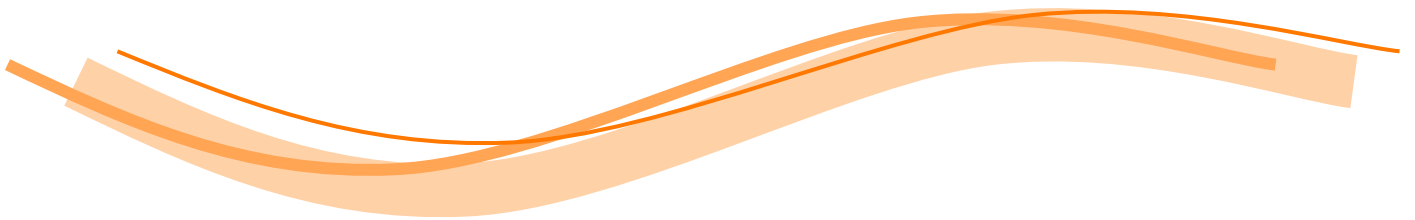




GERMANY





<p>GERMANY</p>	<p>Germany is a fascinating country to visit, offering centuries of history alongside today's vibrant, modern culture. No wonder that the United Nations World Tourism Organization places Germany in the top ten on its list of international tourism destinations.</p> <p>Any month and any year that you choose to visit there will be amazing things to see and do. If you travel to Germany in Winter you have the added bonus of the famous Christmas Markets with artisan handicrafts, music, Christmas Carols and fabulous food – all set against a background of picturesque medieval towns and the smell of pine, roasted chestnuts and mulled wine.</p> <p>If you go to Germany in 2014 there are several anniversaries with special celebrations. 25 years ago in October 1989 protesters took to the streets of Leipzig's under the banner "We are the people!". These non-violent demonstrations were a key factor contributing to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 and ultimately led to the fall of the East German regime. The re-unification of East and West Germany happened within a year, on October 3, 1990.</p> <p>Many special events and exhibitions are planned across Berlin to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Visitors will have the chance to gain some insight into the history of Berlin as a divided city and the significance of the Wall for the city's residents. Events will include guided cycling tours along the Wall Trail, visits to the former watchtowers, the East Side Gallery and a tour of former East Berlin in a real East German Trabant car. During the weekend of 9 November, 2014 a special light installation will be set up along the former course of the Wall as a "symbol of hope for a world without walls".</p> <p>No matter what time you visit Germany - such is the richness of Germany's heritage that it has no less than 39 UNESCO World Heritage Sites spread throughout the country for visitors to enjoy. UNESCO World Heritage Sites are chosen because they are either awe-inspiring wonders of nature or the finest of mankind's achievements.</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>Germany lies in the heart of Europe, bordered by Switzerland and Austria to the south; France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west; Denmark to the north; and Poland and the Czech Republic to the east. It has a coastline of 2,389 km.</p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>Germany has the second largest population in Europe (after European Russia) and is seventh largest in area. The territory of Germany covers 357,021 km², consisting of 349,223 km² of land and 7,798 km² of water.</p>

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	Elevation ranges from the mountains of the Alps (highest point: the Zugspitze at 2,962 metres) in the south to the shores of the North Sea (Nordsee) in the north-west and the Baltic Sea (Ostsee) in the north-east. Between lie the forested uplands of central Germany and the low-lying lands of northern Germany (lowest point: Wilstermarsch at 3 metres below sea level), traversed by some of Europe's major rivers such as the Rhine, Danube and Elbe. Because of its central location, Germany shares borders with more European countries than any other country on the continent. Its neighbours are Denmark in the north, Poland and the Czech Republic in the east, Austria and Switzerland in the south, France and Luxembourg in the south-west and Belgium and the Netherlands in the north-west.
Name	The Romans gave it the name of Germanus, meaning "neighbors," originally bestowed by the Gauls.
Population	82 million in Germany and 3.4 million in Berlin
Language	German; but much English is spoken
Currency	The euro (€), the new single European currency, became the official currency of Germany and 11 other participating countries on January 1, 1999. However, the euro didn't go into general circulation until early in 2002. The old currency, the German mark, disappeared into history on March 1, 2002, replaced by the euro, whose official abbreviation is "EUR." 1.00 Euro = 1.45 Canadian Dollars as at Sept 2014
Tipping	If a restaurant bill says "Bedienung", that means a service charge has already been added, so just round up to the nearest euro. If not, add 10% to 15%. Round up to the nearest mark for taxis. Bellhops get 1€ (\$1.50) per bag, as does the doorman at your hotel, restaurant, or nightclub. Room-cleaning staffs get small tips in Germany, as do concierges who perform some special favors.
Government	The Federal Republic of Germany is a democracy with a liberal market economy, religious freedom and freedom of the press. It is a member of the European Union (EU) and of NATO. The Federal Republic of Germany is a federation of individual states. There are 16 "Bundesländer" which are federal states with their own government. They have their own regional constitutions which have to comply with the principles of a republican, democratic and social state governed by the rule of law as laid down in the Basic Law (Germany's federal constitution). This guarantees that all German people have the same rights, obligations and living conditions.
Documentation	Your passport must be valid for at least another four months after entry into Germany or the Schengen area.
Time zone	Germany operates on Central European time (CET), which means that the country is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Health	Germany does not pose any major health hazards. The heavy cuisine

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	<p>may give some travellers mild diarrhea, so take along some anti-diarrhea medicine and moderate your eating habits. The water is safe to drink throughout Germany.</p> <p>German medical facilities are among the best in the world. If a medical emergency arises, your hotel staff can usually put you in touch with a reliable doctor. Medical and hospital services aren't free, so be sure that you have appropriate insurance coverage before you travel.</p>
Safety tips	Normal precautions required, otherwise Germany is considered a safe destination for travellers

CLIMATE	
General climate	<p>Germany is not prey to dramatic climatic extremes, although there are regional differences. The most reliably good weather is from May to October, with high summer a good bet for mid 20°C shorts-and-t-shirt conditions, even in the north. Autumn is a good time to visit Germany. As the tourist scrum disperses and the forests turn golden, it's not too stifling to be active but still warm enough to leave you thirsty for a few well-deserved steins. Winter is frosty and wet, especially in the south, with snow rarely settling for long except in the high country.</p>
Today's weather	20 degrees Centigrade and sunny in Frankfurt (27 Sept, 2014))
Best time to visit	<p>The most popular tourist months are May to October, although winter travel to Germany is becoming increasingly popular, especially to the ski areas in the Bavarian Alps. Germany's climate varies widely. In the north, winters tend to be cold and rainy; summers are most agreeable. In the south and in the Alps, it can be very cold in the winter, especially in January, and very warm in summer, but with cool, rainy days even in July and August. Spring and fall are often stretched out.</p>

PLANNING	
Flights	<p>Condor Airlines</p> <p>Condor is an airline with a very strong pedigree and next year Condor will celebrate 60 years in business. It has been owned by the Thomas Cook Group in Europe since 2009. Condor's utmost priority is German punctuality, quality and safety with their own maintenance department.</p> <p>They have 3 flights per week from Toronto with direct flights to Frankfurt and onward connections to such cities as Berlin. Plus if you are flying from Montreal or other cities around Canada you have the connections to meet up with your direct service from Toronto with easy connections with WestJet and Air North.</p> <p>Condor has three classes of service: Business Class, Premium Economy Class and Economy Class. It is well known for its family friendly service, offering a child discount</p> <p>Condor also have special promotions which are called "Eintagsfliegen".</p>

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	<p>And you can subscribe to the Condor monthly newsletter to receive great Eintagsfliegen specials. Check out www.Condor.com</p> <p>Flying time is approximately 7 hours Toronto to Frankfurt from Toronto</p>
<p>Cities</p>	<p>The five largest cities in Germany are: Berlin (capital of Germany) with 3,391,407 inhabitants Hamburg with 1,736,752 inhabitants Munich with 1,397,537 inhabitants Cologne with 975,907 inhabitants Frankfurt am Main with 657,126 inhabitants Leipzig is one of the largest cities in the East</p> <p>Frankfurt am Main Frankfurt and Toronto celebrate the anniversary of a long partnership as twin cities. Frankfurt has one of the oldest and largest Christmas Markets in Germany and is well known for its festive atmosphere and old-world charm. And Frankfurt of course gave its name to the Frankfurter sausage – and has some other great culinary traditions as well, such as apple cider wine and Green Sauce which is made from hard-boiled eggs, oil, vinegar, salt, sour cream, and generous amounts of seven fresh herbs, namely borage, sorrel, garden cress, chervil, chives, parsley, and salad burnet. Handkäs’ with music... Handkaese is a German regional sour milk cheese. It gets its name from the traditional way of producing it: forming it with one's own hands. It is a small yellow cheese with a pungent aroma. Handkaes’ mit Musik is served in a dressing of vinegar and oil, topped with chopped onions and caraway seeds, plus bread and butter. The “Musik” refers to the "gas" that raw onions usually generate! And the strong artistic traditions of Frankfurt are also embodied in the many Festivals that take place here. There are some special events planned for next year to mark the anniversary of the reunification of Germany. The Museums Embankment Festival takes place in Frankfurt on August 30th 2015 and will be a spectacular art and culture festival on both sides of the River Main. It ranks amongst Europe’s largest cultural celebrations. It features workshops and guided tours held at the museums as well as live music, stage performances and international cuisine on offer along the riverside. And it is a very exciting time in Frankfurt with the reconstruction of the city centre going on that will restore some of the medieval heart of Frankfurt. The historical old town of Frankfurt, nestled between the cathedral and city hall, is currently being reconstructed according to the</p>

