



charming chalets

CHARIS STANK

CALLWEY







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FOREWORD

Most of the texts for this book were written far from the mountains. In the middle of a big city, with all its abundance of opportunities—events, modern architecture, exhibitions, shops, and foods from all over the world. And despite this urban setting, surrounded by a riot of greenery where squirrels and, more recently, even a common buzzard have made themselves at home.

Sometimes I close my eyes and count the sounds around me: the hum of engines, doors slamming, children playing, the blare of a ship's horn. This noise is not peculiar to my hometown of Hamburg. It is the underlying melody of our time. It has become almost impossible to imagine our daily lives without acoustic and visual stimuli. And yet there is little more restorative than quiet amid nature and fresh air. Stillness simply isn't part of what the city has to offer.

It is precisely this stillness that defines the retreats you, dear reader, are about to discover. While researching this book, I encountered such a deliberate distancing from everyday life and such a gentle deceleration that it was hard not to wonder how well guests would cope with the often unfamiliar silence.

Many of the hosts featured in this book have come to recognize "slow living" as a new luxury. They have created places where fast pace and constant availability take a back seat. Here, you can step barefoot into the meadow outside your chalet in the morning, swim in an outdoor pool with mountain views, or listen to the birds with your first coffee in hand. Idyllic hideaways in which solitude—quite unlike in the big city—becomes a hallmark of quality.

Alongside the proximity to nature that distinguishes nearly all of these houses, it was the architectural approach of those who built them that caught my attention. Behind every structure lies a multitude of intricate decisions. Respect for the history of a building, for local materials and craft traditions that we encounter ever more rarely in the city. Often, a redesign requires the courage to make significant interventions—ones that do not merely imitate what has

been handed down, but seek to carry it forward.

You will encounter dolomite, Rauris natural stone, Vorarlberg silver fir, centuries-old beams, and modern glass façades. The houses in this volume show how past and present can come together in architecture. Every chalet reflects the personality of its architects, builders, and hosts. These houses were born of conviction, shaped by a love for the region and often by years of personal involvement on the spot. The motivations for becoming a host are many: family ties, the search for a new challenge, or simply an unquenchable longing for the mountains. What unites them is the result: precious places of retreat that are more than just holiday accommodation. For they reflect their owners' philosophy—towards architecture, towards the region, towards hospitality. And towards the value of stillness.

Charis

Author and editor of the travel magazine Schönste Zeit

GER MIA NY

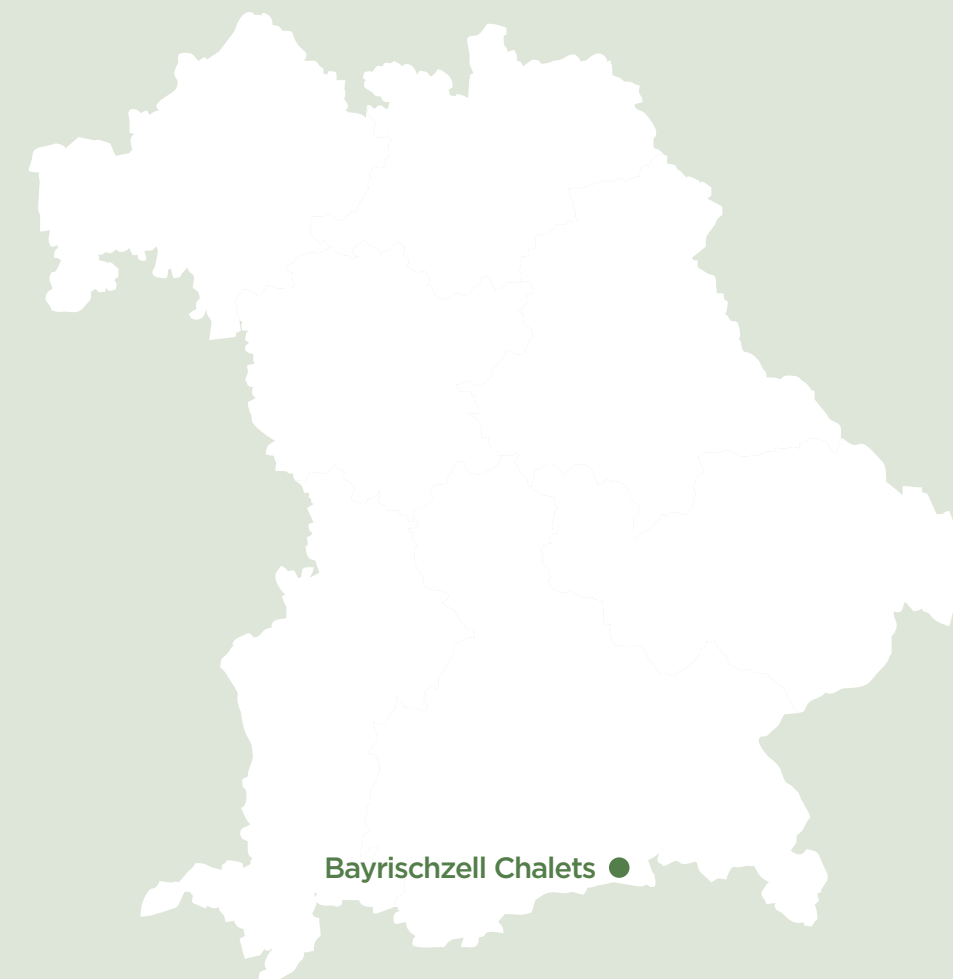
When Wassily Kandinsky and Franz Marc founded the artists' group "Der Blaue Reiter" in a summer-house near Murnau in 1911, they had the mountains in view. Drawn by the rolling hills, the light, the lakes, and the pristine natural surroundings, artists found inspiration in everything this landscape had to offer. That fascination is still alive today. Bavaria offers a wealth of castles and fortresses, churches and monasteries, national parks, the Zugspitze (Germany's highest summit), and picture-perfect lakes. Bavarian pub culture with roast pork, dumplings, beer, and white veal sausage is no cliché, but a living tradition. Picturesque towns, nature reserves, and architectural gems are so close together that explorers can hike from one to the next. Visitors quickly find their own personal reason to stay.





