

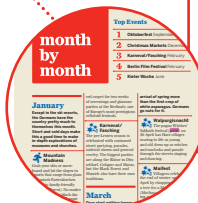
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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
to help you put together your perfect trip

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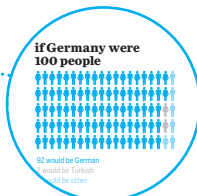
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UNDERSTAND GERMANY

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you
can make sense of what you see

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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Andrea Schulte-Peevers,
Kerry Christiani, Marc Di Duca, Anthony Haywood,
Daniel Robinson, Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Top Experiences >



Frankfurt

Art, architecture and
apple wine (p371)

Bamberg

Saunter around this pristine
medieval marvel (p277)

Nuremberg

German history in
a nutshell (p266)

Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Be charmed by its
medieval magic (p253)

Heidelberg

Surrender to your
inner romantic (p415)

Munich

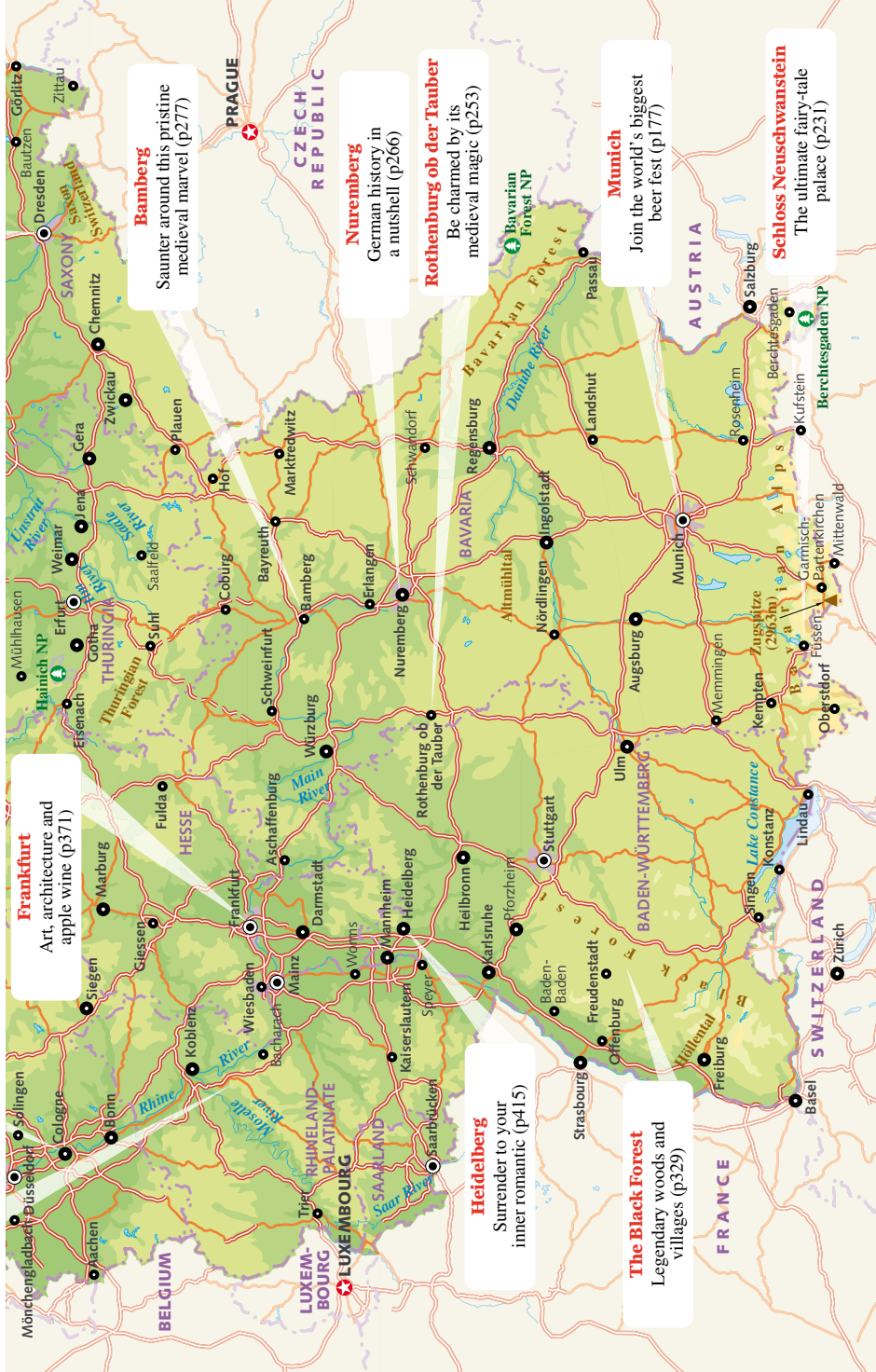
Join the world's biggest
beer fest (p177)

