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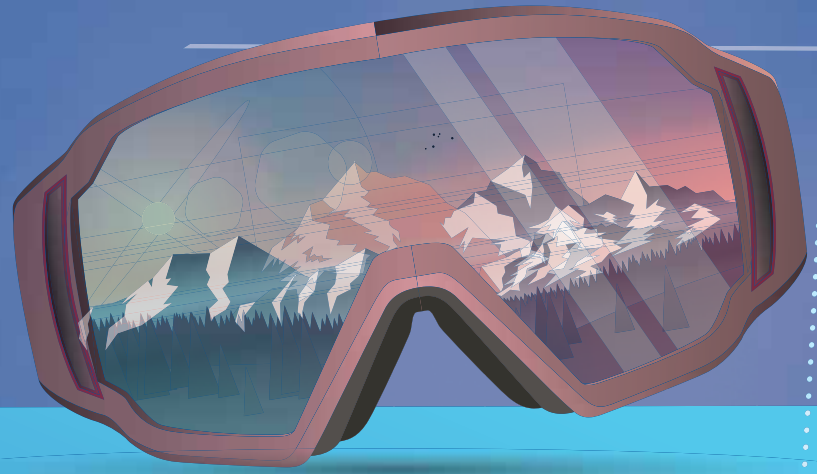
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Exploring

BRATISLAVA

in a Weekend

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WHAT'S UP

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October Events

By Tamala Malerk

EDITOR'S PICKS

Fall is here and it's time to put on that light sweater and enjoy these fun events. Always check an event's website before traveling.



Brunch at the Ostrich Farm Stockach, Oct. 3

Go on a guided tour of the Ostrich farm where you can see not only ostriches, but deer too and feel how soft an ostrich feather is. Then, refuel with a delicious brunch of sausage, Ostrich egg, waffles, braided bread and more.



Bachata Festival Hamburg Hamburg, Oct. 6-8

Whether you want to perfect your technique in a boot camp, learn a new move in a workshop, watch performances or just party, there is something at this Bachata festival for you.



Craft and Farmer's Market Kirn, Oct. 8

Do some rare Sunday shopping at this outdoor market featuring over 80 vendors. Shop for toys, ceramics, flowers, fresh-squeezed apple juice, sausages and freshly baked bread.



Young the Giant, Live in Concert Cologne, Oct. 8

Rock out to their new songs and see if they play some of their favorite hits like "Cough Syrup" or "Mind over Matter." Go to youngthegiant.com for more dates in Germany and Europe.



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75th Frankfurt Book Fair Frankfurt, Oct. 18-22

Visit tables and exhibits from presenters from dozens of countries all over the world. Take a masterclass, attend the kid's festival or a speaking engagement. 2022 speakers included Diane Kruger and Volodymyr Zelensky.



Halloween Burg Frankenstein Darmstadt, Oct. 20-Nov. 4

Prepare to be scared with 3,000 sq. meters of "pure horror!" However, Sundays are kids' days for the children (and those who prefer treats to tricks at Halloween). Keep in mind that this takes place in a muddy swamp and on 800-year-old cobblestones when planning your costume.



PLAY!-Interactive Gaming Convention 2023 Trier, Oct. 21-22

All things gaming await you at this convention! See a live stage show, shop from indie vendors, play in an e-sport tournament and more. See our Con Together: October digital article for more pop culture events in Germany.



Lords of the Sound: The Music of Hans Zimmer, Dortmund, Oct. 29

See if you can pick out the score to your favorite soundtrack during this orchestral performance. Zimmer has created music for popular films such as "Pirates of the Caribbean," "The Dark Knight," "Mission Impossible," "Madagascar" and more. Visit lordsofthesound.com for tickets and more dates throughout Germany.

Tell Your Story!

