

GLS Destination – Bayreuth



80.000 inhabitants

Why we like Bayreuth: Richard Wagner Festspiele, Bavarian food: Sauerkraut & Bratwurst, music and culture, great nature, fantastic outdoor opportunities for exchange students, e.g. horseback riding, sailing, fencing, soccer.

Bayreuth is a smaller town in the North of Bavaria. Bayreuth is a great place for anyone interested in music and high culture. Throughout the world Bayreuth is known for its music festival, opera house and theater. The warmhearted Franconian people will make you feel at home immediately.

GLS Coordinators: Mr. Willy Queissner and Mrs. Gabi Queissner

Our local coordinators Willy and Gabi Queissner care for the GLS students in Bayreuth. In this interview tell us about themselves and their city.

Gabi and Willy, could you please introduce yourselves?

We are Gabi and Willy Queißner, your local GLS coordinators in Bayreuth. Gabi is a cook and works in the private Cambridge school, Schloss Thiergarten. Gabi's hobbies are: folklore dancing, handicrafts, cooking, baking, theater, hiking and spending time with our dog Emma. Willy also works in the Cambridge school and is responsible for the technical upkeep. Willy's hobbies are: building models, motorbikes and skydiving.

We have three children; they do not live at home anymore but often come for visits. Our dog Emma is also our family member. We have always hosted foreign students in our home and even many years after their stay the kids still come to visit us. We welcome everyone into our family and keep contact with our former host children with a lot of joy.



What can you tell us about the city of Bayreuth?

Bayreuth is a smaller town near the Fichtelberg mountains. Our city has ca. 80.000 inhabitants and many of them are young, as Bayreuth is a University town with many students. In the center of town (which you can see on the photos below) there is a long pedestrian zone with many shops. A good public transport network connects the center of town with the residential areas around.

Whatever you like to do in your free time - sailing, horse-back riding or playing football - you will have a chance to practice your hobby in Bayreuth. There are three swimming halls, one thermal spa and a fun spa nearby. And of course we have a shopping center as well. We would also like to mention the Richard Wagner festival, which is world-famous and takes place in Bayreuth every year. Our Opera House is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. Bayreuth has a lot of high culture on offer, and you can attend concerts and events of any type.

Bayreuth's people are very friendly - and yes, we speak good German here. We are sure you would not be bored in our city. Bayreuth may not be as big as Berlin, but you will find everything you need here.



How do the students arrive in Bayreuth?

All GLS students first spend one orientation weekend in Berlin and then travel by bus or train to Bayreuth. This is a very exciting journey! The students have many thoughts in their heads, fear of the unknown, many questions - how will it be? But don't worry - everyone in Bayreuth is looking forward to meeting you. We will be there to help you in any situation.



How do you find great host families in Bayreuth?

All our GLS host families came to us through friends and acquaintances. We "test" each family very thoroughly. We only accept families where we ourselves would feel comfortable staying. The families are friendly and competent, and their whole surroundings are suitable for a student to stay with them.



Can you tell us about the schools in your city and how you choose a suitable school for the students?

The schools in Bayreuth are as everywhere in Bavaria of a very high standard. Bavarian schools are the best in all of Germany. We value young teachers, who are willing to spend time and make an effort with host students. Our schools are centrally located, so that they can be reached easily with public transport, and they also offer a lot of extracurricular activities, such as sports, theater, etc. We work mainly with the Graf-Münster-Gymnasium and the Markgräfin-Wilhelmine-Gymnasium, which are both excellent.

High school students have school holidays during their time in Germany, for example on Christmas or on Easter. What do the students do during their holidays?

Some students wish to visit friends during their holidays or simply relax at home. We also arrange activities and enjoy these together, such as swimming, hiking, visits of the many castles in the area, canoeing etc. Everyone is welcome to join. We also arrange visits to galleries or go out to taste new foods in various restaurants.



What if students have problems during their time in Germany, for example with homesickness?

If there are any problems, or if the homesickness becomes very strong, then of course the host family and local coordinators are there to support you. We have been host parents for many years and have a lot of experience, which we happily share to solve problems. We have never had a student in Bayreuth, who did not depart in a happy spirit. We are looking forward to welcoming you here!



GLS wishes you a warm welcome to Bayreuth!