



Germany

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Best Castles & Palaces

- ➔ Schloss Neuschwanstein (p472)
- ➔ Burg Eltz (p491)
- ➔ Wartburg (p461)
- ➔ Schloss Sanssouci (p452)

Best Iconic Sights

- ➔ Brandenburger Tor (Gate) (p441)
- ➔ Holstentor (p505)
- ➔ Kölner Dom (p492)
- ➔ Frauenkirche (p455)

Why Go?

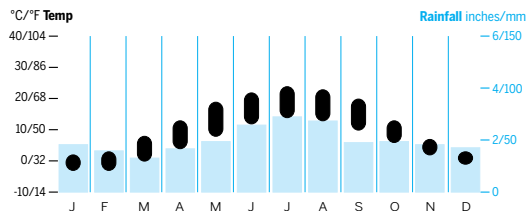
Prepare for a roller coaster of feasts, treats and temptations as you take in Germany's soul-stirring scenery, spirit-lifting culture, old and bold architecture, big-city beauties, romantic castles and towns with half-timbered buildings.

Few countries have had as much impact on the world as Germany, which has given us the printing press, the automobile, aspirin and MP3 technology. This is the birthplace of Martin Luther, Albert Einstein and Karl Marx, of Bach, Beethoven, the Brothers Grimm and other heavyweights who have left their mark on human history.

Germany's story-book landscapes will also likely leave an even bigger imprint on your memories. There's something undeniably artistic in the way the scenery unfolds from the windswept maritime north to the off-the-charts splendour of the Alps. As much fun as it may be to rev up the engines on the autobahn, do slow down to better appreciate this complex and fascinating country.

When to Go

Berlin



Jun–Aug Warm summers cause Germans to shed their clothes; night never seems to come.

Sep Radiant foliage and sunny skies invite outdoor pursuits, with festivals (Oktoberfest!) galore.

Dec It's icy, it's cold but lines are short and Alpine slopes and twinkly Christmas markets beckon.

Germany Highlights

- 1 Discover your inner party animal in **Berlin** (p440); save sleep for somewhere else as there's no time here with the time here with the clubs, museums, bars and ever-changing zeitgeist.
- 2 Time your journey for **Oktoberfest** for (p463), Munich's bacchanal of suds, or just soak up the vibe in a beer garden.
- 3 Go slow in Germany's alluring small towns like **Bamberg** (p477), with winding lanes, smoked beer (!) and a lack of cliché.
- 4 Compare the soaring peaks of the Dom in **Cologne** (p492) with the slinky glasses of the city's famous beer.
- 5 Go cuckoo in the **Black Forest** (p479), discovering

