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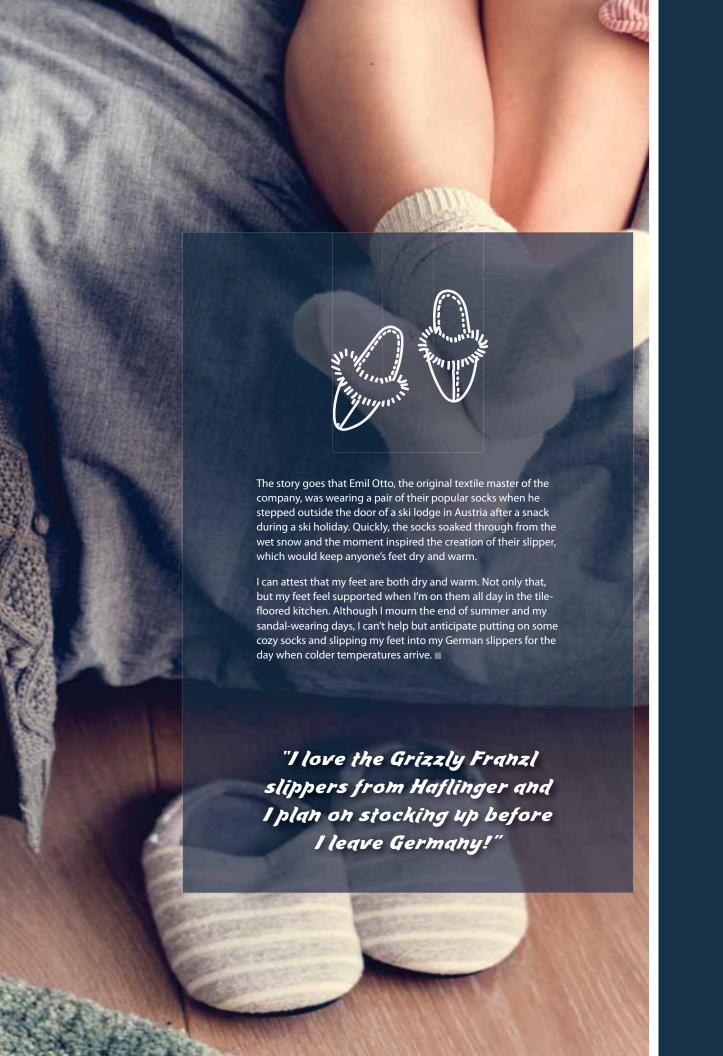
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L ondon's got Buckingham Palace, Paris can claim Versailles and Saint Petersburg has its Winter Palace. The German state of Baden-Württemberg has a no less stunning entrant in the palace sweeps: the Residenzschloss Ludwigsburg, or Ludwigsburg Palace.

This sumptuous palace is the crown jewel of a planned city that the ruling noble of the time, Duke Eberhard Ludwig of Württemberg, ordered to have built to showcase his wealth and power. Germany's largest palatial estate consists of 18 buildings sprawling across nearly 80 acres of the Duke's former hunting grounds. The ambitious building project got underway in 1704 and wasn't completed until nearly three decades later. Even then, many elements remained unfinished, and subsequent rulers continued to expand and update according to trends of the day.

The opulent premises served as the residence of four monarchs before the abdication of King Wilhelm II dissolved the Kingdom of Württemberg in 1918. That same year, Ludwigsburg Palace was opened to the public. It survived the ravages of World War II and has undergone numerous renovation efforts since, most recently on the occasion of its 300th anniversary in 2004. Although visitors can't peek into each of the property's 452 rooms, much of the property is accessible. Once the delights of its interior spaces have been thoroughly explored, an outdoor world of beauty and fantasy awaits.

The Buildings

The Residential Palace blends the styles of Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassicism. Tour highlights include the silk-walled, porcelain-bedecked private apartments of Duke Carl Eugen, a successor to the throne, and a circa-1730 theater featuring original wooden stage machinery. The Hall of Ancestors portrait gallery showcases paintings of the dukes and their wives—but only those ladies who produced heirs to the throne.

The palace houses expansive collections classified as museums in their own right. The fashion museum features original clothing spanning the 18th through 20th centuries. A ceramics museum displays exquisite Ludwigsburg porcelain and contemporary designs. The Kinderreich is an interactive museum where children can play dress-up and learn about court life.

Schloss Favorite, the former summer residence and hunting palace, delights with its painstakingly refurbished Neoclassical interiors and wooded grounds roamed by numerous species of deer.

