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
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. But 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 (Staatsbühne 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 (1.2 km); 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 100 glamorous cars.
  - [www.mercedes-benz-classic.com](http://www.mercedes-benz-classic.com)

- **Porsche Museum**
  - One of Germany’s leading-edge museums, showcasing 80 glamorous models.
  - [www.porsche.com/museum](http://www.porsche.com/museum)

- **The Stuttgart State Gallery (Staatsgalerie Stuttgart)**
  - One of Germany’s great art collections: Rembrandt, Picasso, modern works.
  - [www.staatsgalerie.de](http://www.staatsgalerie.de)

### Information

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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 “bath”) 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 Friedrichshof, 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 grand hotels, chic shops, gardens and the 19th-century casino, with its chandeliers, gilt and red velvet. Stroll in the Lichtenaller Allee, a riverside park, and you walk in the footsteps of Queen Victoria, Napoleon III and 19th-century Russian author, Dostoevsky. With its fine acoustics, the Festspielhaus (Europe’s second largest concert hall) stages 300 world-class events every year. Within easy reach are vineyards and wine taverns.

### Highlights

- **Casino**
  - James Bond would feel at home here. Remember to carry your passport.
  - [www.casino-baden-baden.de](http://www.casino-baden-baden.de)

- **The Friedrichshof and Caracalla Spas**
  - The Friedrichshof is a unique experience; the Caracalla has pools ( indoor, outdoor) and treatments.
  - [www.caracalla.de](http://www.caracalla.de)

- **Museum Frieder Burda**
  - Excellent modern art, with works by Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.
  - [www.museum-frieder-burda.de](http://www.museum-frieder-burda.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 “ec-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](http://www.freiburg.de)

- **Augustiner-museum**
  - See centuries-old carved stone statues and stained glass close up.
  - [www.freiburg.de/tourismus](http://www.freiburg.de/tourismus)

- **Museum Frieder Burda**
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  - [www.museum-frieder-burda.de](http://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 from 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 Ion a narrow 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](http://www.schloss-heidelberg.de)

- **The Old Town (Altstadt)**
  - Wander down narrow lanes past old houses, historic churches and coffee houses.
  - [www.heidelberg-tourismus.de](http://www.heidelberg-tourismus.de)

- **Student Jail (Studentenkarzer)**
  - The 500-year-old university jail has its original fixtures and graffiti!
  - [www.heidelberg-tourismus.de](http://www.heidelberg-tourismus.de)

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### Freiburg

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### Highlights

- **Freiburg Cathedral (Freiburger Münster)**
  - In the West porch, spot the carving of the devil, dressed as a knight.
  - [www.freiburg.de](http://www.freiburg.de)

- **Augustiner-museum**
  - See centuries-old carved stone statues and stained glass close up.
  - [www.freiburg.de/tourismus](http://www.freiburg.de/tourismus)
**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 country’s largest Baroque complexes, with the old Schloss Mannheim (Palace) one of the 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.

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**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 “zoo” complex offers everything from World Culture to Photography. www.rem-mannheim.de
- TECHNOSSEUM Learn about SouthWest Germany’s technological and social history. www.technoseum.de

**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 Höhenzwerge.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Museum of Jewelry (Schmuckmuseum)
- Technical Museum (Technisches Museum)
- Worlds of Jewelry (Schmuckwelten)
- Museum of Bread (Museum der Brotkultur)
- Astronomical Clock (Astronomische Uhr)
- Reiss-Engelhorn Museums
- TECHNOSSEUM
- Museum of Minerals (Mineralienmuseum)
- Center for Art and Media Technology (ZKM)
- The practical side of jewelry and jewelry making, under one roof. Fascinating!

**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 array 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 building. 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.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Karlsruhe Palace (Schloss Karlsruhe) Excellent local history museum, with grand views from the top of its tower.
- State Art Gallery (Staatliche Kunsthalle) The collection has German, Dutch and French art from the 14th century to the present.
- Center for Art and Media Technology (ZKM) One of the world’s leading-edge museums; a glimpse of the future – now!
- Water Tower (Wasserturm)
- Technical Museum (Technisches Museum)
- Worlds of Jewelry (Schmuckwelten)
- Museum of Bread (Museum der Brotkultur)
- Astronomical Clock (Astronomische Uhr)
- Reiss-Engelhorn Museums
- TECHNOSSEUM
- Museum of Minerals (Mineralienmuseum)
- The practical side of jewelry and jewelry making, under one roof. Fascinating!

