



WELCOME TO SOUTHWEST GERMANY

THE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG
VACATION GUIDE

WELCOME TO SOUTHWEST GERMANY



In the heart of Europe, SouthWest Germany (Baden-Württemberg in German) is a cultural crossroads, bordered by France, Switzerland and Austria. But what makes SouthWest Germany so special?

The weather: Perfect for hiking and biking, from the Black Forest to Lake Constance.

Romantic: Some of Europe's most romantic cities, such as Heidelberg and Stuttgart.

Castles: From mighty fortresses to fairy tale palaces.

Christmas markets: Some of Europe's most authentic.

Wine and food: Vineyards, wine festivals, Michelin-starred restaurants.

Cars and more cars: The Mercedes-Benz and Porsche museums in Stuttgart, the Auto & Technik Museum in Sinsheim.

Value for money: Hotels, taverns and restaurants are well-priced; inexpensive and efficient public transport.

Real souvenirs: See cuddly Steiff Teddy Bears and cuckoo clocks made in SouthWest Germany.

Spas: Perfect for recharging the batteries – naturally!

Shopping: From stylish city boutiques to outlet shopping.

People: Warm, friendly, and English-speaking.

Here at the Baden-Württemberg State Tourist Board, we are always ready to help and to answer any questions at anytime. Do get in touch! We look forward to welcoming you to the Sunny Side of Germany!



Andreas Braun
Managing Director
State Tourist Board
Baden-Württemberg

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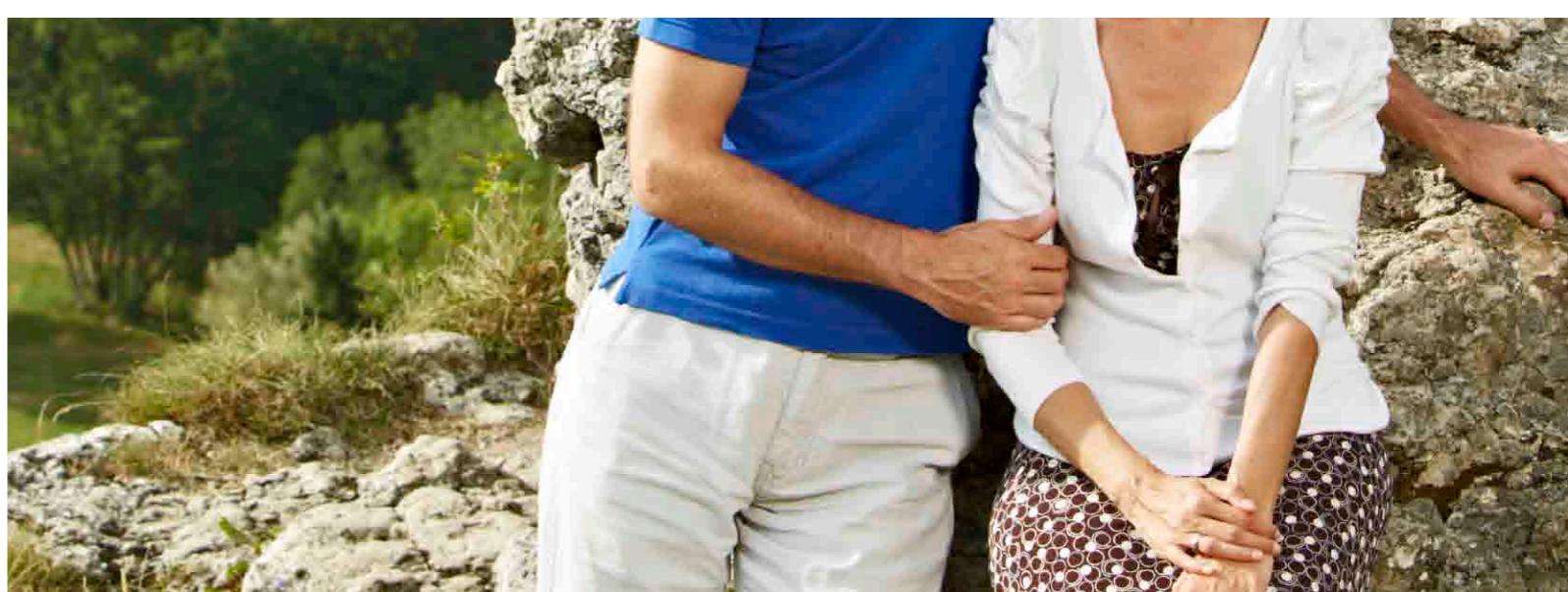
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SOUTHWEST GERMANY'S GREAT CITIES & HISTORIC TOWNS



Urban pleasures are easy to find in SouthWest Germany. Museum collections range from world-class art to glamorous cars; the food scene caters to traditional and contemporary tastes, in cozy taverns and stylish restaurants; the region's wines are known to connoisseurs; and the shopping includes specialist boutiques as well as international names. But part of the fun is doing what locals do – strolling in the parks, admiring centuries-old churches, checking out the markets and stopping at a café for coffee and cake. Best of all, most of the ancient streets in city and town centers are pedestrian-friendly!



STUTTGART



SouthWest Germany's capital has it all, from grand palaces and expansive parks to leading-edge architecture – and two world-famous automobile museums. Strolling is a pleasure in the compact downtown, where pedestrians have priority. The elegant New Palace (Neues Schloss) dominates the main square; in the city's historic heart is the Old Castle (Altes Schloss), whose Renaissance courtyard hosts concerts in summer and at Christmas. Often rated as Germany's "Opera House of the Year" is the beautiful

Stuttgart State Theater (Staatstheater Stuttgart), home to ballet, concerts and, of course, opera. As for shopping, the Königstrasse is Germany's longest shopping street, stretching for nearly one mile (1,200 m); nearby is the legendary Breuninger, the luxury department store, as well as designer boutiques. Relax in cafés; eat in traditional taverns or contemporary restaurants; and taste the local wine, produced in vineyards just outside the city!

HIGHLIGHTS

Mercedes-Benz Museum

Covering the 125-year story of the automobile, with 160 glamorous cars.

www.mercedes-benz-classic.com

Porsche Museum

One of Germany's leading-edge museums, showcasing 80 glamorous models.

www.porsche.com/museum

The Stuttgart State Gallery (Staatsgalerie Stuttgart)

One of Germany's great art collections: Rembrandt, Picasso, modern works.

www.staatsgalerie.de

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BADEN-BADEN



"Elegance" and "sophistication" are bywords for this five-star resort city on the edge of the Black Forest. Bad (meaning baths) is the old-fashioned term for a spa and the hot, healing mineral waters here have been popular for 2,000 years. In what looks like a small palace is the historic Friedrichsbad, with its "Roman-Irish" baths; by contrast, the Caracalla Spa (Caracalla Therme) is modern. In the old days, Baden-Baden was a favorite of the nobility; now everyone can enjoy the

HIGHLIGHTS

Casino

James Bond would feel at home here. Remember to carry your passport.

www.casino-baden-baden.de

The Friedrichsbad and Caracalla Spa

The Friedrichsbad is a unique experience; the Caracalla has pools (indoor, outdoor) and treatments.

www.carasana.de

Museum Frieder Burda

Excellent modern art, with works by Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

www.museum-frieder-burda.de

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HEIDELBERG



"Romantic" is the only way to describe Heidelberg. It is a photographer's delight, from the 18th-century Alte Brücke, the red sandstone bridge on the Neckar River, to the castle that dominates the city. Built as a medieval fort and then converted into a residential Renaissance palace, this is a must-see, with walls, gates and a moat – let alone the grand views from the 400-year-old terrace gardens. Ride the funicular to the castle, then carry

on up to the Königstuhl (King's Throne), with wide-open views to the Rhine valley. Down in the Old Town, students from Germany's oldest university (1386) add a buzz, while the Heiliggeistkirche (Holy Spirit Church) was actually shared by Catholics and Protestants for more than 200 years. Relax on a narrated river cruise; buy the traditional gift for a sweetheart, a Student's Kiss chocolate that is still handmade after 150 years at Knösel (Haspelgasse 16).

HIGHLIGHTS

The Castle (Schloss)

Part atmospheric ruin, part impressive palace, with a 14th-century pharmacy.

www.schloss-heidelberg.de

The Old Town (Altstadt)

Wander down narrow lanes past old houses, historic churches and coffee houses.

www.heidelberg-tourismus.de

Student Jail (Studentenkärrzer)

The 500-year-old university jail has its original fixtures and graffiti!

www.heidelberg-tourismus.de

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FREIBURG



Germany's southernmost major city has a warm, sunny climate. At its heart is the 500-year-old Freiburg Cathedral (Freiburger Münster). Climb the West Tower (381 feet/116 m) to appreciate the skill of the medieval stonemasons and to enjoy views over the medieval rooftops to the handsome Old and New Town Halls. For a wider vista, ride the gondola up the Schauinsland Mountain and walk the forest trails. In the excellent Augustiner-museum, originally a monastery, see

outstanding art works by Lucas Cranach and Matthias Grünewald, all beautifully presented. But, Freiburg is also one of the world's leading "eco-cities" – rated for its public transport, pedestrianized center, solar power and even green hotels. The university is one of Germany's finest; nearby are award-winning vineyards; and the city makes an excellent base for trips into the Black Forest, and also into neighboring France and Switzerland.

