How to have your cake – and where to eat it!

Get back to nature in the Black Forest
- Hike quiet trails
- Sit round a campfire
- Sleep in a bubble tent

All the fun of the fair in Stuttgart
- Drink beer
- Ride the rollercoasters
- Eat roast chicken

Feel the breeze on Lake Constance
- Cycle from inn to inn
- Eat like a king
- Relax!

How to have your cake – and where to eat it!
Welcome to SÜDEN, SouthWest Germany’s magazine for everyone who enjoys the Good Life. Süden means ‘south’ in German, and the federal state of Baden-Württemberg is not only in the southern part of the country, it is also the sunniest region. Perhaps, that’s why locals are known for their warm hospitality.

Come for the culture.
Famous orchestras and art collections, world-class ballet and opera companies, Tour castles and palaces that are straight out of a fairy-tale. Come at any time of year: in spring, the gardens are glorious, especially on the island of Mainau in Lake Constance. Summer brings long, hot days that are perfect for swimming in clean lakes and hiking in cool forests. In autumn, orchards and vineyards are bursting with fruit while, come winter, the festive Christmas markets take centre stage. Nowhere else are they more authentic.

Come to eat.
According to the Michelin gastronomy guide, a quarter of Germany’s best restaurants are here, making this the country’s foodiest region. There are plenty of stars, but Michelin’s Bib Gourmand selections also rate the well-prepared, well-priced menus using local produce: pork from the Schwäbisch-Hall area; beef from Hohenlohe and the Black Forest; lamb from the Swabian Alb; fish from Lake Constance; spelt, now labelled a superfood, from the north of the state. And many chefs have also embraced the Slow Food movement.

Come if you love wine.
Baden-Württemberg’s young winemakers have led a “quiet revolution” and their wines win prizes at international competitions. Come if you just need a break. SouthWest Germany is Germany’s premier spa destination, with nearly 60 spas and health resorts, perfect for pampering or recharging your batteries. But come soon: The SÜDEN secret is out!

COVER PHOTO:
Real Black Forest Cake is a treat, with chocolate, sour cherries, cream and Kirsch (cherry schnapps). Find out more at: http://tinyurl.com/y82nu8o8

How to have your cake – and where to eat it!
Get back to nature in the Black Forest
Hike quiet trails
Sit round a campfire
Sleep in a bubble tent
All the fun of the fair in Stuttgart
Drink beer
Ride the rollercoasters
Eat roast chicken
Feel the breeze on Lake Constance
Cycle from inn to inn
Eat like a king
Relax!

Süden
The Travel Magazine for SouthWest Germany

Sunny SouthWest Germany: The Good Life
Romantic Heidelberg

Romantic: that is Heidelberg in a nutshell, from the ruined castle to the historic houses and cobbled squares in the Old Town. The narrow lanes and small squares with pretty fountains are perfect for strolling, while the pubs, cafés and boutiques provide tempting stops along the way. The university dates from the 14th century, so students have long been part of city life. Their graffiti is the highlight of the 500-year-old student jail, while Student’s Kiss chocolates are still hand-made to a 150-year-old recipe.

Up the hill is the castle, which has guarded Heidelberg for 700 years. Walk up the 315 steps, or glide up in minutes aboard the Bergbahn, the funicular. There is much to see: beautiful gardens, the pharmacy museum, the world’s biggest wine barrel and, of course, the wide-ranging views over the Neckar River. Summer brings outdoor concerts, festivals, plays and spectacular fireworks. But Heidelberg is truly special: memories are made here, all year round.

Enjoy the cultural highlights of SOUTHWEST GERMANY
What exactly is the Black Forest, or Schwarzwald?
The answer is simple: a region of lakes and low mountains, tumbling waterfalls and picture-perfect villages. And the name reflects the millions of pine trees, whose stillness contrasts with the bustle of modern life. Thankfully, most of it is preserved as a national park.

Although you can explore by car, the best way is on foot or by bike. The path around Schluchsee lake (photo) is among the 5,000 miles/8,045 km of marked trails catering for young and old, couples and families. The Westweg is the world’s oldest marked hiking route; newer is the Gipfeltrail, a challenge for mountain bikers that circles the Feldberg, the Black Forest’s highest mountain.

Stop in pubs for crusty bread and Black Forest ham, local beer and wine. Or enjoy gourmet dishes. In the village of Baiersbronn, you can choose from three Michelin-starred restaurants. Above all, savour the natural beauty; that is what the Black Forest is all about.
Scenic Lake Constance

Nowhere is prettier than Lake Constance. Known as the Bodensee in German, the lake has scenic backdrops: the snow-tipped Swiss Alps to the south and SouthWest Germany’s orchards, vineyards and villages to the north. Only 40 miles/63 km long, it is glorious year-round, with more sunshine than anywhere else in the country.

