



# GERMANY

TOP SIGHTS, AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

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## Welcome to Germany

*There's something undeniably artistic in the way Germany's scenery unfolds – the corrugated, dune-fringed coasts of the north, and the moody forests, romantic river valleys and vast vineyards of the centre, all topped by the off-the-charts splendour of the Alps.*

You'll encounter history in towns where streets were laid well before Columbus set sail, and in castles set high above rows of half-timbered houses whose flower boxes billow with crimson geraniums.

Germany's great cities – Berlin, Munich and Cologne among them – come in more flavours than a jar of jelly beans. Get ready to be wowed by the full spectrum of cultural colour and flair, from high art and opera to saucy cabaret and a nocturnal universe at the cutting edge of cool.

Few countries have impacted the world as much as Germany: it gave us the Hanseatic League, the Reformation and yes, Hitler and the Holocaust, but also aspirin, the automobile, computer, sticky tape, streetcars and LGBTIQ+ rights. It gave rise to the minds of Einstein, Goethe and Marx, the energy of Luther and the artistry of Beethoven and the Brothers Grimm. Reminders of this rich heritage are everywhere.

Just as rich is the range of hearty cuisine, which you'll soon discover is much more than (but includes) sausages, pretzels, pork knuckle and schnitzel. It's all washed down with massive mugs of cold, frothy beer, the latter being Germany's sixth essential food group. Beyond the clichés awaits a cornucopia of regional and seasonal palate-teasers.

*Willkommen in Deutschland!*

“get ready to be wowed by  
the full spectrum of cultural  
colour and flair”





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# Plan Your Trip

## Germany's Top 12

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### Berlin

*The freedom to be yourself*

Berlin (p35) is a city for 'seekers'. If you're a connoisseur of the cutting edge, a purveyor of history or just love a good time, this gritty, glamorous, world-class city will win your affections. Its inspiring museums, including the Holocaust and Wall Memorials, tell a complex, tragic tale. But Berlin's focus is here and now – dining runs the gamut, art is as open as your mind can handle and the party doesn't stop until Monday comes. Left: Berlin skyline; Right: Holocaust Memorial (p56)

1



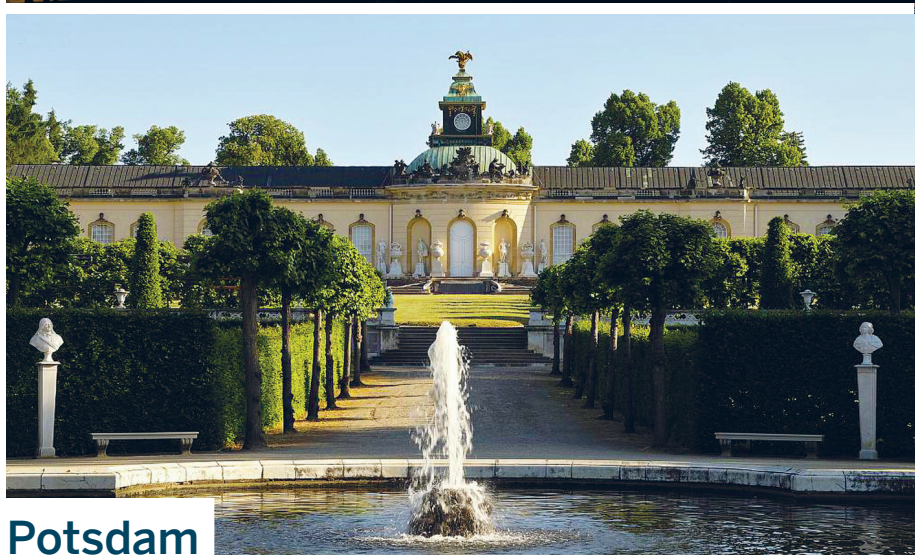




STIFTUNG PREUSSISCHE SCHLÖSSER UND GÄRTEN BERLIN-BRANDENBURG/  
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STIFTUNG PREUSSISCHE SCHLÖSSER UND GÄRTEN BERLIN-BRANDENBURG/  
PHOTOGRAPHER: HANS BACH ©



## Potsdam

### *Prussian palaces and pristine parks*

Your camera will love Potsdam's (p85) palaces, parks, architecture and Cold War sites. Just across the Glienicke 'spy bridge' from Berlin, the state capital of Brandenburg was catapulted to prominence by King Frederick the Great. His Sanssouci palace is the crown of this Unesco-recognised cultural tapestry that synthesises 18th-century artistic trends in one stupendous masterpiece. Prepare to be dazzled.