HIGHLIGHTS

Freiburg Cathedral (Freiburger Münster)

In the West porch, spot the carving of the devil, dressed as a knight.

www.freiburg.de

Augustinermuseum

See centuries-old carved stone statues and stained glass close up.

www.museen.freiburg.de

Schauinslandbahn cable car

Germany's longest gondola run (2.2 miles/3.6 km). Rise 2,500 ft/750 m in 20 minutes.

www.bergwelt-schauinsland.de

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MANNHEIM



The Rhine and Neckar Rivers meet at SouthWest Germany's second-largest city, where tradition is matched by innovation. The grid-like street pattern dates back four centuries; the handsome 250-year-old Schloss Mannheim (Palace) is one of the country's largest Baroque complexes, with a Knights Hall and Palace Church. As for invention, the city is home to the first bicycle and, in 1886, the first automobile, built by Carl Benz; learn more in the hands-on TECHNOSEUM, State Mu-

seum of Technology and Work. Mannheim is also known as one of the region's best shopping destinations, with stylish boutiques, chain stores and department stores. Germany's first pop music academy is here, while the National Theater presents ballet and opera. The multi-cultural population, along with the university students, ensures a lively atmosphere; the Luisenpark is the place to relax, with botanical gardens, zoo and boating lake.

HIGHLIGHTS

Water Tower (Wasserturm)
Standing 200 feet/60 m high, this symbol of Mannheim is a classic Art Nouveau design.
www.mannheim.de

Reiss-Engelhorn Museums
The "rem" complex offers everything from World Cultures to Photography.
www.rem-mannheim.de

TECHNOSEUM
Learn about SouthWest Germany's technological and social history.
www.technoseum.de

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KARLSRUHE



Between Heidelberg and Baden-Baden, Karlsruhe is nicknamed the "Fan City" (Fächerstadt), because its main avenues spread out like a fan from the palace (Schloss Karlsruhe). This remarkable example of town planning dates back to 1715, and some say that it was the inspiration for the layout of Washington DC. As well as the palace, the city is known for its botanical garden, large park and museums. The biggest international attraction is the State Art Gallery

(Staatliche Kunsthalle). One of the finest collections outside Berlin, it is strong on French masters, from Degas and Gauguin to Monet and Rodin. Contemporary works are exhibited in the renovated Orangery by the Botanical Garden. By contrast, the Center for Art and Media Technology (ZKM) concentrates on new technology and new media. The most photographed site is a sandstone Pyramid on the Marktplatz, marking the grave of the city's founder, the Marquis Karl Wilhelm.

HIGHLIGHTS

Karlsruhe Palace (Schloss Karlsruhe)
Excellent local history museum, with grand views from the top of its tower.
www.landesmuseum.de

State Art Gallery (Staatliche Kunsthalle)
The collection has German, Dutch and French art from the 14th century to the present.
www.kunsthalle-karlsruhe.de

Center for Art and Media Technology (ZKM)
One of the world's leading-edge museums; a glimpse of the future – now!
www.zkm.de

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PFORZHEIM



An international center for watch-making and jewelry for 250 years, Pforzheim has long been known as the Golden City (Goldstadt). And the two main attractions reflect this special tradition. The Jewelry Museum (Schmuckmuseum) houses one of the world's great exhibitions devoted to the human passion for decoration – and the creativity that fulfills it. Some 2,000 pieces of historic, modern and ethnic jewelry cover a span of 5,000 years. As for the Worlds of Jewelry

(Schmuckwelten Pforzheim), this is an indoor shopping complex devoted to jewelry. Learn about precious and semi-precious stones in the Museum of Minerals (Mineralienmuseum); then watch craftsmen make jewelry and buy their work. Note: Schmuck actually means "jewelry" in German. The city makes an excellent base for exploring the northern part of the Black Forest and is close to popular hiking trails, such as the Höhenwanderwege.

ULM



On the Danube River, Ulm was one of Europe's most powerful cities in medieval times. Nothing emphasizes this more than the towering spire of the Minster, the enormous church. Building began in 1377, but did not finish until 1890, at which point it was the world's tallest building. Inside, highlights include the carving on the 500-year-old choir stalls and "The Last Judgment", a magnificent 500-year-old fresco, the largest north of the Alps. Contrast the Gothic Town

Hall with the contemporary Town House (Stadthaus) dating from 1993, designed by New York architect Richard Meier. Visit the museums and taverns; stroll around the charming old Fishermen's and Tanners' Quarter (Fischerviertel), with its medieval half-timbered houses, tiny bridges and alleyways so narrow that the houses almost touch. That's how Kussgasse (Kissing Alley) got its name! And, Ulm was also the birthplace of Albert Einstein!

HIGHLIGHTS

Museum of Jewelry (Schmuckmuseum)
Beautifully-displayed jewelry in a modern building overlooking a park.
www.schmuckmuseum-pforzheim.de

Worlds of Jewelry (Schmuckwelten)
The practical side of jewelry and jewelry making, under one roof. Fascinating!
www.schmuckwelten.de

Technical Museum (Technisches Museum)
Unique in Germany, this traces the story of Pforzheim's jewelry industry.
www.technisches-museum.de

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HIGHLIGHTS

Ulm Minster (Ulmer Münster)
Still the tallest church spire in the world at 530 feet/161 m high!
www.ulmer-muenster.de

Astronomical Clock (Astronomische Uhr)
Take binoculars to see the detail of the Town Hall's 430-year-old clock.
www.astrouhr.telebus.de

Museum of Bread (Museum der Brotkultur)
The social history of bread, with bread-related art by Picasso and Dali.
www.museum-brotkultur.de

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HEILBRONN



Sitting on the banks of the Neckar River, charming Heilbronn is an essential stop on the Castle Road (Burgenstrasse), one of the oldest and most popular scenic drives in Germany. Outstanding buildings include the Town Hall, dating from 1417, St Kilian's Church, with its ornate Renaissance tower, and the Götz Tower (Götzenturm), a reminder of the town's glowering 14th-century fortifications. Thanks to "Kathy of Heilbronn", a 19th-century play, the city is special for German speakers. That is why Kathy's House (Käthchenhaus) is also a major attraction. Don't miss the cheerful farmer's market (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday) in front of the town hall; take a cruise on the Neckar aboard one of the frequent riverboats; relax and watch the world go by at an old tavern – with a glass of the fine local wine. After all, Heilbronn is surrounded by some of the best vineyards in Germany.

KONSTANZ



Straddling the River Rhine at the western end of Lake Constance, to which it lends its name, Konstanz is a fine old town with glorious views of the lake and mountains. At the harbor entrance, a contemporary – and controversial – statue of Imperia rotates slowly. Away from the water, the pedestrianized streets are lined with historic buildings. See the medieval frescoes in the former City Hospital (Zum Heiligen Geist), now the post office; spot the Napoleonic gold eagle on the former Zum Goldenen Adler Hotel on Marktplatz Square; peer at the 13th-century choir stalls in St. Stephen's Church. Close to Konstanz are two famous island destinations: the UNESCO World Heritage site of Reichenau and the flower-filled garden island of Mainau. Lake Constance (Bodensee in German) is bordered by SouthWest Germany, Switzerland and Austria, with Liechtenstein just inland. And exploring four countries is easy, using public transport, including the efficient, inexpensive ferry services!

HIGHLIGHTS

Boat trips

Cruise towards Heidelberg or Bad Wimpfen on the Neckar River.

www.schifftours-heilbronn.de

The 1580 astronomical clock

A masterpiece, with turning angels, headbutting rams and a cock crowing.

www.heilbronn.de

Wine Villa (Wein Villa)

Tastings from 100 of the best local wines in this charming palazzo.

www.wein-villa.de

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ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCES

SouthWest Germany is much more than a beautiful landscape, dotted with historic buildings.

It's a place to have fun, to do something new and unexpected – and to enjoy the experience of a lifetime!

Here are just a few of our favorites.

FLY IN A ZEPPELIN AIRSHIP



The Zeppelin was not only invented in Friedrichshafen, you can still take a flight from this lakeside town aboard one of the world's most romantic forms of transport. With panoramic windows, spacious seats and room to walk about, this is a comfy way to fly. And it is so quiet! Float 1,000 feet/300 m above the ground and above the shimmering blue of Lake Constance; see the snow-capped Alps to the south and the lush vineyards and orchards to the north; look down on four countries: Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Then tour the Zeppelin Museum to learn about this milestone in aviation history.

www.zeppeleintours.com

www.zeppelein-museum.de

BAKE AN AUTHENTIC BLACK FOREST CAKE



Nothing matches the first bite of an authentic Black Forest Cake (Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte). The real thing combines dense chocolate and special Morello cherries, Kirschwasser (cherry liqueur) and real cream. You can taste it at a pastry shop/café (Konditorei), but it is much more fun to see how it is made. Throughout the region, hotels and inns offer demonstrations. At the pretty Haberjockelshof in Schärzenbach/Titisee-Neustadt, for example, you can make your cake and eat it!

www.schwarzwaldgaudi.de

DRIVE IN A CLASSIC CAR



With the top down and the wind in your hair, there is no car that embodies the spirit of the open road more than a 1958 Porsche 356A... unless it is a 1970 Mercedes-Benz 220SEB or an MF3 Wiesmann. And that thrill is readily available in SouthWest Germany. Stay in one of the cool, car-themed rooms at the 4-star V8Hotel im Meilenwerk in Böblingen, just outside Stuttgart, and rent a classic car for a couple of days. Drive up to the Porsche or Mercedes-Benz Museums in style; turn heads as you follow the Schwarzwaldhochstrasse, a scenic road which runs through the Black Forest.

www.v8hotel.de

HIGHLIGHTS

Council Building (Konzilgebäude)

This vast 14th-century warehouse is now a convention center.

www.konzil-konstanz.de

Schnetztor

This half-timbered fortified 15th-century tower was once the city gate.

www.konstanz-tourismus.de

SEA LIFE Konstanz

Fish from Lake Constance, as well as sharks, jellyfish and sea turtles.

www.visitsealife.com

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EAT A STAR-STUDDED MEAL



When it comes to world-class cuisine, no other village in the world can match Baiersbronn in the Black Forest. A center for hiking and biking, Baiersbronn also boasts an amazing seven Michelin stars. The French foodie guide gives Jörg Sackmann's Restaurant Schlossberg in the Hotel Sackmann one star; rated as three star are Claus-Peter Lumpp's Restaurant Bareiss in the Hotel Bareiss and Harald Wohlfahrt's Restaurant Schwarzwaldstube in the Hotel Traube Tonbach. Not only has Wohlfahrt held his three rosettes for 20 years, but he also trained five of Germany's three-star chefs!

