DAY TRIP: BAMBERG

Travel method: train, trains to Bamberg will depart at least once per hour during the day. Bavaria Day Passes will usually get you the best price for this trip.
Travel time: 40 minutes
City profile: 70,000 inhabitants, one university.

Bamberg is absolutely beautiful. It was my favorite city in Germany that wasn’t a big-city tourist spot. It’s often called “Little Venice” because a series of canals runs through downtown. It is authentic, medieval, and very quaint. Though strolling the streets and doing some light shopping and dining can easily entertain one for the day, some of the main sights are:

- Cathedral
- Alte Hofhaltung
- Neue Residenz
- Old Town Hall
- Klein-Venedig (“Little Venice”)
- Michaelsberg Abbey
- Altenburg, castle

Bamberg is famous for their breweries. They have 8 major breweries (an unusually high number for a city of its size) and other minor ones. They are also known for the Rauchbier, or smoked beer, which tastes like bacon. Take a Bamber beer tour, or ask you friends about drinking a beer at all the breweries in one day and earning your Beer Diploma!

- Brauerei Fässla
- Brauerei Greifenklau
- Brauerei Heller-Trum (Schlenkerla)
- Brauerei Kaiserdom
- Keesmann Bräu
- Klosterbräu
- Mahrs Bräu
- Brauerei Spezial
DAY TRIP: BAD STAFFELSTEIN

Travel method: train, trains to Bad Staffelstein will depart at least once per hour during the day. Bavaria Day Passes will usually get you the best price for this trip.

Travel time: 20 minutes

City profile: a very small town with mainly a large retirement center there. It has beautiful country side, hills, and the main attraction - natural lakes. Once the weather was warm enough, we frequently went here on day trips to swim at the lake, admission is about 2 euro to access the public beach. Follow these directions, or google directions to the AquaRiese from the train station.
DAY TRIP: NURNBERG

Travel method: train, trains to Nurnberg will depart at least once per hour during the day. Bavaria Day Passes will usually get you the best price for this trip.
Travel time: 1 hour 30 minutes
City profile: 500,000 inhabitants, Nurnberg is the closest large city to Coburg. It still has much of its medieval appeal, and also is the site of many other events in history, such as the Nurnberg trials. Spend the day there for good shopping and wandering along the river. It also has the nearest movie theatre that plays films in English!

Make sure and try the Nurnberger bratwursts! Each region and sometimes city has their own take on bratwursts. You’ll find that the Coburger and Nurnberger ones are very different, but both delicious!

Main attractions:

Nuremberg Castle
Heilig-Geist-Spital (one of the largest hospitals of the middle ages)
Hauptmarkt (buy some famous gingerbread!)
Gothic St Lorenz-Kirche
The Germanisches Nationalmuseum (Germany's largest museum of cultural histor), among its exhibits are works of famous
The Neues Museum Nürnberg (museum for modern and contemporary art)
The Walburga Chapel and the Romanesque Doppelkapelle
The Tiergarten Nürnberg (zoo stretching over more than 148 acres in the Nürnberger Reichswald forest)
medieval market (just inside the city walls, selling handcrafted goods
The German National Railways Museum
The Nazi party rally grounds with the documentation-centre
Trains in Germany are efficient, on time, clean, and easy to use. This document should contain everything you need to know about navigating the system.

WWW.BAHN.DE

Bookmark, favorite, or just memorize this website, it just became your best friend. Look around the site to familiarize yourself before you leave, it can be switched to English at the top right corner. Check time tables for any day and any location. You can also purchase tickets to other countries on this website. Generally, going through websites such as eurorail ends up being more expensive.

WAYS TO SAVE:

BAVARIA PASSES: A special ticket can be bought to travel on as many regional trains in one day, in the same region, for a fixed price. Bavarians get the benefit of the deal on this one - Bavaria is the largest region in Germany. You can travel on this ticket all the way to Munich (though it will take a bit longer). Single person tickets are available, as well group tickets for up to 5 people. This is generally the best way to travel in Bavaria, especially for roundtrip day trips. There is also a similar offer for traveling anywhere in Germany for a more expensive fixed price in one day.