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	<p>original plans. Here, time-honoured structures and new buildings will be combined to form a new quarter reminiscent of its historical predecessor. The Archaeological Garden, a Roman building site unearthed in the middle of the old town, will find itself structurally protected by the city's new municipal centre. You can plan your trip to Frankfurt at www.frankfurt-tourismus.de .</p> <p>Cologne (Köln), the largest city in the Rhineland, is so rich in antiquity that every time a new foundation is dug, the excavators come up with archaeological finds. Devastating though the World War II bombing was, reconstruction brought to light a period of Cologne's history that had been a mystery for centuries. Evidence showed that Cologne was as important and powerful during the early Christian era as it was during Roman times and the Middle Ages. Cologne traces its beginnings to 38 B.C., when Roman legions set up camp here. As early as A.D. 50, the emperor Claudius gave it municipal rights as capital of a Roman province. In the early Christian era, a bishopric was founded here and a number of saints were martyred, including the patron of the city, St. Ursula. During the Middle Ages, as Cologne became a center for international trade, Romanesque and Gothic churches were built with prosperous merchants' gold. Today there is much to see from every period of the city's 2,000-year history - from the old Roman towers to the modern opera house. But Cologne is also a bustling modern city and is becoming the fine-art capital of Germany</p> <p>Düsseldorf is a wealthy city - the richest in Germany. It's big and commercial, full of banks and industrial offices and skyscrapers, but it's also refreshingly clean. Düsseldorf got its start as a settlement on the right bank of the Rhine, but today it's spread out on both sides - the older part on the right, and the modern, commercial, and industrial part on the left. Five bridges connect the two sections, the most impressive being the Oberkassel. Parks and esplanades line the riverbanks. After 85% of the right bank was destroyed in World War II, Düsseldorf followed a modern trend in reconstruction, and today it's the most elegant metropolis in the Rhine Valley.</p>
<p>The River Rhine</p>	<p>The Rhine River begins at the Rheinwaldhorn Glacier in the Swiss Alps and flows north and east approximately 1,320 km. The glacier is located northeast across the mountains from the town of Andermatt in the Uri canton (state/province). The Rhine begins as a tumultuous Alpine stream churning through deep gorges, and although the river's flow is moderated somewhat as it passes through the Lake of Constance (Bodensee), the river remains a torrent westward to Basel. Just south of Chur, Switzerland, the Hinter Rhine, flowing north-westerly from the</p>

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	<p>glacier, joins the Voder Rhine streaming from Lake Tuma, to form the Rhine proper at Reichenau. The river then flows north to Lake Constance and west through Schaffhausen to Basel, Switzerland. Near Schaffhausen it plunges 23 m over a spectacular waterfall, the Rheinfall. At Basel the river turns north and enters the Rhine Graben, a flat-floored rift valley lying between the Vosges Mountains on the west and the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) on the east. Strasbourg, France, a focal point for merging water routes from the Paris Basin, is located at the valley's northern extremity.</p> <p>With the junction of the Main River at Mainz, in Germany, the Rhine's seasonal regime becomes more stabilized. Along its course from Bingen to Bonn is a beautiful stretch of the Rhine Valley. The river has cut the deep, steep-sided Rhine Gorge through the Rhineland Plateau and the Rhenish Slate Mountains. This picturesque gorge, with terraced vineyards and castle-lined cliffs, has often been called the "heroic Rhine," renowned in history and romantic literature. It is complete with fairy tale castles and vineyards snuggled in the overhanging rock face, known as the Mittelrhein. The river flows past Bonn, Germany and becomes the Lower Rhine and emerges onto the North German Plain before it empties into the North Sea. Leading cities on the stream's banks are Cologne, Düsseldorf, and Duisburg.</p> <p>At the Netherlands frontier, it divides into two parallel distributaries, the Lek and the Waal, as it crosses a wide, marshy plain and a great delta before entering the North Sea. Much of this area is at or below sea level, but dikes contributed to its becoming one of the most densely populated and important economic regions on the continent. Rotterdam, the leading port of continental Europe, is located near the river's mouth. It passes through or borders on the countries of Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France, and the Netherlands.</p> <p>It is navigable from the North Sea to Basel, Switzerland, a distance of some 800 km. Eighty percent of its ship-carrying waters pass through Germany. The entire distance cannot support ocean going vessels and they must end their journey in Cologne, Germany. Cologne is located between Koln and Bonn. From there cargo must go by barges pushed by smaller ships until the Rhine reaches the three point intersection of the borders of France, Germany, and Basel, Switzerland.</p>
<p>Boats</p>	<p>It is also possible to reach Germany by sea. A number of ferries and cruise liners ply the North and Baltic Seas. The most important North Sea ports are Bremen/Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Emden and Wilhelmshaven. The most important Baltic ports are Kiel, Rostock and Lübeck-Travemünde.</p> <p>Perhaps Germany's most beautiful features are its lakes and rivers. The mighty Rhine is the country's most traveled waterway. German cruise ships also run on the Main River between Mainz and Frankfurt; on the</p>

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	<p>Danube from Nürnberg to Linz (Austria), going on to Vienna and Budapest; and on the Mosel between Cochem and Trier.</p>
Trains	<p>Whether you travel first or second class, you'll find that the trains of GermanRail (DB Rail; tel. 0800/1507090; www.bahn.de) deserve their good reputation for comfort, cleanliness, and punctuality. All are modern and fast. A snack bar or a dining car, serving German and international cuisine as well as good wine and beer, can usually be found on all trains except locals.</p> <p>For city sightseeing, you can leave your baggage in a locker or check it at the station's baggage counter. In many cities, GermanRail provides door-to-door baggage service, allowing passengers to have luggage picked up at or delivered to their hotels. Accompanying baggage can be checked for a nominal fee. Suitcases, baby carriages, skis, bicycles, and steamer trunks are permitted as baggage. Insurance policies of various kinds, including a travel medical plan, are also available.</p> <p>About 20,000 InterCity (IC) passenger trains offer express service every hour between most large and medium-size German cities. IC trains have adjustable cushioned seats and individual reading lights, and often offer telephone and secretarial services. Bars, lounges, and dining rooms are available, too. A network of EuroCity (EC) trains connecting Germany with 13 other countries offers the same high standards of service as those of IC.</p> <p>Germany's high-speed rail network, known as InterCity Express (ICE) trains, is among the fastest in Europe, reaching speeds of 280kmph. One of these trains runs from Hamburg via Würzburg and Nürnberg to Munich; another from Frankfurt via Stuttgart to Munich; and yet another from Berlin via Frankfurt to Munich. Each train makes stops along the way. ICE significantly reduces travel time, making transits north to south across the country easily possible in the course of a single day. Some 200 east-west connections have been added to the GermanRail timetable to link the Deutsche Bundesbahn (west) and the Deutsche Reichsbahn (east). Additional connections make Leipzig and Dresden more accessible.</p> <p>Germany's world class rail system is the envy of the world and an efficient and environmentally friendly way to travel around Germany. Rail Europe makes it seamless - they represent over 35 Railroad companies and package tickets and rail passes across Germany and right across Europe. Book with confidence as Rail Europe have been in business for over 75 years in the North American Market.</p> <p>You can buy seat reservations and pay in dollars before you leave North America – so no fluctuating exchange rates and no surprises. Traveling by train will enhance your entire European experience. Enjoy leisurely gourmet dining and gaze through panoramic windows as you are</p>

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	<p>whisked from city centre to city centre. Plus the train is a low-impact, energy efficient form of travel that preserves the regions and natural areas you cross.</p> <p>Tel: 1800-361-7245 Website: www.RailEurope.ca</p>
Car Rental	<p>All major car rental companies are represented in the major cities and the larger airports and driving the modern road system in Germany is a delight – especially the autobahns.</p>
Buses	<p>An excellent, efficient bus network services Germany. Many buses are operated by Bahnbus, which is owned by the railway. These are integrated to complement the rail service. Bus service in Germany is particularly convenient during slow periods of rail service, normally around midday and on Saturday and Sunday. German post offices often operate local bus services (contact local post offices for schedules and prices).</p>
Passes	<p>The Berlin Welcome Card is available as a 5-Day-Pass. Visitors can now choose any of the six different tickets offered, depending on the length of their stay and their sightseeing preferences. The 5-day pass complements the 48 and 72-hour Welcome Cards. The card grants free public transportation inside Berlin's city limits, as well as a city guide booklet, and some 140 discount coupons, offering at least 25% reductions on sights, participating restaurants, shows, and tourist attractions. (www.berlin-welcomecard.de).</p> <p>You can buy a German Rail Pass from a travel agent before you leave home. The pass allows 4 days of travel in 1 month and costs \$411 first class or \$314 second class. For Rail Europe: www.raileurope.ca</p>

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<p>Germany offers a range of accommodation to suit every taste and pocket, from youth hostels to castle stays, from guesthouses and inns to hotels in every category. See www.ComeToGermany.com to get detailed information.</p> <p>Maritim Hotels Maritim has 51 hotels of which 38 are in Germany. It's Germany's largest privately-owned hotel company with superior, luxury 4 four-star properties. Their hotels feature a range of centrally located city hotels, conveniently located airport hotels, coastal beach resorts, lakeside family hotels, course-adjointing golf hotels and parkland spa hotels. Maritim is an award winning otel company and is the most widely recognized of all German hotel groups. The elegant accommodation, award winning restaurants, sought-after pubs and comprehensively equipped wellness facilities have made the name "Maritim" synonymous with excellence in German hospitality.</p>
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	<p>One of the ingredients for Maritim's recipe for success is its emphasis on wining and dining. Most hotels have multiple restaurants serving both regional specialties and a wide selection of international favourites. Regardless of which hotel, the day always gets off to a perfect start with Maritim's sumptuous breakfast buffet.</p> <p>For instance, in Berlin:</p> <p>Maritim Hotel Berlin: Located in the heart of Germany's capital, the Maritim Hotel Berlin occupies a prime spot on the city's Tiergarten park in the tranquil diplomatic quarter, close to the "Kurfürstendamm" and the "Potsdamer Platz".</p> <p>Maritime ProArte Hotel Berlin: a 4-star superior design hotel in the middle of Berlin, between the Brandenburg Gate and the Gendarmenmarkt.</p> <p>With both of these hotels you can also book a package that includes some special elements related to the fall of the Berlin Wall....</p> <p>The 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall package includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 nights' accommodation including Maritim's signature breakfast buffet 1 x Original Berlin Currywurst and a glass of sparkling wine 1 x Visit to the DDR Museum In Berlin Piece of the wall as a souvenir Complimentary use of swimming pool and sauna at the hotel And free Internet..... <p>If you want to know more about Maritim Hotels, they have just launched a new website at www.Maritim.com .</p>
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Lifestyles	
Kids	<p>Germany is ideal for family holidays - everyone feels at home here from toddlers to grandparents.</p> <p>Berlin's 170 museums also have plenty on offer for children - for example, there are museums where touching the exhibits is actively encouraged, such as the Deutsche Technikmuseum (German Technical Museum Berlin), where fully operational historical machines and models are displayed and their workings explained. There are also many other places where art and the world can be discovered through play</p> <p>Germany's major rivers, the Rhine, the Danube and the Elbe, are fascinating both by water and on land. Their banks are dotted with medieval castles and palaces where ancient myths and legends come to life. But family holidays on the smaller German rivers also appeal to all ages. There is the Moselle that flows through the historic, 2,000 year-old town of Trier, the Main that passes the modern city of Frankfurt, as well as the Weser, Havel and Nahe rivers. The conditions on the river Lahn are ideal for canoeing, and a cycle route runs through the magnificent scenery along the Neckar.</p>