Cycle or stroll along the shore; swim or sail the blue waters of the “German Riviera”. Base yourself in historic cities, such as Konstanz; visit Meersburg, with its 7th-century Alte Burg, Germany’s oldest inhabited castle. Relax in waterside resort hotels, with canoes and kayaks at the dock. Photograph the glorious gardens on Mainau Island. Explore the lake by ferry or take a lunch or dinner cruise: the spectacular views are free. For a special thrill, see it all from a Zeppelin; flights leave from Friedrichshafen, the birthplace of the airship. And wherever you go, order fresh lake fish: char, perch-pike and white fish (Felchen). Delicious!
Southeast of Stuttgart, the Swabian Alb’s unspoiled green hills are SouthWest Germany’s quiet corner. Look out over the peaceful landscape from the battlements of Hohenzollern Castle (photo), high on a rocky crag. Inside, the ancestral home of German emperors displays the Prussian crown.

In 2017, the nearby limestone caves were recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Here, archaeologists discovered artworks dating back 40,000 years, including the tiny Lion Man, arguably the world’s earliest figurative sculpture. With impressive stalactites and stalagmites, accessible caves include the Bear Cave (Bärenhöhle), where prehistoric animals sheltered, and the illuminated Mist Cave (Nebelhöhle). Both are near Bad Urach, the town where the pretzel (Brezel) was invented!

To the south is the Danube cycle path, running from Donaueschingen, the river’s source, to delightful Ulm, where the world’s tallest church steeple overlooks the medieval Fishermen’s and Tanners’ Quarter.
Holidays can be about culture, history and sightseeing. They can also be about relaxing and having fun. And in SouthWest Germany, there are so many ways to have a good time. Ride a rollercoaster; shop till you drop; sip a Black Forest world-beating drink.

Just for fun

Regularly voted the “world’s No 1 theme park”, Europa-Park is Germany’s most popular family attraction, with 100 things to see and do, including live shows and adrenaline-pumping thrill rides. Highlights include a giant wooden rollercoaster, Europe’s largest Flying Theatre and a log flume ride. Divided into a dozen or so European-themed areas, you can tour Europe in a day, from the architecture of Scandinavia to authentic dishes from the Mediterranean. With waterpark thrills in summer and a romantic Christmas market, plus holiday shows in winter, this is a four-season destination, with five themed hotels on site.

www.europapark.de/en

EUROPA-PARK
Guaranteed fun

From A for Armani to Z for Zegna, OUTLETCITY METZINGEN is one of Europe’s most popular factory outlet locations. There are more than 70 premium and luxury brands and most of the international names have their own flagship outlet stores. Stylish clothing ranges from casual and business wear for men to glamorous dresses and fashionable leisure wear for women. Think Calvin Klein, Gucci, Jimmy Choo and Prada. As for prices, these are up to 70% off the RRP every day of the year. A stroll away is the attractive town of Metzingen, the hometown of Hugo Boss. 20 miles/30 km south of Stuttgart; two hours from Frankfurt, Munich and Zurich.

www.outletcity.com

OUTLETCITY METZINGEN
SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Calling all gin lovers! The pretty Renchtal Valley lies deep in the Black Forest, a region that has long been famous for its schnapps and fruit brandy distilleries. But amidst all this tradition is a newcomer: Boar Gin. Created by three friends, Hannes Schmidt, Thorsten Boscchart and Markus Kessler, this is the world’s first truffle gin. And, it was a double gold medal winner at the 2017 Global Spirit Awards in Las Vegas. The secret? A special ingredient, local truffles, also known as Black Forest Gold. Boar Gin is made at the historic Black Forest Distillery in the village of Bad Peterstal, 1 hour 40 minutes from Stuttgart. The unique taste is a result of a subtle blend of 13 botanicals, including Black Forest wild herbs, lavender, thyme, lemon zest, pepper – and those truffles. No wonder that this Black Forest Premium Dry Gin has taken the cocktail world by storm. It is on the shelves of trendy bars in New York and Amsterdam, in Spain and France; top chefs are also creating dishes using Boar Gin. What began as a hobby has turned into an international sensation, collecting awards in Austria, London, San Francisco and China. You cannot miss the label, with its stylish, cravat-wearing boar and the witty message: For delicate hunters.

www.boargin.de

TRUFFLE GIN
A world first
Stylish, sunny, spectacular

Vines cover the steep slopes of the Neckar River. Their grapes are made into top-class wines. Taste them in taverns in Mühlhausen, a Stuttgart suburb.