Editor's Pick Call Out:

Did you attend one of previous Editor's Picks events? We want to hear all about it! Please share something memorable about your experience in about 50-70 words and you could be featured here. Send your submissions to contentteam@stripes.com. ■

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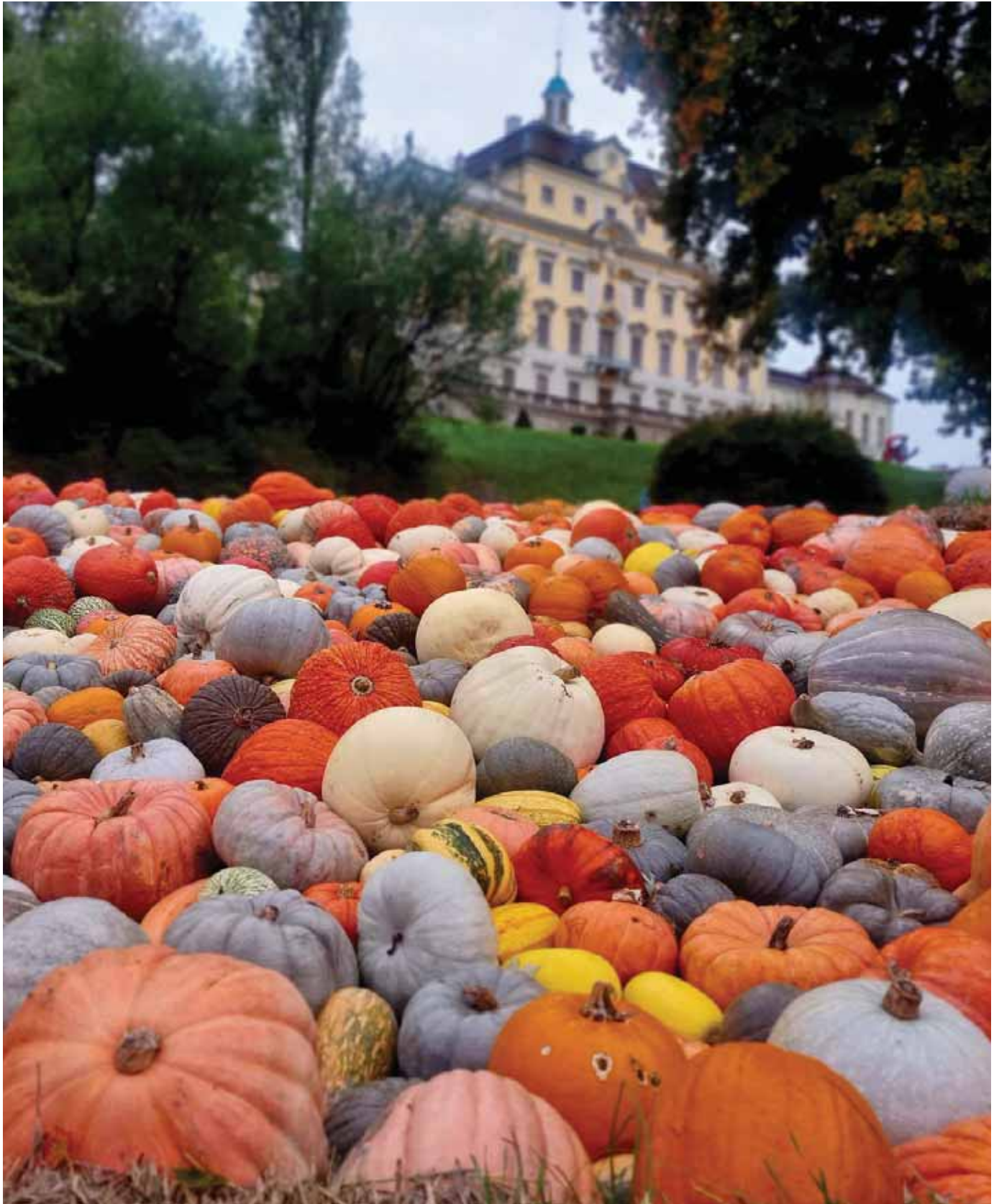


PHOTO of the month

Until Dec. 3, you can attend the Ludwigsburg Pumpkin Festival at the grounds of the palace. This is the “world’s largest pumpkin exhibition” and you don’t want to miss out. You will find 450,000 pumpkins with 600 different varieties. There are edible pumpkin treats, pumpkin sculptures as well as decorative and ornamental pumpkins to take home with you.

Photo by Karen Kearby

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Garmisch

By Kat Nickola

My brother was visiting us from the States and wanted to “see it all,” so I dropped him off at the Zugspitzbahn station to head up to Germany’s highest peak. It’s too expensive for me to enjoy the Zugspitze every time a family member visits, so instead I spent the day hiking at the Garmisch-Classic area nearby for half the cost.