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	<p>Taunus Wonderland has lots of kids' attractions and is just half an hour's drive from Frankfurt. Time flies when you're climbing the padded tower, enjoying the fairytale forest or exploring the haunted castle. For animal lovers there is a petting zoo and a prehistoric forest with dinosaur show. Action-hungry youngsters can look forward to a whirlwind wildwater ski ride and the Taunus Lightning roller coaster www.taunuswunderland.de</p>
Teens	<p>Berlin is a dream city for young adults: let them explore the special website: http://www.visitberlin.de/young/index.en.php Here they'll find up-to-date information for trips to Berlin... Berlin at night: hostels and accommodation... Berlin cool: parties and clubs... Berlin in trend: shopping and fashion... Berlin hip: sports, fun and events... Culture in Berlin: sights and museums.</p> <p>At Germany's theme parks teens can have the time of their lives. They can take their pick from the best roller coaster in the world, a flying carousel with spectacular sea views or breathtaking stunt shows packed with movie-style action.</p> <p>Visitors to the Movie Park Germany shouldn't be surprised to suddenly find themselves on a film set following film directors' instructions or witnessing spectacular stunts. The spot is on film here in Bottrop in the middle of the Ruhr Region. Who wouldn't have fun getting to the bottom of the mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle, or living to tell the tale of a hot pursuit in a flight simulator? And there are breathtaking roller-coaster rides for whoever's got nerves of steel. www.moviepark.de</p>
Romance	<p>The ruins of Heidelberg Castle rise majestically on the site of a medieval castle complex high above the lanes and the picturesque jumble of roofs of the old town. The architecture contains elements of the Gothic and Renaissance periods and have been rightly listed as one of the most romantic spots on the planet.</p>
Honeymoons & Weddings	<p>Germany's romantic castles, rivers and scenery make it the ideal honeymoon destination for couples seeking a romantic break from it all. Why not become King and Queen of the castle and book into one of Germany's many castles and palaces for the night? Take a cruise along Germany's rivers and view picturesque castles perched on hilltops. Rent a car and follow Germany's Romantic Road, home to the fairytale "Disney" castle of Neuschwanstein. Or book into one of Baden-Baden's stunning hotel spas and relax with a His & Hers Massage before enjoying a night at the city's Casino. The list is endless and a honeymoon in Germany unforgettable</p>
Zoomers	<p>River cruises in Germany are a perfect way to see many of Germany's highlights in a stress-free, relaxed and convivial way – check out the details in the separate sections in Destinations.</p>

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UNIQUES	
Surprising	There are over 500 galleries and 6000 museums in Germany!
History	<p>9 B.C.-A.D. 9--Romans attempt to conquer Teutonic tribes.</p> <p>486--Clovis founds Frankish kingdom, ruling from Paris.</p> <p>496--Franks converted to Christianity.</p> <p>800--Pope crowns Charlemagne in Rome.</p> <p>962--Pope crowns Otto I as Holy Roman Emperor.</p> <p>1152-90--Frederick Barbarossa's reign leads to a greater centralization of power, but his invasion of Italy is beaten back by the Lombard League.</p> <p>1158--Munich founded by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony.</p> <p>1241--Hanseatic League founded to protect the trade of such cities as Bremen, Hamburg, and Lübeck.</p> <p>1432--Maximilian I, "last of the German knights," becomes Holy Roman Emperor, the beginning of the hegemony of the Hapsburgs.</p> <p>1456--Johannes Gutenberg prints the first book in Europe using movable type.</p> <p>1517--Martin Luther nails his "Ninety-Five Theses" to a church door in Wittenberg, beginning the Protestant Reformation in Germany.</p> <p>1618-48--Thirty Years' War devastates Germany, as Protestant forces defeat Catholic Hapsburgs.</p> <p>1740-86--Prussian might grows under Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment.</p> <p>1806--Armies of Napoleon invade Prussia, which is incorporated briefly into the French Empire.</p> <p>1813--Prussians defeat Napoleon at Leipzig.</p> <p>1815--At the Congress of Vienna, the German Confederation of 39 independent states is created.</p> <p>1862--Otto von Bismarck (1815-98) becomes prime minister of Prussia.</p> <p>1870-71--Germany invades and defeats France in the Franco-Prussian War.</p> <p>1871--Wilhelm I is crowned emperor of the newly created German Empire; Bismarck becomes chancellor.</p>
Books	<p>1989 The Berlin Wall – My Part in its Downfall (Arcadia Books, 2009) by Peter Millar is an excellent and very entertaining book about the momentous events surrounding the fall of the wall.</p> <p>Frommer's Germany – a comprehensive guidebook</p> <p>Mark Twain's A Triumph Abroad (Hippocrene Books, 1989). The American humorist's travels through Germany are comically detailed.</p>
1000 Places to see before you die	<p>Too many to detail them all, but here's a few:</p> <p>Brandenburg Gate, Berlin – Unification symbol</p> <p>Berlin Philharmonic – world famous orchestra</p> <p>The Berlin Museum Scene – art and culture extravaganza</p> <p>Sans Souci – Royal Rococo palace just 24kms from Berlin</p>

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	<p>The Rhine Valley – legend and history Baden-Baden – the summer capital of Europe Cologne’s cathedral Quarter – 1000 years of European art Heidelberg’s Schloss – romance personified</p>
Must Sees	<p>No matter what time you visit Germany - such is the richness of Germany’s heritage that it has no less than 39 UNESCO World Heritage Sites spread throughout the country for visitors to enjoy. UNESCO World Heritage Sites are chosen because they are either awe-inspiring wonders of nature or the finest of mankind's achievements. See the special section on world heritage sites at the end of these notes.</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	I have to give special mention to the fact that Germany won the World Cup this year (2014) in Brazil!
Golf	<p>Most German golf courses welcome visiting players who are members of courses at home. Weekday greens fees are usually around 45€ (\$56), rising to as much as 85€ (\$106) on Saturday and Sunday. For information about the various golf courses, write to the Deutscher Golf/Verband, Victoriastrasse 16, 65011 Wiesbaden (tel. 0611/990200; www.golf.de/dgv).</p>
Fishing	<p>Wherever they go in Germany, anglers will come across plenty of places with large, varied fish stocks. All of Germany's regions have any number of lakes, rivers, brooks and canals offering a combination of excellent water quality and large, varied fish stocks. From a little rowing boat on a lake to some serious deep-sea angling - in Germany, you can do it all. For information about the choice of rivers and lakes - and about angling regulations, which vary from region to region (close seasons, etc.) - visit www.anglerverband.com (German only) or contact the regional angling associations.</p> <p>Fishing permits: To go angling in Germany, you have to have a certificate of competence (fishing permit), though people whose permanent residence is outside Germany are exempt from this regulation. For more information, contact the fishing associations of the individual federal states. In addition to a fishing permit, you also need to have authorisation to fish in a particular stretch of water during a specific period. This can be purchased locally from the owner or leaseholder (generally an angling club). Local tourist information offices can tell you where to do this.</p>
Sailing & Windsurfing	<p>The North Sea and the Baltic have a whole string of places that could have been designed with sailing and windsurfing in mind. Top of the North Sea destinations - for experienced windsurfers especially - are Sylt, Amrum and St. Peter-Ording, resorts that also have plenty of après-surf. For sailors and windsurfers who prefer fewer waves, the Baltic is ideal: a true sailing paradise. Sailing on the Schlei is a real</p>