Top: Schloss Sanssouci (p88); Bottom: Bildergalerie (p90), Park Sanssouci

2



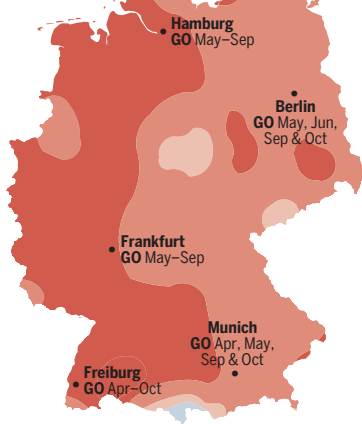
# Plan Your Trip

## Need to Know



### When to Go

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#c8513d; border:1px solid #000;"></span>	Warm to hot summers, mild winters
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#e69d7d; border:1px solid #000;"></span>	Warm to hot summers, cold winters
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#f4b084; border:1px solid #000;"></span>	Mild summers, cold winters
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:#a6c9ec; border:1px solid #000;"></span>	Cold climate



### High Season (Jul & Aug)

- Busy roads and long queues
- Room rates at a premium
- Festivals for everything from music to wine and sailing to samba

### Shoulder Season (Apr–Jun, Sep–Oct)

- Fewer crowds and often bargain room rates, especially in Berlin
- Blooming flowers in spring; radiant foliage in autumn
- Temperate weather ideal for outdoor pursuits

### Low Season (Nov–Mar)

- No queues but shorter hours and some sights close
- Theatre, concert and opera season in full swing
- Ski resorts busiest in January and February

### Currency

Euro (€)

### Language

German

### Visas

Generally not required for tourist stays up to 90 days (or at all for EU nationals); some nationalities need a Schengen Visa (p302).

### Money

ATMs widely available in cities and towns, rarely in villages. Cash is king almost everywhere; credit cards are not widely accepted.

### Mobile Phones

Mobile phones operate on GSM900/1800. If you have a European or Australian phone, save money by slipping in a German SIM card.

### Time

Central European Time (GMT/UTC plus one hour)



## Daily Costs

### Budget: Less than €100

- Hostel, camping or private room: €15–30
- Transport day pass: €6–8
- Cheap meal: up to €8

### Midrange: €100–200

- Private apartment or double room: €60–100
- Three-course dinner at nice restaurant: €30–40
- Three beers in a pub: €9

### Top End: More than €200

- Chic loft apartment or top-end hotel: from €150
- Lunch and dinner at top-rated restaurant: €100
- Concert or opera tickets: €50–150

## Useful Websites

**Lonely Planet** ([www.lonelyplanet.com/germany](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany)) Hotel bookings, traveller forum and more

**German National Tourist Office** ([www.germany.travel](http://www.germany.travel))

**Facts About Germany** ([www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en](http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en)) Reference tool on all aspects of German society

**Deutsche Welle** ([www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)) National public broadcaster

## Exchange Rates

<b>Australia</b>	A\$1	€0.63
<b>Canada</b>	C\$1	€0.66
<b>Japan</b>	¥100	€0.78
<b>New Zealand</b>	NZ\$1	€0.60
<b>UK</b>	UK£1	€1.11
<b>US</b>	US\$1	€0.88

For current exchange rates see [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

## Opening Hours

The following may vary seasonally and by location:

**Banks** 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, usually extended on Tuesday and Thursday, some open Saturday

**Bars** 6pm to 1am

**Cafes** 8am to 8pm

**Clubs** 11pm to early morning hours

**Post offices** 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm Saturday

**Restaurants** 11am to 11pm (food service often stops at 9pm in rural areas)

**Major stores and supermarkets** 9.30am to 8pm Monday to Saturday (shorter hours outside city centres)

## Arriving in Germany

**Tegel Airport** (p303) TXL express bus to Alexanderplatz (40 minutes) and bus X9 for CityWest, €2.80; taxi €25.

**Schönefeld Airport** (p303) Airport-Express trains (RB14 or RE7) to central Berlin twice hourly (30 minutes), and S9 trains every 20 minutes for Friedrichshain and Prenzlauer Berg, €3.40; taxi to city centre €45 to €50.

**Munich Airport** (p303) S1 and S8 trains to city centre (40 minutes), €10.80; Lufthansa Airport Bus (every 20 minutes, 40 minutes), €10.50; taxi about €60.

## Getting Around

**Train** Deutsche Bahn operates an excellent, extensive network of high-speed trains and regular regional services.

**Car** Autobahn routes are fast, safe and fun. Ubiquitous car rentals give you freedom to explore rural areas. Drive on the right.

**Bus** Some excellent-value deals available on key routes.

**Air** Domestic air travel is expensive and impractical outside long distance routes.