On summer evenings, the garden of the Bayrischzell Chalets transforms into an open-air tavern.

BAYRISCHZELL, MANGFALL MOUNTAINS, UPPER BAVARIA



Bayrischzell Chalets ●

**BAVARIAN HIDEAWAY
WITH SCENIC BACKDROP**

BAYRISCHZELL CHALETs

Cobblestones, stacked wood, and the word “Alpin” at the entrance: From the outside, the chalet blends seamlessly into the Bavarian village setting—only the interior reveals that South Tyrolean influences and tiles from Modena await within.



“Wow!” is the reaction the hosts are hoping for here in Bayrischzell. And it works—thanks to Bavarian craftsmanship, inspiration from South Tyrol, and enormous personal dedication.

Brilliant blue skies, mountain panoramas, brass band music: Bayrischzell is the place to be for anyone seeking to experience Bavaria’s traditional side. Here, plans are still made while sitting with friends, craftsmanship is valued, and guests from all over the world are welcome. The Bayrischzell Chalets, run by the Müller family, are no exception.

When Florian Müller, a naturopath, osteopath, and complementary medicinal practitioner in top-level sport, bought the property adjoining his practice, the family had no concrete plans—but plenty of friends. They got together and brainstormed, and one day an architect from the next village spontaneously sketched out two chalets. Florian was thrilled. What started as an idea on paper became a family project: two holiday chalets for five and seven guests. The building project got under way in spring 2021, and involved a general contractor with a carpentry shop, a local construction engineer, and a slew of local craftsmen. Almost all of them have known the Müllers for a long time. A blacksmith friend—and best man—contributed design ideas and brought them to life, while a long-time patient was the consultant for the oak flooring. “It took on a life of its own,” recalls Florian Müller, who was able to complete the project with full support from his wife Nici and their adult children.

Nicole Müller and her daughter Helena look after the guests. And of course, the interior design is also a family project. The chalets are called “Alpin” and “Nordic”—named after the Müllers’ love of winter sports. Visually, the houses are a mix of Bavarian and South Tyrolean vernacular styles. “When we go on skiing holidays, we head for the Dolomites,” Florian explains. Their passion for the Ladin ski region of Alta Badia is revealed in the interiors’ huge panoramic windows, light wood facades, and soft loden felts.

But other travel destinations also delivered inspiration: The tiles and bathroom fixtures are from Modena, the garage ramp is clad in Corten steel, and warm oak floors bring coziness to the rooms. Even the colorful kitchen chairs in dark blue, light blue, and red are carefully planned, reflecting the colors of the logo featuring cross-country and downhill skiers. “Our overriding idea was to create a feel-good atmosphere. We wanted it to feel like home, to fit the landscape, our traditions, and the place itself—so that when guests walk in, they say ‘Wow!’”

Every stay begins with a personal tour of the house. The hot tub on the terrace is already heated up in readiness. On the table is a welcome basket filled with local specialties—jam from the farm shop, bread chips from the bakery, coffee, and tea. The family is extremely proud of all the personal connections they make: “Our guests really appreciate it,” says Helena.

The stone pine private sauna and wood-fired hot tub are favorites with guests, as perfect ways to relax after a mountain hike. The easy-going atmosphere continues in the garden, where raspberry bushes invite guests to help themselves in summer. In this central location in Bayrischzell, a car is unnecessary; bakeries, butchers, and restaurants are all within walking distance. And the Wendelstein, Bayrischzell’s own mountain, can be climbed practically from the doorstep.

“Village life here is just as you imagine it,” says host Florian. Bayrischzell has 1,700 residents, sits at an altitude of 800 meters, and is just one hour from Munich. Salzburg and Innsbruck are equally close. The village is situated amid a picture-perfect southern German landscape, surrounded by the Bavarian Alpine foothills. There are spa concerts, mountain inns, and active local clubs. “With all the traditions that make Bavaria so special,” enthuses Nicole.

Luxury, Bayrischzell-style: the wood-fired hot tub steaming amid the greenery, with the forested slopes of the Mangfall mountains rising behind it.