This ski area, southwest of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, includes three rocky peaks: the Alpspitze, Kreuzeck and Hausberg. Three cable cars service the high mountain region outside of ski season, with two reaching the valley floor. They are open from 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. in October but will close in early November to prepare for skiing in December. A day pass gets you one valley ascent and descent, and there are family packages that make it even more affordable.

Fall hiking in the Alps can be beautiful with crisp sunny days or it can be cold with snowy rain and clouds, but most often it means both. The best thing about hiking this time of year, however, is the lack of summer tourist crowds.

Our hiking day began cloudy and misty, so the kids and I bundled in our rain gear and topped up our water and snacks at the USAG Garmisch commissary before driving to the Alpspitzbahn parking lot nearby.

We rode the Alpspitzbahn through the clouds to the station at the peak. At the top, we waited a bit for the downpouring rain to resume its misty character, and then began our hike. Uphill behind the station are the AlpsiX lookout platforms that overhang the cliffs and offer extensive views over the valley. It’s worth the detour to visit when the weather is clear.



From the Alpspitzbahn station, our hike was an easy 3.2km, primarily downhill route. The only trick for us was finding the trailhead in the mist since there are two options. You do not want to choose the trail directly below the cable car. We followed signs for the Pleasure Adventure Trail. This nice wide trail switchbacks down an alpine field and eventually goes through a majestic cirque. Along the way are informational signs and activities designed to introduce young children to the beauty of the mountains. Take your time. Enjoy the views and fresh mountain air. My teens liked the basket swings at the top of the hanging valley with its grassy meadow surrounded by an amphitheater of rocky cliffs. I’m sure it helped that the rain cleared, the clouds lifted, and we could finally see all the way down to Garmisch where mist was still rising.

There is a steep section of trail down the stretch to the Hochalmbahn cable car station, but there are also some funny local cows with

bells around their necks to keep you moving. The Hochalm is a great spot for a break. We lingered for a while eating our packed lunch and listening to the cows. From that point the trail is fairly flat as it follows the contour of the mountain around to the front of the range and the end of the hike at the Kreuzeckbahn cable car.

As we neared the end, the sun came out and gave a whole new perspective to the mountains. They are beautiful, rain or shine, and we got both! The last step was to ride the Kreuzeckbahn back down to the valley and our car. My brother was pleased with his trip up to the “Top of Germany,” but the cloudy weather meant he didn’t quite get the views he hoped for. The Garmisch-Classic area offers a wonderful alternative to the Zugspitze, giving you an alpine experience that is enjoyable in any weather. ■

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Exploring **BRATISLAVA** *in a Weekend*

By Erica Fowler

For your next fall trip, somewhere as historically rich and beautiful as Bratislava should be added to your plans. Historically called Pressburg, this Slovakian capital is surrounded by the Little Carpathian Mountains with elaborate fortresses placed throughout, intended to protect this small landlocked country. Slovakia is an affordable European destination. You can easily see everything you want to see if you just give yourself the time to do so.

You can travel into Bratislava by train but be flexible (bring something to read or listen to) if your train is delayed or rerouted. Once you are in the city, you can take the trams around if you need a break, just buy a ticket at a bus stop kiosk or on the tram and validate it when you ride. I recommend spending at least one day exploring the city, but a weekend is even better so you don't find yourself overly exhausted. Trust me, bring good walking shoes because Bratislava is well-known for being pedestrian friendly.



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OLD TOWN

Hit the cobblestones in the heart of the city by starting in the Old Town, or “Staré Mesto.” Check out the Old Town Hall’s city history museum and the 18th-century Primate’s Palace, which now acts as an elegant cultural center displaying paintings and tapestries. It also contains the Hall of Mirrors, where a peace treaty was signed between France and Austria in 1805. It was a peace that only lasted four years before French forces, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, returned for a second siege.

I suggest spiraling out into various squares and tree-lined streets, where you won’t miss Michael’s Tower, a fortification from the 14th century. It recently re-opened its restored weapons museum. There is also an extensive display of historical artifacts at the Museum of Jewish Culture, which highlights the long history of Orthodox Judaism in Bratislava.



ST. MARTIN’S CATHEDRAL

My favorite detail of this cathedral is the striking Gothic tower, topped with a mint green and gold trimmed spire, finished with the symbol of the Hungarian crown on top. As the coronation site of many Hungarian kings and queens, its whitewashed stone walls house a replica of the crown used for such ceremonies that are still re-enacted annually. The four chapels and nave are worth exploring every nook of, along with gorgeous stained-glass details.



