



Germany



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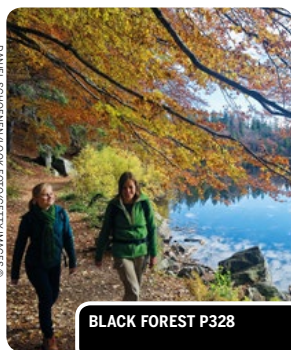
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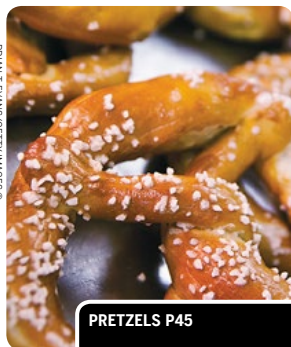
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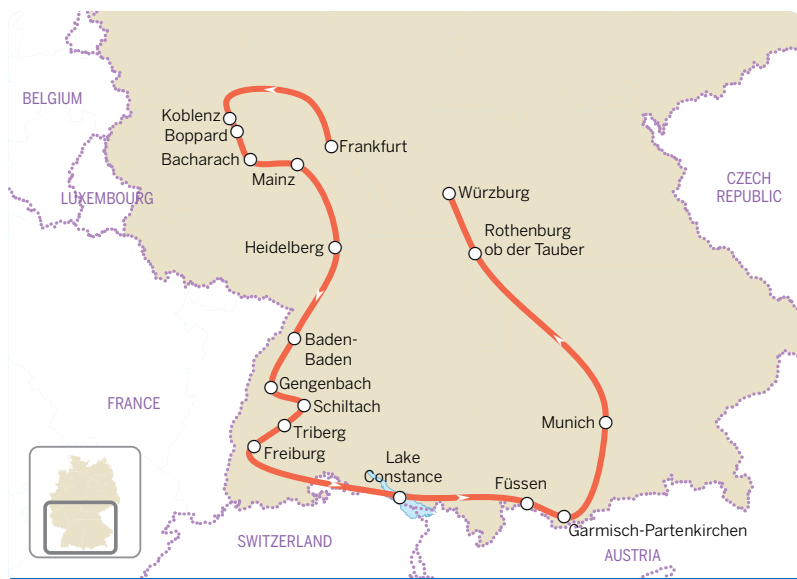
Itineraries



2 WEEKS Top of the Pops

Bookended by great cities, this road trip is a fine introduction for first-timers that lets you sample the best of German culture, character, architecture and landscapes.

Kick off in **Berlin** to sample its top-notch museums, old and bold architecture and nice-to-naughty nightlife. Next, head to show-stopping **Dresden**, sitting proud and pretty in its baroque splendour on the Elbe River. Push south to **Nuremberg**, with its evocative walled medieval centre, and on to **Munich** to wrap up a day of palace- and museum-hopping with an evening in a beer garden. Drive to **Garmisch-Partenkirchen** to breathe the fresh Alpine air on an exhilarating train-and-cable-car trip up the **Zugspitze**, then get up early the next day to beat the crowds swarming 'Mad' King Ludwig II's Schloss Neuschwanstein in **Füssen**. In the afternoon, point the compass north for the Romantic Road, possibly overnighting 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 majestic Romanesque cathedrals. After a night in enchanting **Bacharach**, follow the **Romantic Rhine** through fairy-tale scenery before winding up in cosmopolitan **Cologne** for church-hopping, great art and rustic beer halls.



Biggest Hits of the South

This driving route links the most storied stops in Germany's south, including majestic mountains, legendary rivers, historic towns, half-timbered villages and lordly palaces.

Start in **Frankfurt**, where you can soak up culture in world-class museums, cider in traditional taverns and skyline views from the Main river promenade. Steer northwest to **Koblenz**, the gateway to the Romantic Rhine, a scene-stealing combo of steeply terraced vineyards, medieval castles and higgledy-piggledy villages. Say hello to the legendary Loreley 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 printing 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 imposing hilltop 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, an intoxicating mosaic of forest-cloaked hills, glacial lakes, snug valleys and half-timbered villages such as **Gengenbach**, **Schiltach** and **Triberg**. Build in at least half a day in student-flavoured **Freiburg**, with its imposing minster; it's the place to enjoy 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**, at the prehistoric *Pfahlbauten* (pile dwellings) or in **Friedrichshafen**, the birthplace of the Zeppelin airship. Consider overnighing in lovely **Lindau**, a teensy, alley-laced island. 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, Germany's highest Alpine peak. Come back down to earth in a beer hall in **Munich** before wrapping up your journey with a couple of days on the Romantic Road. Essential stops include **Rothenburg ob der Tauber** and **Würzburg**, from where it's a quick drive back to Frankfurt.