BAYRISCHZELL CHALETs

INFO

BAYRISCHZELL CHALETs

Kranzerstraße 9 – D-83735
Bayrischzell, Mangfallgebirge,
Upper Bavaria

TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION

2 holiday homes: Chalet Alpin
for 7 people (3 bedrooms), Chalet
Nordic for 5 people (2 bedrooms)

DESIGNED FOR

Families, small groups, active
vacationers, workation

CATERING

Self-catering, with restaurants
and shops within walking distance

SPECIAL FEATURES

Upper Bavarian mountain idyll
with views of the Wendelstein ski
and hiking paradise, private sauna
and hot tub, sun terrace, garden

GETTING THERE

By car: Take the A8 and
B307 to Bayrischzell
By train: 1.5 hours from Munich

DISTANCE

Munich 78 km, Salzburg 119 km,
Innsbruck 165 km

WEB

www.chalets-bayrischzell.de
[@chalets.bayrischzell](https://www.instagram.com/chalets.bayrischzell)

With a freestanding tub and stone pine sauna
with panoramic window, the private spa facil-
ities at the chalets are perfect for unwinding
after a long mountain hike.



HIKE TO THE WENDELSTEIN

The Wendelstein is Bayrischzell's local mountain. Climb it directly from the village, or combine a cable car ride with hiking. Plan about three hours each way for the hike up to the 1,838-meter summit. The tour starts at the chalets and follows the Wendelstein-Männlein-Weg to the Siglhof inn. From there, the trail gets steeper. At the top, explore the Wendelstein chapel (a popular wedding spot) and the Wendelstein cave. There are likely to be some chamois to spot along the way—they have become surprisingly tame thanks to all the visitors. Prefer to ride? Public transport to the Wendelsteinbahn is free for guest card holders, and there is a discount on the cable car ticket to the summit.

wendelsteinbahn.de/wanderwege



BAYRISCHZELL CHALETs

BAYRISCHZELL ALPINE OUT-DOOR POOL

The Alpine Outdoor Pool in Bayrischzell is a real insider tip in summer. Conveniently sized, beautifully located, and in top shape after full renovation by the town, the 25-meter pool is kept at a comfortable 24 to 26 degrees. There's also a children's pool, a waterslide, a one-meter diving board, and a three-meter diving tower, all set amid lawns with mountain views for sunbathing. The Schwimmschwapp bistro there is currently run by a daughter of the Müller family. She focuses on local quality and home-made dishes, and hosts monthly live music nights in summer that are very popular with locals, too. The pool is open from mid-May to September. Entry is free to holders of the Tegernsee Schliersee guest card.

[instagram.com/schwimmschwapp_bayrischzell](https://www.instagram.com/schwimmschwapp_bayrischzell)



WENDESTEIN-MÄNNLEIN-TRAIL

Directly by the chalets is the start of a popular family hike, the Wendelstein-Männlein Trail. It is marked with carved Wendelstein figures and named after an old legend of mountain spirits living in the Wendelstein caves. The nature trail winds over roots and rocks, past a waterfall and a lookout tower, to the Grüne Gumpe—a small reservoir area with water wheel and play spots for kids. Climbing and balancing are encouraged—there is plenty to do. Unfortunately, the route is not stroller-friendly. On the Hochkreuth plateau, the family-run Siglhof mountain café awaits amid wide meadows. Refuel with Bavarian specialties, Kaiserschmarrn, or cake, before heading back down to the valley. The circular hike takes about two hours.

bayrischzell.de

ARCHITECTURE, CRAFTS-MANSHIP, MUSEUMS, ART, CUISINE

Wasmeier Open-Air Museum, Schliersee
wasmeier.de

Film & Shooting Locations Bayrischzell
treffpunkt-bayrischzell.de/filmproduktionen

Slyrs Distillery
slyrs.com

Restaurant Pool
natur-hotel-tannerhof.de

Schliersee Fishery
fischereischliersee.de

Kaminstub'n Bayrischzell
kaminstubn.de



DREAM-WORTHY HIDEAWAYS

EXCLUSIVE RETREATS AMONG MOUNTAIN PEAKS, LAKES, AND VALLEYS

This Callwey book invites you into an alpine paradise: the scent of freshly cut wood, the crackle of an open fire, crystal-clear mountain air, and a panorama that enchants. Whether an exclusive mountain hut, an elegantly designed luxury chalet, or an extraordinary retreat such as an architecturally striking lodge or a lovingly restored farmhouse—every home featured tells its own story of style, setting, and atmosphere.

Enhanced by personal anecdotes, tips from the hosts themselves, and insider recommendations, this book becomes an inspiring journey through alpine chalet culture. Expansive photo spreads invite you to dream—and awaken the longing to experience these places for yourself.

A curated selection
of exceptional chalets
and retreats in the
Alps—from traditional
to modern



Including a service section:
Exclusive addresses, hidden
gems, and travel options

Insider Tips

Off the beaten path,
complemented by
atmospheric photo
spreads for a journey
full of inspiration

CALLWEY

