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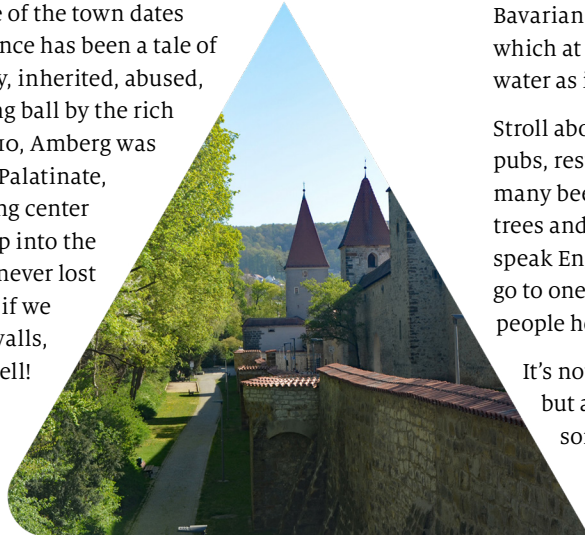
## Once upon a time ... over 1000 years ago

The center of Amberg, almost completely surrounded by a town wall, gives us an impression of what life must have been like back in the Middle Ages.

The impressive historic architecture of burghers' houses, castles and churches characterizes what is known popularly as the "secret capital of Upper Palatinate".

First documentary evidence of the town dates from 1034, and its history since has been a tale of constant change: given away, inherited, abused, tossed about like a ping-pong ball by the rich and mighty. From 1329 to 1810, Amberg was indeed the capital of Upper Palatinate, becoming an iron-ore mining center over the centuries to develop into the university town of today. It never lost its medieval flair, though ... if we could only ask those town walls, they'd have a tale or two to tell!

*Ancient walls ...  
symbols of history*

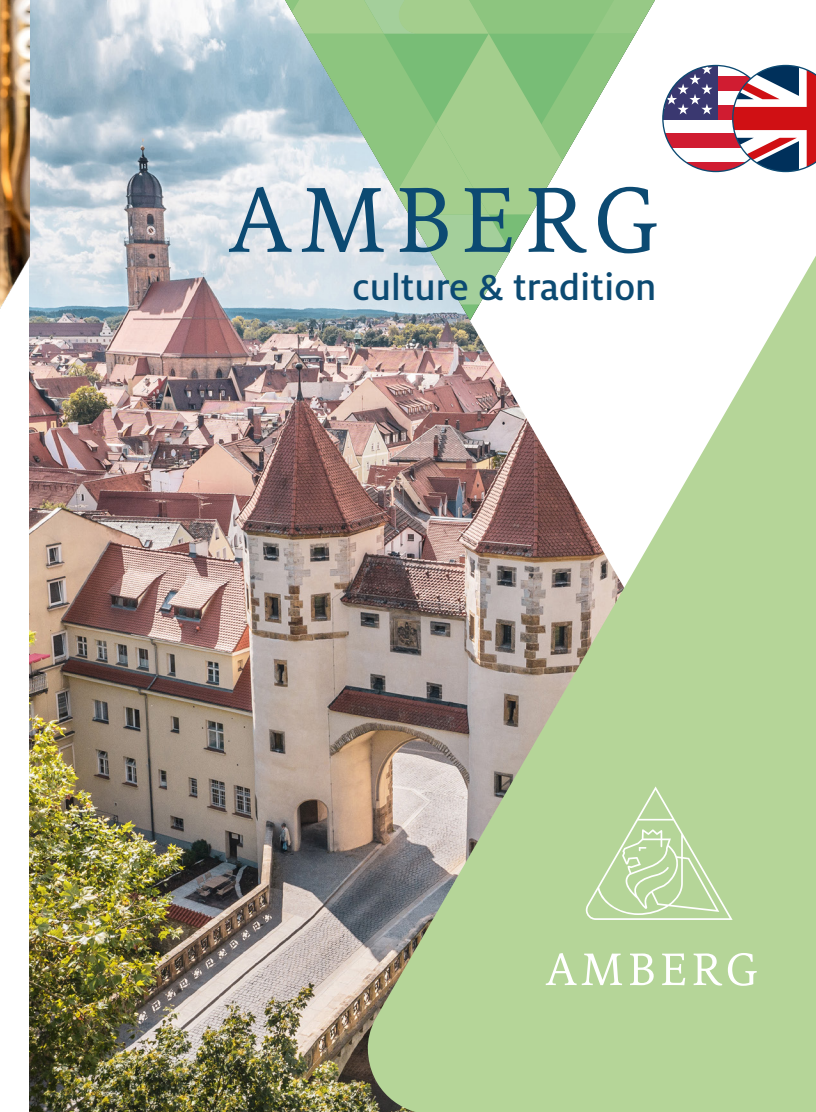


## Ale from Amberg

Back in the Middle Ages, wine was produced here. Nowadays, though, a mug of hearty, traditional German ale is the most popular beverage of townsfolk and visitors alike. After all, there are still five medium-sized breweries and one private brewer making beer in accordance with the Bavarian Purity Law of 1516, the oldest in the world, which at that time permitted only barley, hops and water as ingredients!

Stroll about and test the different flavors in a variety of pubs, restaurants, bistros and clubs, or visit one of the many beer gardens in summer, sit in the shade of the trees and chat to the locals. Don't worry: most people speak English! Walk up to the Fête on St. Mary's Hill, go to one of the many other events and experience how people here enjoy life.