# The Gardens

Despite impressive visitor numbers—some 590,000 guests strolled through the palace's expansive grounds in 2019—there's still plenty of space to spread out. Main areas include a symmetrical Baroque garden designed to complement the palace's façade; the brooding, purposebuilt Emichsburg Castle ruins rising from a steep cliff and surrounded by English landscape gardens; and the Blooming Baroque, a fairytale garden with scenes straight from a child's picture book. Little Red Riding Hood, Sleeping Beauty and Hansel and Gretel are just some of the characters brought to life here.

# Events Galore

Each year in autumn, the leafy gardens serve as the backdrop to the world's largest pumpkin exhibition, at which some 450,000 gorgeous gourds are put on display. Each year's show is conceptualized around a theme, from music to creatures of the forest and rounded out with pumpkin-based culinary treats. Other annual events include a street music festival, musical fireworks, illuminations and sand art, in which artists sculpt tons of sand into works of art. ■



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# By Stacy Roman Austria invokes images of sophisticated elegance and quiet

Austria invokes images of sophisticated elegance and quiet refinement. Often seen as an extension of Germany, Austria is more like a genteel cousin with its history, culture and identity. Borders lined with jagged alpine peaks and crystal-clear lakes make for fantastic hiking in the warm summer months and world-class snow sport options in the icy winter. However, one of the best seasons to visit this jewel is in the fall — during the cooler and colorful autumnal months. From vibrant cities to small, rural villages and rugged mountain towns, there is no better time to discover Austria than now.





For urban travelers, a visit to the capital city of Vienna is a must. This magnificent metropolis is nothing short of spectacular.

ABOVE In mid-late September, visitors can often witness the annual spectacle of the "Almabtrieb."

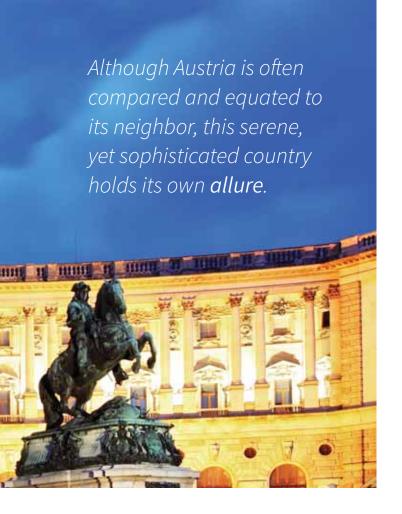
# The Great Outdoors

Austria's outdoor spaces are teeming with hikers, backpackers, mountaineers, skiers, snowboarders and other thrill-seeking adventurers during the summer and winter. As fall begins to announce its arrival, tourists start to head home, which leaves the well-maintained trails and parks significantly less crowded. Sandwiched between the German and Italian borders, the Tyrolean Alps boast breathtaking panoramas, sheer cliffs with cascading waterfalls and rolling emerald-green pastures. In mid-late September, visitors can often witness the annual spectacle of the "Almabtrieb." After spending the summer moseying through the high-altitude meadows at their leisure, thousands of cattle, sheep, goats and other livestock make their way down the mountains back to their rightful owners and farms. Decked out in brightly colored ribbons and wreaths, once the animals have paraded through the village streets, it's time to celebrate with a fest!

If you travel further east, approximately 75 kilometers south of Salzburg, you'll discover the charming Austrian town of Hallstatt. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the area is famous for what lies beneath. A complex tunnel of caves at Dachstein Cave World dates back millions of years and was once part of an ocean, as evidenced by the fossils and shells that remain. Jagged mineral deposits known as stalactites and stalagmites jut ominously through the cave floor and dangle precariously from the ceiling. Hallstatt is also home to the world's oldest salt mine. Visitors can walk through the mine or stay aboveground and view the cityscape from the Skywalk. Or head to one of the nearby trails circling the lake for a trek through the changing leaves.



ABOVE With a vast amount of palatial homes and castles, Salzburg has the feel of a fairy tale.





RIGHT
A complex tunnel of caves
at Dachstein Cave World
dates back millions of
years and was once part
of an ocean, as evidenced
by the fossils and shells
that remain.





# The Cultural Icons

For urban travelers, a visit to the capital city of Vienna is a must. This magnificent metropolis is nothing short of spectacular. A cultural powerhouse, intellectual and artistic greats such as Sigmund Freud, Beethoven and Mozart once called Vienna home. If the brisk autumn winds chase you indoors, there are a plethora of museums near the city center in the MuseumsQuartier. Once home to Austrian royalty, visitors can see how the other half lived at one of the many palaces. The impressive Schönbrunn Palace is an easy U-Bahn ride from the middle of town. Likewise, the Hofburg, Vienna Opera House, Karlskirche, Palais Schwarzenberg and Belvedere Palace are all within walking distance and worth a stop.

