathedral's chapter house, this museum displays the cathedral treasury, including rare 11th-century imperial robes and religious art from the Middle Ages.

Domplatz 5, 96049 Bamberg, DE (49.89061, 10.88315)

Tu–Su	10:00–17:00

dioezesanmuseum-bamberg.de/index.h..., +49 951 502-316



H Natural History Museum

Housed in a former Jesuit college, this museum features the "Vogelsaal," a neoclassical hall containing thousands of taxidermy specimens in original 18th-century cabinets.

Fleischstraße 2, Bamberg 96047, Germany (49.89449, 10.88792)

en.bamberg.info/poi/natural_history_museum-4665/

I Zentrum Welterbe Bamberg

Visitor center providing interactive displays about Bamberg's UNESCO World Heritage status, detailing the history of the island, mountain, and market garden districts.

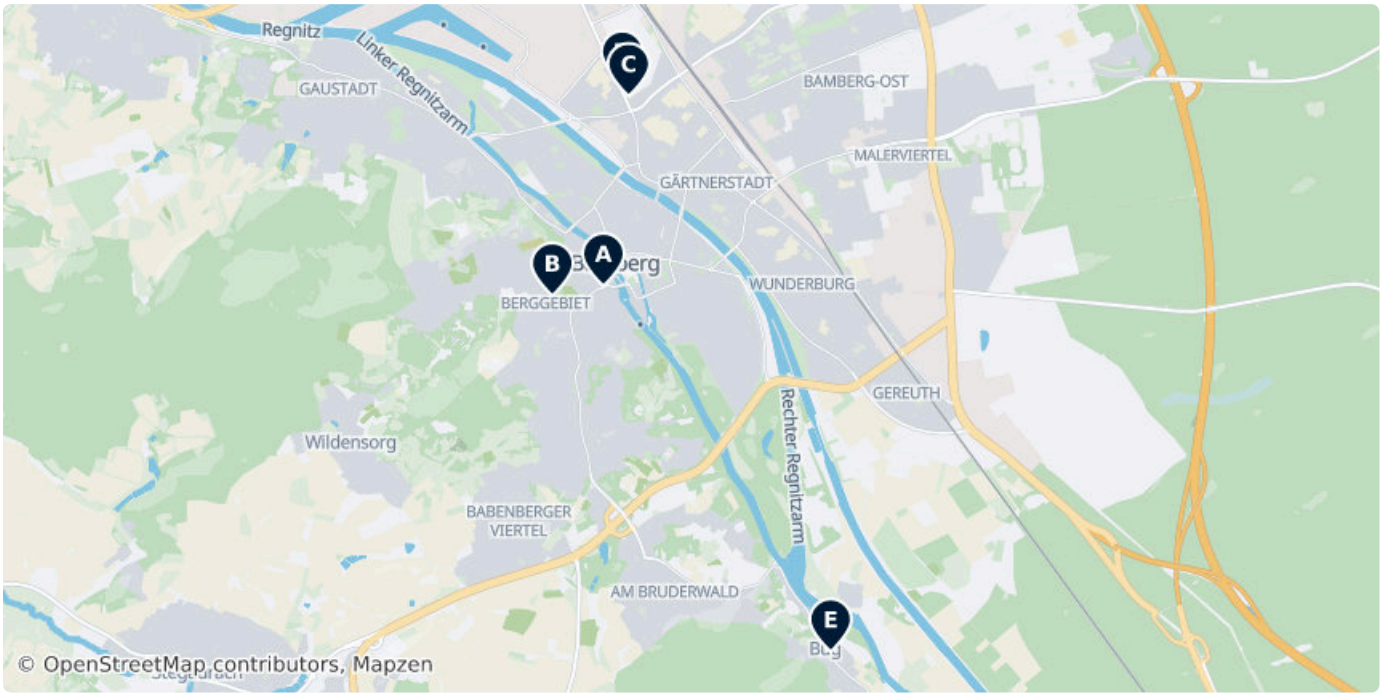
Untere Mühlbrücke 5, 96047 Bamberg, DE (49.89053, 10.88753)

Jan-Mar Mo–Su	11:00–16:00
Apr-Oct Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Nov-Dec Mo–Su	11:00–16:00

welterbe.bamberg.de/de/

Hidden Chapels of Bamberg

Bamberg's religious history is preserved in these intimate places of worship scattered throughout the city. The selection includes the Marienkapelle, a late Gothic structure in Judenstraße built on the site of a former synagogue, and the Maternkapelle near the river. These chapels represent centuries of Roman Catholic tradition, from medieval heritage sites to quiet neighborhood landmarks, offering a glimpse into the city's architectural evolution and spiritual past beyond the central cathedral.





A Marienkapelle

Late Gothic church in Judenstraße built after 1437 on the site of a former synagogue.

Balthasargäßchen, 96049 Bamberg, Germany
(49.89013, 10.88560)

B Maternkapelle

Roman Catholic heritage chapel situated near the Regnitz river.

10 Maternstraße, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.88948, 10.88023)

C Sankt Maria

Roman Catholic chapel and regional heritage site located in northern Bamberg.

(49.90298, 10.88827)

D Sankt Sebastian

Roman Catholic chapel and heritage site located in the northern part of the city.

(49.90381, 10.88759)

E Heilige Dreifaltigkeit

Roman Catholic chapel located in the southern district of the city near Bug.

9A Buger Hauptstraße, Bamberg 96049, Germany
(49.86537, 10.90950)

sb-bamberger-westen.de/kirchen/hl--dreifaltigkeit-bug/

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