The Black Forest

Legendary woods and
villages (p299)

Schloss Neuschwanstein

The ultimate fairy-tale
palace (p231)



itineraries

Whether you've got five days or 50, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Two Weeks Top of the Pops

Bookended by great cities, this road trip lets you sample superb culture, character and architecture. Kick off with a couple of days in **Berlin** for its top-notch museums, old and bold architecture and nice-to-naughty nightlife. Next is a day in **Dresden**, in its baroque splendour on the Elbe River. Push south to **Nuremberg**, with its evocative walled medieval centre, and on to **Munich**, where an evening in a beer garden is the perfect finish to two days of palace and museum hopping. Drive to **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** to breathe the fresh Alpine air on an exhilarating train-and-cable-car trip up the **Zugspitze**, Germany's highest mountain. Spend the night here, then get up early to beat the crowds swarming 'Mad' King Ludwig II's castles in **Füssen**. In the afternoon, point the compass north for the Romantic Road, possibly overnighing in **Dinkelsbühl** or **Rothenburg ob der Tauber**. Next, cut west to historic **Heidelberg**, with its romantically ruined fortress, then north to **Worms** and **Mainz**, with their Romanesque cathedrals. After a night in enchanting Bacharach, follow the **Romantic Rhine** through fairy-tale scenery before winding up in cosmopolitan **Cologne** for a day or two of church-hopping, great art and rustic beer halls.



Two Weeks Biggest Hits of the South

Start your driving exploration with a day in **Frankfurt**, where you can soak up culture in world-class museums, cider in traditional taverns and views of the city skyline from the river promenade. Point the compass northwest to **Koblenz**, dramatically located at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers with the mighty Ehrenbreitstein fortress looming above. This is the gateway to the Romantic Rhine, a scene-stealing combo of steeply terraced vineyards, lordly medieval castles and higgledy-piggledy villages. Say hello to legendary Loreley rock as you follow the western river bank south, perhaps stopping in postcard-pretty **Boppard** and fairy-tale-like **Bacharach** or fancying yourself knight or damsel for a night in a luxurious castle hotel. The next morning, make a quick stop in **Mainz**, where Johannes Gutenberg ushered in the information age by inventing moveable type.

Next, follow in the footsteps of Mark Twain in bewitching **Heidelberg**, Germany's oldest university town, where you shouldn't miss a tour of the majestic and impossibly romantic castle. Take a day's break from culture in **Baden-Baden**, the legendary spa resort where royals, celebrities, politicians and mere mortals have for centuries frolicked in elegant bathing temples. From here go cuckoo for the Black Forest, a storied pastiche of forest-cloaked hills, glacial lakes, snug valleys and half-timbered villages like **Gengenbach** and **Triberg**. Build in a least half a day in student-flavoured **Freiburg**, with its imposing minster; it's the place to enjoy the crisp local wine alfresco amid tangled cobbled lanes.