Sitting on the German border is the enchanting city of Salzburg. Immortalized in the beloved film "The Sound of Music," its history is very much entwined with music and the arts. With a vast amount of palatial homes and castles, Salzburg has the feel of a fairy tale. As the birthplace of Mozart, visitors can walk through his childhood home and glide through the ornate ballrooms of Mirabell Palace and the Robinhof, imagining his dramatic musical stylings filling the grand spaces. If the outdoors is calling to you, head to the riverfront and walk beneath the beautiful foliage lining the Salzach River. For a little more adventure, head to one of the many hiking spots in the Alps east of the city.

Another cultural gem hiding in the Tyrolean Alps tends to see more visitors during the winter. Host to the Winter Olympics in 1964, 1976 and the Youth Olympic Games in 2012, Innsbruck should be on your travel bucket list. Although it's best known as a winter sports mecca, visiting during the fall allows visitors to see the spectacular colors as the leaves change against the backdrop of pastel-colored buildings and towering snow-capped peaks in the distance. If the weather takes a turn, head indoors to the Swarovski Kristallwelten. With brilliant displays of glittering crystals, visitors can peek inside the world-famous crystal house.

Although Austria is often compared and equated to its neighbor, this serene, yet sophisticated country holds its own allure. During the autumn months, you'll find you have more breathing room and the opportunity to discover all it has to offer.



# Up Close and Personal — with—— Glockenbachviertel

by Jessica Zen

arge, bustling cities can be overwhelming if you are trying to see the entire thing in one trip, or even one day. Munich, the capital of Bavaria and Germany's most populous city, is a lot to process all at once. Take the guesswork out of your trip to the city by breaking it down into neighborhoods. One of Munich's prettiest neighborhoods is Glockenbachviertel. It is located just south of the city center by the Isar River and has undergone many changes over the years.

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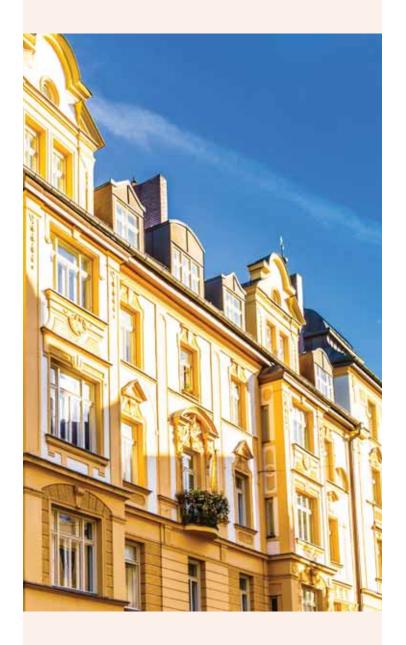


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Glockenbachviertel was once home to the Jewish community and millworkers. It then made a fairly drastic change and turned into the edgy hub of Munich's gay and lesbian community in the 1980s. Queen's lead singer, Freddie Mercury, even had a second home here! The neighborhood recently turned into Munich's most luxurious area and is home to lovely residential buildings, bars, restaurants and shops. It has a booming nightlife and is a chic place to hang out, especially with the younger crowds. You could even label it a little eccentric and liberal.

Though the heydays for the LGBTQ community may seem like they were left in the 80s, that simply isn't true. There is still a thriving community there today. Müllerstrasse has numerous bars, clubs and stores that promote sexual equality in a judgement-free zone. This particular district within Munich chooses to let the city shine with all the colors of the rainbow!

If you are interested in shopping for unique, independent labels, look no further than Hans-Sachs-Straße. This street is lined with boutique stores, cafes and bistros with outdoor seating and is the perfect place for shopping. Visit 7te Himmel for unique fashion and jewelry or Artefakt, which sells hand-dyed and painted fabrics from up-and-coming designers.

To refuel while shopping, head to cafe SAXS. They have a sun terrace that is a lovely place to relax and unwind. Another great place to stop and eat or grab drinks is The Drunken Dragon Bar. They offer Chinese fusion-inspired foods in a trendy setting. The service is impeccable and the wait staff speaks English. Should you be out and about later at night, the kiosk on Reichenbachbrücke bridge serves drinks and small snacks. There is also a plethora of currywurst places that are still going strong between 2 to 3 a.m. if you just can't get enough of this traditional German snack.

