

## ***Outdoor Museums in the Bavarian-Bohemian Borderland A glimpse into the past***

Across the border and to the south of Markt Eisenstein is the Museumsdorf Bayerischer Wald, an outdoor museum featuring some 50 buildings originally constructed in the Bavarian-Bohemian forest between the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The museum is located on the outskirts of Tittling, a small town close to Passau, in eastern Bavaria. The wooden structures were acquired by collector, Georg Hörtl, who dismantled them in their original location and reconstructed them at the site of the museum. There, he re-created a forest village, depicting the life of the villagers who lived in the Bavarian Woods at that time. The village museum contains cottages, barns, grain mills, a saw mill, a chapel, smithies, and an old schoolhouse. The original glassworks building belonging to the Bohemian Lötz glassworks is also found here. The structures are filled with furniture, farm equipment and other items from the period. Visitors to this village museum have a unique opportunity to envision what life was like for those who lived in the Bayerischer Wald/ Bohmerwald in previous centuries.



Museumsdorf Bayerischer wald (Photo )by SAM 1999)



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The Finsterau Open-Air Museum, is found in the Bavarian Forest National Park, close to the Bohemian forest (Bohmerwald), and approximately 32 miles from Passau. A variety of farmhouses and outbuildings, along with a village smithy, a wooden chapel and a traveler's inn, originally built in various areas of the Bavarian forest, have been re-located here. Structures have been maintained in their original time-worn condition to allow visitors a glimpse of how life was lived in a by-gone era.

The Bohemian Forest Museum in Passau, Germany is another good museum to visit. This small but well-appointed museum is located in the citadel Veste Oberhaus, across the river from the "Old Town". It also shows the life style and culture of the people who lived in this part of Bavaria/Bohemia in centuries past.