



# Germany & Benelux

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cafe Jacques (p223)
- ➔ Restaurant Elmar (p282)
- ➔ Brauerei im Füchschchen (p251)
- ➔ Fenix Food Factory (p288)
- ➔ Saint-Boniface (p261)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ King Kong Hostel (p288)
- ➔ Cocomama (p279)
- ➔ Captaincy Guesthouse (p260)
- ➔ Superbude St Pauli (p254)
- ➔ Grand Hostel Berlin (p221)

## Why Go?

Tradition and modernity combine to dazzling effect in this sizeable chunk of old Europe, home to a hundred million people and several of the continent's classic landscapes and most enticing cities.

Castles and chocolate, tulips and cuckoo-clocks, Alps and rivers and canals; all the icons are here to be discovered along with the region's architecturally glorious villages, towns and cities, with their noble cathedrals, art galleries full of Old Masters and superbly traditional cafes, beer halls and pubs. Munich, Amsterdam, Bruges, Berlin and Cologne are high on the list of Europe's must-see places.

But these countries aren't museums. From the devastation of war came opportunities for regrowth and innovation and cities like Leipzig, Düsseldorf, Rotterdam and Antwerp are hotbeds of modern architecture, edgy cultural happenings and contemporary zeitgeist, real drivers of the exciting 21st-century scene in northern Europe.

## Fast Facts

**Capitals** Berlin (Germany), Brussels (Belgium), Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Emergency** ☎112

**Currency** Euro (€)

**Languages** German, Dutch, French, Letzeburgesch

**Time zone** Central European (UTC/GMT plus one hour)

**Country codes** ☎49 (Germany), ☎32 (Belgium), ☎352 (Luxembourg), ☎31 (Netherlands)

**Population** 81.2 million (Germany), 11.2 million (Belgium), 560,000 (Luxembourg), 16.9 million (Netherlands)

## Germany & Benelux Highlights

- 1 Berlin** Prepare for a full-on cultural and party scene in Europe's capital of alternative cred. (p218)
- 2 Dresden** Discover how a bombed city rose from the ashes to become an icon of the east. (p228)
- 3 Munich** Jump onboard for beer feasts, BMWs, Alpine excursions and more. (p231)
- 4 The Black Forest** Breathe in the mist and experience the lakes and trees, cherry cake and cuckoo clocks. (p241)
- 5 The Romantic Rhine** Snap a postcard-perfect village along this beautiful stretch of river. (p243)
- 6 Luxembourg City** Stroll with Eurocrats in this stunningly beautiful small city. (p275)
- 7 Brussels** Imbibe atmosphere and your fill of beers in Belgium's stylish capital. (p257)
- 8 Bruges** Appreciate the picture-perfect canal scenes of this heart-winning town. (p268)
- 9 Delft** Wander the townscapes while admiring the elegant ceramics of this pretty town. (p287)
- 10 Amsterdam** Rejoice in your urbanity in this sophisticated, fun and handsome icon of cool. (p278)

### WORTH A TRIP: DÜSSELDORF

Vibrant, stylish and hedonistic; Germany's most underrated city. (p249)

### WORTH A TRIP: MAASTRICHT

Much more than a treaty; treat yourself to its charms. (p292)

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: BOUILLON

Picture-perfect village with a craggy, tough and dramatic castle. (p273)

### OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: VIANDEN

Luxembourg's pretty castle villages are many; this is the best. (p277)

