

On the Road



ANDREA SCHULTE-PEEVERS Coordinating Author

Wherever you go in Berlin, you're surrounded by an enormous sense of history, from medieval times to reunification. You may be rushing off to dinner with friends or to a frenetic club when suddenly you find yourself ensnared by something of monumental importance to the world. Here, in the warped labyrinth of the Holocaust Memorial (p115), I feel an extraordinary stillness and the presence of uncounted souls.

KERRY CHRISTIANI On one of the hottest days of summer, we'd headed into the woods close to home in Villingen (p462) to pick bilberries and take a cool stroll among the fir trees. Recent thunderstorms made the Black Forest seem greener and wilder than ever. This is me soaking up the day's last sun.



MARC DUCA As a Lonely Planet author I've been to some pretty spectacular places, but nothing I've seen around the world quite compares to the drama of the Alps. While hitting the trails takes you into some magnificent back-country, you're never really far away from a cosy tavern and a hot meal. Here am I, fresh from a bracing ascent of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze (p356). But I have to fess up – I cheated. I took the train.



ANTHONY HAYWOOD Seagulls cried in the darkness of evening: 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.' This guy was not the most talkative fellow passenger at Bremerhaven's German Emigration Centre (p670), but perhaps he had good reason to be so contemplative: he was about to board a ship and sail to an unknown future in the New World. The lifelike models on the dock are part of the interesting recreation of events in the centre's exhibition.



CATHERINE LE NEVEZ Germany is synonymous with awe-inspiring castles and frothy beer. But beach-fringed islands? Not so much. Yet Germany's North Sea and Baltic islands, like Rügen (p747), behind me in this photo, are idyllic end-of-the-earth retreats. In true German style, ultra-efficient and ecofriendly public transport makes them a cinch to reach from the mainland.



DANIEL ROBINSON Interviewing locals – especially old-timers – for tips on their favourite eateries is an important part of researching a guidebook. I ran into this particular fellow outside Frankfurt's Senckenberg Museum (p534) and, feeling that day like a Frankfurter, decided to ask him where he goes for the city's tastiest *Worscht* (known elsewhere in Germany as *Wurst*). He said he had something in mind – and then took out a giant bottle of curry sauce.

Germany Highlights

No matter whether you seek an adrenaline-fuelled foray on the autobahn or a leisurely ride on its latest-generation trains, Germany is a land that demands exploration. Just pack your curiosity and an open mind and we guarantee you'll have a ball. Here's what our authors, staff and travellers loved most about it.



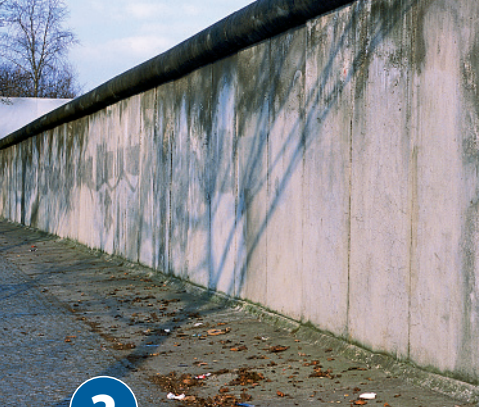
RICHARD NEBESKY

1

BRANDENBURG GATE, BERLIN

The city of Berlin is utterly amazing. There's history everywhere, whether it is something you didn't know or something sad and horrible. I love being able to walk everywhere, enjoying an amazing building or other piece of architecture, like the Brandenburg Gate (p114), at every corner, or being part of history everywhere you stop and just open your eyes and look. The amalgamation of the old and new works so well – your heart wants to cry for the history and smile for the present and future.

Fabre Aurelien,
Traveller, France



2

BERLIN WALL

It's been 20 years since the Berlin Wall (p126) collapsed but you can still sense the ghosts of the Cold War when standing in the shadow of a surviving section of this grim and grey divider of humanity.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers,
Lonely Planet Author, Germany



3

STASI MUSEUM, BERLIN

They hid tiny cameras in watering cans and flowerpots, stole keys from schoolchildren to install listening devices in their homes and collected body-odour samples from suspects' groins. East Germany's Ministry for State Security, better known as the Stasi, was truly an all-pervasive power with an all-out zeal and twisted imagination when it came to controlling, manipulating and repressing its own people. Get the full low-down at the exhibit set up inside the original Stasi headquarters (p129) in Berlin.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers,
Lonely Planet Author, Germany



4

ZWINGER, DRESDEN

I was on my first visit to the history-filled city of Dresden with my Lonely Planet *Germany* guide in hand and not too sure what there was to see! Well, if you are like me and enjoy art, architecture and history and want to be blown away, then the Zwinger (p181) is a must-do. It is truly a jaw-dropping sight to see – I was in awe. If it wasn't a beautiful fountain (and there are many), then it was a cute cherub to look at. You can walk around or just sit and stare or do both. The Zwinger has so much going on and it's so easy to get lost in time – make sure you have lots of time in this city because there is a lot to see at the Zwinger alone.

Clara Monitto,
Traveller, Germany



MANFRED GOTTSCHALK

5

SCHLOSS NEUSCHWANSTEIN, FÜSSEN

We were stoked to get our rental car upgraded to a Mercedes – what could be more perfect for the autobahn? We quickly discovered that while the car was comfortable at very high speeds, our nerves were not and we had to frequently let old jalopies whiz past us. The other lesson we learned was to not ignore umlauts – those two dots above vowels. Typing Fussen instead of Füssen into our GPS cost us a few hours. But ever since I saw a picture of Schloss Neuschwanstein (p352) 10 years earlier, I was determined to make it there. When we finally arrived, the sheer magnificence (and gaudiness) of the castle was all the more amazing.

Michaela Caughlan,
Lonely Planet Staff, USA



JEAN-PIERRE LESCOURRET

6

SANSSOUCI, POTSDAM

This glorious park and palace ensemble (p157) is what happens if a king has good taste, plenty of cash and access to the finest architects and artists of the day. I never tire of the view of Frederick the Great's petite retreat atop the vine-draped terraces or of discovering yet another romantic corner in the rambling park.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers,
Lonely Planet Author, Germany



7

HOFBRÄUHAUS, MUNICH

A quintessentially Bavarian experience, a night out on the steins at the celebrated Hofbräuhaus (p309) is unmissable. Even the most ubercool, kitsch-hating teetotaler will sooner or later gravitate to the world's most famous beer hall out of sheer curiosity. Order a large wet one, have a sway to the oompah band and watch as the tourists and *Stammgäste* (regular patrons) become ever tipsier and more boisterous as the evening progresses. Raucous laughter, compulsory; red-faced antics, a must.

Marc Di Duca,
Lonely Planet Author, United Kingdom

EDDIE GERALD / ALAMY

8



JOEFOXBERLIN / ALAMY

BAUHAUS BUILDINGS, DESSAU

Chances are you have a little Bauhaus in your house: perhaps the chair you sit on or the table at which you dine. 'Form follows function' was the main credo of the Bauhaus school, perhaps the most influential movement of architecture and design in the 20th century. Come to Dessau (p223) to see where Gropius, Klee, Kandinsky and their colleagues did their best work.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Lonely Planet Author, Germany

9



KEITH VAN LOEN / ALAMY

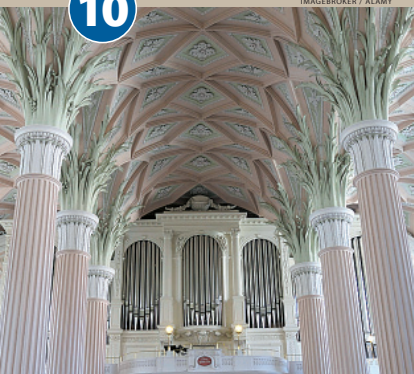
NIKOLAIKIRCHE, LEIPZIG

The first time I walked into the Nikolaikirche (p197), I was mesmerised. I'm not sure what impressed me more – the arched ceiling painted like a frosted, pastel wedding cake or the palm-like pillars towering above me. Then I found out about the peace prayers it has hosted since 1982 and the infamous demonstrations in 1989, and it all came together: this church is an exquisite element of history, and a constant source of tranquillity.