4
WEEKS

Tour de Germany

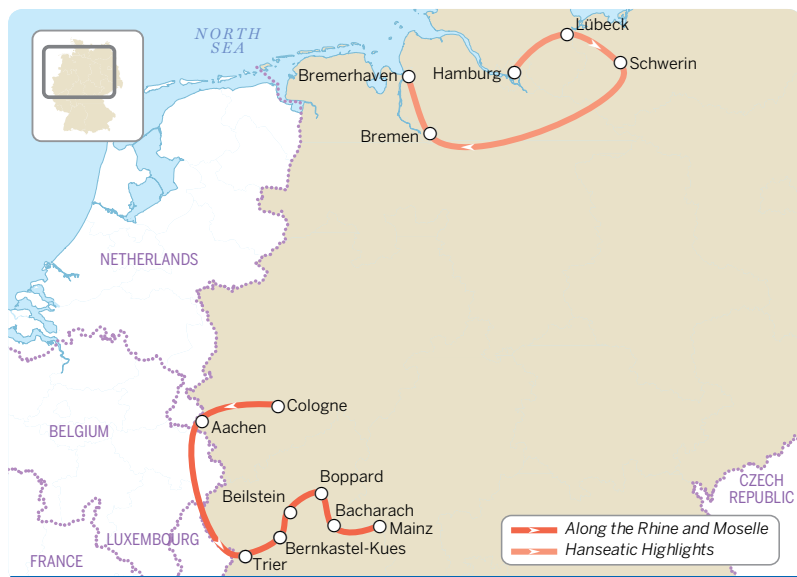
With a month at your disposal, this epic trip offers the mother lode of soul-stirring landscapes and villages but also lets you experience urban edginess in Germany's top cities. It's best done by car but a train-and-bus combo is also an option.

Base yourself in **Berlin** for a few days and add a one-day excursion to park-and-palace-filled **Potsdam**. Kayak or canoe around the canal-laced **Spreewald** before embarking on a quick detour to **Görlitz** on the Polish border, one of Germany's best-preserved small towns. Set aside two days to get acquainted with the cultural riches of **Dresden**, then continue on to **Weimar** and **Erfurt** to walk in the footsteps of Germany's greatest intellectuals.

Spend the next three days exploring a trio of evocative medieval gems: compact **Bamberg** with its romantic old town; the powerhouse of **Nuremberg** that is also (in) famous for its Third Reich legacy; and **Regensburg**, a lively university town founded by the Romans and studded with medieval townhouses overlooking the coursing Danube. Wend your way towards Munich via the enchanting **Altmühltal Nature Park**, best savoured slowly, on foot, by bike or by boat.

Make a study of **Munich** for a few days, perhaps folding day trips up the **Zugspitze** and to King Ludwig II's **Schloss Neuschwanstein** into your itinerary. Continue west to Lake Constance, where stops should include enchanting **Lindau** and picture-perfect **Meersburg**. Revel in the youthful spirit of ancient **Freiburg** for a day, then steer north for scenic drives through the Black Forest, ending in **Baden-Baden** for the night. Relax in the town's thermal spas before moving on to **Heidelberg**, with its ancient student taverns and charismatic ruined castle. Cut across the Rhine to **Speyer** for a spin around its 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 tippie in idyllic villages like **Bacharach** or **Boppard** as you follow the Romantic Rhine north through dramatic castle-studded scenery. Your grand tour culminates in **Cologne**; its 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.

1
WEEK

Along the Rhine & Moselle

This scenic journey folds grand architecture, absorbing history, world-class art and fine wine into one enticing package.

Start in **Cologne**, where you can stand in awe of the twin-spired Kölner Dom, explore engaging museums dedicated to chocolate, contemporary art or sports and spend an evening guzzling *Kölsch* beer in a Rhenish tavern. Head to **Aachen** 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, mosey along the Moselle River, which runs its serene, serpentine course past steep vineyards to meet the Rhine at Koblenz. En route, swoon over crisp riesling in half-timbered **Bernkastel-Kues** or fairy-tale **Beilstein**, then compare it with wines grown in the slate-rich Rhine soil. Follow the Rhine south as it sweeps past picture-postcard villages like **Boppard** and **Bacharach**, craggy cliffs crowned by medieval castles, and near-vertical vineyards. Wrap up in **Mainz** with its grand cathedral and fabulous museum dedicated to moveable type inventor and local boy Johannes Gutenberg.