www.baiersbronn.de

SLEEP IN A WINE BARREL



For something completely different, head for the pretty town of Sasbachwalden in the Black Forest, where the Ferienhof Wild vineyard welcomes guests – who can spend the night in a wine barrel! Reconditioned and redecorated, the casks are big, originally holding 2,000 gallons/8,000 liters. With stellar views over the vines, the rooms/barrels are cool in summer, but have heating for crisp nights. Taste wines made right at the door. Ferienhof Wild is south of Baden-Baden.

www.schlafen-im-weinfass.de

TRY YOUR LUCK



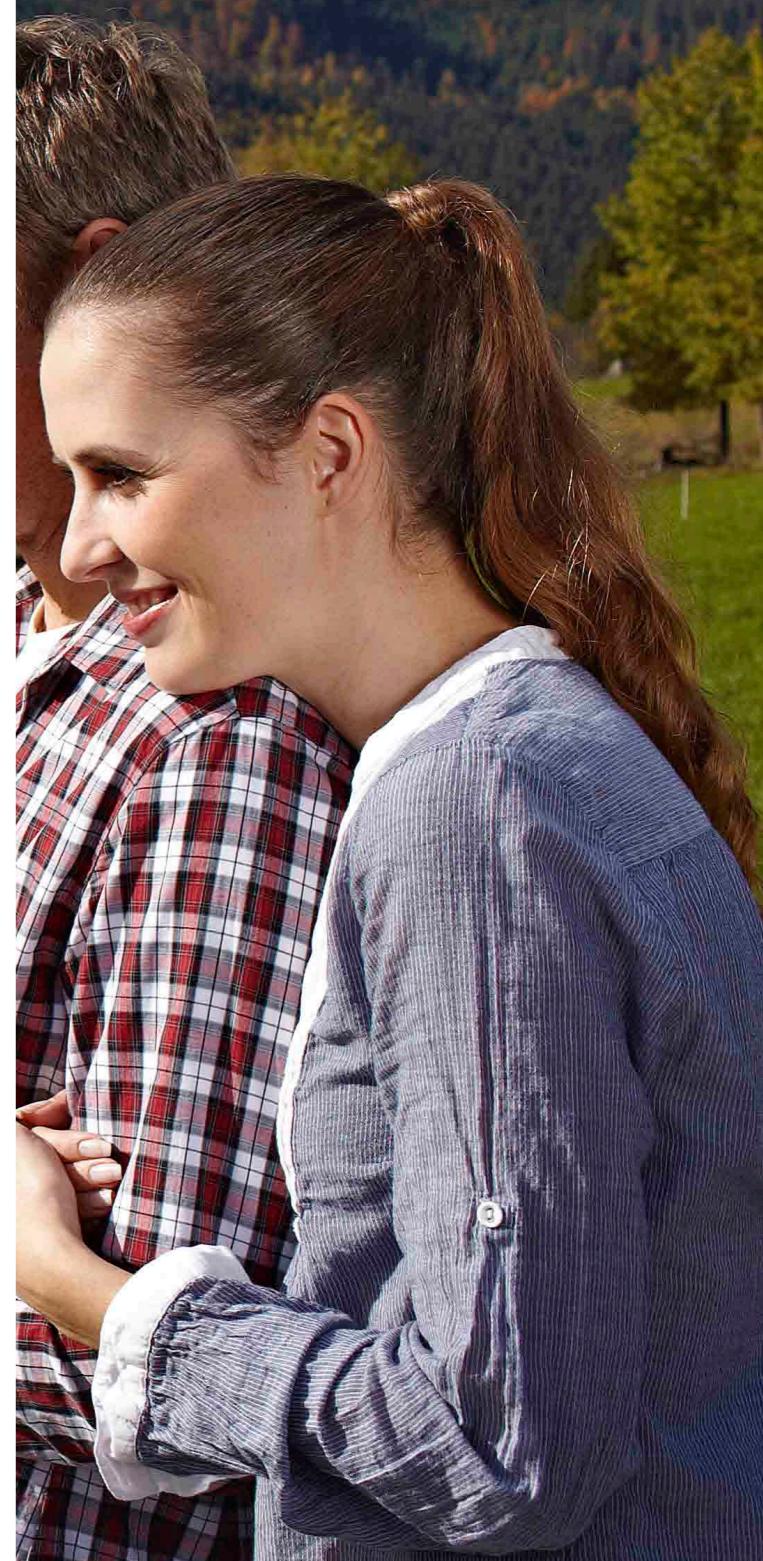
Baden-Baden's casino is straight out of a James Bond movie. With a history dating back over 250 years, the Kurhaus looks like a French royal palace. The interior gleams with gilt and mirrors, chandeliers and thick carpets. But what used to be the exclusive preserve of European aristocracy is now open to all. If you don't want to gamble, you can still enjoy a guided tour of the casino and its exquisite rooms every morning.

www.casino-baden-baden.de



SOUTHWEST GERMANY'S GREAT OUTDOORS

When it comes to get-away-from-it-all vacations, SouthWest Germany is one of the most enticing regions in Europe. The combination of unspoiled countryside and sunny weather is unbeatable. In summer, hike or bike the low, heavily forested mountains, with their lush meadows and green valleys. In the fall, the skies are still blue for the grape harvesting in the day, but the evenings are crisp. And nowhere is more peaceful in winter. Try cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or winter walking; stay in a cozy country inn; relax in front of a roaring log fire. What memories!



THE ROMANTIC BLACK FOREST

Famous for its cuckoo clocks and special cake, the Black Forest (Schwarzwald) has always been – and still is – romantic. A range of low mountains, rising from 3,000–5,000 feet (900–1,500 m), the Black Forest is pine-tree green rather than black, with clean clear lakes, lush valleys and rushing streams.

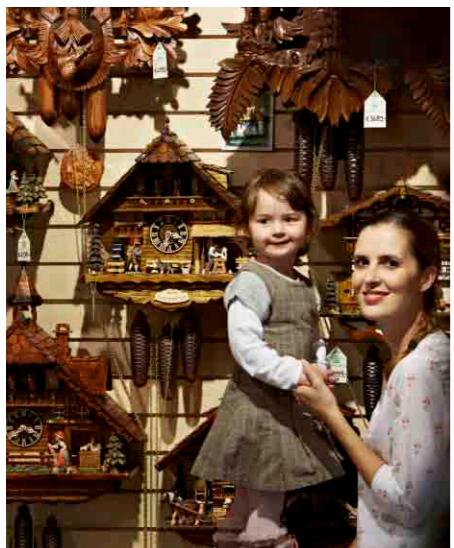
Walking and hiking

The Black Forest is criss-crossed with well-signposted trails. Marked out a century ago, the 175-mile/285 km long Westweg was the world's first recreational hiking trail. Now, there is a wide choice: walk up to the Triberg Waterfalls, the highest in Germany, or to the summit of the Feldberg (4,750 feet/1448 m), which can also be reached via cable car. Known as a foodie destination, the village of Baiersbronn is surrounded by Gourmet Paths (Geniesserpfad), dotted with wayside huts that serve freshly-prepared dishes.



Great lakes

Although all the Black Forest lakes are clean enough for swimming, visitors also love to walk around them. It takes 1.5 hours to stroll round Lake Titisee, set in the unspoiled forest and mountains. Alternatively, you can hire an electric boat, the only sort of motor allowed on these pristine lakes. Schluchsee, the largest lake, is a playground for water-sports enthusiasts and has a lakeside path for walking and cycling. Youngsters love the Aqua Fun leisure park with its 350-foot/105 m long giant waterslide. In the northern Black Forest is the mysterious Mummelsee, the legendary home of a watersprite (Nix), the region's answer to the Loch Ness Monster! Walk around it, or cross it on a pedalo.



TIP

The **SchwarzwaldCard** provides free admission to more than 100 destinations and attractions throughout the region, including museums, cable-cars, boat trips, and spa resorts. www.blackforest-tourism.com



GLORIOUS LAKE CONSTANCE

Known as the Bodensee in German, Lake Constance is one of Europe's most beautiful lakes. To the south are the snow-tipped Swiss Alps; on the north side, in SouthWest Germany, are orchards, vineyards and photogenic villages. Only 40 miles/63 km long, the lake is one big natural playground: cycle around it; swim in it; cruise on it; walk along its shoreline.

Cycling round Lake Constance

Nice and flat, the shoreline of the lake is ideal for a vacation on two wheels. The Bodensee-Radweg is a wide, well-marked path, almost entirely separate from cars. Although the lake is shared by Germany, Austria and Switzerland, crossing from country to country is seamless and easy. You can cycle all round the lake or base yourself in an historic city, such as Konstanz, in an ancient town like Meersburg, or perhaps in Langenargen, a village known for sailing. Pedal off during the day and return to base aboard one of the regular ferries.



Ferry nice!

The best way to appreciate the natural beauty surrounding Lake Constance is from the deck of a boat. And nothing could be easier, as the network of ferries provides regular connections between communities large and small. Some are speedy; others are more leisurely, with stops along the way, so you can relax over coffee and cake. There are also many themed cruises: fondue, jazz or gourmet lunches and dinners. At night, with a full moon, romance is guaranteed!



Sailing and canoeing on Lake Constance

Many communities have busy marinas, so the lake is regularly dotted with sails during summer regattas and sailing competitions. For families, small resorts such as Immenstaad offer a host of water-based activities, including supervised sailing lessons for children and canoe tours. www.immenstaad-tourismus.de



Swimming in Lake Constance

Lake Constance could well be the cleanest lake of its size in Europe. In summer, locals swim not just at weekends; they head for the lake during lunch breaks and after work. All along the shore are grassy parks, small beaches and lidos where visitors can also enjoy swimming and sunbathing on what is known as the German Riviera!