CHRISTIANE WURTENBERGER GREGOR LENGLER
How many major cities in the world produce award-winning wines from vineyards within the city limits? Stuttgart does, thanks to the Stuttgart-Mühlhausen winemakers, whose vines roll across and down the steep banks of the Neckar River. Called the Steillagenhänge, they are part of the Cannstatter Zuckerle vineyards, which produce some of the best wines in the region.

At night, walls hold the heat like a natural hot water bottle.

Facing southwest, the nutrient-rich limestone soils and the microclimate provided by the river together create perfect growing conditions for both red and white wines. Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc are grown, but 70 per cent of the harvest is red – the traditional Trollinger grape, a Stuttgart favourite, as well as Pinot Noir and Lemberger.

But it is hard work, very hard work. Machinery cannot be used on the steep, often 40 degree slopes, so vines must be tended – and grapes must be picked – by hand. That requires six to eight times more working hours, but you cannot charge six to eight times more for the wine! So, members of the Weinhäuser Mühlhausen winegrowers association and their families, who work the vines, usually have other jobs as well. It is a labour of love. And the reward is not only in the glass, but also in the landscape itself.

The scenery is beautiful, from the Neckar River below with its boats to the vineyards, whose age-old vines are protected by dry-stone walls, hand-built centuries ago. Sunshine guarantees quality grapes and after long sunny days, these walls hold the heat, providing the vines with a natural hot water bottle at night.

Sit at tables among the vines and listen to live music.

What is more, this 1,300-year-old way of growing grapes, free from mechanisation, has also helped Mother Nature. The habitat is home to rare animals, insects and plants, from multi-coloured swallowtail butterflies and browny-green wall lizards to black-and-yellow fire salamanders. Explore this delightful area of SouthWest Germany by following the Stuttgart Wine Trail. Meet the locals at one of the lively summer wine festivals. During the annual Steillagentagen celebrations, for example, guests sit elbow to elbow at wooden tables among the vines and listen to live music. As winemaker Andreas Guigas points out: “I love working in the vineyard. But it is even nicer to come here and do nothing.”

All the Stuttgart-Mühlhausen winemakers are real characters. “I do not like bland wines,” says Christoph Ruck. “I like wines that have some personality.” A few years ago, he and his wife, Heike, decided that choosing a bottle of wine from a list was boring; more fun would be to own a vineyard. But not just to sell to their friends. They aimed to make it a commercial success. Small is beautiful when it comes to their “garage” wines, whose label, “Ruxwein” is a play on the family name.

Enjoy them at the vineyard’s Beisenwirtschaft, or “Besen”. These pop up taverns are a SouthWest German speciality; by law, they are only open for a limited number of days each year. Hanging by the door, an old-fashioned broom (a Besen in German, hence the name) is the sign that food and drink are on offer. At Christoph and Heike’s vineyard, you can relax in an attractive, modern wooden barn, but tradition continues: the wine is from the vineyard and the food is grown and prepared locally. A genuine, SouthWest Germany experience.

More information
The Region: www.stuttgart-tourist.de

Stuttgart’s Wines
Although this is a wine region, seeing vineyards within Stuttgart’s city limits is a surprise

Wine trails
There are many wine trails in and around Stuttgart.
www.stuttgart-weinwanderweg.de

Museum & Wine bar
The Stuttgart Weinbaumuseum in Uhbach tells the story of local wine and sells it in the shop.
www.weinbaumuseum.de

Wine tasting
Compare and contrast at annual events such as “Stuttgart’s Best Wines” in November.
www.stuttgart-tourist.de

Steillagentagen

Christoph Ruck: One of the Steillage winemakers
SouthWest Germany has a long, long history of brewing. And that tradition is celebrated every year in Canstatt, a suburb of Stuttgart, with the Cannstatter Wasen. This is the world’s second biggest beer festival; it is also the least touristy. King William I of Württemberg initiated it back in September 1818. After the devastation of the Napoleonic Wars, the aim was to lift spirits. At the end of September and in early October, this people’s festival has done so ever since.

The 17-day-long event kicks off with the traditional keg tapping, when the mayor draws the first beer from a barrel of specially-brewed Festbier (festival beer). That is followed by a parade through the city streets, with floats, tractors, horses pulling brewers’ drays, plus groups of enthusiastic singers and dancers wearing traditional costume.

Some of the seven vast beer tents seat as many as 5,000 enthusiasts, but they come for more than just the beer. There is also hearty food, such as crispy pork knuckles and Göckele, whole roast chickens. And there is more: this is also Europe’s biggest funfair, with plenty of family entertainment. Thrill rides are a big draw: roller coasters and big wheels; an old-fashioned carousel and a scream-inducing wild water coaster. But the origins of the festival are not forgotten. Dominating the scene is a soaring column. Decorated with fruit, vegetables and corn, it is a harvest festival tradition dating back to the very first fair in 1818.