1
WEEK

Hanseatic Highlights

This itinerary hops 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 thanks to fast and direct connections, it's just as easily done by train.

Kick-off in cosmopolitan **Hamburg**, a maritime city that cradles an elegant historic centre, a converted docklands quarter, the red-brick Speicherstadt (warehouse district) and a gloriously seedy party and red-light district under its self-confident mantle. Venture on to enchanting **Lübeck**, where the landmark Holsten Gate is a shutterbug favourite. Try the delicious local marzipan before heading to pastoral **Schwerin**, a cultural hub hemmed in by crystalline lakes. Sitting pretty on an island in one of them is the much-photographed, golden-domed Schloss Schwerin. Carry on to **Bremen**, the northern terminus of the 'Fairy-Tale Road'. After greeting the statue of the Town Musicians, check out Expressionist architecture, mummified corpses and the Beck's brewery before partying till dawn in Das Viertel. Steer north to **Bremerhaven**, the port of dreams for millions hoping for a better life in the New World. The superb German Emigration Centre tells their story.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Tom Masters

Saxony Tom hails from London, but has lived in Berlin since 2009 and has travelled widely all over Germany in that time. During research for this book, he particularly enjoyed his time discovering Leipzig's secret life beyond the Altstadt, walking in Saxon Switzerland, the gorgeousness that is Görlitz and getting to know Dresden. More of Tom's work can be found at www.tommasters.net.

Read more about Tom at:
<https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/tommasters>



Ryan Ver Berkmoes

Cologne & Northern Rhineland, Hamburg & the North Ryan Ver Berkmoes once lived in Germany for 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 beer, which serves him pretty well everywhere in Germany. Follow him at ryanverberkmoes.com and @ryanvb

Read more about Ryan at:
<https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/ryanvb>



Benedict Walker

Lower Saxony, Central Germany Currently hanging by the beach near his Mum, in hometown Newcastle, Ben is living his dreams, travelling the world for Lonely Planet. So far, Ben has co-written Lonely Planet's *Japan*, *Canada*, *Florida* and *Australia* guidebooks. This is his first time writing for the Germany team, soon to be followed with Vietnam. Otherwise, he's written and directed a play, toured Australia managing travel for rockstars and is an avid photographer toying with

his original craft of film-making. He's an advocate of following your dreams – they can come true. For updates, see www.wordsandjourneys.com.



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, 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 Belin 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 75 countries, but her favourite place in the world is still Berlin. She's written about her native country for two decades and authored or contributed to some 80 Lonely Planet titles, including all editions of this guide, the *Discover Germany* guide, the Berlin city guide and *Pocket Berlin*.

Read more about Andrea at:

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Kerry Christiani

Stuttgart & the Black Forest Having lived for six years in the Black Forest, Kerry returned to this neck of the woods (her second home) to write her chapters. Summer hikes in the forest, bike rides on Lake Constance and going on the trail of Mozart and Maria in Salzburg kept her busy for this edition. She tweets @kerrychristiani and lists her latest work at www.kerrychristiani.com. Kerry also wrote the *Outdoors*, *Eat Like a Local*, *Travel with Children*, *Food & Drink* and

Landscapes & Wildlife chapters.

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Marc Di Duca

Munich, Bavaria A well-established travel-guide author, Marc has explored many corners of Germany over the last 25 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 wife, Tanya, and their two sons.

Read more about Marc at:

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Catherine Le Nevez

Frankfurt & Southern Rhineland Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she first roadtripped across Europe – including Germany – aged four, and she's been roadtripping here ever since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and post-grad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Catherine has worked as a freelance writer for many years and over the last decade-plus she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering destinations all over Germany, Europe and beyond.

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Legend

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary Rd
- Secondary Rd
- Tertiary Rd
- Pedestrian St/Steps

Transport

- Airport
- Bus
- S-Bahn
- U-Bahn
- Train

Areas

- Cemetery, Christian
- Cemetery, Other
- Park
- Pedestrian Area
- Sportsground
- Water Feature



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