SOMEWHERE SPECIAL

Minutes from Konstanz and reached by a causeway is the island of Mainau, a garden lover's paradise. Surrounding the 13th-century Baroque palace, palm house and butterfly house, one of Europe's finest gardens boasts exotic trees, flowers and shrubs from all over the world. Magical at any time of year, the blooms are always spectacular in spring, summer and autumn, while many of the trees are at least 150 years old. www.mainau.de

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Off the tourist trail

Stuttgart and Heidelberg, the Black Forest and Lake Constance: SouthWest Germany's main attractions are famous around the world. But there is much more to this region. After all, it is the third largest German Federal state! Here are just two areas well worth exploring.

Swabian Mountains

To the southeast of Stuttgart, the green, unspoiled Swabian Mountains stretch for 125 miles (200 km). A major draw is the caves, with their stalactites and stalagmites. Two of the most accessible are near Bad Urach. The Bear Cave (Bärenhöhle) gave shelter to prehistoric rhinos, cave lions and, of course, bears; the beautifully illuminated Mist Cave (Nebelhöhle) was a hideout for an exiled duke 400 years ago. Add in two spectacular meteorite craters and you can see why this area is special – so special that UNESCO has designated it as a Biosphere Reserve.



As ever in SouthWest Germany, it is easy to explore on foot or two wheels. For hikers, the hidden secret is the Traufgänge, seven trails designed for one-day hikes, ranging from 6–10 miles/9–17 miles, with views of natural wonders as well as castles. For cyclists, the pretty Donau-Radweg, the Danube Cycle Path, runs for 120 miles/190 km from Donaueschingen, the source of the river, to Ulm. Sights along the way include Beuron, with its Baroque church, and Schloss Sigmaringen, an impressive castle dating back to the 13th century. In Erbach, the moated palace stands above the town, while photogenic Ulm is a must for its half-timbered Fishermen's/Tanners' Quarter and Minster, with the world's tallest church steeple.



Northern Baden-Württemberg

North of Stuttgart are half a dozen regions with long names but their own individual character: visit one or visit them all. The Palatinate (Kurpfalz) is perfect for soft adventure: cruising on the Rhine and Neckar Rivers or cycling through the asparagus fields in early summer on the Neckar Valley Cycle Trail (Neckartal-Radweg). By contrast, the Odenwald is a mix of woods and valleys, villages and farms. This has long been a favorite getaway for hikers, who stop to pick wild strawberries, blueberries and mushrooms.



Heilbronn County (HeilbronnerLand) is Germany's leading producer of red wine, so join locals in sipping the popular Lemberger, made from late-ripening grapes. While touring, you can't miss the Imperial Palace of Bad Wimpfen, standing high above the Neckar River.

In Kraichgau-Stromberg, the Auto & Technik Museum Sinsheim and Maulbronn Monastery are well-known. But the region nicknamed "The Land of 1,000 Hills" also has vineyards, orchards, spas – and Eppingen, whose half-timbered houses are worth a detour.

Hohenlohe is a land of rolling hills and quiet valleys, but its towns are also worth visiting. Schwäbisch Hall has Celtic and Roman history, plus impressive half-timbered buildings and a handsome

DID YOU KNOW?

SouthWest Germany averages more than 1,700 hours of sunshine each year: that's why we are the sunny side of Germany! As for the name, Baden and Württemberg were once separate states, but joined together in 1952. So, in English, we call ourselves SouthWest Germany to make it easier!
www.tourism-bw.com



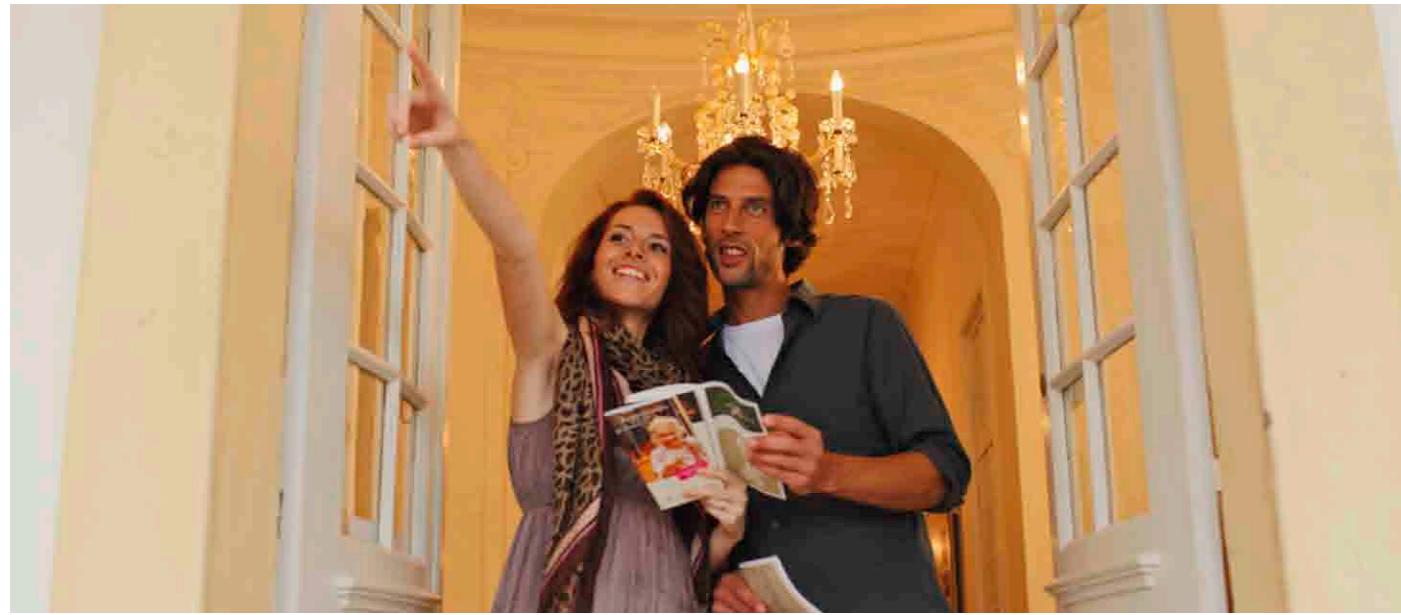
CULTURE & TRADITION

Living heritage – The past is part of the present in SouthWest Germany. Locals live in half-timbered houses and meet friends in century-old taverns; they love the rhythm of the seasons, eating asparagus in spring and game in the fall. They wear traditional dress to weddings and play instruments in local bands. They enjoy concerts and wine festivals, Christmas markets and more.

Why not join them?



GREAT MUSEUMS



In SouthWest Germany, you are never far from a museum. And, not just any museum, but some of Europe's best. From medieval paintings to cuckoo clocks and from contemporary art to jewelry, the range is astonishing.

Stuttgart

Old Masters and giants of the 20th century make the State Art Gallery (Staatsgalerie) one of the finest collections in Europe. Contrast Canaletto, Rembrandt and Rubens with Cézanne, Monet and Matisse. Add in American stars, such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol, and this is a must for any art lover. Nearby, in a futuristic building that looks like a giant glass box, the Stuttgart Art Museum (Kunstmuseum Stuttgart) is devoted to contemporary art. Works by Otto Dix are focus of the permanent collection.
www.staatsgalerie.de
www.kunstmuseum-stuttgart.de



Karlsruhe

One of Germany's best and oldest museums, the State Art Gallery (Staatliche Kunsthalle) provides an overview of European art, from works by Dürer and Cranach to French super-stars of the 19th century, such as Manet and Monet, Cézanne and Gauguin.
www.museum-frieder-burda.de



Baden-Baden

In a striking modern building designed by New York architect Richard Meier, the Museum Frieder Burda focuses on Classical Modernism, encompassing late works by Picasso, as well as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and more.
www.museum-frieder-burda.de

Mannheim

Now over 100 years old, the Mannheim Art Gallery (Kunsthalle Mannheim) is devoted to modern and contemporary art, ranging from Courbet and Chagall to Henry Moore and Richard Long.
www.kunsthalle-mannheim.de

Tübingen

A cutting-edge gallery set against the backdrop of this medieval city, the glass and steel Tübingen Art Gallery (Kunsthalle Tübingen) puts on exhibitions that surprise and even shock.
www.kunsthalle-tuebingen.de

TIP

In the very south of SouthWest Germany is the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, dedicated to design, both past and present.
www.design-museum.de



WORLD CLASS MUSIC

Spend time travelling in SouthWest Germany and music is everywhere. The region is famous for having some of Europe's finest opera houses and concert halls. But music is in the blood; everyone seems to sing or play an instrument. So, it's no surprise that you can listen to music in churches and taverns, in historic monasteries and outdoors on warm summer evenings.

