

Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center

Bavarian Inn Lodge History

Phase I of the Lodge was built in 1985-6. The Lodge opened on February 20, 1986 with 100 Guestrooms, Oma's Restaurant, Lorelei Lounge, Martha's Gift Shop, Game Room, a Pool and Whirlpool, and the River Rooms Convention area. The Lodge sits on 7 acres along the Cass River on what used to be the Weiss Family Farm. Today we have 360 Guestrooms (268 Standards; 46 Kings; 24 Whirlpools; 17 Family Suites, and 5 mini suites) and 350 Employees. The tour of the Lodge will take you from the Lobby and Courtyard through the Lorelei Lounge, the River Rooms, the Composer Rooms, and all the way through the Fun Center and Ratskeller to the Waterfall Pool. This tour is approximately 1/8th of a mile – one way.

Lobby. Our Lobby was built to give a hearty welcome to our guests – its massiveness; the large beams and high ceiling give it a European look. It is decorated accordingly with tapestry hangings, Alphorns, cowbells, woodcarvings, and oxen yokes. The mural on the wall shows how the Zehnder **Holz Brücke** (Holzs Brickay a wooden bridge) was pulled across the Cass River by Buck and Bright, a pair of oxen. Notice the loft with its seasonal decorations and the woodcarvings below the Front Desk. When guests enter we wish them “*Willkommen*” and when they leave we say “*Auf Wiedersehen*”.

Holz BrückeHolzs Brickay Covered Wooden Bridge 239 feet long, weights
230 tons. Only known cover bridge with Dormers.

Willkommen Vill-come'-nWelcome

Herzlich Willkommen A warm and hearty welcome

Auf Wiedersehen Goodbye

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- 1. Courtyard.** The Courtyard was built to give a feeling that you are outside. Notice the stucco walls, the flower boxes, the balconies, the window shutters, and the murals. The Courtyard ceiling is much like the lobby; there are exposed wood trusses with a wood panel ceiling. The peak of the pyramid shaped roof has a 30 foot across sky light. A flagpole rests at the top of the 52 foot ceiling on which the American Flag flies. The *“Jaeger Fence”* around the pool was imported and is used exclusively outside in Germany. *You will also notice this fencing is around the grassy area north of the tennis courts and outside of this courtyard.* This was our first pool and whirlpool, and is now only for adults. The brick used here is from the Weiss home that stood at this spot. The German word for swimming pool is *Schwimmbad*.

Jaeger Fence Yay-ger Fence associated with rural areas

Schwimmbad Shwim-bod Swimming Pool

- 2. Gift Shop and Perks Club.** Martha’s is a full service gift shop featuring all your health and beauty needs along with gifts and souvenirs. In Martha’s there is something for everyone. We will soon be adding a gourmet coffee bar. When the Lodge opened with 100 rooms and when Phase 2 opened in October 1988 with an additional 98 rooms, the original gift shop was half its current size and was sufficient to handle the needs of our guests. As we expanded with Phase 3, we put an even larger gift shop in the fun center. The original game room has been remodeled to accommodate our Perks Club. As a member of the Perks Club, you will earn points toward valuable gift certificates, take advantage of discounts and earn special membership privileges. The more you use your membership card, the more points you earn – ten points for each dollar spent. A \$20 Perks Club Certificate will be issued for every 2000 points (\$200 worth of purchases) that have been generated to be used on a future visit. There will be an area in the Perks Club where our guests and persons attending conventions or meetings will have computer access for checking E-Mail.

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3. **Guest Rooms.** The German word for guest room is Gastzimmer. The architect that designed the first phase of the Lodge was Doug Kueffner. Notice that Room #103 is the Kueffner Room. We named all our rooms after families from Frankenmuth. Each room contains the family history, pictures, and documents of the family. The standard room has two double beds, a refrigerator, iron and ironing board, coffee maker, and blow dryer, and is decorated in a European theme. All rooms are also equipped with an internet access line for guests traveling with laptop computers.

