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Explorers' Month

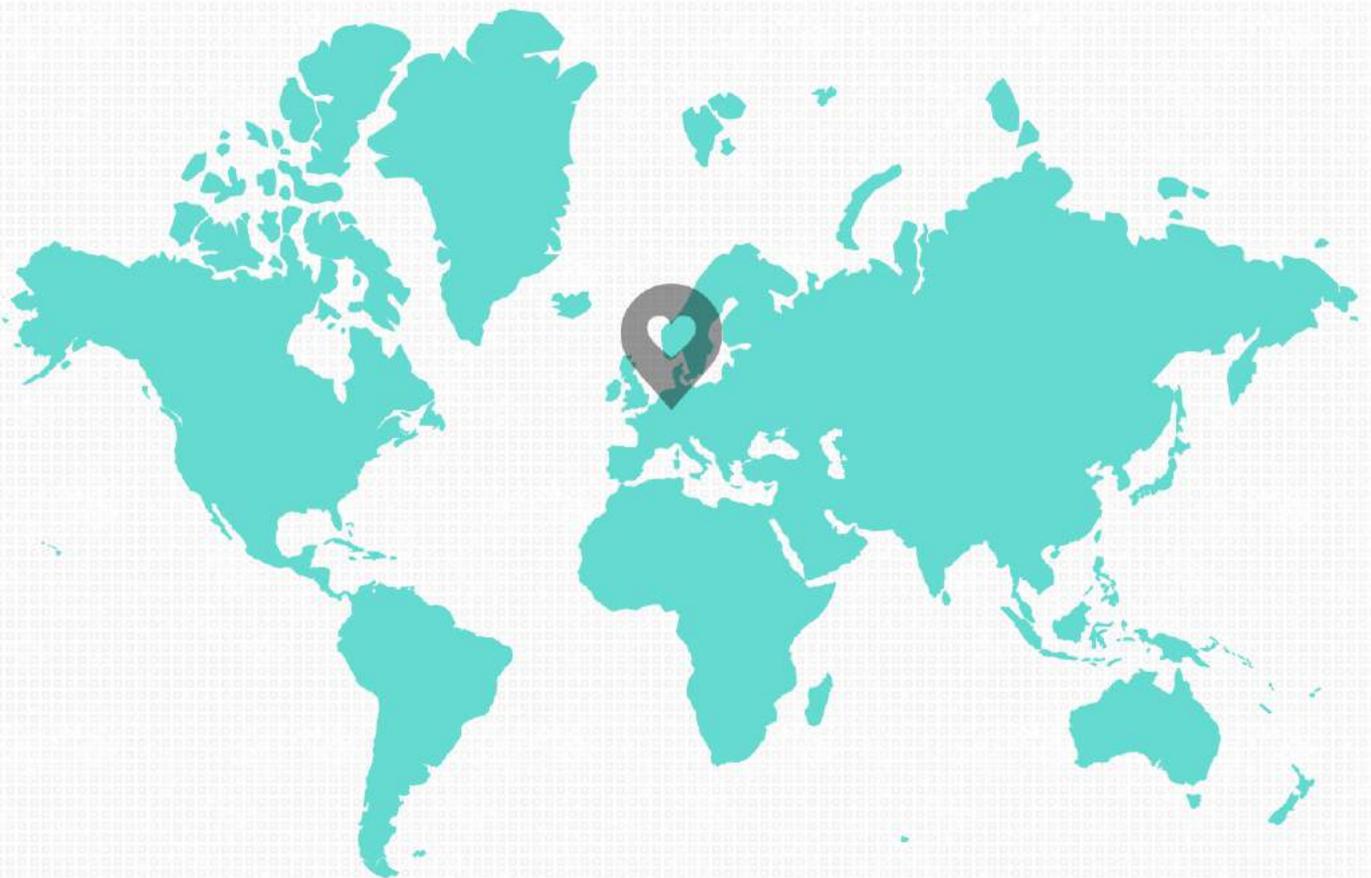


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Germany 德國

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER

# Travel Guide 2 GO~



COUNTRY OF THE MONTH:

# GERMANY





## Germany

101

Willkommen :)



### The Federal Republic of Germany

- Capital: **Berlin**
- Official Languages: **German**
- Population: 83.1 M
- Head of Government (Chancellor): Angela Merkel

### Political system, Parliament & Parties:

- It is a **federation**. The federation and the 16 Länder (states) each have areas of responsibility of their own

Since the second half of 2020, Germany has assumed the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, playing a strong role in helping to shape the European Union's future face.