**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!

**INFORMATION**

Ulmer Münster (Ulm Minster)
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

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Ulmer Münster (Ulm Minster)
- Astronomical Clock (Astronomische Uhr)
- Museum of Bread (Museum der Brotkultur)
- Museum of Jewelry (Schmuckmuseum)
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- Museum of Minerals (Mineralienmuseum)
- Center for Art and Media Technology (ZKM)
- The practical side of jewelry and jewelry making, under one roof. Fascinating!

**EINSTEIN!**

Ulm was also the birthplace of Albert Einstein!
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 historic buildings. See the medieval pedestrianized streets are lined with many. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Best trips

Crusoe-tourists Heilbronn or Bad Wimpfen on the Neckar River. www.schiffstours-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 palace. www.wein-villa.de

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 (Hilgen Geist), now the post office; spot the Napoleonic gold eagle on the former historic buildings. South of Baden-Baden.

HIGHLIGHTS

Council Building (Konzilgebäude)
This vast 14th-century warehouse is now a convention center. www.konstanz-konstanz.de

Schaezler: This hall-tempted 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.visitsea-life.com

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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 rooms and music to walk about, this is a lovely way to fly. And it is so quiet! Plan 1,000-2,000 m above the ground and above the shimmering blue of Lake Constance; see the snow-capped Alps to the north and the Lake Constance 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.schiffstours-heilbronn.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 Marillen cherries, Kirschsauser (cherry liqueur) and real cream. You can taste it at a pastry shop/cook (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.schwarzwaldgault.com

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 1979 Mercedes-Benz 280SE or an MG ZS Wizzow. 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 Schwarzwaldstraßen, a scenic road which runs through the Black Forest. www.wien-villa.de

EAT A STAR-STUDED MEAL

When it comes to world-class cuisine, no other village in the world can match Bärenberg in the Black Forest. A center for biking and hiking, Bärenberg also boasts an amazing seven Michelin stars. The French-style guide gives Jörg Sachsmann’s Restaurant Schlossberg in the Hotel Sachsmann one star; rated as three star are Claus-Peter Lampert’s Restaurant Bären in the Hotel Bären and Harald Wohlfahrt’s Restaurant Schwarzwälderleben in the Hotel Traube Todtach. Not only has Wohlfahrt held his three rosettes for 20 years, but he also trained five of Germany’s three-star chefs! www.schwarzwaldgault.com

SLEEP IN A WINE BARREL

In SouthWest Germany, the Ferienhof Wild vineyard in the pretty town of Sasbachwalden in the Black Forest. Taste wines made right at the door. Ferienhof Wild is south of Baden-Baden. When it comes to world-class cuisine, no other village in the world can match Bärenberg in the Black Forest. A center for biking and hiking, Bärenberg also boasts an amazing seven Michelin stars. The French-style guide gives Jörg Sachsmann’s Restaurant Schlossberg in the Hotel Sachsmann one star; rated as three star are Claus-Peter Lampert’s Restaurant Bären in the Hotel Bären and Harald Wohlfahrt’s Restaurant Schwarzwälderleben in the Hotel Traube Todtach. Not only has Wohlfahrt held his three rosettes for 20 years, but he also trained five of Germany’s three-star chefs! www.schwarzwaldgault.com

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 gowns 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

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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-signtposted 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, walk along the Triberg Waterfalls, walk in the unspoiled forest and mountains. Kneuen as a foodie destination, the village of Baiersbronn is surrounded by Gourmet Paths (Geniesserpfad), dotted with wayside huts that serve freshly-prepared dishes.

Cycling and mountain biking

Cycling is a popular way to explore the long, open valleys. Many hotels in the Black Forest offer E-bikes (electric bikes); more than an easy option for going up hills, they enable older or less fit riders to enjoy the glorious landscape. Mountain bikers love what is rated as Germany’s best MTB region; the highlight is a 280-mile/450 km long trail across the Black Forest.