For many locals and their families, the fair is a “must” every year. But regulars also include those, who work at the Wasen. Kitty Roscher, for example, traces her connection back 60 years. Her family ran side-shows; now she is known for her Reibekuchen, freshly-prepared crispy potato fritters.

www.cannstatter-volksfest.de

Stuttgart Beer Festival

Join the party!

In 2018, Stuttgart’s Beer Festival celebrates its 200th birthday; every year, four million visitors flock to the Canstatter Fairground; not surprisingly, many are regulars
Five ways to enjoy the world of the Baroque

When it comes to Baroque art and architecture, few regions in Europe can match Upper Swabia. Only two hours southeast of Stuttgart, this area between Ulm and Lake Constance has more than 100 monasteries, churches and castles in the highly-decorative style that was popular in the 17th-century. The version here was so exuberant that experts have given it a unique designation: Upper Swabian Baroque. There is even a trail, the Upper Swabian Baroque Road, whose 500 miles/760 km link towns and villages, where you can see the best of the best. Following the route is easy: just look out for the distinctive signposts showing a yellow cherub on a green background.

1. LIBRARY
   BAD SCHUSSENRIED ABBEY

Take one ancient, ruined monastery. Rebuild it in the 18th century. The result includes a library that is one of the world’s most spectacular, with elegant balconies and glistening gilding. But what looks like shelves of books is a trompe l’oeil, an illusion. Up close, you can see that the “books” are painted!

Organic brewer Flo Angele loves wearing lederhosen and perfor ming in his theatre.

Left: The Bad Schussenried Abbey library
The overall effect is both lavish and astonishing – and is typical of the Baroque and later Rococo era.

The beautiful ceiling, created by artist Franz Georg Hermann and sculptor Fidelis Sporer, depicts divine wisdom, the sciences and the arts, as well as events in the abbey’s history. This was the home of Father Mohr (1575-1625), known as the Leonardo da Vinci of Upper Swabia. As well as being a skilled organ builder, musician, blacksmith and gardener, this enterprising monk is said to have built a flying machine from goose feathers and tried to fly! It makes a good story, whether you believe it or not! http://www.kloster-schussenried.de/en

2 LOCAL BEERS SCHLOSSBRAUEREI AULENDORF

In Baroque times, monasteries brewed their own beer, because it was deemed safer to drink than water. In one of Upper Swabia’s many new organic craft breweries, that skill has been revived by Flo Angele. “I am a Baroque sort of guy,” he insists. “I love to eat good food, drink good beer and enjoy good company.” Next to his brewery, his Schalander tavern serves traditional fare, such as Baroque food: Chicken with berries and green dumplings

In Wangen, the Fidelisbäck bakery still makes bread the old-fashioned way

Schnitzel and Spätzle, partnered by his own beer. Freshly-brewed, it is unfiltered, so slightly cloudy. Order a Reibolf; the name combines Flo (the brewer) and Bier (his favourite tipple) – but spelled backwards! Flo’s other love is show business, so he set up a stage in the pub for music and comedy shows. Great fun with a glass or three of his beer. www.schlossbrauerei-aulendorf.de

3 FIDELISBÄCK BAKERY 500 YEARS OF TRADITION

In Wangen, the Fidelisbäck bakery stands on a 14th-century lane in the Old Town. Here, all the breads and rolls have unusual names. The long, thin white loaves, for example, are called Seele (souls). Tradition is everything; so the dough is kneaded by hand, allowed to rise slowly and then is shaped by hand into baguette-like forms. These “souls” are flavoured with a few caraway seeds and big flakes of salt. Then they are popped into the oven, two at a time on a wooden paddle, nicknamed a Soul Shooter. They emerge with a delicious natural crust. The result is heavenly. In fact, owner Ursula Mönch calls it “bread from paradise”. And it is: the bakery’s address is No 3 Paradise Street! www.fidelisbaeck.de

4 BAROQUE DINING AT THE GRÜNER BAUM BAD WALDSEE

Berthold Schmidinger is in love with all things Baroque, especially the over-the-top flamboyance of the era. Since he is not just the chef, but also the owner of the Grüner Baum Hotel and Restaurant in Bad Waldsee, he can indulge his passion. After studying recipe books and working with the city archivist, Michael Barczyk, he came up with the idea of offering special Baroque dinners that match food with a free history lesson. Take “Brone Supp”, a filling soup made with spelt (a medieval grain), cider, vegetable stock and grilled bread. As Schmidinger explains, this was enjoyed by both rich and poor. The recipe for the delicate mousse, with fish from nearby lakes and wild herb flavourings was popular with the clergy. By contrast, wild duck was a treat for the nobility, prepared with wild berries and turnips. Then there are Knöpfle – these dumplings feature on menus throughout SouthWest Germany.