**Caroline Sieg, Lonely Planet
Author, Germany**

10

IMAGEBROKER / ALAMY



12

FREIBURG

I returned to Freiburg (p452) 30 years after studying there, fulfilling a promise to myself to go back some day. Upon my return, I proposed to my wife, who also studied there 30 years before – but we never met until 25 years later when we discovered we shared an interest in Freiburg and Germany. We now travel there for several weeks each year, visiting friends in Freiburg and all over Germany. A promise fulfilled!

**Robert Purrenhage,
Traveller, USA**

ADINA TOVY AMSEL



11

HEIDELBERG

The first glimpse of the bridge over the Neckar River in Heidelberg (p414), the university city that inspired Turner's paintbrush with its whimsical castle and Mark Twain's pen with its raucous nightlife.

**Kerry Christiani,
Lonely Planet Author, Germany**

MANFRED GOTTSCHALK



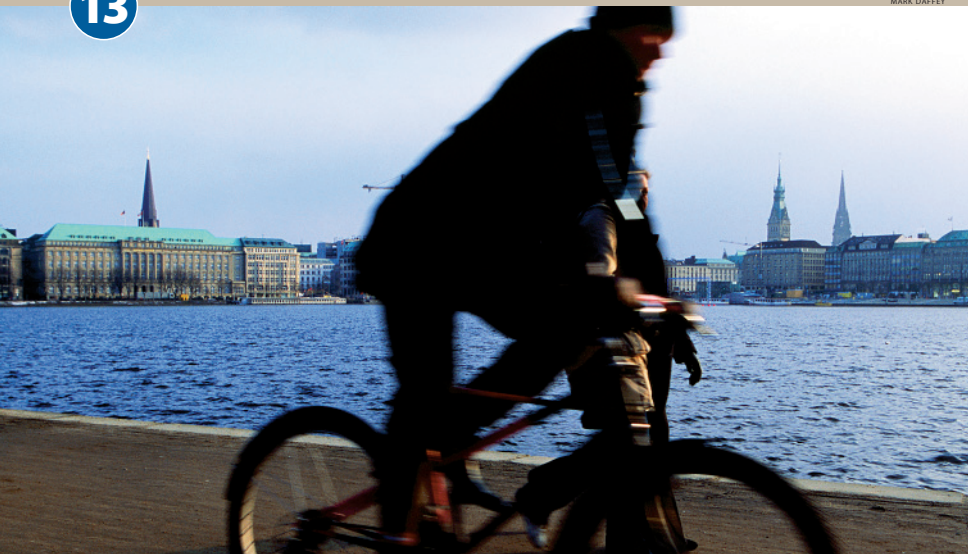
CRUISIN' AROUND HAMBURG ON A BIKE

Getting around Germany's sprawling 'harbouropolis' (p674) is a breeze, thanks to simple, cheap and often wonderfully scenic transport options, including boat, rail and bus networks. But perhaps the most enjoyable way to explore the country's second-largest city is under your own steam.

Catherine Le Nevez,
Lonely Planet Author, France

13

MARK DAFEY



AACHEN CATHEDRAL

Charlemagne's palace chapel and burial site (p586) is one of Germany's most famous churches and is a rare example of Carolingian architecture. No matter how many times I set foot inside this majestic space, I'll always be awed by the harmony of its design, the iridescent stained-glass windows, the precious works of art and the momentous sense of history that hangs above it all.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers,
Lonely Planet Author, Germany

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EYEWAVE / ALAMY





MARTIN MOOS

15

OKTOBERFEST

Are you a beer lover? Well, Munich's Oktoberfest (p314) is the festival for you! Twenty-odd beer halls hold thousands of like-minded beer lovers. Once you settle in for your first stein, you realise this is more about the people than the beer. I spent my first day in the company of some locals who were here for their 27th straight year and after 10 minutes they treated me like a life-long friend. Then with three hours sleep, I woke up and did it again, only to find another amazing bunch of friends.

Damian Hughes,
Traveller, Australia



WELCOME TO GERMANY

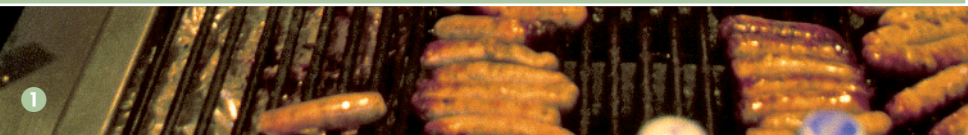
Whether you're meandering along the Romantic Road, cycling through the magnificent rolling dunes of the North Frisian Islands or sipping a cocktail at one of Berlin's sizzling beach bars, Germany is one fascinating playground of traditional half-timbered villages and sultry, stimulating cities, where bratwurst stands flank busy street corners and time is earmarked for afternoon *Kaffee und Kuchen* (coffee and cake). Weave your way through the old and the new, and be prepared for the unexpected at any given turn.





Food & Drink

Waistlines be damned, this is one exceptional place to indulge in gut-filling meat and potatoes. Recent influxes of immigrants mean tastes are eternally evolving, and Germany's own version of the doner kebab is a fixture all across the country. Get a dose of your favourite staples, but be sure to branch out and try the abundant foreign flavours.





1 Sausages

Go ahead and indulge in a monstrous plate of German wurst (p79). This simple comfort food is always served in a convivial atmosphere with a satisfying dollop of fresh mustard.

2 Beer

It really is all about the beer (p84) here. Pilsner, dark or wheat, it's all a gulp of sheer bliss topped off with masses of fluffy white froth. Don't worry if you end up with a white moustache – it's all part of the delicious experience.

3 Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte

Black Forest gâteau is simple – moisten chocolate cake with cherry schnapps, layer it with cherries and hefty slabs of whipped cream, and then top it all off with more whipped cream and maraschino cherries. Finally, unbutton those trousers and ponder why diets were invented.



4 Doner Kebab

Freshly sliced lamb straight off the spit with chopped cabbage, lettuce, onions, tomatoes and cucumber, topped off with a dollop of hot sauce and cooling yoghurt sauce, all rolled into a toasted flat bread – it's the supreme street food.



Cities

With clubbing for every age group, avant-garde art, traditional beer gardens and a zest for life, German cities pulsate and move to their own special beat – see what the fuss is all about.





1 Cologne

Be it at Carnival time or just on a lazy mid-summer's day, the Dom in Cologne (p568) wows all senses. Take a rest beneath the remarkable Gothic towers and marvel at the amazing detail.

2 Hamburg

Take culture and flair, add a hedonistic red-light district and waterways everywhere you turn, stir it all up in a stylish bar shaker and ta-da! – out pours the exhilarating media capital of Germany, Hamburg (p674).

3 Berlin

Edgy art, throbbing clubs and vibrant cafes – it's all happening in Berlin (p99). The city that dismantled the wall 20 years ago keeps reinventing itself with an intoxicating energy that'll keep you up until dawn.