Vineyards and wine

Sunny South/West Germany produces award-winning wines, so you can taste as you hike or bike through the region. The Ortenau Wine Route (Ortenauer Winipfad), for example, is a 75-mile/120 km trail that links picturesque wine villages with historic taverns.

**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/65 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.

**On two feet**

In South/West Germany, walking paths are everywhere. Many are designed to “get away from it all” – but many more are for strolling, perhaps in town, along a lake or in the woods. Friedrichshafen, for example, has half a dozen themed walks. The Lake Constance Trail (Bodenseespfad) leads to the largest conservation area on the lake’s northern shore; the Zeppelin Trail (Zeppelin-Pfad) links 20th century sites, including those related to the airship; and the Ailingen Scenic Path (Panoramaweg Ailingen) delivers panoramic views of the lake and the Alps.

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 Immesenstaud 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 shores are grassy parks, small beaches and lidos where visitors can also enjoy swimming and sunbathing on what is known as the German Riviera!
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 Sigmarin-gen, 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 houses.

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

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?

DID YOU KNOW?

SouthWest Germany averages more than 1,750 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
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 (Staatliche Kunsthalle) one of the finest collections in Europe. Contrast Canaletto and Rembrandt with Rubens and Cézanne, Monet and Gauguin – and from contemporary art to jewelry, the Stuttgart State Art Gallery (Staatliche Kunsthalle) provides an overview of European art, from works by Dürer and Cranach to French super-stars such as Manet and Monet, Cézanne and Gauguin.

**Mannheim**
Since opening in 1998, Baden-Baden’s Festival Theater (Festspielhaus) has hosted world-class opera and classical concerts, with legendary international opera 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.

**Ulm**
The Minster (Münster) is much more than a 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 1793. 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.

**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.

**Schwäbisch Hall**
In SouthWest Germany, the glorious summer evenings are perfect for enjoying concerts and opera. 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.

**Köln/Cologne**
Here, at the Cologne Opera, you can see the Stuttgart Ballet, famed for its polished productions in the tradition of the legendary John Cranko.

**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 Silver Mannheimers (Stamm von Mannheim), this multi-ethnic band is unusually large, with 14 musicians, 7 of whom were founding members.

**In SouthWest Germany, you are never far from a museum.**

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**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.

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**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 – the Limes Museum in Unteruhldingen – is located near the Limes road. The Limes Museum offers a fascinating look at the history of the Limes and its role in the Roman Empire. It is the largest Roman museum in Germany. The museum contains an extensive collection of artifacts from the Limes period, including pottery, coins, and weapons. Visitors can also see reconstructions of Roman military camps and watchtowers. The Limes Museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (last admission at 5 p.m.).

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**Prehistoric pile dwellings**

Humans lived on Lake Constance since prehistoric times. That’s why UNESCO has classified the region’s lake dwellings (houses built on stilts) as a World Heritage area. But what did they look like? And how did people live from day to day? Those questions and more are answered at the fascinating Pfahlbauten Museum, which recreates the past and shows how our Stone Age and Bronze Age ancestors made pottery, wove cloth and farmed in Unteruhldingen. 45 minutes by ferry from Konstanz.

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**Monserrate Palace**

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 Monserrathen 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.

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The Abbey of Reichenau is a Benedictine Monastery. Founded in 724, it became a center of monasticism in Europe. The abbey church with its Romanesque ranges from Romanesque to late Gothic, and its Baroque elements were added in the 18th century. Today, the abbey church is a World Heritage Site, and the monastery is open to the public. The island is also known for its excellent vegetables. 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.

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**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.

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**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 Festival (Schlossfestspiele). Visit to see the world’s biggest wine barrel, the German apothecary museum and the fine Festival (Schlossfestspiele). Visit to see the world’s biggest wine barrel, the German apothecary museum and the fine Festival (Schlossfestspiele). Visit to see the world’s biggest wine barrel, the German apothecary museum and the fine Festival (Schlossfestspiele).

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**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.

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**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.

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**Munich Residenz**

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.

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**Neue Nationalgalerie (New National Gallery)**

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.

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**Pfahlbauten Museum**

The Monastic Island of Reichenau is a Benedictine Monastery. Founded in 724, it became a center of monasticism in Europe. The abbey church with its Romanesque ranges from Romanesque to late Gothic, and its Baroque elements were added in the 18th century. Today, the abbey church is a World Heritage Site, and the monastery is open to the public. The island is also known for its excellent vegetables. 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.

**UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE**

Metzingen, 30 km south of Stuttgart, with its world famous OUTLETCITY 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**

OUTLETCITY 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 OUTLETCITY is future oriented. Visitors constantly move in an exciting contrast between small country town idyll and the cosmopolitan shopping fair. 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 OUTLETCITY 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.

**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 Bruning 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 Kurfürst Colonnade.

**Mannheim**

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

**Köln**

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.

For more information see www.outletcity.com

**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.

For more information see 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.

For more information see 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.

For more information see www.fabrikverkaufe-geislingen.de

**Made in South-West Germany**

As well as making luxury cars, SouthWest Germany has a long tradition of hand-made 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.

For more information see www.steiff.com

**Cuckoo Clocks**

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

For more information see www.hubertherr.de

**Christmas Decorations**

Available all over the region, but especially in the Black Forest.

For more information see www.blackforest-tourism.com

**Jewelry**

At Schmuckwelten in Freiburg, watch modern jewelry being made by craftsmen and women – and then buy their work.

For more information see 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 squares of art.

For more information see www.ritter-sport.com

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When Carl Benz patented the car in Mannheim in 1886, he changed the history of the world. Even today, there are no names more famous in the auto industry than Mercedes-Benz and Porsche – and SouthWest Germany is home to both companies. Their hi-tech museums in Stuttgart are top of any car lover’s “must-see” list!

**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-miles/215 km Bertha Benz Memorial Route.  
www.bertha-benz.de
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 Lump 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 Kirschtorte)
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
- Käsespätzle chewy 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/early 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 (Mehrkombrob), white-grain (Vollkornbrot) or rye and wheat ( Roggenmischbrot).
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: clove, cinnamon and pepper. 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 Old City are transformed into one huge atmosphere. Christmas music and carols are sung in front of the Minster’s main entrance. For Steiff teddy bear enthusiasts, the special stalls here probably make this the ultimate Christmas market (the Steiff factory and museum are only 30 minutes away). By contrast, the nativity scene has live animals!

www.tourismus.ulm.de

Freiburg
Nowhere is the build-up to Christmas more romantic than in the Black Forest. In Freiburg, the streets and squares of the Old City are transformed into one huge Christmas market, with stalls selling mulled wine, candy floss, Bratwurst (sausages), jewelry, handicrafts, and more.

www.freiburg.de/tourismus

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.chocolat.de

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 glasshouse 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

Mailbronn 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

Ludwigsburg
Set in one of Europe’s most magnificent palaces, the long-established Ludwigsburg Festival (Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele) runs throughout May and June to the middle of July. Annual yet innovative, it features a variety of performances, from classical music and dance to theater, and literature.

Just outside Stuttgart.

www.schloessfestspiele.de

Rottweil
Throughout the summer, music lovers flock to this walled town. April/May brings the Jazz Festival (Jazzfest Rottweil), while June sees the summer classical series (Sommersprossen) that ranges from Baroque to contemporary. In August, there are more concerts, variety shows and cabaret during Holiday Magik (Ferienzauber).

One hour southwest of Stuttgart.

www.rottweil.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, Fedele 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
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 Dürrheim 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...”

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

www.tourism-bw.com
info@tourismus-bw.de
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](http://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](http://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](http://www.spieleland.de)

The perfect place for a fun-filled mini-break!

**Boundless. Inspiring. Breathtaking.**

- One of the world’s leading theme parks
- Over 100 exhilarating and spectacular attractions
- Daily more than 6 hrs of fantastic shows with over 60 shows in 23 different locations
- 17 themed areas of which are 13 representing European countries
- 11 thrilling roller coasters
- Refreshing fun in five different water attractions
- Varied decorations and special animations during Halloween and the winter season
- Hip parties, great themed festivals and unique events
- Blissful stays at wonderful themed hotels*, in the Camp Resort* in tepees, covered wagons and log cabins or in your own caravan/tent

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

**Europa-Park**

Nearby airports and direct airport shuttle services on [www.europapark.de/flight](http://www.europapark.de/flight)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.freilichtmuseum-beuren.de)
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 (15-22ºC). 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.

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.

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.
At the time of going to press, every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication.

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