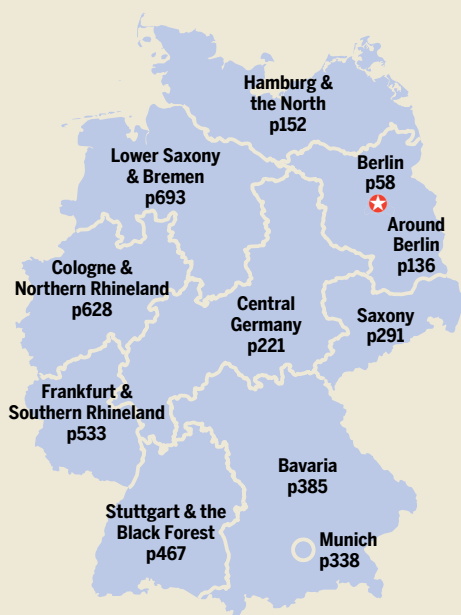




Germany



Marc Di Duca, Anthony Ham, Catherine Le Nevez, Ali Lemer,
Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Benedict Walker, Kerry Christiani,
Hugh McNaughtan, Leonid Ragozin

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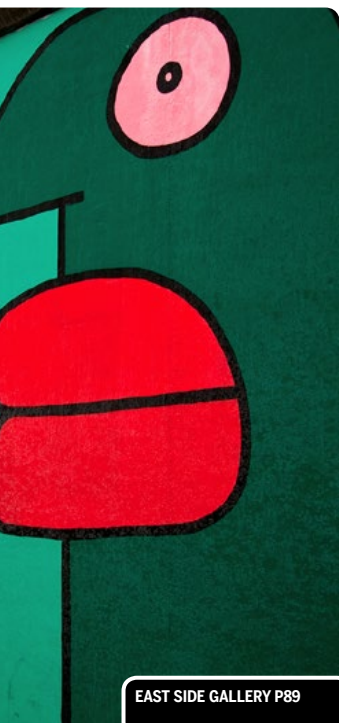
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Itineraries



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, drive to showstopping **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. Head 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 historical **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

Follow this driving route linking the most storied stops in the south, including majestic mountains, legendary rivers, historical towns, half-timbered villages and lordly castles.

Start in **Frankfurt**, where you can soak up culture in world-class museums, apple wine 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, lordly 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, with its 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 a half-day in student-flavoured **Freiburg**, with its imposing minster; it's the place to enjoy crisp local wine al fresco amid tangled cobbled lanes.

From here, cut east to **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. Overnight 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 of oohing and aahing your way up 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**. Putter around, preferably in a kayak or canoe, 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 properly acquainted with the cultural riches of **Dresden**, then continue on to **Weimar** and **Erfurt** to walk in the footsteps of Germany's greatest intellectuals – from Luther and Goethe to Gropius.

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 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, with day trips up the **Zugspitze** and to King Ludwig II's **Schloss Neuschwanstein**. Continue west to Lake Constance, where stops should include enchanting **Lindau** and picture-perfect **Meersburg**. Revel in the youthful university 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 such as **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. Its great museums, Romanesque churches and Rhenish *joie de vivre* will easily keep you entertained for a day or two.



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MIDAX/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Top: Bacharach (p599)

Left: Zugspitze (p394)

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 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's 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 until 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.

1
WEEK

Romans, Rivers & Rieslings

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

Start in **Cologne**, where you can stand in awe of the twin-spired Kölner Dom, explore museums dedicated to chocolate, contemporary art or sports, and guzzle *Kölsch* beer in a Rhenish tavern. Head to **Aachen** to walk in the footsteps of Charlemagne and to munch on a *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 from **Koblenz** as it carves past picture-postcard villages including **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.

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We love to hear from travellers – your comments keep us on our toes and help make our books better. Our well-travelled team reads every word on what you loved or loathed about this book. Although we cannot reply individually to your submissions, we always guarantee that your feedback goes straight to the appropriate authors, in time for the next edition. Each person who sends us information is thanked in the next edition – the most useful submissions are rewarded with a selection of digital PDF chapters.

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OUR READERS

Many thanks to the travellers who used the last edition and wrote to us with helpful hints, useful advice and interesting anecdotes.