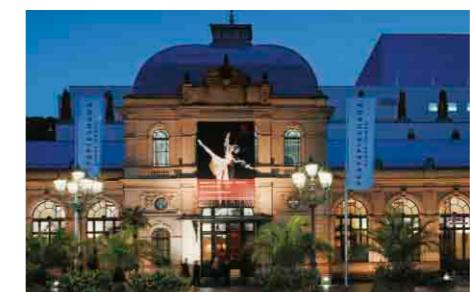
Stuttgart

The Stuttgart State Theater (Staatstheater Stuttgart) is the largest theater of its kind in Europe. The handsome 100-year-old building, with its impressive columns and excellent acoustic, is home to opera, drama and ballet. Voted Opera House of the Year six times, it also attracts ballet aficionados from around the world. They book up to see the Stuttgart Ballet, famed for its polished productions in the tradition of the legendary John Cranko.
www.staatstheater-stuttgart.com



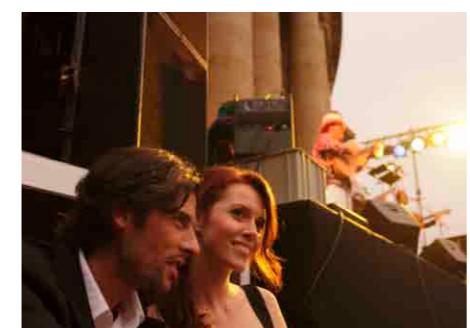
Baden-Baden

Since opening in 1998, Baden-Baden's Festival Theater (Festspielhaus) has hosted world-class opera and classical concerts, with legendary international stars. The building itself is intriguing, as it incorporates what was once the city's railway station; and, with 2,500 seats, it is one of Europe's largest. The four seasonal festivals include opera, classical concerts and ballet; and 2013 sees the famed Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra take up residency for the annual Easter festival. Also on offer in Baden-Baden are popular music and shows – not just in this theater, but also in the legendary Kurhaus. Here, the elegance of the 1820s provides a backdrop to entertainment, from classical recitals to pop music and film festivals.
www.festspielhaus.de
www.kurhauscasino.de



Mannheim

This city has played a major role in Germany's cultural history. In the 18th-century, the city was home to the Mannheim School of classical composers that introduced innovative orchestral techniques. The National Theater, with a history stretching back more than 225 years, is part of that cultural heritage. For example, Schiller's first major play, Die Räuber (The Robbers) was first performed here in 1782. Today, the program includes opera, concerts, ballet, and drama. In 2013, for example, a major highlight is the complete performance of a new production of the Ring Cycle (Der Ring des Nibelungen) to celebrate Richard Wagner's 200th birthday.
www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de



Ulm

The Minster (Münster) is much more than the church with the world's tallest spire. It also hosts concerts featuring what was once the world's largest organ. And, it was played by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1763. The Sunday morning concerts (11.30 am, May to September, December) are a tradition, and an excellent way to appreciate the grandeur of the building.
www.ulmer-muenster.de

Schwäbisch Hall

In SouthWest Germany, the glorious summer evenings are perfect for enjoying concerts and operetta. In the historic old town of Schwäbisch Hall, for example, the 53 broad stone steps in front of St. Michael's Church serve as a stage for actors, with the audience seated in the market place. Most of the performances are in German, but some – such as "My Fair Lady" – are particularly enjoyable for international visitors.
www.schwaebischhall.de

DID YOU KNOW?

It's not just classical music that is popular throughout SouthWest Germany. One of Germany's top pop bands is from Mannheim. Called Söhne Mannheims (Sons of Mannheim), this multi-ethnic band is unusually large, with 14 musicians, 7 of whom were founding members.
www.soehne-mannheims.de

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

To be included on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value. Germany has more than 60 UNESCO Sites, but the country's very first, back in 1993, was Maulbronn Monastery, right here in SouthWest Germany. Today, SouthWest Germany boasts four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Expected to be added soon are Heidelberg Castle and Old Town, as well as Schwetzingen, the Prince Elector's Summer Residence, with its garden design and Freemasonry connections.



Limes Roman defences

Two thousand years ago, the Limes wall marked the northern border of the Roman Empire. Some 350 miles/550 km ran through SouthWest Germany, where you can still see stone walls and watchtowers. The country's largest Roman museum – in what was the largest Roman cavalry fort north of the Alps – tells the story of life under the Romans. "Limes" (pronounced Lee-mez) means "border fortification" in Latin.

50 miles/80 km east of Stuttgart.

www.limesmuseum.de

The Monastic Island of Reichenau

Only 3 miles/5 km long, this tiny island on Lake Constance is notable for its Benedictine Monastery. Founded in 724, it became one of the great medieval intellectual and cultural centers of Europe. There are also three village churches, as remarkable for their early medieval architecture as for their wall paintings. Get to the island by boat or by causeway, then take time to walk or cycle. The island is also known for its excellent vegetables.

www.reichenau.de



Maulbronn Monastery

This former Cistercian abbey is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval monasteries. The 850-year-old complex ranges from Romanesque to late Gothic, all under one roof. Outstanding are the abbey church with its Romanesque screen, 13th-century porch, choir stalls (1450) and 15th century vaulting. 45 minutes northwest of Stuttgart.

www.maulbronn.de

FAIRYTALE CASTLES, ROMANTIC PALACES

SouthWest Germany is a land of castles. Large or small, menacing or elegant, each has a story to tell. From the fortresses (Burg or Festung) of the Middle Ages to the elaborate palaces (Palais or Schloss) that were statements of wealth in later centuries, these time machines take you back to days gone by. Many are under the umbrella organization, the State Palaces and Gardens of Baden-Württemberg. The Castle Road (Burgenstrasse) links castles in several countries; follow the route in SouthWest Germany for a vacation to remember!

www.schloesser-und-gaerten.de/en
www.burgenstrasse.de



Hohenzollern Castle (Burg Hohenzollern)

Set on an imposing rock that commands the landscape, this neo-Gothic castle is the ancestral seat of the Prussian Royal House and of the Hohenzollern Princes, who ruled from here for 500 years. And it is still their home! Most impressive is the 125-year-old Crown of Wilhelm II, King of Prussia, with its huge sapphire, diamond-studded cross and 142 rose-cut diamonds.

www.burg-hohenzollern.com

Heidelberg Castle (Schloss Heidelberg)

One of Germany's best-known landmarks, this partly-ruined castle started out as a fortress some 700 years ago. In the 16th century, a grand residence in the Renaissance style was added. Today, the atmosphere of the past remains; special events include the annual illuminations and fireworks, as well as the open-air plays and concerts during the Castle Festival (Schlossfestspiele). Visit to see the world's biggest wine barrel, the German apothecary museum and the fine 400-year-old formal gardens.

www.schloss-heidelberg.de

Meersburg's Castle and Palace (Burg und Neues Schloss Meersburg)

You can't miss the craggy Old Castle (Alte Burg) that stands guard over Meersburg on Lake Constance. The oldest inhabited castle in Germany, its Medieval Museum has an armory collection dating back 500 years. By contrast, the pink-walled New Castle (Neues Schloss) reflects the elegant style of the 18th century. Once the seat of the Prince-Bishops, its displays include antique furniture, paintings and porcelain; concerts are a highlight in summer.

www.meersburg.de



Ludwigsburg Palace (Schloss Ludwigsburg)

Built for the royal family of Württemberg 300 years ago, this is one of the largest Baroque palaces in Germany. There is much to see: the Porcelain Museum, the Fashion Museum (18th century to the present day), the Baroque Gallery (17th and 18th-century paintings) and the private apartment, with its sumptuous original furnishings. In the gardens, Favorite and Monrepos are mini-palaces that were just for parties.

20 minutes north of Stuttgart.
www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de

Bruchsal Palace (Schloss Bruchsal)

The richly gilded stucco ornamentation recalls the glamour of the early 18th century. Designed by Balthasar Neumann, the star architect of his day, a highlight is the famous staircase with its three-dimensional effect. Carefully restored after damage in World War II, this Baroque complex was the home of prince-bishops, with 50 lavish buildings. One houses a museum devoted to a wide range of fun music boxes and other mechanical musical instruments (Deutsches Musikautomaten-Museum).

www.schloss-bruchsal.de



LIKE SHOPPING? LOVE OUTLET CITY!

International fashion labels. Famous designers. Lifestyle accessories. Attractive prices. TAX FREE Shopping. Architectural highlights. Excellent cuisine. Loving childcare.

UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Metzingen, 30 km south of Stuttgart, with its world famous OUTLET CITY is like no other. Here shopping is not simulated on green fields outside town, but a real urban shopping and lifestyle experience.

INTERNATIONAL BRAND PORTFOLIO

OUTLET CITY METZINGEN offers a unique aggregation of factory outlets of over 60 international top brands, mostly in spacious flagship stores, with year-round price reductions of 30 – 70%*.

INTERNATIONALLY POPULAR SHOPPING DESTINATION

Its reputation as one of Europe's leading factory outlet locations has already spread around the world. Every year over three and a half million visitors from all over the world make the town one of the most important international shopping destinations. Tradition of the town as a centre for textiles and the home of the Hugo Boss brand meet contemporary issues: architecture, fashion, design, lifestyle, culture and cuisine.

TOURISTIC ATTRACTION

The historical town of Metzingen, surrounded by a picturesque landscape of vineyards, forests and orchards, is as original and traditional as OUTLET CITY is

future oriented. Visitors constantly move in an exciting contrast between small country town idyll and the cosmopolitan shopping flair. Here, winemaking traditions and protected buildings that have been carefully restored. There, spacious architecture, fashionable restaurants and visitors from afar with high demands when it comes to consumption and lifestyle.

FAVOURABLE LOCATION

The Stuttgart Trade Fair Centre and the international airport are only a stone's throw away. From there the OUTLET CITY METZINGEN Shopping Shuttle will take tourists straight to Metzingen. The town is also connected to the German railway network and has an excellent location close to main roads and motorways.

For more information see
www.outletcity.com



GERMANY'S BEST SHOPPING

CHIC CITY STORES

The downtown heart of each city in SouthWest Germany has been pedestrianized, making shopping a pleasure for visitors and locals alike.

Stuttgart

Take time to walk the length of Königstrasse, the country's longest shopping street, and then check out the luxurious Breuninger department store and Stiftstrasse, with Diesel, Louis Vuitton and more.

Baden-Baden

In this sophisticated city, shops are elegant and classy. Fashion, jewelry and more tempt shoppers in the Kurhaus Colonnade.

Mannheim

The wide choice includes individual stores and popular names; good shopping haunts are Breite Strasse and the pedestrianized Planken.

Karlsruhe

For department stores and familiar brands, walk the long length of the Kaiserstrasse.

Heidelberg

The Hauptstrasse is one of Europe's most attractive streets, but smaller lanes, such as Untere Strasse, have unusual shops – from antiques to avant-garde fashion.

SHOPPING VILLAGES

SouthWest Germany has a long tradition of making textiles and is the nucleus of factory outlet shopping in Europe.