Gastzimmer	Gost' zimmer	Guestroom
Kueffner	Keef'-ner	Family name

4. **Oma's.** Oma's or **Grandma's** is our Dining Room. Oma's features breakfast, lunch and dinner menus featuring both German and American cuisine. Our Frankenmuth ancestors came from the Franken or Franconian region of Germany. Our sister city, Gunzenhausen, and the City of Rosstal are both in this region. The wood carvings here and in the rest of the building were all done by Erich Knauer from Germany. He enjoyed woodcarving and it shows in his work throughout the building. **Grandpa = Opa.**
5. **The Lorelei Lounge.** The Lorelei Lounge is named after the famed Lorelei Rock. The Lorelei Rock is located in a particularly rugged section of the Rhine River. At this location the river makes one of its more tortured twists. The rock rises up almost vertically approximately 145 yards (435 feet). The river is squeezed into its narrowest and deepest point (65 feet). This point used to be very difficult to navigate and the correct passage, today, is clearly marked with buoys. The reefs and rapids made it extremely dangerous for ships to pass this point. According to German legend, there was once a beautiful young maiden, named Lorelei, who threw herself headlong into the river in despair over a faithless lover. Upon her death she was transformed into a siren and could be heard singing on the rock. The sailors on the boats coming along the river would be enchanted and distracted by the beautiful maiden; they failed to watch their course, and would end up shipwrecked on the shoals along the river, lured to their death by her melodic voice. A German folksong tells this story as does our wall painting. We have nightly entertainment in the Lounge, a Dance Floor, a stage, woodcarvings, a deer antler collection from a Frankenmuth hunter, and finally, **"Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit"** – a toast to friendship and cordiality.

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6. **River Rooms.** Next we come to the Convention Center. When Phase I was built, we included the **River Rooms** for conventions. The rooms are named after famous rivers in Germany – *along these rivers are Germany's famous vineyards and wineries.*

The Mosel River forms in the Vosges Mountain range in Northeastern France and flows 320 miles in a northerly direction through France, Luxembourg and Germany. The Mosel River forms part of the border between Luxembourg and Germany before it enters Germany.

The Rhine River begins as a Alpine stream high in the Swiss Alps and forms one of the principal rivers of Europe. The 820 mile river flows in a generally northwestern direction through or adjoining Austria, Liechtenstein, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Because of the huge volume of freight and the number of passengers carried on it, the Rhine is one of the important commercial inland waterways in the world. This river has greatly influenced the history, culture, and economy of Europe from Roman days to the present.

The Danube River forms in the Black Forest region of Germany and flows in a generally easterly direction for approximately 1770 miles where it empties into the Black sea. The Danube is the second longest river in Europe, *the longest river is the Volga with a length of 2300 miles.* The Danube is one of the principal transportation arteries on the continent. It is the only major European river to flow from the west to the east.

Danube Donau = Doe'-now River in Germany

Rhine (Rhein), and Danube (Donau). The Rooms can be opened to one room seating 275 – 300 or into 3 Rooms, or any combination thereof. Each room has a mural on its wall featuring castles on that river and decorations from that same area.

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Phase IV

Opened September 1998

Composer Rooms and Kitchen

8. As our convention demand increased we added an additional Banquet and Conference Center that can seat up to 500, and a second floor kitchen to service it. First we come to the **Lower Lobby** of the Convention Center. We have a coat room or small meeting room called the **Altmuehl**.

The Altmuehl River is a tributary of the Danube that runs through our sister city Gunzenhausen. Along the Altmuehl are great castles, magnificent palaces, awe-inspiring churches and great monasteries.

Altmuehl Olt' meal River in Germany

The Lower Lobby features stained glass windows depicting some of the early history of Frankenmuth and the Zehnder Family. (see attached brochure). The beautiful stairway or the elevators lead you to a spacious Upper Lobby, which can be used as a reception or exhibit area. Notice the decorations up here are all music related. We have another cloak room or small meeting room called the **Mozart Composer Room**.

9. The **Composer Rooms** are named the **Brahms, Beethoven, and Bach**. As with the River Rooms downstairs, we are able to have one large room, 3 separate rooms, or any combination thereof. Each room is decorated with portraits, pictures, and musical scores that come from Germany together with antique instruments and other appropriate items. There is a large Kitchen area behind us that services this area. The German word for kitchen is **Küche**.

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Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) German composer, and one of the major composers of the 19th century. His works combine the best of the classical and romantic schools. Until 1873 Brahms had mainly written for the piano, the instrument he knew best. He composed mainly for chorus and orchestra. Brahms famous works include *Schicksalslied (The Song of Destiny)* and the *Violin Concerto in D Major*.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) German composer, considered one of the greatest musicians of all time. Beethoven began his career as an improviser at the piano and composer of piano music. Beethoven went on to compose string quartets, chamber music, songs, two masses, an opera, and nine symphonies. Beethoven was deaf which makes his music so much more incredible. Beethoven's famous works include *Wellington's Victory* also known as the *Battle Symphony*, and the cantata *The Glorious Up*.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) German Composer and organist. Bach was considered one of the greatest and most productive geniuses in the history of Western music. Bach composed about 30 cantata's including the well known *God's Time Is The Best*.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Austrian composer, and considered one of the most brilliant and versatile composers ever. He worked in all musical genres, wrote inspired works in each genre and produced an extraordinary number of compositions considering his short life. When he died at age 35, he had completed 41 symphonies, 27 piano concertos, 23 string quartets, 17 piano sonatas, 7 major operas, and numerous works for voice. His works include *Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat Major*. Mozart also composed the famous opera *Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)*.