BAHN CARDS: depending on how long you will be in the country, it may be beneficial to purchase a Bahn Card. Purchasing a Bahn Card will then grant you a designated discount on every train ticket you buy while it is valid. (this excludes Bavaria passes)

BUY EARLY: as soon as you plan a trip, buy the train tickets online. The longer you wait, the more expensive they will get.
ACTIVITY: SCHLOSS CALLENBERG

One of the lesser known castles in Coburg, Germany is Schloss Callenberg. (Fun fact, the German language has about 5 different words for what we would call a castle in English. Schlosses are often more residential, and could also be called a Chateau.) It is isolated deep within the woods, relatively close to the student residences. It’s accessible by car or bus, but it’s much more fun to walk or run there. It took me about 3 attempts to find it on my own, but it was an exciting adventure! Here is the route that I ran through the woods to get there. The trails are well kept and safe. It is about a 2.5 mile trip, one-way. The castle itself is opened during the day for visits, and the grounds are great for exploring and looking out over the city. A great way to spend a nice afternoon! w
ACTIVITY: THEATRE

Coburg boasts a beautiful antique theatre and thriving performing arts program. There are always performances at the Landestheatre, which is located across the courtyard from Schloss Ehrenburg. Tickets for students are discounted. Check schedules and purchase in advance at http://www.landestheater-coburg.de/

Make sure to get tickets early! The theatre is not very large, and seats fill up quick!
ACTIVITY: VESTE COBURG

Though you will likely see Coburg’s castle every day of your stay there, it is absolutely important that you go visit the Veste Coburg on the hill at least once. Trains leave from the Theatre daily for a small roundtrip fee. You can also hop on a bus (the bus system is easy to use. The bus that goes up to the castle is called ‘veste’) You can also walk up the hill through the Hofgarten, but it’s a little bit of a hike. Tickets to go through the castle’s interior can be purchased upon arrival. Many of the rooms are furnished with furniture pieces dated centuries ago. There is also a small glass museum, armory, and various art collections. Also, the view at the top in itself is worth the journey.
COBURG RESTAURANT GUIDE

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Bratwurst - Coburger bratwursts are the best in the country! (or so they say...) Pick up one of these in the Markplatz for a cheap, delicious, satisfying meal.

Doner Kepabs - the best food Germany introduced me to. The best doner place in Coburg is the one adjacent to the Kaufhof, the main department store.

Train Station food - the train station sometimes had some delicious sandwiches that were perfect for picking up on my way into town. They also have butter pretzels daily, a deliciously unhealthy snack.

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Hungry Highlander - a great restaurant with many different types of items on the menu. One of my favorite places for dinner!

Cafe Feyler - a chic cafe near the theatre. Delicious assortments of cakes and breads, as well as a full breakfast menu and lunch specials. Highly recommended!

Munchner Hofbrau - this is an extremely traditional German restaurant that is attached to the Munchner hotel.

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Cafe Filou - a high class restaurant near the train station. The food and wine is delicious, but a little pricy. One tip: go to the brunch buffet on Saturdays. Reasonably priced and all you can eat! Crepes made to order!

Goldenes Kreux - I don’t have any personal review on this one, but it was recommended to me by a friend “if anyone was every offering to take me somewhere expensive.” Apparently it’s good!
WOHNZIMMER - Wohnzimmer is a laid back, very popular bar. They have a extensive menu of cocktails and shots, but not quite as much beer. It is also home to the cucumber shot and to-go cocktails, which are both worth trying.

WOOLOO MOOLOO - this is the most popular bar in Coburg, and the only one with more of a "club" feel. It is always packed, and a little bit of intense of an atmosphere. Downstairs, there are two rooms for dancing, but don’t expect to be able talk down there, or hear in the morning.

