



• W O L P E R T I N G E R •

The Wolpertinger is the most elusive of the inhabitants of the Bavarian forest. Very difficult to spot, those who have succeeded have described its form in different ways. Some have even been captured, and indeed their anatomy varies greatly. It is an animal made up of parts of other, more well-known species. Its body is that of a mammal, usually a rabbit or a squirrel, but it has deer horns, fangs, bird wings, sometimes pheasant legs and duck feet. Although some stories claim that they feed on tourists, the fact is that the Wolpertinger avoids contact with people and seems rather frightening and harmless. There are several popular techniques for capturing it. For example, you can try to get them drunk, as they love alcoholic beverages, and use their clumsiness to reach them. On full moon nights you can also use another trick: place a lit candle in the mouth of an open sack. The Wolpertinger will approach the bag, when it has to be pushed with a shovel. The most famous technique, however, takes advantage of this animal's fascination for young and beautiful women. Such a girl, alone or accompanied, has to wander through the forest looking for burrows. When she finds the one of this creature, she has to show her breasts to him, before which the Wolpertinger will be stunned and will be captured easily.





Wolpertinger is a creature originating from **GERMANY**  
Current population: 82.887.000



**G**erman culture has its roots in the Germanic tribes, arising from the Bronze Age and the successive Iron Age that originated on the Baltic coast some 2,500 years ago. Metal tools and weapons favoured their economy, increasing their population and giving them advantages in wars with neighbouring villages. This is how migrations towards the South started, contacting the Celts and the Roman Empire. However, the social organization of the Germans was not unified, but maintained the division into tribes, increasingly numerous and sometimes at odds with each other.

The current territory of Germany was always held by the Germanic tribes, which resisted the attempts of Roman invasion. With the decline

of the empire, many tribes even conquered Romanized territories, reaching as far as the Mediterranean. In some cases they merged with the native population and adopted their language and customs, but in other cases they became the majority population group and their culture is the basis of the present one. Thus, Germanic languages are English, German, Dutch, in addition to the languages of Scandinavia. With the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Germanic peoples became the dominant force on the continent, although their tribal divisions led to constant wars. In the 9th century, having already embraced Christianity, Charlemagne managed to unify many of them into the Carolingian Empire, which had its continuation in the Holy Romanesque Germanic Empire, an entity that, with different times and fortunes, survived until 1806.

Capitalist development in Germany reached one of its greatest exponents in the nineteenth century, causing a dizzying urbanization and industrialization, while striving for the creation of a unified national state. During those times of transformation and abandonment of the traditional world, there was a literary and political reaction of recovery of traditions and popular folklore, useful also in the construction of an idea of political nation. Musicologists, writers and folklorists travelled through the villages tracing oral creations, including the mythological creatures that populated the forests. At the same time, the development of taxidermy techniques allowed some artisans to give physical form to some of these creatures, using body parts of real animals.