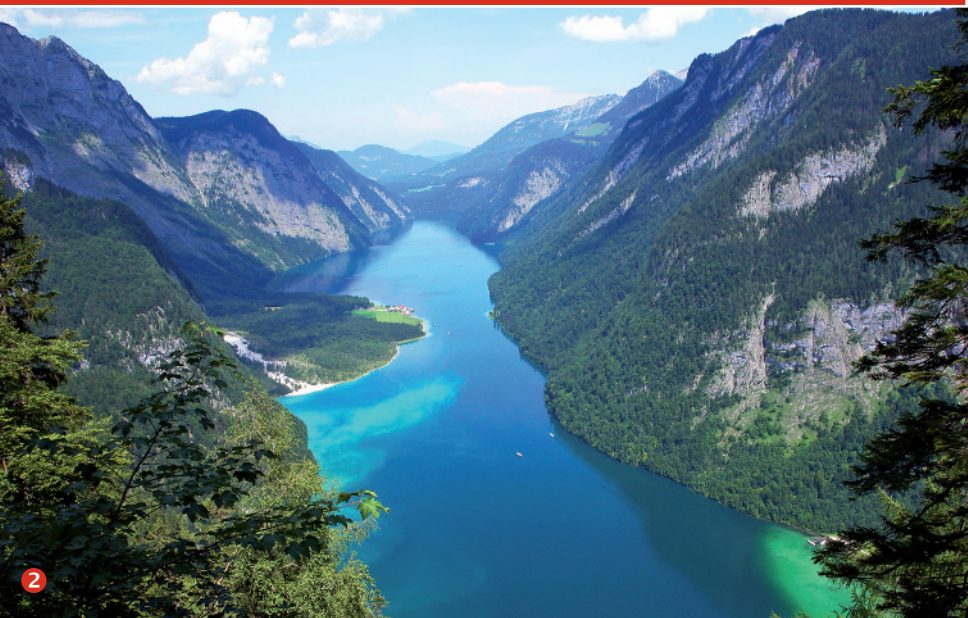
4 Munich

Sophisticated yet villagelike (OK, a very large village), Munich (p295) takes you from the gargoyle-covered neo-Gothic Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall) to the exquisite Englischer Garten (English Garden) to the most famous beer hall in the world, the Hofbräuhaus.



The Great Outdoors

Germans love being outside, and they've blazed meticulous walking and cycling trails throughout the vast countryside and mountains. Cliffs aching to be scrambled, rivers begging to be kayaked – there's a pursuit for nature seekers of all kinds.





1 Sylt

Salt-clogged wind whips you along your beach stroll right around the corner from a Louis Vuitton shop – Sylt (p719) is the island of extremes. Cycle your way through the undulating dunes and warm up afterwards with a piping-hot mug of Frisian tea.



2 Bavarian Alps

Whiz down the slopes of this prime skiing and snowboarding territory or scale jagged cliffs – either way, finish off the hard day's work with a mug at one of the oompah-music-playing watering holes in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (p355).

3 Berchtesgaden National Park

Don those hiking boots and ascend the stunning terrain flanked by sparkling lakes and jagged mountain peaks – Berchtesgaden National Park (p361) is where you'll snap countless photos of divine, natural splendour, with a hefty dose of pure, fresh air.

4 Spreewald

Punting in the canals near Lübbenau (p168) is like floating through a sea of bucolic green – you glide past ancient houses under a canopy of trees and wonder if life can get much more sublime than this.

5 Black Forest

Thick and dense, with green, velvety landscapes flanked by inky swathes of trees, the Black Forest (p443) is a cycling and hiking utopia – and the region's sublime thermal baths are the perfect antidote to those aching muscles.



Festivals & Events

Germany's vibrant festivities range from rambunctious beer-tent action, rollicking street parties and jazz and pop-music celebrations to a film festival rivalling Cannes and gingerbread-bedecked markets sure to put the holiday spirit into any Scrooge's soul.

1 Oktoberfest

Wooden tables stretched out beyond your line of vision, hundreds of festive beer drinkers clinking glasses – this festival (p314) is the quintessential image of Germany. And yes, that matron of the golden potion really is carrying six 1L mugs of happiness on tap.

2 Cologne's Carnival

Young, old and everything in between, everyone comes together for Germany's most entertaining party (p575). Don a fuchsia wig, wriggle into a pair of feather-studded trousers and join the merry revellers in the streets. You only live once.

3 Christmas Markets

Tree ornaments, arts and crafts, a hand-made wallet – you name it. There's a gift for everyone among the cosy wooden stalls of Germany's Christmas markets (p25). And you can peruse them all with a mug of steaming *Glühwein* (mulled wine).

4 Christopher Street Day

A fixture of every Berlin summer since 1979, this LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) celebration (p135) welcomes anyone ready to rejoice and boogie their way across town.

Events Calendar

Germany has a packed schedule of festivals and special events. Mentioned here are those celebrated either throughout the nation or in specific regions. For more merriment, see the Festivals & Events sections in the destination chapters.

JANUARY TO MARCH

KARNEVAL/FASCHING Feb or Mar

The pre-Lenten season is celebrated with costumed street partying, parades, satirical shows and general revelry, primarily in Düsseldorf, Cologne (p575) and Mainz, but also in the Black Forest and Munich.

APRIL

WALPURGISNACHT 30 Apr

The pagan Witches' Sabbath festival (p259) has Harz villages roaring to life as young and old dress up as witches and warlocks and parade through the streets singing and dancing.

MAIFEST 30 Apr

Villagers celebrate the end of winter by chopping down a tree (*Maibaum*), painting, carving and decorating it, and staging a merry revelry with traditional costumes, singing and dancing.

MAY

MUTTERTAG 2nd Sun

Mothers are honoured, much to the delight of florists, sweet shops and greeting-card companies.

HAFENGEBURTSTAG early May

Five-day festival in the Hamburg harbour area (p685).

WAVE-GOTIK-TREFFEN late May

The world's largest Goth gathering (p201) takes over Leipzig during the long Whitsuntide (Pentecost) weekend.

JUNE

VATERTAG May/early Jun

Father's Day, now also known as Männertag (Men's Day), is essentially an excuse for men to

get liquored up with the blessing of the missis. It's always on Ascension Day.

AFRICA-FESTIVAL early Jun
Europe's largest festival of African music (p340), held in Würzburg.

KIELER WOCHE late Jun
Kiel Week (p709) is a huge festival for salty types, with yachting regattas and nonstop partying on the Baltic Sea.

CHRISTOPHER STREET DAY late Jun
Major gay-pride celebrations erupt in Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg, but also in Dresden, Munich, Stuttgart and Frankfurt.

JULY & AUGUST

SHOOTING FESTIVALS

Over a million Germans (mostly men) belong to shooting clubs and show off their skills at marksmen's festivals. The biggest one is in Hanover; the oldest, in Düsseldorf.

WINE FESTIVALS

As soon as the grapes have been harvested, the wine festival season starts, with wine tastings, folkloric parades, fireworks and the election of local and regional wine queens. The Dürkheimer Wurstmarkt (p495) is one of the biggest and most famous.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN MUSIC FESTIVAL mid-Jul–Aug

Leading international musicians and promising young artists perform during this festival (p710) in castles, churches, warehouses and animal barns throughout Germany's northernmost state.

SAMBA FESTIVAL mid-Jul
This orgy of song and dance (p381) draws around 90 bands and up to 200,000 visitors to Coburg.

KINDERZECH 3rd week of Jul
Ten-day festival (p346) with children performing in historical re-enactments, a pageant and the usual merriment, held in Dinkelsbühl.

WAGNER FESTIVAL

late Jul-Aug

This prestigious opera and music festival (p379) is held in Bayreuth.

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER**ERNTE-DANKFEST**

late Sep/early Oct

Rural towns celebrate the harvest festivals with decorated church altars, processions (*Erntedankzug*) and villagers dressed in folkloric garments.

