

40 Reasons to visit Germany



1. **World-class infrastructure** - Germany, where travel is quick and easy. The world-famous *autobahn* network has a total length of 11,000km. Germany also boasts a 40,000km rail network and 30 airports, including the third-largest airport in the world, making travel quick and easy.
2. Germany is the **2nd most popular cultural destination** in Europe - 32 UNESCO World Heritage sites, 4,000 museums, more than 400 theatres and opera houses
3. Germany is the leading destination for **business travel** - Worldwide, Germany has an 11 per cent market share of all business travel made by international visitors. It is also the market leader ahead of China in the promotable travel sector.
4. **Trade fairs, conferences and conventions** - Europe's number 1 location for trade fairs, conferences and conventions. 3.1 million square metres of exhibition space, 6,200 conference and event venues in 1,500 conference centres and 1,600 other locations.
5. **History to reach out and touch** - "History and especially living history associated with real people that you can see and touch, is always more interesting than dead material." Princess Gloria of Thurn and Taxis, St. Emmeran Palace 2007
6. Experience **recent history**, like the reunification of eastern and western Germany. 2009, Berlin celebrates the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall
7. **Architectural Highlights**, for example e.g in Dessau, birthplace of the famous Bauhaus movement
8. **German Christmas Markets** reveal the country's festive side. Over 2,500 Christmas markets in wonderful settings invite visitors to share in the joy of the pre- Christmas season and enter into Germany's special holiday mood.
9. Some of the **best** contemporary **cuisine** in the world - Regional specialities and *haute cuisine*. Catering for all tastes – our country's restaurants are home to 300 Michelin-starred chefs and 200 certified gourmet chefs – offering everything from international cuisine to traditional German food.
10. Classical music in Germany: Experience the music of great German composers **George Frederick Handel, Johann Sebastian Bach, Richard Wagner**
11. **Religious Highlights** like the Oberammergau Passion Plays
12. **Industrial Heritage in Germany** with "Ruhr 2010. **European Capital of Culture**"; Essen – epitome of the Ruhr region and its industrial heritage
13. Annual **Oktoberfest** in Munich, the world's largest beer festival.
14. **Castles and fairytales** - 5,000 castles and palaces from down the ages, including from the Renaissance, baroque and classicist periods
15. **Active lifestyle holidays** - walking, cycling, golf and the latest niche sports.

16. Over **300 spa resorts** and more than **1,000 spa hotels**.
17. The ultimate **shopping experience** in boutiques, high streets, factory outlets and more than 400 shopping centers.
18. Germany scores strongly for **value-for-money** hotels on an international comparison.
19. **Castle Neuschwanstein** - King Ludwig II's world-famous castle stands proudly against the spectacular backdrop of the Alps in southern Bavaria. Walt Disney also found inspiration for his magic kingdom here and based his world-famous Disney Castle on this spectacular Bavarian highlight.
20. For more than 50 years, the hallmark of the **Romantic Road** has been its wonderful combination of nature, culture and hospitality. Germany's most famous and popular tourist route runs for 350 romantic kilometres across a rich and varied cultural landscape along the river Main and through the Franconian wine country to the Alps.
21. **Castle Road** - Journey back into the Middle Ages. Travel from castle to castle, from one magnificent stately home to another, following in the footsteps of the knights and counts palatine all the way. Welcome to Germany's castles and palaces!
22. Home of fairies and princes, of Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella. Ever-changing, yet always magical – this is the **Fairytales Route**. Fairytales, myths and legends – and one celebration after another.
23. **Baltic Coast** – Dramatic cliffs, gently shelving beaches of fine, white sand, bays and narrow inlets cut deep into the land. Modern seaside resorts with delightful 1900s villa-style architecture, fishing towns and international seaports.
24. **Rhine Valley** - Few other regions around the world are so densely packed with authentic historical attractions. The sinister Hagen is said to have sunk the gold of the legendary Nibelungs in the Rhine here.
25. **Moselle and Saar** - A fascinating cultural open-air museum. Where the vines seem to grow right up to heaven, the local specialities are more likely to come from the cellar than from the kitchen. The region is known throughout the world for its Riesling wines.
26. **The Love Parade** is still the world's biggest music event. Once a year, the whole world looks on as thousands of techno fans get into the groove with steadily pounding beats.
27. **Carnival** is the first thing that springs to mind when Germans think about Cologne, where it is celebrated in a particularly lavish and traditional fashion. Over five fun-packed days it's the *Jecken* (carnival jesters) that hold court at the carnival festivities.
28. **Documenta** - Since 1955, Kassel has provided the setting for the world's most important exhibition of contemporary art. New exhibition concepts are showcased alongside current trends that are moving the modern art scene.
29. **Formula 1** - The number one motorsport event in the world makes an annual stop at Hockenheimring, attracting thousands of visitors. Out of all the racing series, Formula 1 is the most demanding, both in terms of the constructors' financial muscle and technological capabilities, and the drivers' racing skills. On

- 18 different circuits around the world, points are up for grabs that could later bring both a driver and his team the coveted world championship title.
30. **Lake Constance** - Palm trees, emerald-green water, Mediterranean flowers, long hours of sunshine... Yes, that's Lake Constance and the Alps we're describing. People visiting Lake Constance, "Swabia's sea", really should not miss its islands and charming towns and villages.
 31. Germany, the **Car Country**. History, passion and technology are the defining characteristics of Germany's car industry and its global brands Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Opel, Porsche and Volkswagen, which are world famous for their innovation and quality.
 32. On April 16, 1927 Josef Ratzinger was born in the small, contemplative Bavarian town of Marktl am Inn and on April 19, 2005, Ratzinger became the **Pope Benedict XVI** and head of the Catholic Church.
 33. **Brandenburg Gate** is Berlin's most famous landmark and a symbol of division overcome. For many years it stood in no man's land next to the Berlin Wall and was reopened on 22 December 1989, following the fall of the Wall.
 34. **The Black Forest** mountains extend along the Rhine, close to Lake Constance, Switzerland and Alsace. The region is famed for its food and drink, distinctive traditional hats and cuckoo clocks.
 35. A fascinating region with much to offer, right on the border with the Czech Republic. Besides its traditions of silver and ore mining and wood carving the **Erzgebirge mountains** are also home to many German Olympic champions.
 36. **North Sea** - Germany's windiest region - but so easy to fall in love with. Can you imagine a holiday in North Friesland without a walk across the mudflats? Twice every day they are covered by the sea. If only everything in life could be that certain.
 37. The immense **waterways network** in Germany, which runs through Brandenburg - from Berlin up to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania - will give anyone who loves boating a huge adrenaline rush. There are around 4,000 lakes, countless rivers, streams and canals, making this region one of the most remarkable inland waterway systems in Europe.
 38. A masterpiece of Gothic architecture, **Cologne Cathedral** is one of the finest church buildings in the Christian world. Gargantuan proportions and craftsmanship of unparalleled quality have made the cathedral a defining example of the Gothic style.
 39. Dresden's most famous attraction is a masterpiece of baroque architecture. The destruction and rebuilding of the **Church of Our Lady** symbolises the history of the city like no other building.
 40. 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. **The 13 German wine growing regions** are Rheinhessen, Palatinate, Baden, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Württemberg, Franconia, Nahe, Rheingau, Mittelrhein, Ahr, Hessische Bergstraße, Saale-Unstrut and Saxony.