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Travel With a Purpose – Germany!

Submitted by **Go Overseas** on Sat, 09/25/2010 - 00:29

Germany is more than lederhosen and giant pretzels. After all, with a reputation for engineering and good design, Germans invented cars, computers, television, .mp3 music files, and HARIBO Gummi bears. A powerhouse of cultural heritage, some of the world's most significant thinkers, writers, musicians, inventors, and scientists have come from Germany. You will encounter fairytale forests, rugged mountains, and enchanting castles waiting to be explored. Discover the art of being German by spending long evenings discussing ideas in quaint beer halls with your new friends.

What to expect while living in Germany

Learning the language. If you [study or live in Germany](#), it will be helpful to learn the language. You will discover its richness, flexibility, and übercool concept words, such as *Futterneid* (food envy). In German you can invent your own concept words as you string together any nouns you please into one big word.

Relaxing in the sauna. Germans may work hard, but they also know how to relax and enjoy life. You can heat up in the sauna, and for a great price – typically 15-25 Euro for a three-to-four hour time block.

Diversity of food and beer. You can expect a wide range of food and beer depending on where you are in Germany. You will find that most foods are natural, fresh, and not designed for long-term storage. Shop every few days in small batches for what you need. Some of the staples include:

Beer – Let's face it, Germany is the land of outstanding beer. Look out for local brews from your area – they are by far the tastiest.

Dairy products – The cheese, yogurt, creams, milk, and ice cream are out of this world.

Bread – Stop by your local bakery every day for a mouth-watering selection of fresh breads and pastries.

Roasted chicken – Many beer gardens and restaurants serve delicious roasted chicken.

Schnitzel - Breaded meat (pork or turkey) that is pounded thin and pan-fried.

Outdoor activities. With the Alps in the south, rolling hills in the center, and flat land and seascapes in the north, Germany offers a variety of landscapes for outdoor fun. You can bike, ski, hike, kayak, swim, or participate in several other outdoor activities as you satisfy your wanderlust.

Tips and advice for living in Germany

1. Don't be intimidated by that German reserve. Germans are more slow and considered with their relationships and have a sharper distinction between public and private life. It may take them awhile to warm up, but if you are patient, you may just find you have loyal soul friends for life.

2. Use the transit system. The German train and bus system is excellent, efficient, and well connected. Hop on those trains and see the country!

3. Get a bike. Go local and ride a bike to get around town. Germans are active people and use their bikes for both recreation and necessities such as grocery shopping and commuting to work or school.

4. Dress up. Germans take care of their appearance and dress in casual, simple sophistication. They typically wear slim-leg pants and jeans. Keep your athletic shoes at home unless you are working out. Girls, throw on a cute scarf and wear ballerina flats or boots. Guys, wear dark (brown or black) leather sport shoes.



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What to see in Germany

Berlin. Visit Berlin, and all your ideas about Germany may be redefined. Dynamic, edgy, and by no means stuck in its complicated past, it is one of the most exciting cities in Europe. Be sure to check out the [East Side Gallery](#) to see art on one of the last remaining segments of the Berlin Wall. Follow with a bohemian evening at [Tacheles Tower](#), a run-down building where artists squat and display their wares. Go to the back lot for beer and music.

Map of Germany



Neuschwanstein Castle, Germany



Study in Germany

The Program: [EuroLearn and Freie Universität Berlin - EuroLearn](#)

Where: Berlin

The Lowdown: *It's no wonder why Europe is among many students' top choices to study abroad. The region is filled with fascinating cultures, languages, architecture, art, history, and so much more! EuroLearn's direct enrollment programs give you the opportunity to choose from a range of academic areas, live and study alongside local students, and immerse yourself in European culture.*

Teach in Germany

The Program: [Camp Counselors for Holiday Camps - Sunflower-Sprachcamps](#)

Where: Dusseldorf

The Lowdown: *Sunflower-Sprachcamps offers English and French holiday camps for German kids at the age of 7 to 15 in the region of the European capital of culture 2010, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The camps take place during the summer holidays of this region in youth clubs (day camps) and youth hostels (overnight camps). The program of the camps consists games (indoor games, outdoor games, language games), sports, arts and crafts, singing and dancing, theatre /sketches.*

Volunteer in Germany

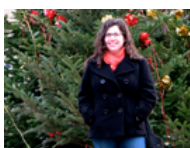
The Program: [Long-Term Projects in Germany - United Planet](#)

Where: Essen, Berlin

The Lowdown: *Germany is known for its thick and complicated past, and with many changes to the national psyche, Germany is stepping into the future. You can help with this process. With more than 35 volunteer opportunities, Germany is ready to host you.*

Work with animals, children, the disabled, sports, the community, human rights or many other categories in this central European tourist attraction home to Ludwig Van Beethoven, Bach, Fahrenheit, Gutenberg, Einstein, Benz, and Porsche.

About the Author: Jen



Born in California, I've lived in Seattle, Maryland, Kansas, and Oklahoma. After meeting and falling in love with a German, I decided to move to the Frankfurt area and make this country my home. I am currently enrolled in a language school, where I am taking intensive classes to wrangle the German language into submission. Writing is my life, and in addition to my creative work, I write user documentation for software firms. I'm passionate about travel, photography, good books, good food, and making up silly German words. You can find me at [Resident on Earth](#)



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dunklea Hi

Joseph! Thanks for your comment, I'm glad you enjoyed the post. We hope it encourages more people to consider studying abroad. I never advocate that it is for everyone, but most people that have...

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Joseph

Philip Yes, I have heard of these myths. At first, I thought some of these might be true but now I just laugh at them. People often have the habit of spreading rumors. I have studied abroad and these are...

[10 Common Study Abroad Myths](#) · 18 hours ago



Lodair Great

advice - toddlers do not appreciate scenery and the beauty of their surroundings! We spent 3 days in Yosemite with a 3 year and 6 year old. When asked what he liked best about Yosemite at the...

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Sarah

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