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	<p>insider's tip. Kiel Bay, Lübeck Bay and the Flensburg Firth are good for combining sailing with some city sightseeing or one of many international sailing events.</p>
Hiking	<p>Germany is a traveller's paradise with its romantic forests, picturesque hill and mountain landscapes, and tranquilly embedded seas. From hikes along tidal shores to trips through the low mountain regions all the way to mountain-top tours, everything is possible. Along many of these routes are hotels and inns that provide specialized accommodations for hikers. Many trip-organizers offer comfortable "hiking without luggage" packages.</p> <p>The Rheinsteig trail runs 320 km along the right bank of the river Rhine between Bonn, Koblenz and Wiesbaden along predominantly narrow paths and challenging inclines, uphill and downhill, leading to forests, vineyards and spectacular views. The Rheinsteig is a wonderful area for hiking. But it is also demanding: the steep paths are both challenging and pleasurable. This exceptionally well sign-posted and closely networked trail offers opportunities for ambitious long-distance walking tours or for a variety of short tours. It can easily be reached by train, boat and car and is near several airports. The Rheinsteig offers the most beautiful portal to the cultural richness of the Rhine Valley. The cultural history of Middle-Europe the Rhine's romantic epoch and many historical landscapes all come together into this one small area. You will find 40 castles, stately homes and fortresses in the upper middle-Rhine Valley, between Bingen and Koblenz. This concentration of culture is unique in the world, and has been declared a World Human Heritage site by UNESCO since 2002. The Rheinsteig opens onto two wine producing areas, both rich in tradition: Mittelrhein and Rheingau. In the daytime the rambler enjoys the inns and rural wine cellars, in the evening the restaurants and the rambler-friendly hostels</p>
Cycling	<p>The brochure "Discovering Germany by Bike" presents a variety of offers on the most attractive routes and regions. Sign posts, bike-friendly overnight accommodations, good bicycle travel maps and main information centres are only some of the important points covered in this brochure.</p> <p>In Germany you can bike through green valleys and past rivers while enjoying rural landscapes and villages. Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club, P.O. Box 107747, 28077 Bremen (tel. 0421/346290; www.adfc.de), offers complete information on biking in Germany.</p>
Diving	<p>You might not think so at first, but diving in Germany can be an amazing experience. Wreck diving and cave diving in the Baltic are increasing in popularity (http://www.nordic-experience.de, http://www.kreidefelsen.de/).</p>

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<p>CULTURE</p>	<p>Traditionally, Germany has been known as the country of composers, poets and philosophers - Germany continues to set trends today, producing innovative ideas and internationally relevant contemporary art.</p> <p>Original and innovative ideas form and prosper mainly within the arts and creative industries, and they do more than merely enhance Germany's image: they represent the latest economic growth sector.</p> <p>Take architecture. The arresting designs of the country's recently built car museums, for example, and Berlin's many new landmarks – for instance, the Reichstag and the Jewish Museum -- have already proven themselves. But visitors will also fall for such architectural gems as the Fünf Höfe shopping centre in Munich, designed by Herzog & De Meuron, or the Elbe Philharmonic Hall in Hamburg, by the same firm of architects, which became a tourist draw even while under construction.</p> <p>Fashion-minded visitors can revel in the latest creations from innovative German labels - Wunderkind, c.neeon and TalkingMeansTrouble, for example. Fashion shows, such as the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Berlin, and such flagship trade fairs for the interior design industry as 'imm' in Cologne are catalysts for new trends.</p> <p>The urban environment inspires such designers as 45 Kilo, from Weimar, Sebastian Herkner, from Frankfurt, and Studio Aisslinger, from Berlin. Berlin's Kreuzberg district or Hamburg's Schanzenviertel area have long come of age and developed into fashionable places with alternative vibes – 'musts' on the itinerary of every city slicker, be they young or young at heart.</p>
<p>Arts</p>	<p>Germany's Art, Music and History</p> <p>With over 5,000 art and exhibit houses there is something for everyone; Berlin's Museum Island is just one outstanding spot amongst many others. You can listen to classical music in stunning locations; follow in the footsteps of Goethe in Weimar, Bach in Leipzig and Luther in Eisenach. Or, you can tour one of Germany's many scenic routes, enjoy one of the many concerts and festivals well known in Germany's culture, or visit one of the country's internationally acclaimed museums.</p> <p>Germany's Culture</p> <p>Get in touch with some of the great artistic thinkers and leaders in the early 20th century like Carl Spitzweg, Max Beckmann, and Franz Marc. You'll be able to learn more about different kinds of German music that can be heard at many opera houses, musical theaters, jazz clubs, and pop/rock events. And you'll get more information on the spectacular world-famous Museum Island in Berlin, which houses the Altes</p>

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	<p>Museum, the first public museum in the Prussian state. Go to www.cometogermany.com</p>
Music	<p>In the field of music, Germany's influence is noted through the works of, among others, Bach, Mozart, Händel, Telemann, Schütz, Beethoven, Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Humperdinck, Nicolai, Lortzing, Brahms, Schumann, Wagner, Pachelbel, Offenbach, Furtwängler, Eisler, Reger, Strauss, Hindemith, Orff, Stockhausen, Henze and Lachenmann. Today, the musical scene in Germany is as vibrant as ever. Every major city has an opera house and an orchestra, many of them world-renowned. New composers are encouraged, and productions are often at the cutting edge.</p> <p>Cologne Philharmonic is an architectural showcase was completed during the late 1980s. The concert hall features a soaring roof, enviable acoustics, and some of the finest classical music along the country's western tier. The building is the home of two separate orchestras, the Gürzenich Kölner Philharmoniker and the Westdeutscher Rundfunk Orchestra. Pop and jazz programs are also presented.</p>
Theatre	<p>Berlin is home to the best in light entertainment - musicals, the vaudevilles, the Friedrichstadtpalast, Europe's largest show theatre with its legendary high-step line of girls and breathtaking stage shows, plus entertainment galore at any number of exciting smaller venues.</p> <p>Theater der Stadt Frankfurt, Untermainanlage 11 (tel. 069/1340400; U-Bahn: Willy-Brandt-Platz), has three stages. One belongs to the Frankfurt Municipal Opera, whose productions have received worldwide recognition in recent years. Two stages are devoted to drama. If your German is adequate, you may want to see a performance of Städtische Bühnen/Schauspiel (tel. 069/1340400), a forum for classic German plays as well as modern drama. A variety theatre, Künstlerhaus Mouson Turm, Waldschmidtstrasse 4 (tel. 069/40589520; U-Bahn/S-Bahn: Merianplatz), hosts plays, classical music concerts, and dance programs almost every night of the week.</p>
Museums	<p>From science and technology, cinematic history, photography and sculpture, to emigration and depictions of everyday life in the former GDR - the depth and breadth of the topics covered by Germany's prestigious museums is astounding. Thrilling worlds of discovery are revealed in its many interactive museums. Joining in and trying things out is all part of the fun.</p> <p>The Topography of Terror in Berlin was completed as a site of remembrance and learning in 2010, 65 years after the end of World War II. The exhibition and documentation centre, as well as a comprehensive outdoor exhibition, will be located on the grounds along Niederkirchner Strasse; the actual location of Hitler's SS- and Gestapo headquarters. From here, between 1933 and 1945, the Nazi regime</p>

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	<p>orchestrated the genocide of the European Jews, and the systematic persecution of political opponents. Architect Ursula Wilms designed the modern concrete and glass building as a transparent cube with a strong indoor-outdoor reference, putting the focus on the 11 acre historic space, rather than the architecture itself. The building provides four exhibition halls for temporary and permanent exhibitions, as well as a research library, and state-of-the-art event and lecture spaces. Open since 1987, the Topography of Terror began in a temporary exhibition pavilion, and later as an outdoor exhibition in the nearby excavated walls of the notorious Gestapo "house prison" cellars. The open-air exhibition will remain part of a historic walkway and feature 15 stations providing information about the time and the place. The Topography of Terror Foundation encourages active confrontation with the darkest chapter in German History, and its impact since 1945. With more than 500,000 visitors per year, the Topography of Terror is one of the most visited sites in Berlin. Admission will be free. www.topographie.de.</p> <p>Museum Ludwig in Cologne is a stunningly upgraded museum and home of one of the world's largest collections of the works of Pablo Picasso, bested only by the Picassos in Paris and Barcelona. Irene Ludwig, widow of the late German art patron Peter Ludwig, for whom the museum is named, donated 774 works of Picasso to the museum.</p> <p>The Städel Museum, Frankfurt: This is Frankfurt's most important art gallery, containing a fine collection of most European schools of painting. The first floor features French Impressionists such as Renoir and Monet, along with German painters of the 19th and 20th centuries. Note in particular Kirchner's Nude Woman with Hat. Also on the first floor is Tischbein's Portrait of Goethe in the Campagna in Italy. If you're short on time, go directly to the second floor to view the outstanding collection of Flemish primitives, 17th-century Dutch artists, and 16th-century German masters such as Dürer, Grünewald, Memling, Elsheimer, and many others.</p>
<p>The Berlin Wall</p>	<p>After more than 28 years of German division, the Berlin Wall fell overnight from November 9 through 10, 1989, marking a historical event of global significance. Today, 25 years later, Germany, Europe and the whole world look back, in order to look forward. Thanks to the peaceful revolution and the Fall of the Wall, millions of people were united to form one country of Germany. The balance between East and West was re-established.</p> <p>Experience history where it unfolded and discover a piece of virgin soil in Germany, which the Fall of the Wall elevated to a symbol of fresh starts, hope and a new future. You, too, can become a border-crosser and visit historical locations: St. Nicholas' Church in Leipzig, the</p>

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numerous GDR museums in Thuringia or the Wall Trail and the legendary Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, the capital which presents itself in a whole new light since reunification. As a tourist destination Germany has become a country without borders, attracting visitors from all over the world. A country which is unique in the way it connects the past, present and future; a country which also cordially invites you to visit the relics of that time and relive history.

November 9th 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. To honour this milestone in German history, a series of special events and museum exhibitions are planned to take place throughout the city. The focus will be on the division of Berlin, the Cold War, and the peaceful revolution leading to reunification.

Checkpoint Charlie

Checkpoint Charlie was the former border crossing point between East and West Berlin after the construction of the Wall in 1961 where a sign "You are leaving the American Sector" marked the entrance to the eastern part of Berlin occupied by the Russians. This was the only border crossing point for the Allies, foreigners, employees of the Permanent Representation and officials of the GDR during the years 1961 to 1990. The border sign and a soldier's post are still in place, today. Together with the museum "Haus am Checkpoint Charlie", they tell the history of the Berlin Wall.

Friedrichstrasse at Zimmerstrasse 10969 Berlin

East Side Gallery

The Berlin Wall was once a popular target for graffiti sprayers on the west side during the time of division. Later, famous artists have also immortalized themselves on the east side of the longest remaining section of the wall at Mühlenstrasse. This largest open-air gallery in the world was opened on September 28, 1990, between Ostbahnhof (Eastern Railway Station) and the Oberbaum Bridge.