Outletcity Metzingen

This modern "outlet village" offers 60 international brands, from Burberry, Escada and Max Mara to Polo Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger. And also Hugo Boss, which opened Germany's first factory outlet here in 1972. 30 minutes south of Stuttgart
www.outletcity.com

Wertheim Village Outlet

Discounts of up to 60% are available at 110 stylish shops, such as Aigner and Bally, Stefanel and Versace. 2 hours north of Stuttgart.
www.wertheimvillage.com

WMF Outlet, Geislingen

WMF is synonymous with stylish, well-made cutlery, but the company also produces quality wine glasses and kitchenware. Substantial discounts make their outlet store very popular. 1 hour southeast of Stuttgart.
www.fabrikverkaeufe-geislingen.de

From specialist boutiques and department stores to international names and home-grown designers, SouthWest Germany is a great shopping destination. Many cities have pedestrianized centers that make shopping particularly enjoyable. There are bargains galore in the outlet stores, while the annual Christmas markets (November/December) are perfect for gifts and ornaments. As for souvenirs, what could be better than taking home something made right here in SouthWest Germany?

MADE IN SOUTHWEST GERMANY

As well as making luxury cars, SouthWest Germany has a long tradition of handmade crafts that are equally appreciated around the world, from teddy bears to chocolate. Visit the factories; buy authentic souvenirs.

Steiff Teddy Bears

Buy them at the company headquarters in Giengen an der Brenz, near Ulm.
www.steiff.com

Cuckoo Clocks

For five generations, cuckoo clocks have been hand-made at Hubert Herr in Triberg, Black Forest.
www.hubertherr.de

Christmas Decorations

Available all over the region, but especially in the Black Forest.
www.blackforest-tourism.com

Jewelry

At Schmuckwelten in Pforzheim, watch modern jewelry being made by craftsmen and women – and then buy their work.
www.schmuckwelten.de

Square Chocolate

Ritter Sport's square packet must be the world's most familiar chocolate bar – and, this toothsome treat has been made in SouthWest Germany for 100 years! Just south of Stuttgart, visit the CHOCOSHOP in Waldenbuch, where there is also the stylish MUSEUM RITTER, dedicated to square works of art.
www.ritter-sport.com



THE HOME OF THE AUTOMOBILE



Mercedes-Benz Museum, Stuttgart

With its dramatic architecture, this museum is definitely cool. Far more than just the story of a brand, it covers the 125-year story of the automobile. Starting on the top floor, the exhibition covers social history as well as design – past, present and future. Among the more than 160 vehicles are the legendary Silver Arrow and the Millipede, the LP 333 pickup truck. As you'd expect, there are great souvenirs in the gift shop and a classy restaurant.

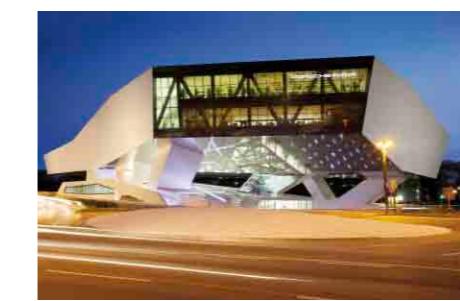
www.mercedes-benz-classic.com



Porsche Museum, Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen

One of Germany's newest museums is a glamorous showcase for some 80 models, from sleek racing designs to sports cars. Each fan has a favorite – perhaps the legendary 356 "No. 1" Roadster of 1948; or the 917/20 Coupé, nicknamed the Pink Pig. Look through the windows to the Museum Workshop, where master mechanics and specialists work on classic models. With a gift shop full of Porsche memorabilia and a gourmet restaurant, this makes a great day out.

www.porsche.com/museum



Hockenheim Race Track (Hockenheimring)

In alternate years, this 80-year-old track hosts Formula 1 Grand Prix races. But the museum, with its racing cars, motorbikes and engines, is open every day. You can even drive your own car round the circuit! Or sit alongside a professional driver in a high-performance sports car, nicknamed a Race Taxi.

www.hockenheimring.net

Auto & Technik Museum Sinsheim

Only here can you go aboard both a Concorde and a Russian Tupolev Tu-144. But, this museum has some 3,000 exhibits. Highlights include 1950s American Dream Cars, the largest permanent Formula One collection in Europe and the Blue Flame, the world land speed record holder from 1970 to 1983. Between Mannheim and Heilbronn.

www.sinsheim.technik-museum.de

Dr Carl Benz Auto Museum, Ladenburg

Near Mannheim, what was once the small Benz factory is now a museum. The star attraction is the 1888 Model III Motorwagen, the world's oldest car.

www.automuseum-ladenburg.de

Technoseum, Mannheim

The car, the bicycle and the tractor were all perfected in Mannheim – and the stories are told here.

www.technoseum.de

DID YOU KNOW?

The success of the automobile was furthered by Carl Benz's wife, Bertha. With her husband getting little commercial reward for his invention, she showed how reliable the car could be. In 1888, she drove from Mannheim to Pforzheim in the Patent Motorwagen No.3. Recreate that first long-distance return trip by following the 120-mile/215 km Bertha Benz Memorial Route.

www.bertha-benz.de



WINE & DINE

In SouthWest Germany, eating and drinking well is part of everyday life. At the top level, the restaurants are among the world's best, representing about a quarter of German's Michelin-starred establishments (some 60). That's more than any other region! But, there are good places to eat at all price levels. Add in some of Europe's finest wines and beers and you can see why locals enjoy meeting up in taverns, cafés and restaurants.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD



Follow the Michelin men – and women!

In 2013, the first woman in Germany to receive a second Michelin star was Douce Steiner, who runs the Restaurant Hirschen in Sulzburg, in the Black Forest. But, the region boasts a total of 28 stars, making it one of Europe's best gourmet destinations. And these classy restaurants are not just in the cities. In the pretty Black Forest, the village of Baiersbronn has 7 stars: Harald Wohlfahrt has three at the Hotel Traube Tonbach; also awarded three is Claus-Peter Lumpp at Restaurant Bareiss; while Jörg Sackmann at Restaurant Schlossberg has one star.

Fresh and local

Eating locally and fresh is normal, with markets full of seasonal, often organic, produce. From mid-April to June 24, for example, the emphasis is on asparagus. Drive the Baden Asparagus Route (Badische Spargelstrasse); join in the fun of asparagus festivals; eat fresh asparagus in wayside inns.



Black Forest Cake (Schwarzwälder Kirschertorte)

To appreciate why this treat is world famous, eat it in the Black Forest. The authentic version has fresh thick cream, seriously dark chocolate and Kirsch, or cherry schnapps, made from locally picked Morello cherries. Perfect with coffee!

SouthWest Germany specialties

Everyday favorites include...

- Schwarzwälder Schinken smoked Black Forest ham
- Zwiebelrostbraten rib-eye steak with crispy onions
- Kässpätzle cheesy pasta
- Maultaschen Swabian-style ravioli, filled with meat, onions, spinach
- Spätzle delicate egg noodle

WINE COUNTRY ...

Light, lively and fruity, SouthWest Germany's wines are easy to appreciate. And they are high quality: Germany's 2013 winemaker of the year comes from Ihringen, near Freiburg. Joachim Heger grows the region's classic grapes for his award-winning wines: Riesling, Grauburgunder (pinot gris), Weissburgunder (pinot blanc), Silvaner and Spätburgunder (pinot noir).

... AND BEER COUNTRY

Beer is also taken very seriously in SouthWest Germany, with the best brews conforming to Germany's age-old purity laws – using just hops, malt, water and no additives. Small, local breweries are everywhere. In late September/mid-October, the 200-year-old Stuttgart Beer Festival is the second largest in Germany.



VEGETARIANS WELCOME

With fruit, salads and vegetables grown in the region, vegetarian options are available on all menus. Larger cities have a wide range of international dining, such as Italian, Greek, Spanish and French restaurants, as well as popular Middle Eastern, South Asian and Far Eastern establishments. And, freshly-baked breads are delicious. Look for pumpkin seed bread (Kürbiskernbrot), multi-grain (Mehrkornbrot), whole-grain (Vollkornbrot) or rye and wheat (Roggenmischbrot).

ATMOSPHERIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS



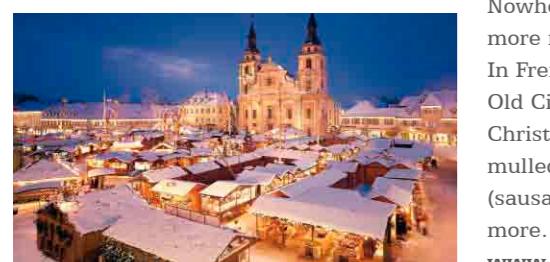
SouthWest Germany's most famous festivals must be the Christmas Markets (Weihnachtsmarkt) during Advent. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, snow frosts the landscape, making it look like a Christmas card come to life. In villages, towns and cities, carols are sung and decorations hung. Most Christmas markets begin during the last week of November and are open daily until Christmas Eve. As well as for visitors, they are popular with locals, who meet up with friends for Bratwurst (hot sausages) and Glühwein (mulled wine). It's all guaranteed to put you in a holiday mood!

Stuttgart

The setting is perfect – the Old Castle, the church towers and the New Castle. First recorded back in 1692, the Stuttgarter Weihnachtsmarkt is one of Germany's most famous and largest pre-Christmas events. In the old streets, the air is filled with the scent of pine branches and spices: cloves, vanilla and cinnamon. Some 200 wooden stalls display wares, from hand-made Christmas tree decorations to angels. www.stuttgart-tourist.com

Ludwigsburg

In the town with one of Europe's finest Baroque palaces, the theme is 100 per cent Baroque. The Baroque Christmas Market has 170 Baroque-style stalls on the Baroque market square. Floating above this cheerful scene are giant angels, with glittering golden wings. For many locals, this is SouthWest Germany's prettiest market. www.ludwigsburg.de



NOT FORGETTING....