In the Kürnbach open-air museum, Monika Stroßele makes Küche the traditional way with a wood-burning stove.

Schmidinger reckons his version is distinctly Baroque: they are delicate and colourful, stained bright green with spinach or red with beetroot juice. www.baum-leben.de

5 PEASANT COOKING KÜRNBACH LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

What was everyday peasant life like in the Baroque era? In the “museum village” of Kürnbach in Bad Schussenried, historians have collected and brought to the site some 30 Upper Swabian rural cottages and taverns, chapels, farm houses and farm buildings, many from the Baroque period. The result is a time machine that brings the past to life. Completing the picture are examples of heritage livestock breeds and demonstrations of the crafts of the time.

A favourite with young and old alike are the cooking demonstrations by Monika Stroßele. She makes Zegen Küche, which are rather like flat round doughnuts, and she uses spelt flour, as they did in the Baroque era. Pulling the dough gently ensures that these “souls” are thin and crispy in the middle, but thick and chewy at the edges. Try them with cinnamon and sugar. Yum! And they are a traditional treat during Fasnacht, the region’s own Mardi Gras celebrations. www.museumsdorf-kuernbach.de

More information about Baroque sites at: www.oberschwaben-tourismus.de

Oberschwäbische Barockstraße
The Upper Swabian Baroque Road (some 500 miles/760 km) includes four routes, with 50 or so Baroque gems along the way. More information about Baroque sites at: www.oberschwaben-tourismus.de
New and special

Stay overnight deep in the Black Forest
a unique experience in six
back-to-nature hiking camps

FABIAN TEUBER  DIETMAR DANGER
And now, there is a special, new way to get away from it all – in the Central/North Black Forest Nature Park. Between the spa resort of Baden-Baden and bustling Freudenstadt, six rustic camps have been set up. These remote sites are the only places in the Black Forest where you are officially allowed to pitch a tent. Moreover, they are deliberately basic, equipped with nothing more than a hearth for your tired, but happy. Not only is the forest very dark at night, it is also very quiet. So, sleep comes easily; even the birds nod off. At the end of a three-day hike, most ramblers are reluctant to leave. They have enjoyed good company, seen beautiful scenery and slept soundly. Perhaps best of all, it has been a real escape from daily life: no internet, no television and (almost) no cell phone reception.

The air is fresh and clear; clouds float across the blue sky; it is perfect hiking weather. Only the burbling of a brook and the rustling of leaves break the silence. Whether you call it backpacking or bushwalking, rambling or trekking, the aim is to enjoy unspoiled countryside. In SouthWest Germany, hiking is part of everyday life. After all, recreational hiking was invented in the Black Forest 150 years ago.

The only way to really know a place is to see it on foot.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Wild and wonderful: unusual plants thrive along the gushing streams within the Black Forest National Park

Parts of the Central/North Black Forest Nature Park were absorbed by Germany’s National Parks in 2014

More information:
To book overnight stays in the trekking camps, go to the official Black Forest Tourism website: www.blackforest-tourism.com and search for “trekking”. You will also find special offers for holidays in the Black Forest.
Starry, starry nights

Be bold. Stay somewhere different: in a castle or former jail; in a bubble tent or a caravan. Dare to be different in seven special, but very comfortable places in sunny SouthWest Germany.

**BUBBLE TENT**

Room with a view

Comfort in the countryside: that is what bubble tents provide. Because they are transparent, you feel part of the nature that is all around. But you also have hot water, showers, proper beds and good coffee machines. Find these bubble tents in Schönwald, in the Black Forest, 90 minutes southwest of Stuttgart. Stargaze from inside, looking straight up to the night sky. [www.bubble-tent.de](http://www.bubble-tent.de)

**BURG HORNBERG**

Romantic

Spend the night like a knight in Burg Hornberg, an impressive, 500-year-old fortress an hour north of Stuttgart. What was once the home of the soldier and poet, Götz von Berlichingen, is now a sophisticated four-star hotel, with a first-class restaurant and glorious views overlooking vineyards and the Neckar River. [www.burg-hotel-hornberg.de](http://www.burg-hotel-hornberg.de)

**HOFGUT HOPFENBURG**

Pick and choose

On what was once a farm, an array of unusual accommodation is on offer. Take a break in a traditional shepherd’s caravan or circus wagon, a teepee or a yurt. You can even park your own camper van in this family-friendly glamping destination, near Münsingen in the Swabian Alb, an hour southeast of Stuttgart. And little ones love to see the traditional breeds of livestock. [www.hofgut-hopfenburg.de](http://www.hofgut-hopfenburg.de)