SLOVAK PUB

For a menu with a variety of local offerings, the Slovak Pub will hit the spot. Sweet and savory dumplings, hearty soups and sheep’s cheese from a local farm will have you not wanting to leave (or unable to until you have a digestif, which is no problem with their full bar).



CHURCH OF ST. ELIZABETH

Also known as the Blue Church, this 20th-century church announces itself from a distance. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything quite like it. A mixture of Art Nouveau meets wedding cake and Disney castle, it is full of bright colors and magnificent detail. While

it is worth wandering around the outside, it is often closed to tourists due to weddings or mass. Note the open hours on their website if you want to see inside as well.





FROM GREAT HEIGHTS

If you want to target locations where the view of the city is especially vast, these sites are a worthy adventure.

A key city symbol is the Bratislava Castle, which apart from being well maintained, offers great views of the city from its terraces and Baroque garden. You can gracefully walk down the wide beautiful staircases and get up close with many medieval artifacts on display in its Museum of History and become immersed in the stories they tell.

The Slavin War Memorial is hard to miss as it overlooks part of Old Town; it's worth visiting,

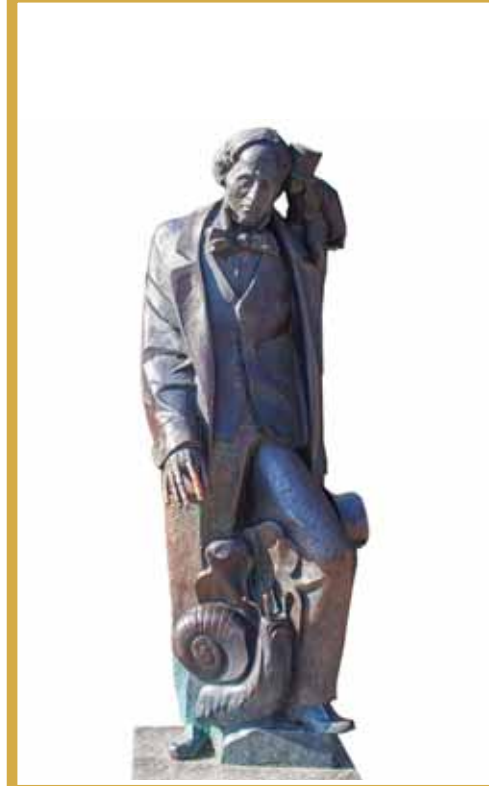
especially near sunset. This is also a burial site for Soviet Army soldiers who fell during World War II.

In the hilly outskirts of Bratislava, the ruined fortress "Hrad Devín" or Devín Castle overlooks the union of the mighty Danube and small Morava rivers. If you can make the 21-minute bus ride from downtown, be prepared to climb 212 meters up for a serene view of the landscape. Winding around to walk up the steep incline, you'll see the precariously perched Maiden's Tower on a rocky outcropping. Before Slovakia's currency switched from the koruna to the euro, the Maiden's Tower was featured on the 50-halier coin. Stop in the cool depths of the castle's museum before heading to a cozy place to eat some traditional food.



UFO TOWER & RESTAURANT

If you don't get queasy with heights and want a riverside view, hop up to the observation deck at the UFO Tower over the Danube River. Perched atop one side of the bridge "Most Slovenského národného povstania" or "Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising," it is 10 to 12 euros for an adult ticket to go up, depending on whether you visit during the weekend or a weekday. Here you can also dine at its sky-high restaurant, which has a higher-end price range (from 39 to 49 euros for the main course only) in exchange for a very memorable meal.



Scavenger Hunt OF A LIFETIME

STATUES, SO MANY STATUES

The city has a chance to show off its quirky and artistic side with the many statues around the city to admire. My favorite bronze statues were Čumil, a sanitation worker gazing at passersby, and The Witch, an airy figure hanging out with a bunch of crows in an empty courtyard below the castle. Perhaps you'll run into the bronzed Hans Christian Andersen or the Soldier from Napoleon's Army, too!