Muehlenstrasse 110243 Berlin

Of course 2014 is a very special year for Berlin with many special events planned....

Visitors to Berlin have many choices to experience the history of the wall and what it meant to the city and the people of Berlin. These include a GPS-guided walking tour on the trail of the Berlin Wall, guided or self-guided bicycle tours on the Wall path, visits to underground Berlin, former watch towers, Wall memorials, The GDR Museum, or a drive into the East of the city on board an original GDR Trabant car. There will be a light installation along the former course of the Berlin Wall in the city centre on the weekend around 9th November. Along the

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	<p>former course of the Berlin Wall an impressive light installation will stand as a “symbol of hope for a world without walls”. Thousands of illuminated white balloons will form a 12-kilometre-long lighted wall that will be running right through the city centre.</p> <p>And there are many exhibitions where visitors can really get to understand this momentous event in history and what it was like to live in the divided nation.</p> <p>To mark the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a series of new exhibitions devoted to the division of Germany and life in the former GDR will be opening in Berlin.</p> <p>From 9th November 2014, the permanent exhibition at the Berlin Wall Documentation Centre will reopen its doors for the public after a year's renovation.</p> <p>A new exhibition is also scheduled to open on Strausberger Platz. The Museum für Alltagskultur (Museum of Everyday Life) on Karl-Marx-Allee will feature two apartments decorated using East German furnishings from the 1950s and 1970s.</p> <p>The Wall - Asisi Panorama is a 360° view of the Berlin Wall. With his panoramic view, Asisi takes visitors back to divided Berlin. An autumn day in the 1980s, dilapidated façades, children playing, and GDR border guards on patrol – the artist dedicates himself to detailed scenes of everyday life long before the Wall fell. Viewers can look at the 16-meter high canvases of steel rotunda from a platform.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>The Cologne Carnival is one of the biggest street parties in Europe - the famous Altstadt (old town) is transformed into a dazzling and colourful celebration, with what seems like the entire population of the city in fancy dress. Prepare for lots of dancing and partying in the streets, pubs and bars and plenty of Kölsch, the delicious local beer.</p> <p>At 11.11am on 11 November, Germany's "fifth season", Karneval, begins and the whole country goes barking mad. But the craziness reaches its real climax the week before Ash Wednesday.</p> <p>At 11.11am on 19 February the main carnival week in Cologne is declared officially open with the Women's Carnival Day, when the women of Cologne are deemed in charge of the city. On Carnival Sunday (22 February) a parade of local school children takes place.</p> <p>Then on Monday 23 February it's the turn of the main event (known in Germany as Rosenmontag), when a cavalcade of 42 groups with 79 fabulously decorated lorries, 67 tractors and 126 bands (approximately!) starts out on a six-kilometre route through the centre of Cologne. Keep an eye out for the lorries carrying huge effigies lampooning Germany's politicians. The day after (Shrove Tuesday), various parades take place in Cologne's suburbs, but if you're unaccustomed to partying Cologne-style you should probably just prepare for a hangover instead!</p> <p>It all draws to a more sedate close on Ash Wednesday when the</p>

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	<p>tradition is to eat fish - pick any pub or restaurant on this day and you'll find it on the menu.</p> <p>Carnival in Düsseldorf is one of the biggest and most ebullient party seasons in Germany. The climax is the Rosenmontag parade, when more than 6000 revellers dressed in screaming colours and uniforms make their way around the city. One of the highlights is the Altweiberfastnacht on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, when the women of the city storm the town hall at 11.11am, planning to take control of the city for a day. A street carnival through the Old Town follows. The following Sunday sees a carnival making its way along Düsseldorf's main shopping street. The more outrageous the costumes, the better. To wrap it all up there's the main parade on the Monday (Rosenmontag), when sweets are thrown out into the crowds from the decorated floats.</p> <p>May 1st in Brocken: On the night of April 30 to May 1st there are over 20 villages which celebrate the so called "Walpugisnight". Legend has it that witches gather every year on the Mount Brocken to dance here. It is a great festival and everyone dresses up as witches in great mountain scenery.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	<p>Go north from the Rhine region to the rugged North Sea and the gentler Baltic: life at an island pace, bracing air, more than 1,000 kilometres of beach and plenty of sun. Add to that, a never-ending choice of sports, spectacular events and nightlife into the early hours...</p> <p>The North Friesian islands are the most north-westerly holiday destination in Germany, consisting of the three sunny islands of Amrum (with the widest sandy beach in Europe), Föhr (with a particularly mild climate due to the Gulf Stream) and Sylt (Germany's largest island), plus the unique, tiny Hallig islands.</p>
Wildlife and National Parks	<p>The National Parks are great places to view wildlife.</p> <p>Eifel National Park - Majestic beech forests sweep across the Eifel National Park, interspersed with gnarled oak woods and secret ravines with babbling brooks. Situated in the north of the Eifel region, this national park closes the western gap in the existing network of national parks. It is the first to provide a protected habitat for the variety of upland beech forest which thrives on acid soils and is influenced by an Atlantic climate. Where trees were once commercially managed, wild, natural forests are now beginning to develop, providing a vital retreat for more than 230 endangered plant and animal species.</p> <p>Wild cats are now hunting for mice in the swathes of forest and beavers are building their lodges in the clean water. The kingfisher and several</p>

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	<p>species of bat flourish in the peace and quiet of the national park, as does the wild yellow narcissus which delights nature lovers with its beautiful flowers in spring. Visitors can look forward to a unique blend of woodland and water.</p> <p>There is plenty to see and do here. You can explore the national park independently, or let the experts show you around. On "Ancient Forest Days" (every Sunday during school holidays), rangers give guided tours of the park, revealing some of nature's secrets. The well-equipped visitor centre, set in the charming hydrotherapy health resort of Gemünd on the edge of the Eifel National Park, offers a variety of interesting activities and exhibitions for every age group.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Berlin's Botanischer Garten includes the Botanic Museum Berlin. With an area of 43 hectares (110 acres) and around 22,000 different plant species it is one of the largest and most diverse gardens in the world. The Tiergarten is Berlin's largest park located in Mitte and was designed by Peter Joseph Lenné. In Kreuzberg the Viktoriapark provides a good viewing point over the southern part of inner city Berlin. Treptower Park beside the Spree in Treptow has a monument honoring the Soviet soldiers killed in the 1945 Battle of Berlin. The Volkspark in Friedrichshain, which opened in 1848, is the oldest park in the city.</p> <p>Frankfurt has a lot of parks. Locals like to point out that while the city has no Central Park as New York does, it is itself a central park. A botanic city ring has replaced the enclosing city walls of old Frankfurt. Along the Main is a park landscape where you'll see bankers taking their lunch break beneath statues of heroes from the past. The Palmengarten, Siesmayerstrasse 61 (tel. 069/21233939; U-Bahn: Westend; bus: 32), is a park and a botanical garden. During the last decade, the gardens have been renewed and the conservatories and historic greenhouses completely reconstructed. You can admire a perennial garden, an expanded rock garden, and a beautiful rose garden. A huge gallery that serves as an exhibition hall for flower shows and other botanical exhibitions surrounds the 1869 palm house. In recent years, new conservatories have been added: The Tropicarium is a complex for tropical vegetation; the Sub-Antarctic House displays plants from southern Chile, Argentina, and New Zealand; and the Entrance Conservatory houses insectivorous plants and bromeliads. Collections of orchids, palms, succulents, water lilies, and many others are also on display.</p>
<p>Gardens</p>	<p>Most German towns have gardens as an integral part of their urban life and this is particularly true in the Rhine region.</p> <p>The Herrengarten in Darmstadt was laid out at the end of the 16th century and is a particularly beautiful example.</p>

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<p>Castles</p>	<p>The castles and palaces which Germany has to offer you are all original. There are not just a handful of well-preserved ones, but several hundred from all epochs and of every genre. Each has its own long and thrilling history, which is being kept alive within its walls.</p> <p>Set in an idyllic garden landscape, Augustusburg Castle (the sumptuous residence of the prince-archbishops of Cologne) and the Falkenlust hunting lodge (a small rural folly) are among the earliest examples of Rococo architecture in 18th-century Germany</p> <p>The Grandhotel Schloss Bensburg 14 km from Cologne offers a romantic stay in a 300 year old Baroque castle on top of a hill www.schlossbenburg.com</p>
<p>Cathedrals</p>	<p>Cologne Cathedral is one of the world's great cathedrals - the spiritual and geographical heart of the city. It's the largest Gothic cathedral in Germany. From the top of the south tower, you get panoramic views of the city and surrounding area. Construction began in 1248, in order to house the relics of the three Magi brought to Cologne in 1164 by Archbishop Reinald von Dassel, chancellor to Frederick Barbarossa. After the completion of the chancel, south tower, and north-side aisles (around 1500), work was halted and not resumed until 1823. In 1880, the great enterprise was completed, and unlike many time-consuming constructions that change styles in midstream, the final result was in the Gothic style, true to the original plans.</p>
<p>Historic Sites</p>	<p>Beethoven House is Bonn's pride and joy. Beethoven was born in 1770 in the small house in back, which opens onto a little garden. On its second floor is the room where he was born, decorated only with a simple marble bust of the composer. Many of Beethoven's personal possessions are in the house, including manuscripts and musical instruments. In the Vienna Room, in the front of the house overlooking the street, is Beethoven's last piano. The instrument was custom-made, with a special sounding board to amplify sound for the hearing-impaired composer.</p>

<p>OTHER ACTIVITIES</p>	
<p>Shopping</p>	<p>There are so many things that make a shopping tour around cities like Cologne particularly special: German "originals", for example, such as BOSS, Meissen porcelain, Faber-Castell and Adidas. Traditional products such as Nuremberg gingerbread and the excellent German wines are also well worth seeking out.</p> <p>Cologne Water - The word cologne has been a part of the common language since the introduction many years ago of the scented water called Kölnisch Wasser (eau de cologne). Eau de Cologne, Glockengasse 4711 (tel. 0221/9250450; U-Bahn: Neumarkt), sells the</p>