Karlsruhe

As well as splendidly decorated wooden stalls, the annual Christmas market draws young and old for concerts, nativity plays and one of Germany's largest open-air ice-rinks, lit up at night. www.karlsruhe-tourismus.de

Gengenbach

The 24 windows of the 18th-century town hall are transformed into the world's biggest Advent calendar. Southwest of Stuttgart, in the Black Forest. www.stadt-gengenbach.de

Heidelberg

As well as the markets in the Old Town, the Castle stages two atmospheric, medieval events on 12 days in December. www.schloss-heidelberg.de

Tübingen

In early December, this historic town celebrates winter with a six-day ChocolART Festival, devoted to chocolate, chocolate, and more chocolate: pralines and truffles, beer pairing with chocolate, cooking with chocolate, even chocolate massages! 45 minutes south of Stuttgart. www.chocolart.de

MUSIC FESTIVALS



Throughout the year, SouthWest Germany offers a wide range of high-quality music, from intimate chamber concerts to grand opera. Every town seems to have an orchestra, but the world-class festivals feature the world's finest musicians and conductors. Some are indoors in buildings with renowned acoustics; others are romantic open-air events on warm summer evenings. Not forgetting operettas and musicals, jazz and popular music. Our tip? Make reservations ahead of time!

Baden-Baden

With 2,500 seats, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden is Europe's second-largest opera house. Combining the palatial façade of the former railroad station with a modern glass extension, this glamorous facility has outstanding acoustics for opera, concerts and ballet, offering more than 300 top class events annually. Eagerly awaited is the Easter Festival, featuring the world's finest orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic. This is in addition to the four regular week-long seasonal festivals: Summer (early July), Autumn (early October), Winter (mid-January), and the Herbert von Karajan Whitsun Festival (late May-early June). www.festspielhaus.de



Schwetzingen

From late April to early June, the Schwetzingen Festival fills the 250-year-old Schwetzingen Palace with music – as it has done for 60 years. Opera and classical music are on the program; revivals of long-forgotten works are balanced by brand-new operas. Just outside Heidelberg. www.schloss-schwetzingen.de

Maulbronn Monastery

The summer concerts (Klosterkonzerte Maulbronn) at this UNESCO World Heritage Site are known for their quality. Listen to classical music in the church, the refectory and the cloister garden. There are some 30 concerts between May and September. 1 hour northwest of Stuttgart. www.klosterkonzerte.de

Heidenheim

The dramatic towers of Hellenstein Castle are the backdrop for opera during the Heidenheim Opera Festival (Opernfestspiele Heidenheim) in June-July. Since 1985, it has attracted international soloists for performances, such as Tosca, Fidelio and La Traviata. 40 minutes north of Ulm. www.opernfestspiele.de

DID YOU KNOW?

SouthWest Germany's talented musicians perform more than just classical concerts. The Youth Jazz Orchestra of Baden-Württemberg is rated as Germany's best jazz youth orchestra. Founded 30 years ago, the band has a talented line up of under-25 musicians that love to swing! www.jugendjazzorchester.de



**THE SUNNY
SIDE OF
GERMANY.**
**BADEN-
WÜRTTEMBERG**

WELCOME TO SUNNY SOUTHWEST GERMANY

With four fabulous seasons, there's always a right time to visit one of Europe's most popular holiday destinations. In sunny summer, explore the romantic Black Forest; in autumn, watch grapes being picked for award-winning wines; in winter, shop at Christmas markets in medieval towns; in spring, photograph gardens ablaze with flowers and blossom. And everywhere is so close: tour historic Heidelberg castle and Stuttgart's glamorous palace; enjoy Baden-Baden's elegant spas and casino; watch the sunset on Lake Constance; ride the rollercoasters at Europa-Park Rust.

We are just a click away: www.tourism-bw.com

**THE SUNNY
SIDE OF
GERMANY.**
**BADEN-
WÜRTTEMBERG**

www.tourism-bw.com
info@tourismus-bw.de



SOUTHWEST GERMANY'S WORLD-CLASS SPAS

SouthWest Germany has 57 spa centers, more than any other region in Germany. But these spas offer much more than just pampering. For centuries, the region's 37 hot mineral springs have provided a powerful, yet natural, way to heal and revitalize. And in SouthWest Germany, spas are graded; rather like hotels, they are given a star rating, which guarantees quality.

Wellness Stars in SouthWest Germany

If you want somewhere to unwind and recharge your batteries, SouthWest Germany's health and wellness centers fill the bill, with benefits that last long after you return home. But it is important to choose the right hotels, spas and wellness facilities. Look for the "Wellness Stars" that guarantee the quality of treatments, services and even equipment. Note: towns with Bad in their name are spa towns, with natural springs. Bad means bath!

Wellness Stars are given to hotels with world-class spas.

Spa Wellness Stars (Wellness Stars Therme) are a seal of quality for thermal and mineral baths, as well as public pools and baths.

Medical Wellness Stars are awarded to spas focusing primarily on medical and therapeutic services.

www.wellness-stars.de

Where to go

One of Europe's most famous spa resorts is elegant Baden-Baden, where you can soak in the purest water in two luxurious spas: the historic Friedrichsbad, with its 16-stage cleansing treatment, and the contemporary Caracalla Spa. And, of course, there are also treatments for beauty and relaxation.

What makes the town of Bad Dürkheim special is its saltwater – and also its healthy hill climate. Between Heidelberg and Karlsruhe is Bad Schönborn, where the Thermarium spa uses salt and brine for its special treatments. By contrast, Bad Wurzach in Upper Swabia is known for its "black gold." That's what they call the special warm mud used in treatments that are a real treat for your skin!

Elsewhere, natural and traditional therapies range from hay baths to vinotherapy, where they use grapes from the region's famous vineyards. But, whatever you choose, SouthWest Germany's spas offer a whole range of beauty treatments and relaxation therapies that promote wellbeing for both body and mind.

World-class medical expertise

More and more visitors are coming to SouthWest Germany to consult with the world-class doctors and to visit hospitals in Baden-Baden and Stuttgart, as well as the university hospitals. In Heidelberg, for example, world-renowned experts provide comprehensive care to the highest international standards in all medical specialties.

As well as treating patients with complex and severe diseases, the hospital also develops new methods for diagnosis and treatment, working with researchers from world-class institutions, such as the German Cancer Research Centre.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the American writer Mark Twain visited Baden-Baden in 1878, he visited the famous hot mineral springs, and was soon cured of his rheumatism. In his travelogue, *A Tramp Abroad*, he recalled: "At Friedrichsbad, you lose track of time within 10 minutes and track of the world within 20..."



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RESORT

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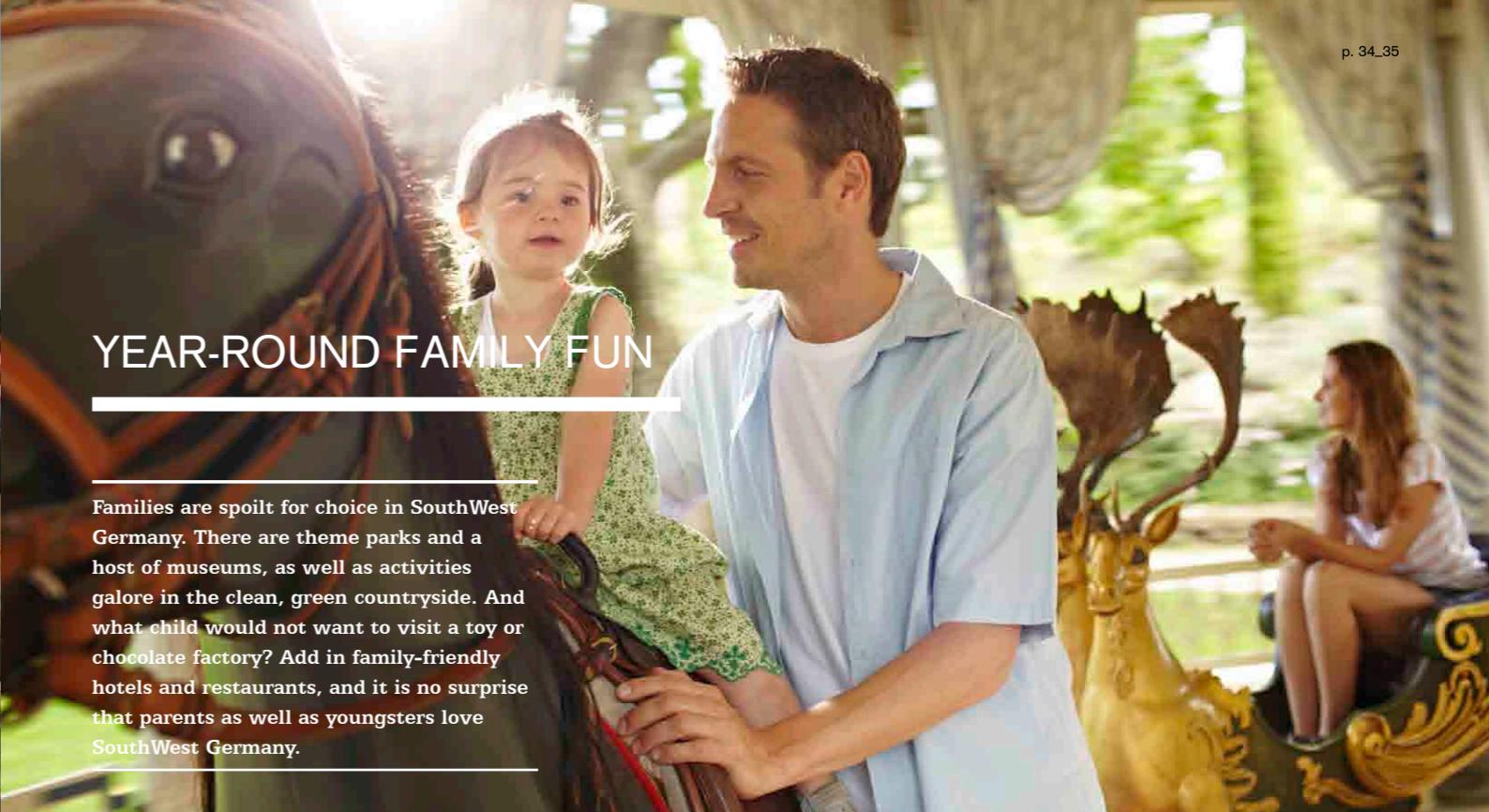
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*Reservation via your travel agency or directly at the Europa-Park hotels



YEAR-ROUND FAMILY FUN

Families are spoilt for choice in SouthWest Germany. There are theme parks and a host of museums, as well as activities galore in the clean, green countryside. And what child would not want to visit a toy or chocolate factory? Add in family-friendly hotels and restaurants, and it is no surprise that parents as well as youngsters love SouthWest Germany.