NAPOLEON LEFT HIS MARK

In the Old Town Hall, a cannonball is still lodged in the tower wall from the siege of 1809. In fact, throughout the buildings of the town square, some of these dense projectiles are still lodged where they came to rest all those years ago. Residents decided to leave some in place as a way to remember the eventual victory when Napoleon failed to take Bratislava (then Pressburg). ■

10 THINGS

TO REMEMBER WHEN

SHOPPING *in Germany*

By Tamala Malerk

Retail therapy can be a great way to spend a day. However, shopping in Germany is a little different than shopping in America. Keep these tips in mind to ensure you have a successful shopping day.



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SUNDAY IS NOT THE DAY TO SHOP

Most stores in Germany are closed on Sundays. Unless you want to compete with everyone else at the Commissary and Exchange, it's best to avoid shopping on this day.

2

KEEP CASH ON HAND

This is especially true if you want to spend the day shopping at outdoor markets. Make sure to bring enough euros to cover your projected costs.



THE PRICE YOU SEE IS THE PRICE YOU PAY

There is no need to do all of that mental math before getting to the register. Tax is already included in the price you see.



4



EVENTUAL CASH BACK

If you are making a large purchase on the economy, it might be beneficial to utilize a value added tax (VAT) form. If a store takes a VAT form, you can have the cost of the taxes removed from the final price.



BRING YOUR OWN BAGS

Stores may not have bags, or, if they do, you will be charged for them. Remember to grab those reusable bags that you already own too many of before you head out for the day.



KNOW THE LINGO

Textbook German and conversational German are two different languages. I learned the German word for bag was "Tasche," which is true, but not that kind of bag. The clerk did not ask me if I needed a "Tasche," they asked if I needed a "Tüte" and I was completely lost.



GERMANY IS NOT 24/7

I have spent many bored late nights perusing the \$5 DVD rack at Walmart. That isn't an option here. While areas may occasionally have a nighttime market, most stores close before 8 p.m.

KNOW WHERE TO GO

Smaller towns will typically contain smaller boutiques and shops. However, if you are looking for a mall or a large furniture store, you may need to travel to a bigger city.



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NINE



BRING A COIN FOR THE SHOPPING CART

If you've ever shopped at an Aldi in the States, you may already be familiar with this practice. If not, you will need a euro coin or 50-cent piece to get a cart to shop with.

10

DON'T BE SURPRISED BY THE CHECK-OUT SPEED

You will be surprised how quickly the cashier will scan your items, and you will have to bag them yourself. Bag quickly or place it back into your cart, so you do not hold up the line.



HAVE YOUR OWN PRETZEL DAY

Adapted by Tamala Malerk

It is the end of Oktoberfest season, and many people will miss the celebrations with beer and pretzels. However, there is no need. When I think of pretzels, I immediately think about the “Pretzel Day” episode of “The Office.” For those unfamiliar with “The Office,” the premise behind the episode is that the only workday of the year that the grumpy salesperson, Stanley, looks forward to is a day that the office building sponsors free ‘topped-however-you-want’ soft pretzels for its employees.

A simple salted pretzel may be your thing—a pretzel (Brezel) is versatile enough to be a sweet or savory (or both) treat.

You can either make your own pretzels at home or buy them pre-made to decorate. If you want the full experience of making your own, we recommend the recipe at dirndlkitchen.com/german-pretzel-recipe.

No matter how you obtain your soft pretzel, here are some great ways to top it. Try our combinations and toppings or mix, match, or add ingredients to make your own flavor. Submit pictures of your pretzel creations to contentteam@stripes.com to be featured on our website, social media or a later issue of “What’s Up.” ■



SAVORY MIX-INS & TOPPINGS

Italian: Marinara, parmesan cheese, garlic salt

Everything Seasoning: Sesame seeds, poppy seeds, dried onion, dried garlic and salt

Nacho: Cheddar cheese and jalapeño pepper slices

Lightly Seasoned: Rosemary and sea salt

Mediterranean: Hummus and cranberry

Cajun: Black pepper, dried oregano, white pepper, cayenne pepper, thyme, onion powder, garlic powder, and smoked paprika

SWEET MIX-INS & TOPPINGS

Citrus: Cinnamon sugar and orange (or citrus) zest

“Reese’s”: Peanut butter and milk chocolate

Vanilla: Powdered sugar, milk and vanilla bean seeds (blend together to make a glaze)

Black and White: Half dark chocolate/half white chocolate

Caramel Apple: Diced apple pieces, caramel drizzle and cinnamon sugar

Butterscotch: Melted butterscotch chips and coarse sea salt

Make your pretzels from scratch using this recipe from Dirndl Kitchen!





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