**SCHLAFEN IM WEINFASS**

Barrels of fun

In the vineyards above Sasbachwalden, two hours southwest of Stuttgart, the barrels have two full-sized beds; the hosts bring breakfast to you. [www.schlafen-im-weinfass.de](http://www.schlafen-im-weinfass.de)

**HOTEL LIBERTY**

Cell-fie heaven

In Offenburg, two hours southwest of Stuttgart, what was once the town’s jail is now the wittily-named Hotel Liberty. Think of it as a design hotel, with a sense of humour. Within the thick stone walls, the restaurant may be called Bread & Water, but Michelin-starred chef Jeremy Biasiol serves stylish, seasonal, modern cuisine. All in all, this shows how a historic building can be recycled – with taste and contemporary comforts. [www.hotel-liberty.de](http://www.hotel-liberty.de)
Maulbronn Monastery is more than just a historic building. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the best-preserved medieval abbey north of the Alps. Set in a secluded wooded valley, it has an otherworldly atmosphere that recalls the Cistercians, who founded the community in 1147. Stand in the so-called Paradise porch, with its faded paint and massive door, and you are in the 13th century. Walk into the 15th-century church, with its Romanesque screen and late Gothic vaulting, and you can imagine the choir singing in the ornately-carved stalls. But Maulbronn is more than fine architecture; for many Swabians, Maulbronn “means” Maultaschen. According to legend, it was in the 17th century that one Brother Jakob wanted to circumvent the ban on eating meat during Lent, so he “hid” minced meat in ravioli-like pasta “pockets”. These Maultaschen became a favourite Swabian comfort food – and they still are.

More information
At Maulbronn Monastery, you can sign up for seminars on food and drink in the Middle Ages and also get a diploma on a Maultaschen cookery course. Details at: www.kloster-maulbronn.de/en

Maultaschen can be browned in a pan with butter, partnered with béchamel sauce or served in beef broth

Maulbronn and Maultaschen

Maulbronn is one of the best-preserved medieval monasteries north of the Alps – and Maultaschen, Swabian comfort food, was also created here

HARALD BRAUN  JOACHIM NEGWER
Nobility, luxury & good taste

SouthWest Germany is dotted with royal residences. Some are menacing; others are elegant; still others are ruined and mysterious. Often, a medieval fortress (Burg or Festung) was later transformed into an elaborate palace (Palais or Schloss). Discover who did what, when and why on tours with guides, who are often in costume.

**WEIKERSHEIM PALACE**

The elephant in the room

In the beautiful Tauber Valley, 400-year-old Weikersheim Palace is a fine example of Renaissance grandeur. Inside, the vast Knights’ Hall stops visitors in their tracks. Among the delightful 3-D animal figures on the walls, the favourite is a quizzical elephant. Outside, the country estate of the Counts of Hohenlohe is famous for its gardens, where the orangery and classical statues of Apollo and Diana contrast with comical dwarf-like depictions of members of the court. 90 minutes northeast of Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-weikersheim.de/en](http://www.schloss-weikersheim.de/en)

**MAINAU PALACE**

Baroque paradise

Owned by the Teutonic Order of Knights for 500 years, the island of Mainau on Lake Constance, is renowned for its gardens, where the orangery and classical statues of Apollo and Diana contrast with comical dwarf-like depictions of members of the court. The former audience chamber is now used for concerts and special events. At the end of September/early October, the Count’s Castle Festival is a first-rate shopping event, featuring exclusive fashion and jewellery. 10 minutes from Konstanz.

[www.mainau.de](http://www.mainau.de)

**SIGMARINGEN CASTLE**

Even today, some castles look impregnable. Dominating the town of Sigmaringen, high on a cliff, this fort was the seat of the powerful Hohenzollern family for nearly 500 years. Bringing the everyday life of the royal courts to life are expert guides, who lead visitors through some of the 450 rooms in Germany’s second largest palace, many still filled with antique furniture, valuable paintings and porcelain. Arguably most impressive is the armoury, with its world-class collections of medieval weaponry. In the former stables is a grand collection of royal coaches and carriages, sedan chairs and even sleds.

Two hours south of Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-sigmaringen.de](http://www.schloss-sigmaringen.de)

**MEMORIAL CHAPEL, STUTTGART-ROTHENBERG**

Where love never dies

This 19th-century chapel was inspired by grief. It was built by King Wilhelm I to commemorate his much-loved young wife, Katharina, whose death was sudden and unexpected. Both are buried inside. Set on the Württemberg, a hill in Stuttgart, the chapel has terrific views over the city and Neckar Valley. The inscription on the wall reads: “Love never dies”. No wonder locals regard this as a romantic spot.