If you've been searching for the perfect neighborhood in Germany with a younger crowd, more modern establishments and less of an uptight feel, Glockenbachviertel is the place for you. Support independent artists, sample some amazing food and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Munich is overflowing with old world charm, but this particular place is headed for the future with its forward thinking and modern innovation.

One of Munich's prettiest neighborhoods is Glockenbachviertel. It is located just south of the city center by the Isar River and has undergone many changes over the years.



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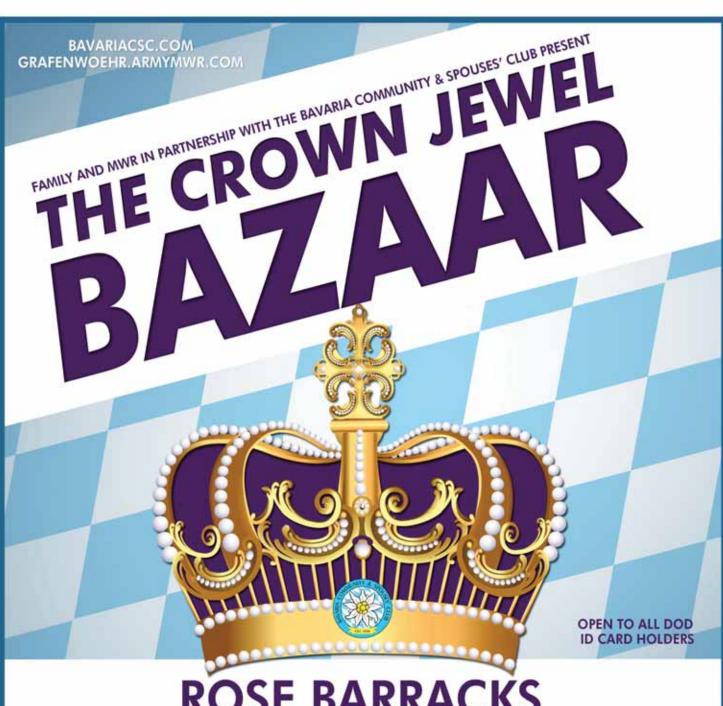
# PALMA, MALLORCA

By Mary Del Rosario



The Balearic Islands, an archipelago of islands in Spain, is a treasure trove of inviting beaches, warm weather, tapas and water activities. One treasure to uncover is Palma, the Balearic Island's capital and largest city. Whatever calls you to the sun-kissed island of Mallorca, some time in its capital is a must.

For a vacation you won't soon forget, follow this itinerary.



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# WHAT TO DO

Palma is a stress-free and easy city to navigate. For a capital city, it's relatively small, so experiencing all the major highlights on your first day is possible. The Palma Cathedral, or La Seu, is one of those sites that is not only a must-see, but it's also one that you literally can't miss, as it commands the city. This Gothic-style cathedral sits on the top of Palma's Old Town and boasts a spectacular view of Parc de la Mar, where you can see the old port. Since you've spotted the port, saunter your way down there next. The Passeig Maritim, a palm tree-lined walkway by the harbor, is peppered with restaurants and bars that not only provide sumptuous eats but offer the best views of the port. Seeing the lucky souls docking off from their yachts is a memory I can still picture. Another can't-miss site is the Royal Palace of La Almundaina, a stunning fortified palace that was once used by Mallorca's monarchs.

For those who love to shop, be sure not to overlook Passeig del Born, a tree-lined street that's peppered with chic shops selling brands from Louis Vuitton to Hugo Boss. If you're hungry after, you'll be spoiled with the many restaurants to choose from.



# WHERE TO EAT

Though fan-favorites while in any city in Spain, tapas, paella and sangria are not the only items to look for while eating out. Popular dishes belonging to Mallorca include "arrós brut," dirty rice filled with meat, vegetables and spices, "trumbet," a dish with fried eggplant and potatoes in tomato sauce and roasted suckling pig, which is typically served with potatoes. For an authentic Balearic dining experience, check out Adrian Quetglas. Located in Passeig de Mallorca, this restaurant mixes its native roots with an international twist. For a nautical ambiance, head to Canblanc Port at Passeig Maritim. The linguini with lobster and Galician clams still has my tastebuds drooling.

If your sweet tooth is looking for a treat, be sure to order an Ensaimada, a sweet yeasted loaf heavily dusted in powdered sugar that's best paired with a piping hot cup of coffee. You can find these sweetened delights at almost any bakery.

Of course, if you feel like you've taken all of Palma's charm in during your first 24 hours here, a simple car ride will take you to easy day trips in other regions of the island. ■



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