It's not only the quality of Amberg's beers you'll like, but also the variety: there are some 50 different sorts to choose from! *Tasty beer  
and friendly folk*



AMBERG

## Culture & Connoisseurs

You'll have no difficulty getting into contact with the local townsfolk, finding a place to eat and drink, or choosing a cultural event to attend.

It's probably true to say that the Fête on St. Mary's Hill is well-known throughout the region, but other venues are well worth going to as well: Witches' Night, Beer Festival, Pottery Market, Whitsun Funfair, Old Town Fête, Summer in the City, Air Night, Michaelmas Funfair, Christmas Market ... in Amberg, there's something going on all year round!

When it comes to culture and the arts, Amberg can cater for all tastes. The Town Theater in the former Franciscan monastery church not only puts on a varied program of plays, concerts and dance performances; it also has an interesting history to call its own.



## Explorers & Epicureans

Amberg's skyline is characterized by mighty churches, an almost completely intact town wall with gates and towers, and a magnificent Electoral Castle. From what is probably the tiniest hotel in the world to the largest hall church in Upper Palatinate. There's so much to explore, experience and find out about. Go on a guided tour round the town, listen to the brewer's anecdotes, watch the Town Guard in their fine uniforms ... you can even accompany the executioner! All of them have so much to say about what life in Amberg used to be like.

The birds are singing, the water's splashing, so you can just sit back and relax as you glide along the River Vils in a barge, a replica of what was once used to transport iron ore and salt back and forth. You can also book a trip with beer and music included – the Bavarian way of life at its best!

As you pass through where the Bavarian Garden Show took place, whether you're on vacation or not, let your imagination run free, get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life ... and relax!

*Take your time*



## Past & Present

The Town Museum in Amberg has on display both the curious and the cultivated. There's a lot to learn about the town's history, but you'll also be able to meet well-known personalities from Amberg, such as the painter Michael Mathias Pecht or the inventor of the German version of "Ludo", Josef Friedrich Schmidt, to both of whom permanent exhibitions have been devoted.

The Bauhaus architect Prof. Walter Gropius didn't actually come from Amberg originally, but on the premises of Rosenthal, the German manufacturer of glass and porcelain, he built the Glass Cathedral; this is one of the most significant industrial buildings of the 1960s, as can be experienced first-hand on a guided tour.

Coming back to the present, Amberg is unique – it's the location for air art! In the Air Museum down by the river, everything on show has something to do with the element air.

## Gourmets & Greengrocers

Stroll about, take a look at the shops ... then drop in for a bite to eat. There are lots of ways you can enjoy yourself in Amberg. Walk along the pedestrian precinct and you'll find not only small boutiques but also well-known brands.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, farmers and traders from the region set up their stalls on the Market Place to cater for a wide range of tastes: bakers, butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers and many others sell local specialities, home-made delicacies and fresh produce.

True, Amberg is renowned for its breweries, but you'll also be enticed by the aroma of freshly ground coffee, traditional bakeries and patisseries. Whether you want to watch the passers-by going about their daily business or prefer a secluded spot in one of the side streets, the choice is yours: take it easy, enjoy yourself and take advantage of what life in Amberg has to offer.

*Variety is the spice  
of life*



# What to see in Amberg

- 1 St. Martin's Church** • late Gothic hall church with continuous gallery • built from 1421 • largest church in Upper Palatinate after Regensburg Cathedral
- 2 Town Hall** • built in 1348 • historic section in late Gothic and Renaissance style with balcony and oriel window
- 3 Town Museum** • in former municipal arsenal and granary (16th century) • completely refurbished in 1986-88
- 4 Ship Bridge** • berth for barge trips
- 5 Town Spectacles** • gate over River Vils is part of former town fortifications, and connects New Castle to Arsenal • most prominent landmark of Amberg
- 6 New Castle** • nowadays county council offices • built from 1477 by Elector Ludwig III • south wing owes its present-day appearance to court master builder Schoch from Heidelberg
- 7 Electoral Chancelry** • nowadays county court • built in 1544 in Renaissance style and designed to separate elector's court and administration
- 8 Old Fortress** • oldest government building dating from 13th century • functioned as residence of Elector and Governor until completion of New Castle in 1420 • present-day Baroque appearance dates from about 1800
- 9 Little Convent** • built in 14th century as house for Countess Palatine • once part of electoral residence • nowadays Air Museum
- 10 St. George's Church** • Gothic church dates from second half of 14th century • splendid Baroque architecture, dating from 17th and early 18th century
- 11 Wedding House** • probably the smallest hotel in the world, offering a cosy, pleasant atmosphere for two people • according to saga, in 18th century it enabled poor engaged couples to get married
- 12 Town Theater** • located in former Franciscan monastery church, built in 15th century and secularized in 1803 • theater steeped in tradition
- 13 School Church** • former Salesian convent church • built from 1697 by electoral master-builder Dientzenhofer • brilliant Rococo architecture
- 14 Whale House** • certainly one of the most striking private houses in Amberg • owes its name to the figures on the console depicting the Biblical story of Jonah and the whale
- 15 St. Mary's on the Hill** • building of the Baroque pilgrimage church started in 1696 • plans based on Dientzenhofer • frescoes by Cosmas Damian Asam • home to the Fête on the Hill
- 16 Glass Cathedral** • final work by architect and Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius (built 1968-70) • one of the most significant industrial buildings of the 1960s

