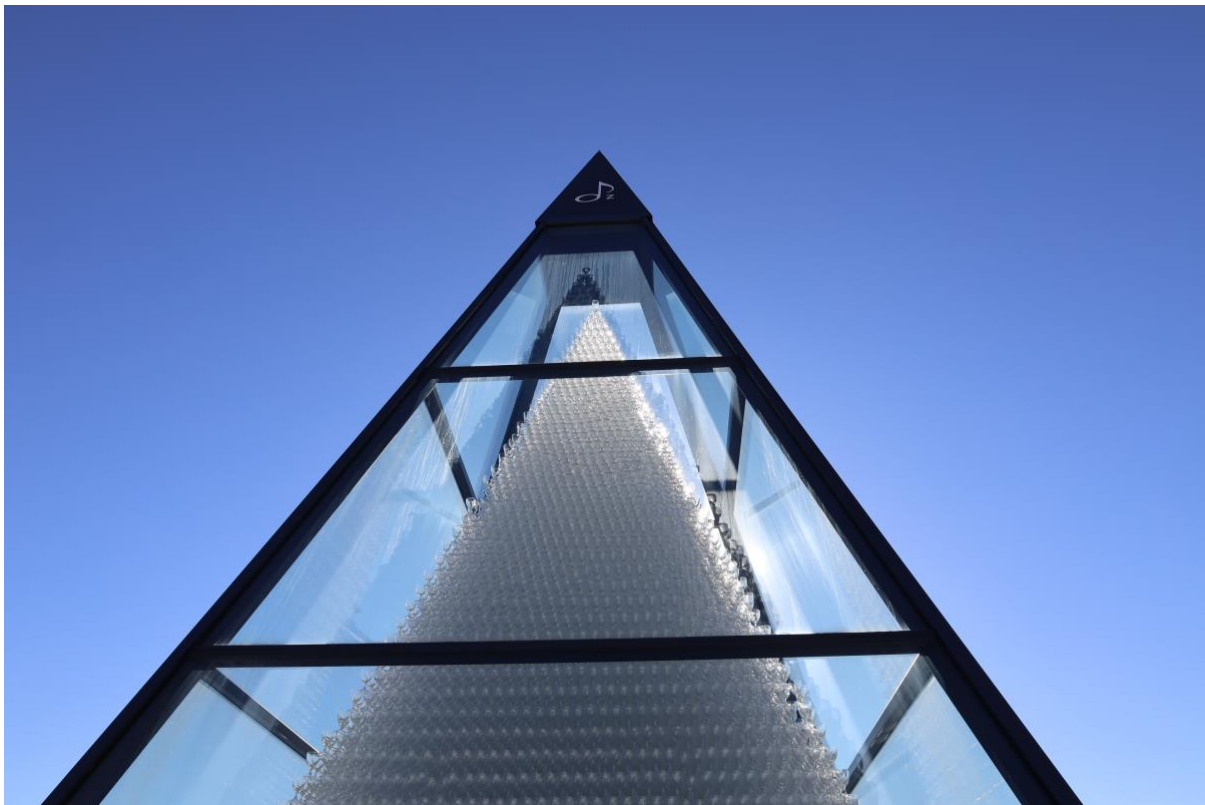




# "The best of the forest" for culture enthusiasts and glass fans

## Highlights of art and culture in the Bavarian Forest



*The highest crystal glass pyramid in the world in Zwiesel, Photo: FNBW, Lisa Schuster*

The "Ferienregion Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald" is a vacation destination that culture enthusiasts and fans of glass art should not miss. From museums and manufactories to churches and traditional events, the region in Germany's first national park has a lot to offer.

### Of glass paths and proverbial wooden trails

Glass and the Bavarian Forest are inextricably linked. Glass production is a cultural asset with a 700-year history. Although glass production is gradually disappearing from everyday life, the material has had a lasting impact on this region for centuries. In many places, glass production has been replaced by machine production, but to this day there are still world-famous manufactories and glassworks along the famous Glass Route that practice this demanding craft by hand using the traditional glass pipe. The Glass Route, one of the

most beautiful vacation routes in Germany, runs for around 250 kilometers from the Oberpfälzer Wald to the Bavarian Forest and delves into the tradition of glassmaking along the way. In the well-known glassworks Theresienthal, Eisch and Zwiesel Glas, the results of glass craftsmanship can be marveled at. In smaller glassworks and workshops, such as Glasscherben Köck in St. Oswald-Riedlhütte, interested visitors also have the opportunity to look over the shoulders of skilled glassblowers, glass cutters and engravers as they work and even blow glass themselves.

