

## WO KANN MAN ESSEN UND TRINKEN? (Where can you get something to eat and drink?)

inn, tavern: das Gasthaus, die Gasthäuser  
smaller inn or tavern: der Gasthof, die Gasthöfe

### INNS IN GERMANY

- Germany is travel country. Travelers want to see Germany and in the evening, they want to sleep in a hotel or an inn.
  - In a hotel you'll find single or double rooms for strangers.
  - In most cases, the hotel also has a restaurant.
  - A hotel "Garnis" has no restaurant, but you can get breakfast there.
- An inn is a little hotel, where you can eat and drink well and get a room for the night.
  - Inns are generally located on the outskirts of cities / towns or in the country.
  - Some inns have been run by families for generations.
  - The hospitality and the traditions you will find at a Gasthaus, are excellent examples of German "Gemütlichkeit."
- The inns often have interesting names: To the Ox, To the Sun, or At the Post Office.
  - In the past, people couldn't read or write.
  - Names were given to inns as to their location, took their names from animals, and later on, they were taken from professions.
- In former times, a "Hof" (Gasthof) was a farm.
  - People traveled by carriage or horse, and they needed a place for the animals.
  - Stalls for the horses of their guests have been replaced today by garages or parking lots.

### Historical Hotel Names

Why is it that so many hotels and inns in German towns have the same names? In many places the traveler finds, for example, hotels called "Löwe" (Lion), "Drei Könige" (Three Kings), "Alte Post" (Old Post) or "Zur Rose" (At the Rose).

In the early Middle Ages lodging for travelers was mostly in the cloisters. The inns and hotels which later sprang up in the neighborhood of these cloisters took names coming from the Old and New Testament. Thus we have "Engel" (Angel), "Löwe" (Lion), "Stier" (Bull) and "Adler"

(Eagle) – the symbols of the Evangelists –, "Drei Mohren" and "Drei Könige" (Three Moors and Three Kings) – the three kings are the symbol of traveling –, "Rose" and "Lilie" (Rose and Lily) – these two flowers represent the Virgin Mary – and the "Lamm" (Lamb), the Lamb of God.

Germany's postal system (begun in 1450) also played a role in the naming of the old inns and restaurants. Many of the establishments which sprang up around the postal stations received names such as "Goldenes Posthorn," "Alte Post," and "Neue Post" or "Zur Post." "Zum" or "Zur" means "to the sign of."



Gasthaus zum Goldenen Fass – Holzheim

## Historisches Gasthaus

# „Schwarzer Adler“

am Rathaus zu Michelstadt im Odenwald

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