Alessandra F Furlan, Barend Steyn, Christian Gansen, Colin Steward, David Shira, Richard McClelland, Fabian Matzerath, Florian Hahn, Heather Gilbert, Helen Rainger, Huib Derks, Lucy Stirland, Marcelo Tacuchian, Maria Luisa Colledani, Meghan Kirner, Nicolas Combremont, Patricia Rouiller, Roger Fiskén, Rolf Wrelf, Tracey Burkinshaw, Valerie Alexander, William Ballantine

and Elaine Pampa for such inspiration. And to my family – Marina, Carlota, Valentina and Jan: *con todo mi amor*.

Catherine Le Nevez

Vielen Dank first and foremost to Julian, and to all of the locals, fellow travellers and tourism professionals en route for insights, information and good times. Huge thanks also to Destination Editor Niamh O'Brien and the Germany team, and everyone at LP. As ever, *merci encore* to my parents, brother, *belle-sœur*, *neveu* and *nièce*.

Ali Lemer

A big *vielen Dank* to my editor Niamh O'Brien and fellow author Kerry Christiani; to Mara Voorhees and Mari Klement for their advice; to Low Maim and Joanna Wright for holding down the fort; to Pam Mandel, Krystyn Wells and Mark Batt for comms and morale; and to the lovely employees of the tourist offices of Lower Saxony & Bremen. Many thanks also to the numerous editors and cartographers who worked on this book.

Andrea Schulte-Peevers

Big heartfelt thanks to all these wonderful people who have plied me with tips, insights, information, ideas and encouragement (in no particular order): Henrik Tidefjård, Barbara Woolsey, Tina Engler, Kers-tin Riedel, Regine Schneider, Shaul Margulies, Frank Engster, Heiner & Claudia Schuster, Bernd Olsson, Tina Schürmann, Claudia Scheffler, Kirsten Schmidt, Renate Freiling, Tatjana Debel-Smykalla, David Eckel,

WRITER THANKS

Marc Di Duca

Huge thanks goes out to Robert Leckel of München Tourismus for his invaluable assistance and great ideas. I'd also like to thank all the staff of Bavaria's excellent tourist offices for their help, especially those in Landsberg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Augsburg and Bayreuth. Finally many thanks to my wife for holding the fort while I was away in Bavaria.

Anthony Ham

I was greeted warmly wherever I went across northern Germany – there are too many people to thank them all individually. Special thanks to Thomas, Heike and Anouk Süssenbach in Flensburg. At Lonely Planet, I am grateful to my editor Niamh O'Brien for sending me to such wonderful places. To Ron

Shachar & Doreen Elkanati, Nora Durstewitz and, of course, David Peevers.

Benedict Walker

A huge, heartfelt thanks to my friends in Berlin: Matthieu, Anna, Robert & Kira, Chuck and Stefano; to Maxy, wherever you are; to the ever-lovely and patient Niamh at Lonely Planet, for keeping the good ship Ben sailing toward calmer waters; to Mum, for never giving up on me, and to my brother Andy and sister Pauline for stepping up when I needed you most.

Kerry Christiani

I'd like to say *vielen Dank* to all of the locals, travellers and tourism pros who made the road to research a pleasure. Particular thanks go to Andrea Mauch in Konstanz, Maren Schullerus in Baden-Baden, Anna Beyrer in Ulm, Yvonne Halmich in Karlsruhe, Christine Strecker in Freiburg, Sandra Nörpel in Stuttgart, and Stephanie Staudhammer in Salzburg.

Hugh McNaughtan

As always, I must thank Tasmin, Maise and Willa, my endlessly patient family, plus Niamh, the support team at Lonely Planet, and the many kind people in Thuringia who made this project a success and a pleasure.

Leonid Ragozin

I'd like to thank my wife, Masha Makeeva, for enduring my long absences and sharing some of my adventures in Saxony. Also, many thanks to all the kind and extremely helpful hotel receptionists, tourist office employees and random passersby who helped me find my bearings and overcome uncertainty on numerous occasions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Climate map data adapted from Peel MC, Finlayson BL & McMahon TA (2007) 'Updated World Map of the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification', *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, 11, 163344.