OKTOBERFEST

mid-Sep–early Oct

Munich's legendary beer-swilling party (p314). Enough said.

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

mid-Oct

The world's largest book fair (p536), with 7300 exhibitors from over 100 countries, comes to Frankfurt.

ST MARTINSTAG

10-11 Nov

This festival honours the 4th-century St Martin, known for his humility and generosity, with a lantern procession and a re-enactment of the famous scene where he cuts his coat in half to share with

a beggar. This is followed by a big feast of stuffed, roasted goose.

DECEMBER**NIKOLAUSTAG**

5-6 Dec

On the eve of 5 December, German children put their boots outside the door hoping that St Nick will fill them with sweets and small toys overnight. Ill-behaved children, though, may find only a prickly rod left behind by St Nick's helper, Knecht Ruprecht.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

late Nov-24 Dec

Mulled wine, spicy gingerbread cookies, shimmering ornaments – these and lots more are typical features of German Christmas markets, held from late November until 24 December. Nuremberg's Christkindlmarkt (p370) is especially famous.

SILVESTER

31 Dec

In Germany, New Year's Eve is called Silvester in honour of the 4th-century pope under whom the Romans adopted Christianity as their official religion. The new year is greeted with fireworks launched by thousands of amateur pyromaniacs.

Getting Started

No matter whether you're a backpacker, a three-button suit, a lifestyle jet-setter, a trendy urban nomad or travelling with the tots, you'll find all your travel needs and expectations met in Germany. Reservations for rooms and travel arrangements are recommended between June and early September and around major holidays, but otherwise you can keep your advance planning to a minimum.

WHEN TO GO

Any time is a good time to visit Germany, even though most people prefer to come between May and September, when sunny skies and warm weather are most likely. Much of life moves outdoors: beer gardens and outdoor cafes are in full swing; festivals and alfresco events enliven cities and villages. This is also the best time for hiking, cycling, water sports and other outdoor pursuits. On the downside, you may have to deal with clogged roads, expensive and elusive lodging and crowds at castles, theme parks and other major attractions.

The shoulder seasons (March to May, and October) bring fewer tourists, often surprisingly pleasant weather and a riot of colour: wildflowers and blooming trees in spring, foliage in autumn.

With the exception of winter sports, activities between November and early March are likely to focus more on culture and city life. Expect reduced opening times or seasonal closures at museums and other sightseeing venues. Some smaller lodging properties, especially in rural areas, close down through November until early December, when they reopen for the holiday season. The ski season usually kicks off in early to mid-December, moves into full swing after New Year's and winds down sometime in March.

For related information, see p763 and p766, and the Events Calendar on p24.

COSTS & MONEY

If you're used to £5 pints, \$12 glasses of cabernet or €8 lattes, you're in for a pleasant surprise when visiting Germany. You should be able to live quite comfortably on €120 to €150 per day (per person, travelling as an adult couple). For mere survival, budget on between €40 and €70, which will have you camping or hostelling, preparing your own meals and limiting your entertainment. For ideas on how to stretch your euro further, see p765.

Comfortable midrange accommodation starts at about €80 for a double with breakfast (€60 in some rural areas). Many hostels and hotels have special 'family' rooms with three or four beds, or they can supply sleeping cots for a small extra fee. For more on travelling with kids, see p763.

A two-course meal in an average restaurant costs between €20 and €30 per person, including a beverage. The bill will be lower if you stick to cafes or casual eateries and skip alcoholic drinks. Kids' menus or dishes are quite common.

Museum admission ranges from €0.50 in small local-history museums to €15 for international blockbuster exhibits. Some sights and museums are free, or have admission-free days, and discounts are offered for children, teens, students and seniors.

Car-hire costs vary widely, but you should figure on spending at least €45 per day for a medium-sized vehicle. Flick to p781 in the Transport chapter for more details.

See Climate Charts (p763) for more information.

HOW MUCH?

Adult admission to
Schloss Neuschwan-
stein €9

Berlin's best doner kebab
€2.80

Bike rental per day €6-12

Mass (1L) of beer at
Oktoberfest €8.60

Cinema ticket €6-10

TRAVELLING RESPONSIBLY

Hotels, restaurants and sights that go the extra mile when it comes to being green are listed in our GreenDex (see p826). Another excellent source is the booklet *Tips for Green Travel in Germany*, available as a free download from www.cometogermany.com/pdf/Broschuere_Green_Travel_Tips.pdf.

Accommodation

Many properties follow simple eco-initiatives, such as offering you the option of reusing your towels and sheets, switching to soap dispensers, replacing plastic or styrofoam cups with glass and dropping prepackaged items from the breakfast buffet. Guests can often borrow bicycles for free or a small fee. Newer hotels are sometimes built using local and/or ecofriendly materials. Recycling is *de rigueur*.

You can help raise awareness among hotel staff by thanking them for any ecofriendly programs they offer; if they don't have any, politely encourage them to do so and provide a few constructive hints.

Organisations that certify ecofriendly lodgings include www.biohotels.info, www.viabono.de (in German) and www.ecocamping.de (in German).

Food

Whenever possible eat at locally owned restaurants to support the local economy. Take fast food off the menu. The German word for organic is '*bio*' and you'll see it everywhere these days, even in discount supermarkets like Plus or Aldi. Many chefs have gone '*locavore*', meaning they'll source their meat and produce from small regional farms rather than importing it from who knows where. Farmers markets abound and local farmers often set up roadside stands. Germany's water is perfectly safe and clean. If carrying a bottle of water, refill it in bathrooms or at water fountains.

Transport

Even if you're travelling by car, consider ditching it at least part of the time. Getting around between towns or to tourist attractions and trail heads by train or bus is usually uncomplicated and inexpensive since timetables are often designed with visitors' needs in mind. Low-emission or alternative-fuel bus fleets are increasingly common. If you rent a car, spend a little extra on a hybrid or at least get a fuel-efficient model.

The least polluting way to travel is, of course, by bicycle. Bicycle touring has exploded in popularity in Germany in recent years. There are dozens of signposted long-distance routes, plenty of bike rental shops (indicated throughout this book) and hotels that cater specifically for cycle tourists. Get the low-down on p780.

'Bicycle touring has exploded in popularity in Germany in recent years'

TRAVEL LITERATURE

To get you in the mood for your trip, consider reading some of these titles written by travellers who have visited Germany before you.

A Tramp Abroad by Mark Twain is a literary classic that includes keen and witty observations about Germany garnered during his travels in Europe, including a walking tour of the Black Forest in the 1880s. Twain's postscript 'The Awful German Language' is a hilarious read.

Mr Norris Changes Trains and *Goodbye to Berlin* are by Christopher Isherwood, who lived in Berlin during the Weimar years and whose stories inspired the movie *Cabaret*. The book brilliantly and often entertainingly chronicles the era's decadence and despair.

For a different take on the same era, try *What I Saw: Reports from Berlin 1920–1933* by Joseph Roth, a dynamic and insightful chronicler.

TOP 10



MUST-SEE GERMAN MOVIES

Planning and dreaming about your trip to Germany is best done in a comfy living room with a bowl of popcorn in one hand and a remote in the other. Go for a classic or pick from among the great crop of recent made-in-Germany flicks. Look for brief reviews on p63.