[www.grabkapelle-rothenberg.de/en](http://www.grabkapelle-rothenberg.de/en)

**LUDWIGSBURG PALACE**

One of Europe’s largest Baroque palaces was built for the Württemberg royal family 300 years ago. As well as the state apartments, with their original furnishings, the palace is home to several small museums: the Baroque Gallery (17th and 18th-century paintings), the Porcelain Museum, the Fashion Museum (18th century to present day). Stroll through the impressive gardens, whose two mini-palaces, Pavillion and Moreypos, were used only for parties. Near Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en](http://www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en)

**WEIKERSHEIM PALACE**

The elephant in the room

In the beautiful Tauber Valley, 400-year-old Weikersheim Palace is a fine example of Renaissance grandeur. Inside, the vast Knights’ Hall stops visitors in their tracks. Among the delightful 3-D animal figures on the walls, the favourite is a quizzical elephant. Outside, the country estate of the Counts of Hohenlohe is famous for its gardens, where the orangery and classical statues of Apollo and Diana contrast with comical dwarf-like depictions of members of the court. 90 minutes northeast of Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-weikersheim.de/en](http://www.schloss-weikersheim.de/en)

**MAINAU PALACE**

Baroque paradise

Owned by the Teutonic Order of Knights for 500 years, the island of Mainau on Lake Constance, is renowned for its gardens, where the orangery and classical statues of Apollo and Diana contrast with comical dwarf-like depictions of members of the court. The former audience chamber is now used for concerts and special events. At the end of September/early October, the Count’s Castle Festival is a first-rate shopping event, featuring exclusive fashion and jewellery. 10 minutes from Konstanz.

[www.mainau.de](http://www.mainau.de)

**SIGMARINGEN CASTLE**

Even today, some castles look impregnable. Dominating the town of Sigmaringen, high on a cliff, this fort was the seat of the powerful Hohenzollern family for nearly 500 years. Bringing the everyday life of the royal courts to life are expert guides, who lead visitors through some of the 450 rooms in Germany’s second largest palace, many still filled with antique furniture, valuable paintings and porcelain. Arguably most impressive is the armoury, with its world-class collections of medieval weaponry. In the former stables is a grand collection of royal coaches and carriages, sedan chairs and even sleds.

Two hours south of Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-sigmaringen.de](http://www.schloss-sigmaringen.de)

**MEMORIAL CHAPEL, STUTTGART-ROTHENBERG**

Where love never dies

This 19th-century chapel was inspired by grief. It was built by King Wilhelm I to commemorate his much-loved young wife, Katharina, whose death was sudden and unexpected. Both are buried inside. Set on the Württemberg, a hill in Stuttgart, the chapel has terrific views over the city and Neckar Valley. The inscription on the wall reads: “Love never dies”. No wonder locals regard this as a romantic spot.

[www.grabkapelle-rothenberg.de/en](http://www.grabkapelle-rothenberg.de/en)

**LUDWIGSBURG PALACE**

One of Europe’s largest Baroque palaces was built for the Württemberg royal family 300 years ago. As well as the state apartments, with their original furnishings, the palace is home to several small museums: the Baroque Gallery (17th and 18th-century paintings), the Porcelain Museum, the Fashion Museum (18th century to present day). Stroll through the impressive gardens, whose two mini-palaces, Pavillion and Moreypos, were used only for parties. Near Stuttgart.

[www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en](http://www.schloss-ludwigsburg.de/en)
Good food takes time
In the northern region of SouthWest Germany, many chefs and producers have embraced the Slow Food Movement. Meet three of them.

1) LOCAL HERO
   STEPHANIE HALLER

For Stephanie Haller, food must taste good, but also look good. This enterprising caterer from Kraichtal learned traditional recipes from her grandmother. Now she gets rave reviews for her modern take on these dishes. Not surprisingly, she knows all her producers personally.

2) SLOW FOOD CHEF
   MARKUS REINAUER

At the Jagstmühle, a country inn at Mulfingen, Reinauer’s inventive menus credit local producers: strudel with a mustard seed sauce uses pork from Schwäbisch-Hall; ricotta is made in Langenburg; chicken comes from Mäusdorf. Even beef dishes are truly local. Limpurger cattle graze just behind the inn. But the list of appetizing dishes continues with brook trout smoked over vine wood, dumplings with wild mushrooms and a terrine of wild plums for dessert.

3) A SPARKLING SUCCESS
   BERNULF SCHLAUCH

Not far away, in Heimhausen, on the River Jagst, Bernulf Schlauch makes flower and blossom champagne. The Slow Food Regional Coordinator for Hohenlohe is also the inventor of Sekts (sparkling wines) made from elderflowers and acacia blossom, rose petals and meadowsweet. It is a complicated process that takes time, but that is part of its appeal. According to Schlauch, the self-styled Elderflower Wizard: “Sekts need time for the full flavour to unfold.” Find these delicate but full-flavoured bubbles in Champagne-style bottles, with elegant gold foil caps and handwritten labelling.