Cover photograph: Schloss Neuschwanstein, Olimpio Fantuz/4Corners ©

THIS BOOK

This 9th edition of Lonely Planet's *Germany* guide was curated by Marc Di Duca, Anthony Ham, Catherine Le Nevez, Ali Lemer, Andrea Schulte-Peevers and Benedict Walker, and researched and written by Kerry Christiani, Marc Di Duca, Anthony Ham, Catherine Le Nevez, Ali Lemer, Hugh McNaughtan, Leonid Ragozin, Andrea Schulte-Peevers and Benedict Walker. The previous edition was researched and

written by Andrea Schulte-Peevers, Kerry Christiani, Marc Di Duca, Catherine Le Nevez, Tom Masters, Ryan Ver Berkmoes and Benedict Walker. This guidebook was produced by the following:

Destination Editor Niamh O'Brien

Senior Product Editor Genna Patterson

Product Editors Shona Gray, Sandie Kestell

Senior Cartographer Valentina Kremenchutska

Book Designer Gwen Cotter

Assisting Editors James Bainbridge, Michelle Coxall, Samantha Forge, Jennifer Hattam, Victoria Harrison, Gabrielle Innes, Rosie Nicholson, Susan Paterson, Tamara Sheward, Sam Wheeler, Simon Williamson

Cover Researcher Naomi Parker

Thanks to Ronan Abayawickrema, Catherine Naghten, Kirsten Rawlings, Kathryn Rowan, Angela Tinson, Alison Ridgway, Amanda Williamson

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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
- Hut/Shelter

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/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



Andrea Schulte-Peevers

Berlin, Around Berlin 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. She has earned her living as a professional travel writer for over two decades and authored or contributed to nearly 100 Lonely Planet titles as well as to newspapers, magazines and websites around the world. She also works as a travel consultant, translator and editor. Andrea's destination expertise

is especially strong when it comes to Germany, Dubai and the UAE, Crete and the Caribbean Islands. She makes her home in Berlin and tweets @ASchultePeevers.



Benedict Walker

Central Germany A beach baby from Newcastle, Australia, Benedict turned 40 in 2017 and decided to start a new life in Leipzig, Germany. Writing for Lonely Planet was a childhood dream come true, and Benedict grew up to cover big chunks of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, USA, Switzerland, Sweden and Japan. Benedict is on Instagram @wordsandjourneys.



Kerry Christiani

Stuttgart & the Black Forest Kerry is an award-winning travel writer, photographer and Lonely Planet author, specialising in Central and Southern Europe. Based in Wales, she has authored/co-authored more than a dozen Lonely Planet titles. An adventure addict, she loves mountains, cold places and true wilderness. She features her latest work at <https://its-a-small-world.com> and tweets @kerrychristiani. Kerry also wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide sections.



Hugh McNaughtan

Cologne & Northern Rhineland A former English lecturer, Hugh swapped grant applications for visa applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. Having done a bit of restaurant-reviewing in his home town (Melbourne) he's now eaten his way across four continents. He's never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field.



Leonid Ragozin

Saxony Leonid Ragozin studied beach dynamics at the Moscow State University, but for want of decent beaches in Russia, he switched to journalism and spent 12 years voyaging through different parts of the BBC, with a break for a four-year stint as a foreign correspondent for the Russian Newsweek. Leonid is currently a freelance journalist focusing largely on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (both his Lonely Planet destinations), which prompted him to leave Moscow and

find a new home in Riga. He tweets @leonidragozin.



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, Dublin, 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



Marc Di Duca

Munich, Bavaria A travel author for over a decade, Marc has worked for Lonely Planet in Siberia, Slovakia, Bavaria, England, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Madeira and on the Trans-Siberian Railway, as well as writing and updating tens of other guides for other publishers. When not on the road, Marc lives near Mariánské Lázně in the Czech Republic with his wife and two sons.



Anthony Ham

Hamburg & the North Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and US. Anthony tweets @AnthonyHamWrite.



Catherine Le Nevez

Frankfurt & Southern Rhineland Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to around 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way.

Over the past dozen-plus years she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond.



Ali Lemer

Lower Saxony & Bremen Ali has been a Lonely Planet writer and editor since 2007, and has authored guidebooks and travel articles on Russia, Germany, NYC, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Bali, Hawaii, Japan and Scotland. A native New Yorker and naturalised Melburnian, Ali has also lived in Chicago, Prague and England, and has traveled extensively around Europe and North America. Ali is on Instagram @alilemer.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

9th edition – March 2019

ISBN 978 1 78657 376 6

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Singapore

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