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	<p>scented water first developed at this address by Italian chemist Giovanni Maria Farina in 1709. Originally employed to hide the stench of aristocrats who rarely bathed, cologne is now simply a sweet-smelling tradition and a cheap way to take home a little piece of Cologne. The smallest 25-milliliter flacon costs a mere 5€ (\$7.50). Krebs Glas has been responsible for preserving the centuries old tradition of the little glass town of Lauscha. They have combined artistic handwork with the latest trends to become one of the leading manufacturers of mouth-blown glass Christmas ornaments in every shape and colour.</p>
<p>Markets</p>	<p>Twice a week on many places throughout Berlin there are markets that sell mostly fruit and vegetables. One of the best is the Turkish market on Maybachufer. The big market halls, where you can buy everything from fruit and vegetable over meat and dairy products to clothing are typical for Berlin. Each weekend too, many flea-markets invite you to look for great bargains. The most popular one is the Kunst- und Trödelmarkt on Straße des 17. Juni, but also along the Kupfergraben near the Museumsinsel there are many stalls with art objects, books and records.</p> <p>In Bonn, a market called the Flohmarkt, at Rheinaue, Ludwig-Erhard-Strasse (tram: 66), is where you'll find all manner of secondhand goods and collectibles. It's held the third Saturday of each month April to October. A weekly market, Wochenmarkt, on the square of the same name, is held Monday to Saturday. You can enjoy a good lunch here, buying cooked food as you walk along inspecting the produce and various flea market items.</p> <p>Flea markets are held in Cologne's inner city. The most appealing are held within the Alter Markt (U-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof), at irregular intervals throughout the year, usually at least once a month (ask at the tourist office). More regular are the outdoor food and vegetable markets, the largest of which is held on the Wilhelmsplatz, in the Nippes district (U-Bahn: Florastrasse), Saturdays 8am to at least 2pm.</p>
<p>Nightlife</p>	<p>Berlin: Berlin's nightlife has an outstanding reputation. Every day new music trends are created in the clubs, but also the clubs itself are again and again new invented. As Berlin doesn't have a closing hour, the party in the clubs goes all night long.</p> <p>The place to go for nightlife in Düsseldorf is the Altstadt. This .8 sq. kms of narrow streets and alleyways, between Königsallee and the Rhine River, is jam-packed with restaurants, dance clubs, art galleries, boutiques, nightclubs, and some 200 song-filled beer taverns. Düsseldorfers refer to a night cruising the Altstadt as an Altstadtbummel.</p> <p>For jazz in Cologne, go to Klimperkasten (also known as Papa Joe's Biersalon), Alter Markt 50-52 (tel. 0221/2582132; U-Bahn:</p>

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	<p>Hauptbahnhof). It is an intimate jazz and piano bar open from 11am to 3am, with live music every night beginning around 8pm. The jazz is also hot at Papa Joe's Jazzlokal, Buttermarkt 37 (tel. 0221/2577931; U-Bahn: Heumarkt).</p> <p>A 110-year-old bar in Cologne, Pöfgen Bräuhaus, Friesenstrasse 64-66 (tel. 0221/135461; U-Bahn: Friesenplatz), serves its Kölsch brand of beer, along with regional cuisine. Seating is available indoors and out.</p>
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<p>CUISINE</p>	<p>Out of over 1200 breweries, from the North Sea to the Alps, flow 5000 different kinds of beer on tap. A meal is also as versatile as the beer in Germany. Whether fresh fish from the traditional Hamburg fish market, or potatoes, the apples of the earth - which have been served either as salt potatoes, stewed potatoes or as potato-cakes since the 18th century - nothing more could be missing from a menu. However, what would Germany be without sausage - with plenty of mustard - prepared plain-boiled, boiled with spices, raw or as bratwurst?</p> <p>For breakfast or at snack time, one of 300 healthy kinds of bread and fine pastries, made famous by German bakers, await you. You can also drink natural mineral water again and again. It bubbles here from 550 sources. The true connoisseur praises the German wine, some dry and some sweeter, but always smooth and filigree like nowhere else in the world.</p>
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<p>Food</p>	<p>Thuringia Rostbratwurst sausage:</p> <p>The recipe is over 600 years old and only some of the ingredients are known: finely minced pork, salt and pepper, cumin, marjoram and garlic. The rest is a well-kept secret known only to the 3000 butchers in Thuringia.</p> <p>And the sausage is of course only one of many culinary traditions in Germany – for instance Black Forest Gateau which is also one of my favourites... But there is everything food wise from Gherkins to Chocolate and Beer to Gingerbread.... Like:</p> <p>Spreewald gherkin</p> <p>The Halloren chocolate factory is the oldest producing factory in Germany since 1804....</p> <p>Rittersport chocolate 1912....</p> <p>Berliner Weisse – is an either red or green beer usually taken with a shot of raspberry or woodruff-flavored syrup to cut the brew's tartness.</p> <p>Aachener Printen – a very popular kind of ginger bread</p> <p>Some of the best inexpensive places to eat (and drink) in Cologne are beer taverns. Come to Bräuhaus Sion, Unter Taschenmacher 5-7 (tel. 0221/2578540; U-Bahn: Heumarkt; tram: 5 or 7), if you want a traditional local tavern where the beer is good, the wood paneling smoky with time and frequent polishing, and the food portions generous</p>
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<p>Wine</p>	<p>German wine does not grow next to olive trees and cork-oaks. It grows on the same degree of latitude as Newfoundland. The difference is that it is nursed by the warm climate of the Gulf Stream. This results in wines with fruity acidity and a wide range of wonderful scents.</p> <p>There are 13 German wine growing regions: Rheinhessen, Palatinate, Baden, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Württemberg, Franconia, Nahe, Rheingau, Mittelrhein, Ahr, Hessische Bergstraße, Saale-Unstrut and Saxony: Mosel, Saar and Ruwer in the west with tangy Riesling and Müller-Thurgau, the Elbe in the east with Rivaner and delicately fruity Weißburgunder and Grauburgunder.</p> <p>You will find a true paradise for the wine connoisseur when you travel the Rhine route from Lake Constance in the south to north of Bonn. People drink solid Gutedel, powerful Rulander, which today is called Grauer Burgunder and in the sunny Kaiserstuhl region fruity Weißherbst (rosé wine). The fertile Rhineland-Palatinate tempts not only with Rivaner, but also with full-flavoured Morio, Muskat, Kerner and Scheurebe. Rheinhessen's Silvaner offers more than just Liebfraumilch - the white wines range from mild to spicy and elegant. These can also be found in the neighbouring Nahe region.</p> <p>Additionally red wine is cultivated between Landau and Mainz. Mainly smooth Portugieser but powerful Dornfelder as well. The volcanic and slate soil of the northern part of the Ahr region mainly yields the fruity Spätburgunder. Overall, general three quarters of the German wines are white wines.</p>
<p>Rhine Wine</p>	<p>Most of Germany's vineyards owe their existence to the Rhine river. It flows past a wide fertile valley past the Baden vineyards. The Pfalz, on the east facing slopes on the Haardt Mountains is the most southerly of these Rhine wine regions. Next comes the Rheinhessen with its finest vineyard sites around the Neirstein on the so-called Rheinfront or Rheinterrasse. North of Mainz, the Rhine meets the mass of the Taunus Mountains and is forced west along a short stretch between Weisbaden and Assmannshausen. This area is called the Rheingau. At Bingen, the Nahe River flows in and along its banks where some of the best south-facing vineyards are located. North of Bonn is the tiny river Ahr, which is a tourist spot with its own vineyards. All of these German regions produce different styles of wine, but in general, Rhine wine is fuller and richer than Mosel wines. As in the Mosel, the primary grape is the Reisling, but there are other varieties of grapes too. There are a few Weissburgunder (pinot blanc) and some Chardonnay. The German wine research center at Geisenheim has created many new vine hybrids, such as Ehrenfelser, Scheurebe, and Kerner. They are not as popular as the native Rheingau.</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>So many to choose from! Here's a few suggestions for that special meal in the Rhine region:</p>

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	<p>Frankfurt: Weinhaus Brücken Keller: Located in the heart of the Altstadt, this is one of Frankfurt's leading restaurants and a favorite spot of well-heeled North American visitors. Tables are candlelit, and strolling musicians encourage singing. Here the age of Bismarck lives again. Franconian carvings adorn the alcoves, and huge wooden barrels are decorated with scenes from Goethe's Faust. The food is light and subtle. A typical meal may begin with cream of sorrel soup or more substantial roast gooseliver with green beans, perhaps a small salmon cake with caviar crème. The Tafelspitz (boiled beef) is the best in town. Filet of roast turbot with a white-wine cream sauce and a parsley risotto, or saddle of lamb served with mashed potatoes flavored with truffles and pimento, are also delicious. For a perfect finish, try the soufflé of strawberries with vanilla sauce. The evening meal includes homemade sourdough bread. The wine cellar holds 285 selections of German wines, including the Rhineland's best. Personal attention and efficient service are hallmarks.</p> <p>Zur Lese, Bonn: This restaurant's polite service and outdoor terrace with a sweeping view over the Rhine attract many local residents, especially in the afternoon, when visitors drop in for coffee, cakes, and glasses of wine after strolling in the nearby Hofgarten. Elegant, well-prepared lunches are also offered. Dinner is served in the cafe. A menu of German specialties (with English translations) includes pork with curry sauce and the chef's superb Gulasch Lese (goulash).</p> <p>Dusseldorf: Rheinturm Top 180 Restaurant - This futuristic restaurant is set atop the spool-shaped summit of the city's tallest tower (172m/564 ft.) and revolves slowly, affording a 360-degree panorama of Düsseldorf's buildings and parks. Most people come here for the view, but the food is good and includes grills, game dishes, fish, and soups. Try the slices of smoked duck breast with creamy savoy cabbage or rolls of salmon stuffed with turbot filling and served in Riesling and saffron sauce.</p>
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MORE INFO	
Brochures	http://www.germany.travel/en/ebrochures.html for online brochures
Websites	<p>For Germany: www.Germany.Travel</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GermanyTravelDestination</p> <p>Twitter: https://twitter.com/germanytourism</p> <p>The German National Tourist Board has a photography contest in 2014 - it's a worldwide competition to celebrate the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Show them your best summer shot of the last 25 years. Where in Germany you have been and your most memorable experiences. Post your picture with the #hashtag: #germany25reunified. For more information visit www.iconosquare.com/contests/germany25reunified</p>