In addition to craftsmanship, the glittering raw material is also used in architecture and art: the Glass Gardens and the impressive Glass Museum in Frauenau, the world's largest crystal glass pyramid and the glass chapel in Zwiesel are recommended excursion destinations. The works of glass artists from all over the world and from different historical periods are presented in elaborate special exhibitions in the region's museums. The traditional craft still creates fairytale glass worlds today, such as the Wald-Glas-Garten in Riedlhütte. This unique glass forest is home to a variety of glass works of art and invites you to dream. Glass art can also be admired unexpectedly in the middle of the national park: along the hiking trail to the mountain Lusen, a five-metre-long glass ark is anchored. It symbolizes the importance of the Bavarian Forest as a world-famous glass region.

Another important raw material in the region was and still is wood. Numerous museums provide fascinating insights into the 14,000-year-old history of the Bavarian Forest and explore the importance and significance of wood in the Bavarian Forest. A visit to the Naturparkwelten in Bayerisch Eisenstein, the Waldmuseum in Zwiesel or the Waldgeschichtliches Musuem in St. Oswald is recommended for the whole family. These and many other museums, as well as various facilities in the national park, focus on the interaction between forests and people and show this in a vivid and playful way. The interaction between man and forest can not only be explored in museums, but also on foot. For example, on the themed hike "Auf dem Holzweg" in Neuschönau. As a journey through the past, the trail connects various testimonies and historical sites of the timber industry. A visit to the open-air museum in Finsterau is worthwhile if you want to get a better idea of how the "Waidler" used to live. Farmhouses and entire farms from the Bavarian Forest have been dismantled and meticulously rebuilt in the open-air museum. An accessible piece of history and tradition unfolds there. Same in the Bauernhaus Museum in Lindberg. The life of past generations has been lovingly brought back to life, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in history.

### **Glass art at a world-class level**

The next generation of glassmakers and refiners have been trained at the glass school in Zwiesel since 1904. The school aims to develop enthusiasm for the material. It is not only a training center, but also a meeting place for international glass artists. In order to offer young entrepreneurs in the industry a place where they can realize their ideas, the "Gründerwerkstatt Glas Zwiesel" was established. The "Bild-Werk" Frauenau also contributes to the promotion and preservation of glass art in the region. It is a regional and international forum for glass and fine art, a stage for music and culture and a place for cross-border encounters. Workshops

focus on artistic and craft work with hot and cold glass, complemented by traditional and new design methods, particularly in the fine arts.

Young artists in particular have made a name for themselves in recent years. These include Magdalena Paukner from Lindberg near Zwiesel. Her works range from futuristic-looking, multi-colored glass jars to beautiful pieces of jewelry inspired by nature to artistic vases and delicate art objects. Another young talent from is Tobias Lagerbauer from Klingenbrunn. The artist uses glass, stone and stainless steel to create beautiful objects for indoors and outdoors, which he exhibits in his creative garden near Spiegelau. Truly unique pieces are created in the Schmid glassblowing workshop in Lindberg. The extravagant lamps that glass artist Karl Schmid produces together with his brother Wolfgang are a unique interplay of form, color and decoration. The glass engravings and drawings by the internationally renowned artist Christian Schmidt "ChriSch" from Rabenstein are also narrative means of expression in glass.

The art of earlier generations as well as contemporary art can be admired in many places. For example in the museum "Kuns(t)räume grenzenlos" in Bayerisch Eisenstein or in the "Hinterglaseum" in Schönbrunn am Lusen. Many notable artists present their work in small studios, unusual exhibition spaces and in their own galleries, including the renowned glass artist Hermann Ritterswürden in Zwiesel. These exhibitions are meeting places for art lovers and glass collectors alike. An extensive collection of cultural excursion tips can be found in the Pocket Guide Art, Culture & Cuisine on the website of the Ferienregion Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald.

**For more information:**

[www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de](http://www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de)

**Vom Wald das Beste – Die Ferienregion Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald**

Die Ferienregion Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald besteht aus 12 Gemeinden, die an das Kerngebiet des Nationalparks angrenzen. Die Gemeinden Bayerisch Eisenstein, Eppenschlag, Frauenau, Hohenau, Kirchdorf, Lindberg, Mauth-Finsterau, Neuschönau, Sankt Oswald-Riedlhütte, Schönberg, Spiegelau und Zwiesel haben sich zusammengeschlossen, um die einzigartigen Naturerlebnisse rund um den „Urwald“ Bayerischer Wald erlebbar zu machen. Die spannende Ganzjahresdestination punktet dabei mit ihrer Unverfälschtheit, Naturvielfalt, der Vielzahl an spannenden Freizeitaktivitäten und mit der stark von der Glasherstellung geprägten Kultur im Bayerischen Wald. Mit diesem vielfältigen Angebot genießen in der Ferienregion nicht nur Familien und Paare ihren Urlaub, sondern im gleichen Maß auch Naturliebhaber, Erholungssuchende und Aktivurlauber. Weitere Informationen unter: [www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de](http://www.ferienregion-nationalpark.de).

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