Europa-Park

Nearly 5 million visitors a year can't be wrong: Germany's biggest theme park is one of Europe's best! Among the 100 attractions are Europe's tallest roller-coaster and WODAN – Timburcoaster, the newest thrill ride. The 17 themed areas include recreations of 13 countries, from Iceland to Greece. There are daily parades, street entertainers and even gladiatorial combat. Stay on property at a four-star hotel with a Spanish or New England theme, and the fun never ends. At Rust, near Freiburg.
www.europapark.de

Tripsdrill Adventure Park

At Germany's oldest amusement park, the scariest of the 100 rides and attractions is Mammut, a wooden coaster that hurtles through a saw mill at 50 mph/80 kmph. Other adrenaline raising experiences include Europe's tallest log flume ride and river rafting in a giant washtub! Little ones are not forgotten: the duck boat tour and water slide are favorites. Just north of Stuttgart.
www.tripsdrill.de

Ravensburger Spieleland

Variety is the key at this amusement park. Drive a Mini Cooper; train to be a wizard or a circus performer; dig with real diggers at the Fix & Foxi digger pit; and hold on tight at the 4D Action Cinema. More than 50 attractions are inspired by seven themes. Near Lake Constance.
www.spieleland.de



Where learning is fun

In cities, such as Stuttgart, there is plenty for families. Everyone loves the Mercedes-Benz Museum and the impressive Porsche Museum. What's not to like about cars? Easy to get to from the center is the Wilhelma Zoo, the only park in Europe that combines a zoo with botanical gardens – in the grounds of a 19th-century palace! Favorite attractions include the monkey breeding center, and the demonstration farm with its petting zoo.
www.stuttgart-tourist.com

ONE OF A KIND

Teddy bears and chocolate

The Steiff museum covers 130 years of teddy bears – and other stuffed animal toys; you can even see how they are made. In Giengen an der Brenz, near Ulm.
www.steiff.com

Strictly chocolate

The CHOCOEXHIBITION at the Ritter factory tells the story of chocolate: where it comes from, how cocoa is transformed into candy, and how different flavors are created. In Waldenbuch, just south of Stuttgart.
www.ritter-sport.com



Living history

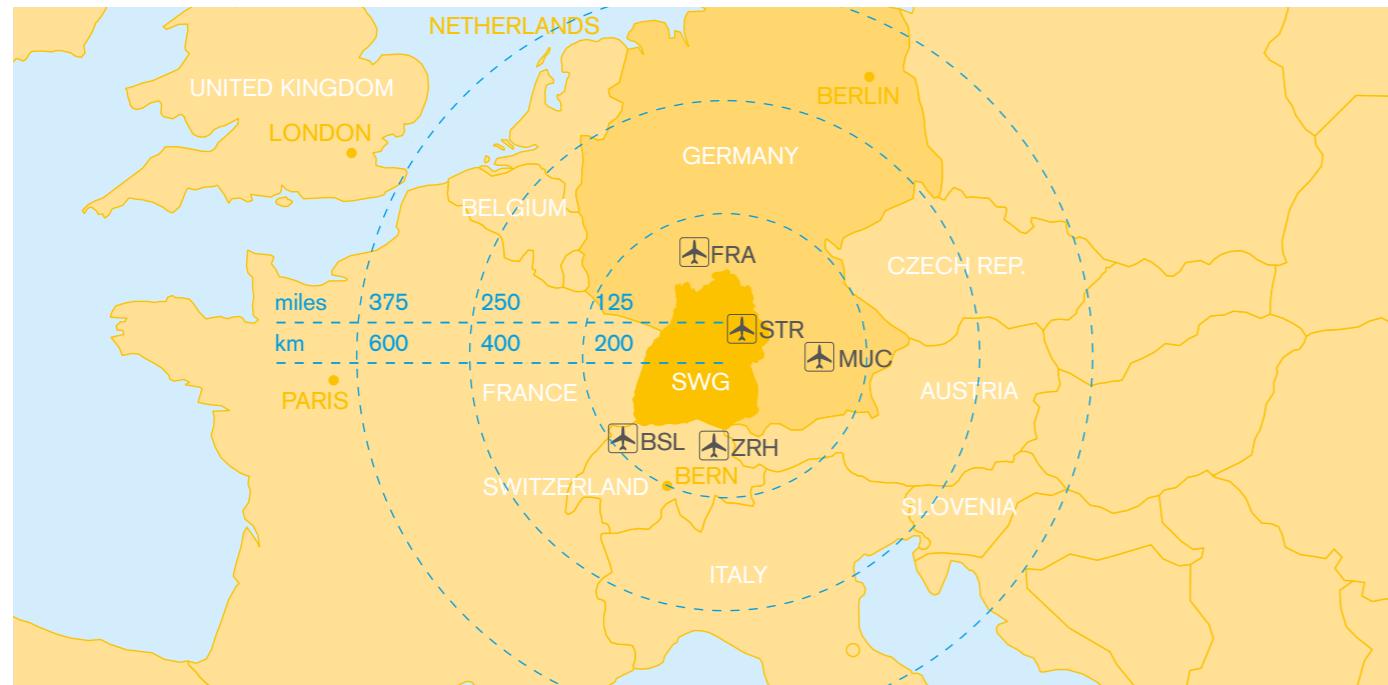
The Black Forest Open Air Museum (Schwarzwälder Freilichtmuseum Vogtsbauernhof) covers 400 years of rural life. Hands-on activities range from making butter and milking cows to roasting coffee.

In Gutach, Black Forest, 1 hour from Freiburg.
en.vogtsbauernhof.org

Time machine

Beuren's Open Air Museum (Freilichtmuseum Beuren) in the Swabian Mountains also covers 400 years of country life. The 20 historic houses and shops were moved here and rebuilt as a community. Grandma's corner shop sells candy; farm animals add to the feeling of yesteryear. In Beuren, 45 minutes from Stuttgart.
www.freilichtmuseum-beuren.de

HOW TO GET HERE



TRANSPORTATION



Getting here by air

Stuttgart Airport (STR) is served by most international airlines, with direct flights from most European cities. From the USA, major airlines provide direct flights to Stuttgart.

www.stuttgart-airport.com

Just north of SouthWest Germany, Frankfurt International (FRA) is one of Europe's largest airports. www.frankfurt-airport.com

SouthWest Germany is also easily accessed via Munich (MUC) in neighboring Bavaria and via Switzerland: EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (BSL) and Zurich (ZRH).

www.munich-airport.com
www.euroairport.com
www.zurich-airport.com

Regional airports with direct connections to the European network include Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden (FKB) and Friedrichshafen (FDH).

www.baden-airpark.de
www.fly-away.de



Getting here by rail

Traveling by train is easy, with the network of comfortable, high-speed "ICE" or InterCity Express trains. These reach speeds of 175 mph (280 kmph) and link main cities in Germany and neighboring countries: Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. For example, the trip from Paris to Stuttgart takes less than four hours! The InterRail pass, one of the best travel bargains in Europe, provides unlimited rail travel in 30 European countries.

www.bahn.com



Getting here by car

Welcome to the open road! There are no toll roads in Germany. The 5,000 miles (8,000 km) of freeways/motorways (Autobahn) provide a network that links to state highways and well-maintained secondary roads. Gas/petrol is more expensive than in the USA, but gas mileage for European cars is higher than in North America. All the major rental car companies are represented, and foreign drivers' licenses (such as US, Australia etc) are accepted for stays of up to one year. Germans, of course, drive on the right.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Visas & passports

For EU citizens, a personal identity card is sufficient. Overseas travelers, such as US citizens, should carry a passport. Children travelling with adults must have their names entered in their parents' passports or have a passport of their own (with a photo if they are over 10 years old).

Time zone

In Germany, clocks are on Central European time, 6 hours ahead of New York and 1 hour ahead of London. The switch to Daylight Savings Time, when the clocks go forward one hour, is on the last Sunday in March. Clocks go back one hour on the last Sunday in October.

What's the weather like?

Summers are pleasantly hot, with temperatures ranging between 72-82°F (22-28°C). Spring and fall temperatures are also comfortable, averaging between 60-72°F (15-22°C). The fall/autumn is a particularly good time to visit; the Indian summer (Altweibersommer) is perfect for sightseeing, hiking and biking. Winter is romantic, with Christmas markets getting everyone into the holiday spirit. In the Black Forest, you can go downhill skiing, boarding and cross-country skiing.

Electrical appliances

The voltage is 220/230V at 50Hz. Germany uses a round two-pin plug and socket system, so a two-pin adapter is needed. These are not readily available in Germany and should be purchased before traveling.

Accommodation and restaurants

With 25,000 hotels and restaurants, SouthWest Germany caters to all income groups. There are five-star hotels with spas and simple bed & breakfasts. In between is an array of family-run inns that are ideal for touring holidays. The same width of choice applies to restaurants, from small restaurants to special occasion places with gourmet cuisines. Whether you want the luxury of an old castle or the simplicity of a campsite, you are guaranteed clean, comfortable accommodation. Prices are reasonable and English is spoken almost everywhere.

MORE INFORMATION

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Baden-Württemberg

MINISTERIUM FÜR LÄNDLICHEN RAUM
UND VERBRAUCHERSCHUTZ

With support from the Baden-Württemberg
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