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<p>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>Rhine Valley; Frankfurt; Heidelberg; Berlin; Dresden; Black Forest; Cologne; Trier; Hamburg; Munster; Munich; Munster.</p> <p>Here is a “Magic Moment” from my very first trip to Berlin:</p> <p><i>“It’s 1976 and I am in Berlin on a two month long student camping trip across Western and Eastern Europe. Here are my travel journal notes on the transition from West to East at that time... Today’s the day we cross the Berlin Wall! Travelled up BismarkStrasse, once a main thoroughfare and now cut off with the Victory Column and the adjacent Brandenburg Gate. A Russian tank patrols their War memorial even here in West Berlin. Spent time in the Escape Museum with it’s thrilling tales of triumph and failure of East Germans trying to get over the wall. Then on to the Viewing Platform positioned to give an unrestricted view of the Wall and No Man’s Land. And now the Wall itself and Checkpoint Charlie. Queue for an hour and everyone around me looks like a spy out of a John Le Carre novel... I wonder if I look like one too? Slowly processed through to East Berlin. It’s like a bleak parallel universe on the other side. Ruined buildings, supermarkets with empty shelves, drabness everywhere...and all so close to the colour and life of West Berlin...”</i></p>
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<p>UNESCO SITES IN GERMANY</p>	<p>UNESCO World Heritage – the greatest legacies of mankind and Mother Nature. Only the finest monuments to human and natural activity have the honour of bearing the UNESCO World Heritage title. And Germany is home to some of the finest of these.</p> <p>Some 2000 years of history have left lasting traces in Germany – silent yet eloquent witnesses to mankind's achievements and the wonders of nature. There are no fewer than 39 places in Germany on the UNESCO World Heritage list. They range from historical buildings and cathedrals of industry to exceptional natural landscapes and even whole towns. Because every visit to a UNESCO World Heritage site is a journey back in time to a shared cultural history.</p> <p>Discover the lure of the finest historical sites, and go in search of mankind's heritage. In Germany, you'll find what you're looking for 38 times over.</p> <p>Here some details of these magnificent visitor attractions:</p>
<p>NEW IN 2014: Abbey of Corvey</p>	<p>At its 2014 meeting the UNESCO World Heritage Site Committee added the Imperial Abbey of Corvey, located on the banks of the Weser River in north-central Germany, to its global sites of cultural or physical significance.</p>

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	<p>Built between 822 and 885 A.D. by French Benedictine monks under the auspices of Franconian Emperor Charlemagne and later, his son Louis The Pious, the Abbey of Corvey became an important cultural and political outpost in the Carolingian empire. Corvey's Westwork, the west-facing abbey entrance with its two spired towers, watches over the bucolic scenery along the Weser river, displaying the intricate brick and stone architecture of the era, a northern European building style referencing Roman architecture, with few remaining examples.</p> <p>While the Westwork survives to this day, other parts of the imperial complex exist as partially exposed archeological sites. Witness to an era of expanding Christianity, Corvey today boasts a rare books library of 74.000 volumes, hailing back to the Imperial abbey's other major function in a time before Gutenberg and the printing press: In its designated scriptorium, the Benedictines wrote, duplicated and illuminated all manner of Christian velum books and other documents for distribution in the empire.</p> <p>The 30-years war of the early 17th century took a heavy toll on the original abbey, resulting in a later reconstruction, primarily in Baroque-castle style. Both the abbey church and the castle, the latter now in secular ownership, welcome visitors and host music festivals in their carefully restored and maintained buildings, aiming to fulfill a UNESCO WHS condition for the coveted designation: to manage the site and protect its integrity and authenticity in the future.</p> <p>For more information on Corvey, visit www.unesco.de/welterbe-corvey and www.schloss-corvey.de/en/ . For travel tips and more details on the other 38 German UNESCO World Heritage sites, go to www.unesco.germany.travel/en/ .</p>
<p>Maulbronn</p>	<p>The former Cistercian abbey of Maulbronn is not only the most complete and best-preserved monastic complex north of the Alps, it is also a particularly representative example of medieval architecture. Construction of the monastery began in 1147.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/maulbronn-monastery-complex.html</p>
<p>Lorsch Abbey</p>	<p>The famous Carolingian gate hall or 'king's hall' in Lorsch is one of Germany's most important pre-Romanesque architectural relics. The original function of the building is unknown, but the magnificent decorations on its walls and on the upper floor give an idea of what other magnificent buildings that must have once stood at Lorsch Abbey, which was founded around 764 AD.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/lorsch-benedictine-abbey-and-altenmuenster.html</p>

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Speyer	<p>The magnificent Romanesque imperial cathedral in Speyer is the town's best-known and most prominent landmark. Built by emperors - construction began around 1030 - the cathedral was a symbol of their power and served as their final resting place.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/speyer-cathedral.html</p>
Messel	<p>The Messel Pit Fossil Site holds some of the richest deposits of mammal fossils in the world. To date, geoscientists have unearthed approx. 50,000 individual finds from the former volcanic crater lake, which was formed around 47 million years ago.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/messel-pit-fossil-site.html</p>
Upper Rhine Valley	<p>Upper Middle Rhine Valley is included the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage in recognition of its status as one of the world's oldest and most magnificent cultural landscapes. The romantic river valley is lined with castles and palaces. It extends from the old Roman town of Koblenz, via the myth-enshrouded Loreley rock, to Bingen and Rudesheim, and includes the steep vineyards that are home to the famous Rhine wines.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/upper-middle-rhine-valley.html</p>
Cologne	<p>Building first began in Cologne in 1248 on what eventually became one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in the world and the epitome of high-Gothic cathedral architecture in its purest possible form.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/cologne-cathedral.html</p>
Brühl	<p>The Augustusburg Palace and Falkenlust Hunting Lodge, along with their gardens, are a fine example of German rococo architecture. Work on Augustusburg Palace began in 1725. It was the favourite residence of Clemens August of Bavaria, Elector and Archbishop of Cologne (1700–1761).</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/bruehl-castles-of-augustusburg-and-falkenlust.html</p>
Essen	<p>In its heyday, the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen was one of the largest and most modern collieries and coking plants in the world. Regarded as 'the most beautiful colliery in the world', the complex is a testament to the modern architectural movement of the 1920s and 1930s and the rise of heavy industry.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/essen-zollverein-coal-mine-industrial-complex.html</p>
Wadden Sea	<p>The Wadden Sea is located on the North Sea coast covering an area of about 10,000 square kilometres. The diversity of the Wadden Sea landscape makes it a unique habitat for more than 10,000 species of plants and wildlife. Mussel beds, dense sea grass meadows and soft</p>

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	<p>mudflats provide food for many animals. The area is a sanctuary for twelve million birds.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/the-wadden-sea.html</p>
Lübeck	<p>Lübeck, the Queen of the Hanseatic League, was founded in 1143 as 'the first western city on the Baltic coast'. The Hanseatic League was a 13th to 17th-century trading group formed by cities along the coast of Northern Europe. Today Lübeck has a medieval ambience and cultural and historical attractions harking back to Lübeck's glorious past as a free imperial and Hanseatic city.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/luebeck-historical-centre.html</p>
MORE UNESCO SITES IN GERMANY	<p>After my top ten, here are the other 28 sites to plan your trip to Germany around...</p>
Würzburg Residenz Palace and Court Gardens	<p>Würzburg Residenz Palace is generally considered the purest and most remarkable of all baroque palaces in Germany. Built between 1740 and 1770 and enhanced by the magnificent gardens between 1765 and 1780, it exemplifies a glittering era and is one of the most spectacular royal palaces in Europe.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/wuerzburg-residenz-palace-and-court-gardens.html</p>
Wilhelmshöhe Park	<p>Covering 240 hectares in the north Hessian city of Kassel, baroque Wilhelmshöhe Park is designed in the style of an English landscape garden and is Europe's largest hillside park. Together with Wilhelmshöhe Palace, it forms a unique whole that combines culture, nature and landscape architecture in perfect harmony. It dates from 1696 when Landgrave Karl of Hesse-Kassel aimed to elevate the Kassel princes over the other ruling houses of the day.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/bauhaus-and-its-sites-in-weimar-and-dessau.html</p>
Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau	<p>As a university of design, the Bauhaus School revolutionised 20th century art and architecture around the world. Today the original buildings in Weimar and Dessau, along with a range of museums and exhibitions, provide an insight into a movement that still seems innovative today.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/bauhaus-and-its-sites-in-weimar-and-dessau.html</p>
Classical Weimar	<p>For centuries, Weimar in Thuringia was at the centre of intellectual life in Germany: the city experienced its heyday in the early 19th century when it was home to no fewer than three of Europe's leading intellectuals – Goethe, Schiller and Herder. Around 1800, in a new era of tolerance, education for the masses and Humanist views, Weimar became a focal point of European intellectual thought and Weimar</p>