## Football in Germany

#1

The mp3 format was developed in Germany!



**Football** (soccer), known in Germany as **Fußball**, is hugely popular in all parts of the country and can be considered a national sport. A testament to this is the sheer quality of the teams that play in the Bundesliga, the top German professional football league, as well as the national team who won the European Football Championship in 1996 and the World Cup in 2014 (among others).

During big football events and important finals, every café, restaurant, and Biergarten in Germany puts up screens to show the game. In Berlin and Munich, you'll also find so-called fan miles at the **Brandenburger Tor** and on **Leopoldstraße**: There, up to a million people gather to watch the games together – all dressed in black, red and gold (the German colors)!



- Der Anstoß - kick off
- Die Schwalbe - dive
- Der Stürmer - striker
- Der Verteidiger - defense player
- Das Mittelfeld - mid field
- Der Elfmeter - penalty
- Der Eckball - corner
- Der Freistoß - free kick
- Das Foul - foul

Let's learn some football terms in German!



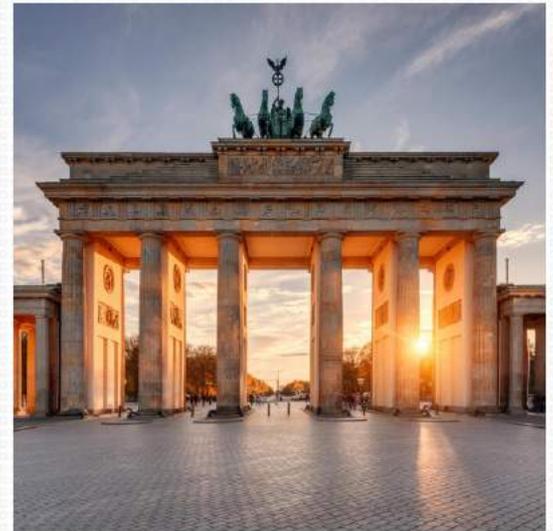
# Tourist Spots



## 1. Berlin's Brandenburg Gate

Undoubtedly Berlin's most iconic structure, it is modeled on the **Acropolis** in Athens and built for King Frederick William II in 1791.

The spectacular four-horse chariot carrying the goddess of victory perched atop; its six huge columns on each side form five impressive passages: four were used by regular traffic, while the center was reserved for the royal carriages.



## 2. Neuschwanstein

Neuschwanstein Castle, the ultimate fairytale castle, is also one of the best place for you to explore in Germany.

King Ludwig II of Bavaria built this many-towered and battlement-covered fantasy fortress, the inspiration for **Walt Disney's** famous theme park castles, from 1869-86.

You can enjoy the guided tours of the sumptuous interior taking in the Throne Room, the Singers' Hall and some of the country's most spectacular views here too!



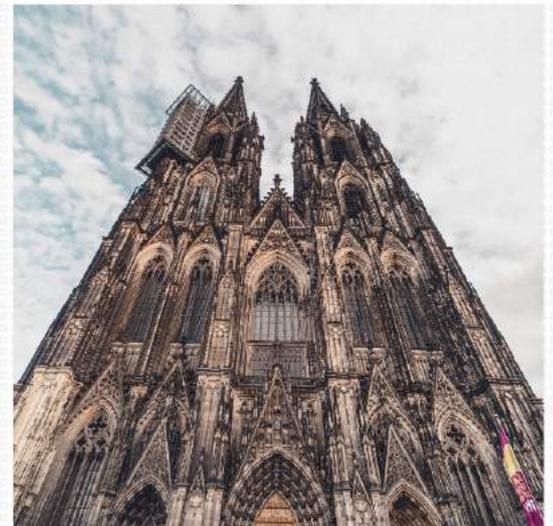
## 3. Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom)

Located on the banks of the **Rhine**, this masterpiece of High Gothic architecture was begun in 1248 and was the most ambitious building project of the Middle Ages.

The panoramic views from the **South Towers** is also spectacular. The 12th and 13th century stained glass in the Three Kings Chapel, and the Treasury with its many precious objects, all of which survived largely intact after WWII.

For some of the best vistas over the city and river, climb the **533 steps** to the viewing platform in the South Tower.

*(A small entrance fee is required.)*



### THE WORLD'S NARROWEST ALLEY IS IN GERMANY!!!!

Locating in **Reutlingen**, a small town with a population of just over 100,000, **Spreuerhofstraße's** width ranges from 12.2 in to 19.7 inches. The street was rebuilt a year after the citywide fire of 1726, and and is now officially registered as City Street Number 77.