- 1 *Metropolis* (1927) Director: Fritz Lang
- 2 *Die Legende von Paul und Paula* (1973) Director: Heiner Carow
- 3 *Das Boot* (1981) Director: Wolfgang Petersen
- 4 *Der Himmel über Berlin* (*Wings of Desire*; 1987) Director: Wim Wenders
- 5 *Lola Rennt* (*Run Lola Run*; 1998) Director: Tom Tykwer
- 6 *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003) Director: Wolfgang Becker
- 7 *Der Untergang* (*Downfall*; 2004) Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel
- 8 *Sophie Scholl – Die Letzten Tage* (*Sophie Scholl – The Final Days*; 2005) Director: Marc Rothemund
- 9 *Das Leben der Anderen* (*The Lives of Others*; 2006) Director: Florian von Donnersmarck
- 10 *Der Baader-Meinhof Complex* (*The Baader-Meinhof Complex*; 2008) Director: Uli Edel

TOP READS

One of the best ways to learn about a country's culture and grasp a sense of a people is to immerse yourself in a good book. The following Top 10 – from classics to contemporary works – have won kudos and critical acclaim in Germany and abroad. See p61 for more details.

- 1 *Grimms Märchen* (*Grimm's Fairy Tales*; 1812) Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- 2 *Der Prozess* (*The Trial*; 1925) Franz Kafka
- 3 *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929) Alfred Döblin
- 4 *Im Westen Nichts Neues* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*; 1929) Erich Maria Remarque
- 5 *Die Blechtrommel* (*The Tin Drum*; 1959) Günter Grass
- 6 *Kindheitsmuster* (*Patterns of Childhood*; 1976) Christa Wolf
- 7 *Der Mauerspringer* (*The Wall Jumper*; 1995) Peter Schneider
- 8 *Russendisko* (*Russian Disco*; 2000) Wladimir Kaminer
- 9 *Der Vorleser* (*The Reader*; 2002) Bernhard Schlink
- 10 *Stasiland* (2004) Anna Funder

OUR FAVOURITE FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Germans really know how to let their hair down, and there's almost always something interesting happening around the country. Here are 10 festivals worth planning a trip around. Also see the various destination chapters and the Events Calendar on p24.

- 1 Berlinale (International Film Festival; Berlin), February (p134)
- 2 Cannstatter Volksfest, Stuttgart (Baden-Württemberg) September/October (p408)
- 3 Karneval/Fasching (various regions), Cologne (p575), Munich (p319)
- 4 Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt am Main (Hesse), September–October (p536)
- 5 Hamburger Dom (Hamburg), March (p685)
- 6 Karneval der Kulturen (Berlin), late May (p134)
- 7 Kieler Woche, Kiel (Schleswig-Holstein), June (p709)
- 8 Bach Festival, Leipzig (Saxony), around Ascension Day (p201)
- 9 Landshuter Hochzeit, Landshut (Bavaria), every four years in July (p394)
- 10 Munich Oktoberfest (Bavaria), mid-September (p319)

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Valid travel and health insurance (p767)
- Memorising at least a few basic words of German (p791)
- Loose pants to accommodate a growing beer belly
- Hotel or camping reservations if travelling outside the cities in summer (p756)
- Nerves of steel for driving on the autobahns (p784)
- Towel and soap if staying in hostels, private rooms or cheap *Pensionen*
- Good maps or a GPS for finding your way on country roads (p768)
- A set of smart clothes and shoes for hitting big-city clubs, the opera or fancy restaurants
- Emergency drug prescriptions and spare glasses or contact lenses

There's also *The Temple*, an autobiographical novel by one of Britain's most celebrated 20th-century poets, Stephen Spender. It is based on his travels to Germany in the late 1920s and his encounters with, among others, Isherwood.

It's a tough slog, but Claudio Magris' *Danube* certainly has its moments. Part travelogue, part meditation, it follows the great river through Bavaria and beyond, reflecting on the events that took place along it and the people who've lived there.

The Bells in Their Silence: Travels Through Germany (2004) was written by Michael Gurra, an American literature professor who spent a year living and travelling around Germany in the early 1990s. This travelogue combines a literary tour of the country with impressionistic observations about daily life.

Patrick Leigh Fermor's *A Time of Gifts* (1977) is a keen and readable account of the author's epic journey on foot from Holland to Turkey, passing through the Rhine and Danube valleys, in the years before WWII.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Deutsche Welle (www.dw-world.de) The online version of the German international broadcasting service has news and background information about Germany, on-demand audio and video feeds and newsletter sign-ups.

Deutschland Online (www.magazine-deutschland.de) Online version of *Deutschland Magazine*, with interesting features on culture, business and politics.

Deutschland Portal (www.deutschland.de) The ultimate gateway to online information about Germany.

Facts about Germany (www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de) An excellent and comprehensive reference about all aspects of German society, including education, culture, media, foreign policy and the economy.

German National Tourist Office (www.germany-tourism.de) Official site packed with information on all aspects of travel to and within Germany.

Online German Course (www.deutsch-lernen.com) Free language lessons for absolute beginners and moderately advanced students.

Destination Germany

With nine European borders and a location smack dab in the heart of the continent, Germany could stake a convincing claim to being the most 'European' of all countries. Packing over 80 million people into a pretty tight frame, it's an economic and political powerhouse with bewitching scenery, pulsating cities, progressive culture and an awareness of a historic legacy teetering between horror and greatness.

Few countries have had as much impact on the world as Germany, a land of innovation that has given us the printing press, the automobile, aspirin and MP3 technology. It's the birth place of Martin Luther, Albert Einstein, Karl Marx, Goethe, Beethoven, the Grimm brothers and other players on the world stage. As you travel around, you'll have plenty of brushes with such genius but, perhaps, Germany's scenery lifts the spirit even more. The jagged peaks of the big-shouldered Bavarian Alps unfold above flowering mountain pastures where cows graze lazily. Mighty rivers flow through romantic valleys, past steep vineyards and fairy-tale forests. You'll encounter history in towns where streets were laid out before Columbus set sail and in mighty castles looming above prim, half-timbered villages. Vibrant cities like Berlin, Hamburg, Munich and Cologne are cultural cauldrons offering a kaleidoscope of experiences, from high-brow opera to underground dance parties.

Solidly democratic, Germany has long been a driving force behind European integration and, for much of its recent history, has fashioned itself as a model of national integration into the European Union (EU). Since reunification in 1990, however, it has also been focusing more attention upon itself as a nation, especially by questioning whether or not it should have a stronger voice in Europe and the world. The German National Army (*Bundeswehr*), for instance, has been involved in military conflicts since 2001, most notably in Afghanistan. With more than 3000 soldiers in charge of operations in the northern region, the German contingent is the third largest within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Images of flag-draped coffins have launched an increasingly spirited debate about whether Germany should be part of armed conflict at all. The soul-searching reached a new peak in late 2009, when an air strike ordered by a German officer resulted in Afghan civilian casualties.

Looking inward, there's considerable discontent among Germans when it comes to assessing the economic and societal progress made since reunification. A major study by the Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW; German Institute for Economic Research) revealed that less than half of the population considers themselves better off now than in 1990. One in four ex-GDR citizens felt that they had a better life in East Germany. The perception is not helped by the fact that there's still a considerable income gap between the two former Germanys (€1444 monthly household net income in the former West versus €1149 in the former East).

For the past two decades, Germany's political landscape has been evolving from a three party system – the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD; Social Democratic Party of Germany); the Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands (CDU; Christian Democratic Union of Germany) and the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the Christlich-Soziale Union (CSU; Christian Social Union); and the Freie Demokratische Partei (FDP; Free Democratic Party) – into a five party system that includes Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Alliance 90/The Greens) and the relative newcomer, Die Linke (The Left). The Left grew out of the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands

FAST FACTS

Area:	357,045 sq km
Population:	82.7 million
GDP:	€2.49 trillion (2008)
Inflation:	0% (April 2009)
Unemployment:	8.35% (August 2009)
Life expectancy:	women 82.42 years, men 76.26 years
Most famous civil criminal:	Fritz Haarmann (1879–1925), who killed at least 24 people and supposedly drank their blood
Percentage of children born outside marriage:	30%
Number of bicycles:	68 million (2008)
Most popular children's names:	Marie and Leon (2008)

(SED; Socialist Unity Party of Germany), the former communist party of East Germany.