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	<p>Classicism.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/classical-weimar.html</p>
Wartburg Castle	<p>Large, imposing and steeped in history: high above the town of Eisenach sits Wartburg Castle, one of the best-preserved medieval German fortresses and almost 1,000 years old. It is possibly Germany's most famous castle, and certainly one of its most important. The impressive ceremonial hall and the surviving 12th century Palas – a perfect example of late-Romanesque architecture – still bear traces of Wartburg's former glory. In 1521-22 Martin Luther, posing as 'Squire George', sought and found refuge here.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/wartburg-castle.html</p>
Völklingen Ironworks	<p>The Völklingen Ironworks are the world's only surviving smelting works from the Golden Age of the iron and steel industry in the 19th and 20th century. In 1994 these gigantic ironworks covering an area of 600,000m² became the first industrial monument to be inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list. Today, they are a cultural attraction, themed discovery park and science centre rolled into one.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/voelklingen-ironworks.html</p>
Roman monuments, the Cathedral and Church of Our Lady in Trier	<p>Founded as Augusta Treverorum in 16 BC, Trier is Germany's oldest town and a true monument to history. Historical buildings of international standing, remarkable churches and magnificent Roman remains all make a visit to this romantic city on the Moselle an unforgettable experience. Trier, which is over 2,000 years old, presents an amazing range of cultural and historical attractions for art lovers and history buffs alike.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/roman-monuments-the-cathedral-and-church-of-our-lady-in-trier.html</p>
Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar	<p>The grandeur and riches of the Hanseatic League in the 14th century could hardly be more vividly illustrated than in the historic centres of Stralsund and Wismar. Both towns boast virtually unchanged medieval layouts and extensively preserved architectural heritage from the brick Gothic period.</p> <p>A total of six brick parish churches alone in Stralsund and Wismar, on the Mecklenburg-Western Pomeranian coast, offer a representative cross-section of Gothic church architecture in the late Middle Ages.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/historic-centres-of-stralsund-and-wismar.html</p>
Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Upper Germanic-Rhaetian	<p>The longest and one of the most impressive archaeological monuments in Europe, the Limes marks former Roman boundaries from the Rhine to the Danube over a distance of 550km. Around 2,000 years ago its forts, watchtowers, walls and palisades protected the mighty Roman</p>

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Limes	<p>Empire from the Barbarians. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/frontiers-of-the-roman-empire-upper-germanic-rhaetian-limes.html</p>
Monastic Island of Reichenau	<p>Three Romanesque churches from the 9th to the 11th century attest to the significance of the former Benedictine abbey on the Monastic Island of Reichenau in Baden-Württemberg. Founded in 724, it quickly developed into one of the most important monasteries in southern Germany. The monastic tradition can still be seen today in the unique religious festivals and processions that take place on the island. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/monastic-island-of-reichenau.html</p>
Old Town of Regensburg and Stadtamhof	<p>Regensburg, the town of emperors and kings, offers impressive perspectives of around 2,000 years of history. The only example of French Gothic cathedral architecture east of the Rhine, Regensburg Cathedral has a wealth of medieval stained glass that is unparalleled in Germany and just one of many architectural monuments that make Regensburg in Bavaria the best-preserved medieval city in Germany. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/old-town-of-regensburg-and-stadtamhof.html</p>
Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg	<p>Quedlinburg, which enjoys an idyllic location, was an important royal and imperial town in the Middle Ages. With its historical layout and over 1,300 timber-framed houses from a period spanning six centuries, Quedlinburg is a fine example of a beautifully preserved medieval town. It also boasts a wealth of art nouveau architecture. The Collegiate Church of St. Servatius is the burial site of the first German king, Henry the Fowler, and his wife Mathilde. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/collegiate-church-castle-and-old-town-of-quedlinburg.html</p>
Palaces and parks of Potsdam and Berlin	<p>The beautiful city of Potsdam is part of an extraordinarily rich and attractive landscape: expansive parks, majestic tree-lined avenues and some 150 buildings from the 18th to the 20th century all combine to make an outstanding cultural treasure. Extended to include architectural monuments in neighbouring Berlin, today's World Heritage site dates back to 1745, when Frederick the Great commissioned Sanssouci Palace to be built as his summer residence. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/palaces-and-parks-of-potsdam-and-berlin.html</p>
Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	<p>Nine pile dwellings are located on the shores of Lake Constance in Baden-Württemberg. Nine more are listed in Upper Swabia, south of Augsburg and at Lake Starnberg. They represent an archaeological legacy that dates back almost 7,000 years. In Unteruhldingen on Lake Constance north of Friedrichshafen, wooden posts in the water still serve as reminders of the houses that once stood there. This special type of construction was an early settlement form in Europe. They</p>

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	<p>provided protection against enemies and predators, access to the water for fishing and the nearby shores for farming.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/prehistoric-pile-dwellings-around-the-alps.html</p>
Muskauer Park	<p>Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau – bohemian, travel writer and landscape gardener of great renown – designed Muskauer Park, one of the most beautiful landscaped gardens in the world, in the early 19th century. Covering around 830 hectares, it is made up of a number of smaller parks on either side of the German-Polish border, each with its own character.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/muskauer-park.html</p>
St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Michael's Church in Hildesheim	<p>St. Michael's Church and St. Mary's Cathedral in Hildesheim near Hannover are two outstanding examples of early-Romanesque architecture. Both churches symbolise the heyday of religious art in the Holy Roman Empire, exemplify the creative skill of Bishop Bernward, and are blessed with a wealth of famous historical art treasures. The first cathedral building on the site of Hildesheim's St. Mary's Cathedral was built as early as 872.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/st-marys-cathedral-and-st-michaels-church-in-hildesheim.html</p>
Mines of Rammelsberg, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water Management System	<p>Reminders of Germany's earliest industrial heritage – these sites document around 1,000 years of mining history. The Mines of Rammelsberg on the outskirts of the beautiful old town of Goslar were once the largest interconnected repositories of copper, lead and zinc ore in the world. Energy for the mine was supplied by the Upper Harz water management system, the world's foremost pre-industrial water management system for the mining industry.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/mines-of-rammelsberg-historic-town-of-goslar-and-upper-harz-water-management-system.html</p>
Luther memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg	<p>500 years after the Reformation, the atmosphere of those times can still be felt in Eisleben and Lutherstadt Wittenberg. This is where you'll find unique Luther memorial sites such as the house where the Church reformer was born, the house where he died, the monastery where he lived and the church to which he nailed his 95 theses. Martin Luther was born on 10 November 1483 and he died on 18 February 1546.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/luther-memorials-in-eisleben-and-wittenberg.html</p>
Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz	<p>As the first English-style landscape garden in mainland Europe, the 18th century Garden Kingdom of Dessau Wörlitz unites garden design and architecture in perfect harmony. Here you'll find manor houses, more than 100 buildings of varying sizes and a range of sweeping parks and gardens, all spread over an area of 140 square kilometres on and</p>

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	<p>around the banks of the rivers Elbe and Mulde. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/garden-kingdom-of-dessau-woerlitz.html</p>
Town hall and Roland statue in Bremen	<p>It is one of the most beautiful town halls in Germany: the magnificent facade is a textbook example of the Weser Renaissance architecture typical of northern Germany. At 10.21 metres, the Roland statue is the tallest free-standing sculpture of the German Middle Ages. It represents Hanseatic freedom - and the distance between the knees is exactly one Bremen 'elle', a historical unit of measurement. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/town-hall-and-roland-statue-in-bremen.html</p>
Berlin Modernism Housing Estates	<p>Appearing between 1913 and 1934, Berlin's six Modernist housing estates, with their promise of 'light, air and sunshine' for residents, provided a welcome antidote to the gloomy tenement buildings of Wilhelmine Germany. Their clean lines made them hugely influential in 20th century architecture and town planning. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/berlin-modernism-housing-estates.html</p>
Berlin Museum Island	<p>The unique collection of galleries and museums on Berlin Museum Island house treasures from 6,000 years of human history. Elevated to UNESCO World Heritage status in 1999, and located in Berlin's historical centre, the complex is the centrepiece of the city's museum network and is Europe's largest cultural investment project. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/berlin-museum-island.html</p>
Germany's Ancient Beech Forests	<p>Without human intervention, beech trees would still cover large areas of continental Europe. Today, unspoilt lowland beech forests are found nowhere else in the world but in Germany. The Ancient Beech Forests of Germany offer a fascinating, romantic and incredibly diverse picture of the original European landscapes. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/germanys-ancient-beech-forests.html</p>
Margravial Opera House in Bayreuth	<p>The Margravial Opera House is regarded as a triumph of 18th century baroque theatre design. Visitors find the splendour of its interior simply awe-inspiring. The most beautiful baroque theatre remaining in Europe, it was built by Giuseppe Galli-Bibiena and his son Carlo, the most famous theatre architects of their day. http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/margravial-opera-house-in-bayreuth.html</p>
Bamberg Old Town	<p>A centre of imperial and episcopal power for almost a thousand years, Bamberg stands on seven hills surrounded by beautiful countryside. Dominated by its imperial cathedral, the town is a unique and superbly maintained masterpiece of urban design, uniting medieval and baroque architecture. It provides a fascinating example of how central European</p>

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	<p>towns were built up around the basic layouts established in the early Middle Ages</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/bamberg-old-town.html</p>
Fagus Factory in Alfeld	<p>Built in 1911 to designs by Adolf Meyer and Walter Gropius, the Fagus Factory is widely regarded as the first truly modernist structure. The glass and steel facade and the huge, wrap-around corner windows free of supports lend the building an elegant feeling of lightness.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/fagus-factory-in-alfeld.html</p>
Aachen Cathedral	<p>Aachen Cathedral was the very first site to be granted UNESCO World Heritage status in Germany, and with good reason: built in around 790 to 800, the cathedral is of world importance in terms of the history of art and architecture, and is one of the great examples of church architecture. The final resting place of Charlemagne, it was also where German emperors were crowned for 600 years.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/aachen-cathedral.html</p>
Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church	<p>The Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Saviour at the foot of the Alps is considered a perfect example of Bavarian rococo architecture. The church's exuberant interior decor is unparalleled in richness and refinement. Around one million visitors come to look, marvel, pray, attend services, enjoy the summer concerts and, of course, for quiet contemplation. The foundation stone for the current church was laid in 1746.</p> <p>http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/unesco-world-heritage/wieskirche-pilgrimage-church.html</p>

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