10.Second Floor Hallway. This brings us out to the 2nd Floor Elevator Lobby of Phase I. To the left are six suites name after **Frankenmuth, Frankentrost, Frankenlust, Frankenhilf (now named Richville), Gunzenhausen, and Rosstal**. A walk down the hallway leads us to Phase II.

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Phase II Opened October 1988

98 Guest Rooms

Phase II Fun Center

Swimming Pool & Whirlpool

Here we get a view of the most recent addition – 2 new swimming pools (**Schwimmbads**). This hallway allows us to look down to the Fun Center swimming pool and the 2 new pools. Phase II has 98 rooms, 3 Floors of Standard Rooms, and the 4th Floor Whirlpool Suites – all rooms having outside balconies.

Phase III Opened May 1995

156 Guest Rooms

Phase III Fun Center including Willy's 18 Hole Mini Golf Course

Michael's Gift Shop

**Waterfall Swimming Pools & Whirlpool
Ratskeller Restaurant & Lounge**

11. Family Fun Center Phase III. Continuing down the hallway we find the Tower Entrance Elevators. Take the elevators to the Fun Center. We'll go through the Phase III Fun Center first and then end our tour with the Fun Center in Phase II. Phase III was opened in May 1995 adding 156 additional rooms and expanding the Family Fun Center.

The ramp leads us to many types of activities. First we have the game area to the right and the TV area to the left. Ermia Zehnder Nuechterlein, deceased Aunt of our owner, is credited with opening the first gift shops in Frankenmuth. She collected these beautiful **Goebel Figurines** that we have on display here. Our games are all operated with tokens. When you win something from a game you receive a ticket or tickets. When you're done playing, you turn in your tickets for items at the **Redemption Center**.

Next we come to our "**Ratskeller**". **Keller means basement, Rat means counsel or advise.** Every good German establishment has to have one of these. Here we have a cafeteria which serves breakfast, snacks, and light meals, and is open from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. weekdays and to 12 a.m. on weekends. The Ratskeller has a bar and a stage where the entertainment is usually **Karaoke**. Notice all our decorations here, many of them in **Deutsch** or German. Did you notice the "**Ausfahrt**" sign, do you know what it means? **Ausfahrt** is an auto exit sign only seen on the Autobahn. That's the equivalent of the "Exit" sign on our freeways.

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Continuing on, we come to our beautiful large **Michael's Gift Shop and Redemption Center**. Michael's features some health and beauty needs along with swimwear, other apparel, and toys. You will have a lot of room to browse around in here. This is also the place to buy tickets for Willy's 18 hole mini-golf course. With the trees and the clouds above, it makes you feel you're playing golf outside.

Finally behind Willy's golf course, we get to another swimming pool. But this pool is different from all the others. It has a Waterfall, and has been one of our most popular pools. (**Schwimmbad und Wasserfall**).

We will be backtracking to the Phase II Fun Center. At the Family Fun Center Elevator Lobby, notice the "**Kachelofen**" – these are used in Germany like we use fireplaces. However it does not have an open fire like a regular fireplace has. The Kachelofen is fired from behind and the fire heats the tile which in turn warms or heats the room much like a radiator.

12. Family Fun Center Phase II. Notice the woodcarving again as we enter Phase II. Again we see lots of games. To the right is our **Kindergarten**, a play area for small children. We like to think that everyone can have fun here at the Lodge, whether you're 2 or 3 years old or an 80 year old grandparent. To the left we have murals – scenes from our sister city Gunzenhausen. That's where Frankenmuth gets its towers, red tile roofs, and other German amenities.

Next we find the Phase II Pool and Whirlpool. Behind this pool is our **Phase V addition which opened on January 1, 2000**, with our 2 newest pools. One of these is specifically built for small children. The murals that adorn the walls around our 2 newest pools are fountain scenes from our sister city Gunzenhausen. Finally we come to Paula's Exercise Room. Down the hallway you will find a picture of the Stained Glass Windows at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, the Administration Center on the right, and the Sales Office on the left. Notice the picture of the Church Tower, a replica of this is over the Tower Entrance from the parking lot. **Church Tower = Spitalkirche.**

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