## More Places For You to Explore...



### 1. Rakotzbrücke Devil's Bridge

Nestled among the **Verdant Foliage** in Kromlau, Germany's Kromlauer Park, is a delicately arched devil's bridge known as the **Rakotzbrücke**, which was specifically built to create a circle when it is reflected in the waters beneath it.

The bridge is best visited during the **fall** when the foliage adds an element of wonder to the already surreal view. While viewing the bridge is welcome, crossing the bridge is strictly prohibited.



### 2. Schwebebahn Wuppertal

The Schwebebahn Wuppertal, literally translated as "**Floating Railway of Wuppertal**," has a storied past.

It is the world's oldest monorail, and, as a "**suspended**" monorail, it runs by hanging onto a single rail above it.

### 3. Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes

Known as **Feengrotten** in German, the Saalfeld Fairy Grottoes are colorful caves full of stalactites and stalagmites. Once a slate mining pit known as Jeremias luck, the beautiful grottoes were declared the "**most colorful grottoes of the world**" by the Guinness Book of Records.



### 4. The Bastei

**River Valley**, Saxon Switzerland contains some of Germany's most spectacular scenery: a maze of sandstone pillars, pristine forest, and intimidating fortresses.

One of these was the **Felsenburg Neurathen**, dominating the landscape for 3 centuries until burned by a besieging army in 1484. Though there is only little left of it, it is now possible to visit the ruins, and what's more spectacular is the view that the site commands!



## Food



**Schweinshaxe** (pronounced SH-vines-HAKS-eh), or tender and juicy pork knuckle wrapped in a salty and roasted-crisp skin, is a recipe for a quintessential **Oktoberfest** feast.

It makes for the perfect pairing with a big stein of your favorite beer.



**Flammkuchen** (pronounced flam-KOOK-en) comes from South Germany and the **Alsace** region of France, along the southwestern French-German border.

Rather than a tomato sauce, the dough for flammkuchen is spread with cr me fra che, a thick, French, soured cream.

Thin and crispy crust pizza lovers, this pizza is for you!



**K nigsberger Klopse** (Klops meaning meat dumpling) are made from ground veal, beef, and pork, along with a small amount of anchovies (or sardines or herring), chopped onions, bread crumbs, eggs, and spices.

The traditional creamy sauce are made from the broth in which the dumplings were cooked, flour, cream, white wine, lemon juice, and capers.



With an estimated 1,500 varieties of sausage in Germany, they accompany with their own unique blends of ingredients.

One of the most popular varieties is **Bratwurst**, a pan-fried or roasted sausage made from veal, beef, or pork.

You will also find regional specialties such as Berlin's **Currywurst** (with curried ketchup on top) or Bavaria's **Weisswurst** (a white sausage that you peel before eating with sweet mustard).



Perfect to enjoy as either a side dish or a light snack, **Kartoffelpuffer** are shallow pan-fried pancakes made from grated or ground potatoes mixed with flour, egg, onion, and seasoning. You can also top them with a variety of sweet or savory condiments.

It can be found at outdoor markets in the winter and some variations use sweet potatoes which are also popular.



You'll find lots of cakes to tempt you in Germany, but few people can resist a huge slice of its most famous cake: **Schwarzw lder Kirschtorte** which literally means 'Black Forest cherry torte'.

It gets its name from **Schwarzw lder Kirschwasser**, a liqueur distilled from tart cherries.

Interestingly, German law actually mandates that Kirschwasser must be presented for it to be labeled a Schwarzw lder Kirschtorte.



# Festivals in Germany



## Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest began as the **marriage ceremony** between Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese on October 12, 1810.

Today, that simple wedding celebration has transformed into a festival in which 7 million people from around the world participate in, consuming more than 6 million liters of Bavarian beer. There are 14 main beer tents at the **Theresienwiese** grounds serving brews by the Maß (1-liter stein) which rotate up to 12,000 people per day!

Everyone has their preferred brew by the end, which one will be yours?



## First day of school "Schultüte"

A very German tradition is the "Schultüte", a cone-shaped container that every primary school pupil will take with them on the very first day of school. It is filled with sweets/candy or useful items and Germans usually open it in school together with their classmates. It's like a mini Christmas in summer!

The photo on the left is Till, posing on his first day of school. The "Schultüte" was prepared by him at the end of kindergarten. For some reason, he doesn't look too happy though!



## Till's Favourite Food



## Marzipan

Made of almond powder, egg white, rose oil and sugar.

It's often molded into festive shapes and to decorate cakes or other desserts. Many people from East Asia says that it tastes like medicine to them.

Best as a filling in dark chocolate!