

The DCA on a voyage of discovery in medieval Bamberg

On the first day of the congress, the obligatory **city tour** was once again on the DCA's congress programme. More than 180 people set off from the hotel with 10 city guides to explore the medieval old town where the congress was being held.

Not far from the congress hotel, on the other bank of the Regnitz River, is the sister hotel of the congress hotel, the so-called Residenzschloss. It was built in 1787 as a university hospital and was considered one of the most modern in Europe. In 1989, it was converted into a hotel.



The walk continued along the Regnitz River to the 'Little Venice' district. Picturesque, squat fishermen's houses bear witness to times long past and the spartan life in the former fishing settlement. Another highlight of the tour soon came into view: the town hall, the landmark of the city of Bamberg. Along with many other buildings, it dominates the city centre, located on the left arm of the Regnitz, a truly prominent location. This location bears witness to the division between the episcopal mountain town and the bourgeois island town of Bamberg. Then it was on to the Domberg, one

of Bamberg's seven hills. The tour participants were welcomed by the Romanesque Bamberg Cathedral, one of the German imperial cathedrals, which dominates the old town with its four towers. In addition to the Bamberg Horseman and the tomb of the only canonised imperial couple of the Holy Roman Empire, the only papal tomb north of the Alps can also be seen there. The old court, the new residence as the former official seat of the Bamberg prince-bishops and the archbishop's palace as the residence of the Bamberg archbishop complete the impressive picture. Not far away, the tour ends at the baroque St. Michael's Monastery with its spacious terrace, from which you can enjoy a panoramic view of the city.

Traditionally, this marked the end of the city tour, but a treat was still waiting for the participants: drinks in a typical Bamberg restaurant. They went to the Klosterbräu and the Alt-Ringlein, where delicious Bamberg beer and butter pretzels awaited the visitors. Meanwhile, the WE-HDD group met at the Bolero restaurant for drinks and conversation. A toast to cosiness!



Franconian Switzerland welcomes the DCA for a day trip

On Thursday, **the second day of the congress**, an **excursion to Franconian Switzerland** was planned for the congress attendees' companions. A group of 11 ladies gathered in the hotel foyer in the morning to spend a wonderful day together. The tour guide for the day was Ms Birgit Zoeke from Abenteuer Bamberg, accompanied by bus driver Christine.

After a short delay, the bus set off. Franconian Switzerland initially welcomed visitors with fog and low-hanging clouds. After a short while, however, the cloud cover broke and even a few rays of sunshine found their way through. The area, located in the triangle between Nuremberg, Bamberg and Bayreuth, is wildly romantic with picturesque valleys, small streams, green hills, charming villages, castles and, at times, majestic rocks. This region is characterised by the limestone and dolomite of the Franconian Jura, which is heavily karstified. Carbonated waters have dissolved the rock, leaving large cavities in some places. Due to poor irrigation conditions, the thin layer of soil on the rock does not allow for agriculture. In the past, the locals kept many goats here and marketed their products before large-scale reforestation in the 19th century brought additional income from the timber industry. Many breweries have settled in this area due to the numerous springs. With over 300 breweries, the Bamberg region has the highest density of breweries in the world.

Now it was time for the first item on the tour agenda: a visit to the Kormann fruit farm in Moggast, a small parish village belonging to Ebermannstadt. The area is a large fruit-growing region and has many farms that sell their produce directly to consumers. Many distilleries are located here. The group was welcomed at the farm by master distiller Franziska Kormann herself, who then led them to the tasting room, where a long table was already waiting for the ladies. This was followed by a tasting of fruit brandies (Williams, sloe, pome and stone fruit), liqueurs (elderflower, sour cherry, summer liqueur) and apple juices in combination with white, dark and milk chocolate. Sandwich platters completed the tasting. Ms Kormann explained the distilling process and answered many questions from the group. The ladies enjoyed the wonderful hospitality.



The trip then continued to Gößweinstein with its Baroque pilgrimage basilica, visible from afar. Gößweinstein is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Bamberg and also the largest Trinity pilgrimage site in Germany. After visiting the church, the group had a light lunch at the Zur Krone restaurant before continuing on to Pottenstein in the afternoon.

Pottenstein, known as the 'rock town', lies in the heart of Franconian Switzerland. In addition to the historic old town nestled between Jura rocks and the 1000-year-old castle, the town also boasts the Devil's Cave – one of the largest and most famous caves in Germany. The tour involved climbing 400 steps leading up to 70 metres deep into the rock. After an interesting tour, the group then made their way back to Bamberg. See you again in 2026!

Franconian hospitality at the barbecue

For this year's gala evening, the DCA came up with something traditional from the Franconian region: an evening in a barn in the Bamberg area. At around 7 p.m., 250 guests set off on a 20-minute bus ride to the Leimershof farm barn in Breitengüßbach. There, the guests were welcomed by the staff of Eventcatering Stürmer, who had already prepared typical Franconian snacks in pagoda tents. In addition to cold beer, other delicious drinks were also served. Then it was off to the festively decorated barn for dinner. Outside, there were many stands offering barbecue delicacies of all kinds. The highlight for dessert was an original Italian ice cream cart and fresh Kaiserschmarrn. The evening was accompanied by a half-hour show by the duo Tebe & Leiste and later by a DJ, who got some of the guests onto the dance floor with his music. Around midnight, everyone returned to the hotel and ended the evening at the Plückers restaurant, which was still crowded with quite a few participants.