When the 2005 election failed to produce a clear winner, a grand coalition of the SPD and CDU/CSU was formed under the leadership of Angela Merkel, Germany's first woman chancellor. Germans, who at the time were overwhelmingly in favour of a grand coalition, hoped that the two largest parties would bury their hatchets and work together to tackle the country's most pressing problems: long-term unemployment, health and pension systems sorely in need of financial reform, migration and citizenship issues, as well as such hot potatoes as a tax system many believe is skewed to benefit the better-off, a hefty national debt, declining real income and a perceived lack of economic incentives for individuals and small business. As it turned out, successes were modest since compromises outnumbered gutsy reforms. As one minister put it, the grand coalition was something between a forced and an arranged marriage.

Then came the financial crisis of 2008–09, which drove up the public debt as massive amounts of money were pumped into ailing German banks. One of the more populist government responses to the crisis was the so-called *Abwrackprämie* (literally 'scrap premium', akin to the US 'cash for clunkers' scheme). Car owners willing to scrap their vehicle if older than nine years received €2500 towards the purchase of a brand-new one. Almost two million Germans took advantage of this scheme, which was intended to boost business for domestic car manufacturers and dealers and push polluters off the road. On the whole, the short-term result was positive, but many economists doubt the program's long-term usefulness.

The 2009 elections showed people's disillusionment with the grand coalition by putting a centre-right alliance of CDU/CSU and FDP into power. While the former dropped a couple of percentage points to 33.8%, support for the pro-business FDP grew by a third to 14.6%, thereby increasing its political strength within the coalition. It was a personal victory for the socially liberal but free-market-fixated FDP, which is led by Guido Westerwelle, one of Germany's few openly gay politicians. The junior party's new self-confidence makes it more difficult for Merkel – who's often criticised for her low-profile political style – to set the political agenda. One of the more controversial goals of the FDP is to weaken the laws that protect workers from dismissal. The party is also in favour of lowering taxes, despite the enormous national debt. CDU/CSU party leaders hope that Merkel will show some teeth and adopt a clearer political stance, even if that means losing her title as 'mother of the nation'.

The SPD, meanwhile, suffered its worst election outcome since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 and will be part of the opposition for the first time since 1998. Unable to define itself to voters on the left, it garnered a paltry 23%, haemorrhaging votes to both Alliance 90/The Greens and the Left.

One of the most divisive topics during the election was nuclear energy and waste. In the 1990s the SPD and Alliance 90/The Greens coalition had passed legislation to take the country's nuclear-power stations off-line by 2020. Under the new CDU/CSU and FDP government, however, this deadline is expected to be extended, at least for some power stations, so as to bridge possible shortfalls until alternative energy sources mature.

Wind and solar energy are growing industries in Germany, and Alliance 90/The Greens in particular see these and other environmentally friendly sources as a driving force in job creation. By late 2009 household solar collectors were contributing about 6000 megawatts each year to Germany's needs – the equivalent of about seven medium-sized nuclear-power stations.

Meanwhile, Gorleben, Germany's controversial intermediate nuclear-waste disposal site in Lower Saxony, is claimed by some in Germany's antinuclear movement to be potentially unsafe. To make matters worse, the nearby Asse storage facility – where radioactive waste was deposited when the nuclear-power industry was in its infancy – was found to be flooded with water and dangerously near collapse. Nuclear energy and Gorleben, which for many years have been the focus of large-scale and often violent demonstrations, are likely to remain hotly debated issues in the future, long after the dust from Germany's 2009 election has settled.

Itineraries

CLASSIC ROUTES

CITY DELIGHTS

Two Weeks / Berlin to Hamburg

Bookended by great cities, this route offers some of the best culture, character and architecture the country has to offer. Kick off in **Berlin** (p99) with its top-notch museums, old and bold architecture and nice-to-naughty nightlife. From here head south to **Dresden** (p176), sitting proud and pretty in its baroque splendour right on the Elbe River. Next stop is **Munich** (p295), where an evening in a beer garden is the perfect finish to a day of palace and museum hopping. Next up is the Romantic Road, where medieval **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** (p342) is a veritable symphony of half-timbered houses. Cut west to historic **Heidelberg** (p414), idyllically serenaded by an ancient fortress, then north to **Worms** (p487) and **Mainz** (p482), with their fantastic Romanesque cathedrals. Follow the Rhine River through the fairy-tale scenery of the Middle Rhine to cosmopolitan **Cologne** (p568) for a spin around Germany's grandest Gothic cathedral. Wrap up your trip in lovable **Bremen** (p661) and open-minded **Hamburg** (p674), which welcome you with maritime charm.

Prepare for a roller coaster of urban treasures on this 1700km journey that takes in progressive big-city beauties, medieval metropolises mired in history and elegant residential towns shaped by royal visions.



BIGGEST HITS OF THE SOUTH

Two Weeks / Frankfurt to Frankfurt

Start your exploration in **Frankfurt** (p528), where you can soak up culture in world-class museums, potent cider in traditional taverns and views of the spectacular city skyline from the river promenade. Next up is **Koblenz** (p501), dramatically located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers. It's the gateway to the **Romantic Rhine** (p499), a scene-stealing combo of steeply terraced vineyards, lordly medieval castles and cute higgledy-piggledy villages. Follow the river south, perhaps stopping in postcard-pretty **St Goar** (p506) and **Bacharach** (p508). Next, follow in the footsteps of Mark Twain in bewitching **Heidelberg** (p414), Germany's oldest university town. Take a break from culture in the celebrity haven of **Baden-Baden** (p443), the legendary spa resort where you can soothe sore muscles in luxurious bathing temples. The town is also the northern gateway to the Black Forest, where you should stop in almost ridiculously picturesque **Gengenbach** (p451) and **Triberg** (p460) on your way to vibrant **Freiburg** (p452), with its imposing minster and fabulous alfresco life in cobbled streets as tangled as computer cables. From here cut east to the vast **Lake Constance** (p467) and follow its scenic northern shore to lovely **Lindau** (p477), a teensy island laced with a maze of cobbled alleys jutting into the water. You're now in Bavaria, en route to the fairy-tale castle of Füssen's **Neuschwanstein** (p352) and **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** (p355), where a train-and-cable-car combo delivers you to the top of the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. Come back down to earth in a beer hall in **Munich** (p295), before wrapping up your journey by oohing and ahing your way up the Romantic Road. Essential stops include **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** (p342) and **Würzburg** (p337), from where it's a quick drive back to Frankfurt.



Germany's southern half presents the mother lode of historic cities, soul-stirring scenery and spirit-lifting culture, as this grand, 1500km loop reveals. It can be 'done' in two weeks, but more time lets you connect more deeply with this land and its feast of treats, treasures and temptations.