SONDERBAR - My personal favorite. Sonderbar is a really laid back bar and restaurant that often has live music. It also has a large selection of beer, and features a beer of the month from a local brewery. The crowd is more relaxed and a little bit older than that of the other bars.

KOSTBAR - Kostbar is a restaurant/bar on the top floor, and a bar/nightclub in the basement. It is pretty generic, but a good place for some dancing.

PADDY’S IRISH BAR - There’s not much that’s actually irish about this place, besides the fact that is has Irish Car Bombs, but it IS the only place in town with Karaoke...enough said.
WHERE TO BUY WHAT

Wait, there’s no Walmart? It’s sad how reliant Americans have become on super-stores and one-stop shops. Germany, and particularly Coburg, follows quite the opposite of that model. Here are some tips on where to find the things you need.

1. MUELLER. Mueller is equivalent to a Walgreens. It is the best place to purchase your office supplies and toiletries.

2. SMALL GROCERY STORES. These stores are located in town and the most convenient option for getting basic grocery needs
   - ALDI - Mohrenstraße 12, 96450 Coburg, Germany
   - NORMA - Hindenburg Strasse 5, 96450 Coburg, Germany
   - NETTO - Am Viktoriabrunnen 1, 96450 Coburg, Germany (in town)
     - Buchenweg 2, 96479 Weitramsdorf OT Weidach, Germany (by the dorms)
   - LIDL - Kanonenweg 15, 96450 Coburg, Germany

3. LARGE GROCERY STORES. These grocery stores are a little bit farther out (you’ll need to find someone with a car to get to Real) but have a much wider selection, and you can even find some American foods like tortillas and peanut butter.
   - EDEKA - Front raft Anger 2, 96450 Coburg, Germany
   - REAL - Coburg Street 2, 96487 Dörfles-Esbach, Germany

4. KAUFHOF. The only department store in Coburg. Here you can find miscellaneous things like bedding, small appliances, laundry accessories, or sports equipment.
8 THINGS TO DO ON A SUNDAY

One thing that came as a complete surprise to me in Germany was the fact that nothing is opened on Sundays. The whole town comes to a halt, and it’s difficult to get anything done. It was annoying to me at first, but as I got more used to it, I learned how to slow down and enjoy a whole day of doing nothing. Here are some tips on how to spend your free day.

1. COOK A FANCY MEAL. But make sure you do your grocery shopping on Saturday. Invite some friends over and make an evening of it.

2. GET A PANCAKE. The Pfannkucken at the Marktplatz is one of the few cafes open on Sundays. They have fantastic breakfast, and ice cream!

3. PEOPLE WATCH. Cafe Feyler is also opened on Sundays. Sit outside and learn the art of doing nothing from the passerbys.

4. GO TO CHURCH. St. Augustine is the Catholic church in Coburg. A beautiful building to experience even if you aren’t religious

5. TAKE A NAP IN THE HOFGARTEN. On sunny days, this hill can be perfect for taking a walk and a snooze.

6. WALK TO THE ROSE GARDEN. The rose garden is located on the south side of town. (Directions can easily be googled) It is beautiful in the springtime. They also have a small house for birds.

7. STUDY AT THE UNI. Cappucinos from the machine are only 1 euro! You can’t go wrong.

8. GO ON A RUN IN THE FOREST. The forest behind the dorms is full of cool trails and backs up to German countryside. Go exploring, but don’t get lost!
ACTIVITY: AQUARIA

Aquaria is Coburg’s indoor swimming pool complex. It has about 4 indoor pools and two outdoor pools. There is a huge amount of water activities and equipment, including slides and whirlpools. In the evening, the lights turn on and there is a cool ambience. Admission is about 2.50 euro. Get a group together for a fun outing! Go to aquaria-coburg.com for more information.

One evening the University even hosted an event for students. There were drinks and music and special activities. Keep your eyes peeled for that!