From here cut east to the vast **Lake Constance** and follow its scenic northern shore, perhaps stopping in pretty Meersburg, the prehistoric Pfahlbauten (pile dwellings) or Friedrichshafen, the birthplace of the Zeppelin airship. Consider overnighting in lovely Lindau, a teensy island laced with a maze of cobbled alleys jutting into the water. You're now in Bavaria, en route to the fabled Schloss Neuschwanstein in **Füssen** and on to **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**, where a train-and-cable-car combo delivers you to the top of the Zugspitze. Come back down to earth in a beer hall in **Munich** before wrapping up your journey with a couple of days of oohing and aahing your way up the Romantic Road. Essential stops include **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** and **Würzburg**, from which it's a quick drive back to Frankfurt.



Four Weeks Tour de Germany

This trip presents you with the mother lode of soul-stirring landscapes, villages and spirit-lifting culture in some of Germany's finest cities. Base yourself in **Berlin** for a few days, perhaps following the suggestions outlined on p59, and add a one-day excursion to park-and-palace-filled **Potsdam**. Next putter around – preferably in a kayak or canoe – one of Germany's most unusual landscapes, the canal-laced **Spreewald**, home to the Sorb ethnic minority. Make a quick detour to **Görlitz** on the Polish border, one of Germany's best-preserved small towns, then earmark two days to get properly acquainted with **Dresden's** cultural riches. Continue on to Thuringia to walk in the footsteps of Germany's greatest intellects – from Luther to Goethe to Gropius – in **Weimar** and **Erfurt**.

Spend the next three days exploring a trio of medieval gems teeming with happily restored, centuries-old buildings: compact **Bamberg** exudes romance; much bigger **Nuremberg** pegs its fame not only to its role as a medieval powerhouse but also to its less glorious Third Reich legacy; and **Regensburg** is a lively university town founded by the Romans whose many patrician towers overlook the coursing Danube. From here, wend your way towards Munich via the enchanting **Altmühltal Nature Park**. It's best savoured slowly, on foot, by bike or by boat.

Make a study of **Munich** for a couple of days, perhaps folding day trips up the **Zugspitze** or to Ludwig II's **Schloss Neuschwanstein** into your itinerary. Your route continues west to Lake Constance, where stops should include lovely **Lindau** and picture-perfect **Meersburg**. Revel in the youthful spirit of ancient **Freiburg** for a day, then point the compass north for scenic drives through the Black Forest, ending in **Baden-Baden** for the night. Relax in the town's thermal spas before ploughing on to **Heidelberg**, with its romantically ruined castle. Cut across the Rhine to **Speyer**. Take a spin around Speyer's Romanesque cathedral, then compare it to its upriver cousins in **Worms** and **Mainz**. You're in the heart of wine country now, so sample the local tittle in idyllic villages like **Bacharach** or **Boppard** as you follow the river north through the dramatic scenery of the castle-studded Romantic Rhine. The tour ends in **Cologne**, whose magnificent cathedral will come into view long before you've reached town. Great museums, Romanesque churches and Rhenish joie de vivre will easily keep you entertained for a day or two.



One Week Romans, Rivers, Rieslings

Start in **Cologne** and let this journey of grand architecture, absorbing history, world-class art and fine wine unfurl. Stand in awe of the twin-spired Kölner Dom, explore the city's engaging museums (chocolate, contemporary art, sports – take your pick!) and indulge in a hearty supper and local *Kölsch* beer in a Rhenish tavern. Head to **Aachen** next to walk in the footsteps of Charlemagne and munch on a crunchy *Printen* cookie, then travel back in time another few centuries in storied **Trier**. More than 2000 years old, it's home to some of the finest Roman monuments north of the Alps.

The following day take your time to mosey along the serpentine Moselle River, which runs past steep vineyards to meet the Rhine at Koblenz. Swoon over crisp riesling in half-timbered **Bernkastel-Kues** or fairytale **Beilstein**, then compare it with wines produced along the Rhine. Follow that river south as it carves past picture-postcard villages like **Boppard** and **Bacharach**, and craggy cliffs crowned by medieval castles. On your last day, discover **Mainz**, with its great cathedral and fabulous museum dedicated to moveable type inventor and local boy Johannes Gutenberg.