ROADS LESS TRAVELLED

MID-GERMAN MEANDERINGS

Two Weeks / Düsseldorf to
Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Kick off your west–east passage in bustling **Düsseldorf** (p558), a magnet for fans of art, shopping and a good time. Those with a penchant for the off-beat will hit the mother lode on the Industrial Heritage Trail through the nearby **Ruhrgebiet** (p590). Quirky delights include former **gas tanks filled with art** (p597) in Oberhausen, blast furnaces turned into **free-climbing zones** (p598) in Duisburg and a colliery turned **museum and adventure playground** (p591) in Essen. East along the A44, stop in **Soest** (p604) and **Paderborn** (p605), both famous for their churches. Plunge into the world of fairy tales in **Hamelin** (p623), the Renaissance town of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* fame. Close by is restored **Hildesheim** (p633), celebrated for the huge bronze door gracing its cathedral. Continue on to charming **Goslar** (p242), with a 1000-year-old mine and an 11th-century palace. It's also the gateway to the **Harz Mountains** (p240), whose natural splendours are perfect for spending a day or two in the slow lane. Don't leave without sampling the small-town beauty of **Wernigerode** (p249), famous for its colourfully painted medieval houses and as the terminus of the narrow-gauge Harzquerbahn railway to Nordhausen in Thuringia. Continue on to charming **Quedlinburg** (p254), a well-preserved ensemble of half-timbered houses. Then make a beeline straight for **Dessau-Rosslau** (p223), a city that's synonymous with the Bauhaus school of architecture. Ramble around the lush gardens of **Gartenreich Dessau-Wörlitz** (p227) before finishing up in the birthplace of the Reformation, **Lutherstadt Wittenberg** (p229).

This itinerary proves that 'lesser known' doesn't have to mean 'lesser'. Classic and quirky discoveries abound along this 600km-long belt cinched around Germany's surprising middle.



BEST OF THE BALTIC

Two Weeks / Flensburg to Greifswald

Though no stranger to domestic tourism, Germany's towns and resorts fringing the Baltic Sea rarely make it onto international travellers' itineraries – undeservedly so. The first stop, **Flensburg** (p715), easily reached by train or autobahn from Hamburg, is Germany's northernmost town and beckons with a handsome Altstadt. **Schleswig** (p712), a quick hop south, cradles a huge fjord and boasts the intriguing Viking Museum and art-filled Schloss Gottorf. Next up is **Lübeck** (p701), a highlight on this route, with a fairytale skyline, enchanting old town and delicious marzipan. East of here, Swedish-flavoured **Wismar** (p741) woos you with a postcard-pretty setting and a lovely step-gabled old town. En route to Rostock, stop in **Bad Doberan** (p740), with its great red-brick minster, quirky Frank Zappa memorial and kid-friendly narrow-gauge train. Though aesthetically challenged, **Rostock** (p733) does have some interesting sights and serves as the region's nightlife hub. **Stralsund** (p744), by contrast, is more sedate but has a very attractive Altstadt and is also the gateway to **Rügen Island** (p747), with its tree-lined country roads, long sandy beaches and mysterious chalk cliffs. To truly traipse off the beaten path, head out to the remote **Darss-Zingst Peninsula** (p743), where nature puts on an especially handsome show. Conclude these meanderings with a stop in **Greifswald** (p754), an old university town close to beach-fringed **Usedom Island** (p755), a popular holiday island that Germany shares with Poland.



**A ride along
Germany's magical
Baltic coast reveals
eye candy at every
bend of the road.
Take your sweet
time as you travel
along this 500km
route from Germa-
ny's border with
Denmark to where
it rubs shoulders
with Poland.**

TAILORED TRIPS

CASTLES & PALACES

Until unification in 1871, Germany was a mosaic of fiefdoms, whose overseers ruled from the comfort of their *Schloss* (palace) or *Burg* (castle). A sentimental favourite among Germans is the **Wartburg** (p281) in Eisenach, where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German while in hiding. Less well known but equally impressive is Saxony's **Festung Königstein** (p192), which overlooks the Elbe and is so big, bold and formidable that nobody ever dared attack it. More refined are **Schloss Sanssouci** (p159) in Potsdam and **Schloss Charlottenburg** (p126) in Berlin, both impressive residences of the Prussian Hohenzollern clan. The family's ancestral seat, medieval-looking **Burg Hohenzollern** (p438) near Tübingen

is actually a 19th-century neo-Gothic confection, the original having been destroyed long ago. A similar fate befell **Schloss Heidelberg** (p415), although much of it survives as a romantic ruin. For more romance, visit the robber-baron hang-outs along the Romantic Rhine, especially St Goar's rambling **Burg Rheinfels** (p506) and Braubach's pristine **Marksburg** (p504), which, like the fairy-tale **Burg Eltz** (p520) near the Moselle, has never been destroyed. Germany's most famous palace may be Füssen's **Schloss Neuschwanstein** (p352), but King Ludwig II's more playful **Schloss Linderhof** (p359) or his grand **Schloss Herrenchiemsee** (p334) on Lake Chiemsee are even nicer. Another big Bavarian delight is the baroque **Würzburg Residenz** (p337), designed by star architect Balthasar Neumann.



CATHEDRALS & CHURCHES

Germany has a wealth of houses of worship, the most magnificent of which lift the spirit with their harmonious architecture and priceless treasures. Germany's best-known church, the **Kölner Dom** (p569) in Cologne, is also its biggest: its twin spires dominate the city's distinctive skyline. Another exquisite Gothic cathedral is **Freiburg's Münster** (p453), which has similarly awesome stained-glass windows. The title of 'world's tallest steeple' (reached by 768 steps!) belongs to **Ulm's Münster** (p439), while the **Berliner Dom** (p117) in Berlin claims to be Germany's largest Protestant cathedral. Older than all by several centuries is Charlemagne's octagonal palace chapel, now part of **Aachen's Dom** (p586).

Fans of Romanesque architecture will hit the trifecta along the Rhine with

the awe-inspiring cathedrals of **Mainz** (p484), **Worms** (p488) and **Speyer** (p490). Bavaria brims with baroque churches; the **Asamkirche** (p311) in Munich and the **Wieskirche** (p354) in Steingaden are both standouts. The landmark **Frauenkirche** (p180) in Dresden, levelled during WWII, was triumphantly reopened in 2005. Also in former East Germany, the **Schlosskirche** (p230) in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, where Luther published his *Ninety-Five Theses* and found his final resting place, is a major pilgrimage site for Protestants.

Churches with amazing carved altars include the **Jakobskirche** (p343) in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the **St Nikolaikirche** (p567) in Kalkar and the **Petrikirche** (p595) in Dortmund.



GERMANY IN THE SLOW LANE

Like a fine wine, some of Germany's most memorable destinations are best appreciated in leisurely sips, not quick gulps. So say goodbye to the automobile and hello to the slow lane as you embark on a journey of discovery that will enrich you personally while also lowering your carbon footprint. **Hiddensee** (p753), a tiny island on the Baltic Sea, for instance, is an entirely car-free zone, making bicycle the best way to get around. At the other end of the country, **Oberstdorf** (p360) in the Allgäu has also banned cars, as have most of the **East Frisian Islands** (p656). Germany is criss-crossed with long-distance hiking trails, including the **Rennsteig** (p282) in the Thuringian Forest, one of the oldest and most famous trails in the country. The **Rheinhöhenweg** (p500), along the Romantic Rhine, and the **Rotweinwanderweg** (p496), through the Ahr Valley, also open up lots of fantastic views and have the added benefit of traversing wine regions. If you prefer to two-wheel it, there are plenty of long-distance cycle trails. The nicest of them parallel bodies of water, such as the epic **Elberadweg** (p228), along the Elbe, and the romantic **Neckartal-Radweg** (p403), along the Neckar River. The **Bodensee-Radweg** (p467) around Lake Constance is another popular route. The ultimate in slow travel, though, is canoeing. There's some fantastic terrain to explore along the spidery waterways of the **Spreewald** (p166), while, further south, the whimsically eroded canyon of the **Altmühltal** (p382) provides an even more evocative setting for extended nature explorations afloat.



WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Germany has 33 sites recognised by Unesco for their historical, cultural or natural importance. The latest addition, in 2009, was the **Wattenmeer** (Wadden Sea; p656) in Lower Saxony. Of historical importance is **Trier** (p512), famous for its well-preserved Roman ruins. Several medieval towns have also got the nod, including **Quedlinburg** (p254), **Goslar** (p242), **Bamberg** (p374), **Lübeck** (p701) and **Regensburg** (p388). Take in the lifestyles of the rich and powerful at the baroque palaces of **Schloss Sanssouci** (p159) in Potsdam and **Schloss Augustusburg** (p579) in Brühl, and the medieval castles along the **Romantic Rhine** (p499). The bulging coffers of the Church financed the cathedrals of **Aachen** (p586), **Cologne** (p569), **Hildesheim** (p634) and **Speyer** (p490), the monastery on **Reichenau Island** (p472), the prince-bishops' **Residenz** (p337) in Würzburg and the **Wieskirche** (p354) in Steingaden. Sites honouring Protestant reformer Martin Luther include the **Wartburg** (p281) in Eisenach and memorials in **Lutherstadt Eisleben** (p236) and **Lutherstadt Wittenberg** (p229). **Weimar** (p269) drew a who's who of German thinkers in the 18th century and is the birthplace of the Bauhaus. The **Dessau-Rosslau's Bauhaus buildings** (p224) are also on Unesco's list, as is the grand **Museumsinsel** (p116) in Berlin.

For a change of pace visit Essen's **Zollverein** (p591) colliery and the **Völklinger Hütte** (p525) in Völklingen in the Saarland, both considered outstanding 'cathedrals of industry'.



The Authors



ANDREA SCHULTE-PEEVERS

Coordinating Author, Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia, North Rhine–Westphalia

Andrea has logged countless miles travelling in nearly 60 countries on five continents and carries her dog-eared passport like a badge of honour. Born and raised in Germany and educated in London and at UCLA, she's built a career on writing about her native country for almost two decades. She's authored or contributed to more than 40 Lonely Planet titles, including all six editions of this book as well as the *Berlin* city guide, the *Berlin Encounter* guide and the *Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest* guide. For this trip she again traded her house in Los Angeles for a teensy rooftop apartment in Berlin – and didn't regret a day of it.



KERRY CHRISTIANI

Baden-Württemberg

Big wilderness, the promise of snow in winter and a husband born in Villingen lured Kerry from London to the Black Forest four years ago. When not on the road, Kerry can be found hiking, cycling or cross-country skiing in the woods and hills close to her home. For this edition, she was delighted to rediscover Baden-Württemberg, from canoeing on Lake Constance to testing – well it would be rude not to! – Black Forest cake in Triberg. Kerry's incurably itchy feet have taken her to some 40 countries, inspiring numerous travel articles, online features and around 15 guidebooks, including Lonely Planet's *Austria, Switzerland, Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest* and *Portugal*.



MARC DI DUCA

Saxony, Bavaria

From a library job in the Ruhrgebiet during the summer of '89 to scrambling up the Alps for this guide, Germany and German have been with Marc throughout his adult life. Marc has explored many corners of Germany over the last 20 years, but it's to the variety and friendliness of Bavaria that he returns most willingly. During research, Marc also enjoyed the opportunity to explore Saxony where he became smitten with the Trabant. When not Trabi hugging in Zwickau or leaving beer rings in Munich, Marc can usually be found in Sandwich, Kent, where he lives with his Kievite wife, Tanya, and son Taras. This is Marc's fourth Lonely Planet title after *Russia, Trans-Siberian Railway* and *Cycling Britain*.



ANTHONY HAYWOOD

History, The Culture, Harz Mountains, Lower Saxony, Bremen

Anthony was born in the port city of Fremantle, Western Australia, and pulled anchor early on to hitchhike through Europe and the USA. Aberystwyth in Wales and Ealing in London were his wintering grounds at the time. He later studied comparative literature in Perth and Russian language in Melbourne. In the 1990s, fresh from a spell in post-Soviet, pre-anything Moscow, he moved to Germany. Today he works as a German-based freelance writer and journalist and divides his time between Göttingen (Lower Saxony) and Berlin. Anthony worked on the first and most subsequent editions of *Germany*.



CATHERINE LE NEVEZ

**Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein,
Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania**

Catherine road-tripped across Europe aged four and has been hitting the road at every opportunity since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in editing and publishing along the way. Catherine has authored or co-authored over a dozen Lonely Planet guidebooks, including two editions of *Munich, Bavaria & the Black Forest*. For this book, she jumped at the chance to celebrate Hamburg's Hafengeburtstag, head into northern Germany's national parks, and soak up the sea air and scenery on the spectacular Baltic and North Sea coastline and islands.



DANIEL ROBINSON

Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate & Saarland

Brought up in Northern California, Illinois and Israel, Daniel holds degrees from Princeton and Tel Aviv University and now lives with his wife Rachel in Los Angeles and Tel Aviv. In his two decades with Lonely Planet, he has covered both sides of the Franco–German border and has had his work translated into 10 languages. The Moselle's medieval wine villages and the area's many *Radwege* (cycling paths) keep bringing Daniel back to Rhineland-Palatinate, but he's equally enchanted by the trains that slither along both banks of the Romantic Rhine, past cargo barges and car ferries. In the Saarland he's as captivated by the hulking Völklinger Hütte ironworks as he is at peace on the leafy Saar River.



CAROLINE SIEG

**Food & Drink,
Environment, Welcome to Germany**

Half-American and half-Swiss, Caroline has spent most of her life moving back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, with lengthy stops in Zürich, Miami and New York City. When not cycling around Berlin's Tiergarten or Hamburg's waterways in an effort to work off a daily dose of *Kaffee und Kuchen*, Caroline spends her days writing and editing, with a focus on anything involving travel and food.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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Behind the Scenes

THIS BOOK

The 1st edition of *Germany* was written by Steve Fallon, Anthony Haywood, Andrea Schulte-Peevers and Nick Selby. This 6th edition was written by Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Kerry Christiani, Marc Di Duca, Anthony Haywood, Catherine Le Nevez and Daniel Robinson. The 5th edition was written by Jeremy Gray, Anthony Haywood, Sarah Johnstone and Daniel Robinson, also under the expert co-ordination of Andrea Schulte-Peevers. This guidebook was commissioned in Lonely Planet's London office, and produced by the following:

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THE LONELY PLANET STORY

Fresh from an epic journey across Europe, Asia and Australia in 1972, Tony and Maureen Wheeler sat at their kitchen table stapling together notes. The first Lonely Planet guidebook, *Across Asia on the Cheap*, was born.

Travellers snapped up the guides. Inspired by their success, the Wheelers began publishing books to Southeast Asia, India and beyond. Demand was prodigious, and the Wheelers expanded the business rapidly to keep up. Over the years, Lonely Planet extended its coverage to every country and into the virtual world via lonelyplanet.com and the Thorn Tree message board.

As Lonely Planet became a globally loved brand, Tony and Maureen received several offers for the company. But it wasn't until 2007 that they found a partner whom they trusted to remain true to the company's principles of travelling widely, treading lightly and giving sustainably. In October of that year, BBC Worldwide acquired a 75% share in the company, pledging to uphold Lonely Planet's commitment to independent travel, trustworthy advice and editorial independence.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with over 500 staff members and 300 authors. Tony and Maureen are still actively involved with Lonely Planet. They're travelling more often than ever, and they're devoting their spare time to charitable projects. And the company is still driven by the philosophy of *Across Asia on the Cheap*: 'All you've got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!'

MARC DI DUCA

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