One Week Hanseatic Highlights

This itinerary hopscoches around northern Germany to delightful cities shaped by the sea and a long mercantile tradition rooted in the medieval Hanseatic League. You can drive it, but it's just as easily done by train. Kick-off is in cosmopolitan **Hamburg**, a city that cradles an elegant centre and an edgy new waterfront quarter, the red-brick Speicherstadt (warehouse district).

Spend a couple of days here before venturing on to **Lübeck**, an enchanting historic town, where the landmark Holsten Gate is a shutterbug favourite. Try the local marzipan and then head to pastoral **Schwerin**, a cultural hub hemmed in by crystalline lakes. Sitting pretty on an island in one of them is the much-photographed Schloss Schwerin.

Carry on to **Bremen**, the northern terminus of the 'Fairytale Road'. After greeting the statue of the Town Musicians, check out expressionist architecture, mummified corpses in the cathedral crypt, and Beck's brewery, then party till dawn in Das Viertel. Once your head's clear again, steer north to **Bremerhaven**, which was the port of dreams for millions of souls hoping for a better life in the New World. The German Emigration Centre tells their story.

➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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**Anthony Haywood**

Central Germany, Lower Saxony Anthony was born in the port city of Fremantle, Western Australia, and pulled anchor early on to mostly 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 he moved to Germany and has been travelling the country ever since. Today he works as a German-based freelance writer and

journalist and divides his time between Göttingen (Lower Saxony) and Berlin.

**Daniel Robinson**

Frankfurt & the Southern Rhine In his two decades with Lonely Planet, Daniel has covered both sides of the Franco–German border, sipping as many crisp whites in Alsace as in the Palatinate. When he's not interviewing bouncers at trendy Heidelberg nightclubs or reviewing apple-wine taverns in Frankfurt, he relaxes by 'barge spotting' along the Romantic Rhine and visiting lesser-known sights connected to the Rhineland's long and illustrious Jewish history. Daniel's travel

writing on Europe, Asia and the Middle East has been translated into 10 languages.

**Ryan Ver Berkmoes**

Cologne & Northern Rhineland, Hamburg & the North Ryan Ver Berkmoes once lived in Germany. Three years in Frankfurt, during which time he edited a magazine until he got a chance for a new career...with Lonely Planet. One of his first jobs was working on Lonely Planet's Germany coverage. He loves smoked fish, which serves him well in the north, and he loves beer, which serves him well everywhere in Germany. Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com. He tweets at @ryanvb.

Read more about Ryan at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/ryanverberkmoes



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Andrea Schulte-Peevers

Coordinating Author, Berlin, Around Berlin, Saxony Born and raised in Germany and educated in London and at UCLA, Andrea has travelled the distance to the moon and back in her visits to some 65 countries. She's written about her native country for two decades and authored or contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, including all editions of this guide, the Berlin city guide and the Berlin Pocket guide. After years of living in LA, Andrea couldn't be happier to

finally make her home in a lovely Berlin flat.



Kerry Christiani

Stuttgart & the Black Forest Having lived for six years in Germany's Black Forest, Kerry jumped at the chance to return to her second home (and family) to write her chapters. Hiking in the hills, cycling around Lake Constance and road-testing black forest gâteau (it's a hard life) kept her busy for this edition. Kerry has authored some 20 guidebooks and frequently contributes to print and online magazines, including *Olive*, *Lonely Planet Magazine* and bbc.com/travel. She

tweets @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at www.kerrychristiani.com. Kerry also wrote the Outdoor Activities, Eat & Drink Like a Local, Food & Drink and Landscapes & Wildlife chapters.

Read more about Kerry at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/kerrychristiani



Marc Di Duca

Munich, Bavaria A well-established travel guide author, Marc has explored many corners of Germany over the past 20 years, but it's to the quirky variety and friendliness of Bavaria that he returns most willingly. When not hiking Alpine valleys, eating snowballs in Rothenburg ob der Tauber or brewery hopping in Bamberg, he can be found in Sandwich, Kent, where he lives with his Kievid wife, Tanya, and their two sons. *Germany* is Marc's 21st Lonely Planet guide. Marc also

wrote the History, German People, Literature, Theatre & Film, Music, Visual Arts and Architecture chapters.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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