Whether you call it slow food or just good food, the emphasis on ingredients that are fresh and local has always been a feature of the cuisine of SouthWest Germany. Whether you call it slow food or just good food, the emphasis on ingredients that are fresh and local has always been a feature of the cuisine of SouthWest Germany.

Today’s new breed of chefs not only feed happy customers, they also visit schools, teaching youngsters about the meat, veg, fruits and cheeses, which are produced in the region, a couple of hours northwest of Stuttgart. And much of this is “Bio”, the German for organic.

Northern Baden-Württemberg

It took 25 years for Bernulf Schlauch to perfect the recipe for his sparkling elderflower wine

Swabian Zwiebelrostbraten: a traditional dish of steak with sauteed onions

Nothing sums up the character of a region better than the quality of the home cooking.”

Chef Markus Reinauer, from the Jagstmühle

It took 25 years for Bernulf Schlauch to perfect the recipe for his sparkling elderflower wine
The Höri Peninsula

Eat and Pedal
A gourmet cycle tour on the quiet side of Lake Constance

MICHAELA ADLER  JOACHIM NEGWEN

The Höri peninsula boasts great views: Lake Constance contrasts with the Alps.
At the western end of Lake Constance, the Höri Peninsula is a hidden jewel: endless meadows, blue water, peaceful lanes and small inns serving local dishes. It all adds up to the perfect spot to cycle from restaurant to restaurant, enjoying one course at each! Let’s call it “The Höri in four courses!”

Pedal off from the campground in Horn, and soon you are at the Restaurant Seehörnle for your starter: Radler Tapas, tapas for cyclists! Chef Anja Litterst is inspired by local produce, “Especially our famous Bülle (onions). We have created a range of tapas, including cheese sticks with pesto, goat’s milk cream cheese and homemade onion chutney.” As for the apple juice, “It is made from fruit grown in the orchard, explains that the dish is 100% local, from varietal carrots, potatoes and radishes to cucumbers and lettuce. “Even the beef was raised here in our meadow,” he says. Sliced thinly, it is pan fried with some of the renowned Höri-Bülle onions. Finished with a roast sunflower seed dressing, it is delicious.

COOL OFF WITH A DIP IN THE LAKE

The final stop is the Seerestaurant Schlössli. Served on the terrace, dessert is an elderflower foam, with a blackcurrant puree, cherries in liquorice and chia brittle. You could carry on cycling: take in a museum; see the Rhine Falls in Schaffhausen. Or stay right here, relaxing on the terrace.

Enjoying the sun: a cyclist near Iznang

Gastronomic cycle tours can be arranged at the Gaienhofen tourist office:
www.gaienhofen.de

More about Bodensee West, the western end of Lake Constance:
www.bodensee.eu/en
Beer is in the German DNA – and SouthWest Germany’s beers are particularly good. That is thanks not only to the quality of the local barley, hops and water, but also to the 500-year-old German purity law. This ensures that hops, malt and water are the only ingredients. About 1,000 different beers are brewed in the 180 breweries in the region; the only German state with more is Bavaria.

Many beers are brewed according to the season. So, in warm weather, you can order a thirst-quenching Pils or a refreshing wheat beer; when temperatures turn chilly, a strong bock beer or a full-flavoured Christmas beer is perfect. Learn more – and enjoy tastings – on brewery tours. The highest brewery in Germany, at 3,000 ft/1,000 m up in the Black Forest, is Rothaus. Its history dates back to 1791 and only water sourced from seven nearby springs is used for the brews, which include Tannenzäpfle. This Pilsner is one of the world’s top beers and something of a cult favourite in Germany.

THE BIERKRUG MUSEUM IS ALL ABOUT BEER MUGS

Another brewery, Distelhäuser is in Distelhausen, a village on the Tauber River, only one hour and 15 minutes northeast of Stuttgart. Their production includes 21 different kinds of beer, ranging from Pils to wheat beer – and they regularly use Tettnang hops. Grown near Lake Constance, these are SouthWest Germany’s gift to the brewing world. One grower is the Locher family at Hopfengut No 20 in Tettnang. Lukas and his sister Charlotte are the fourth generation to run this farm and they supply varieties, such as Mandarin, Melon and Callista to breweries in Germany and around the world. Breeders use them to produce distinctive flavours, from passion fruit and peach to grapefruit and gooseberry. No wonder these hops are so highly-prized!

Proof that beer is taken seriously in SouthWest Germany is the Bierkrug Museum – all about beer mugs! Find it in the small spa town of Bad Schussenried, in the southeast corner of the state. The collection covers five centuries of beer drinking and includes steins in all shapes, sizes and colours – 1,000 in all. It is the passion of Jürgen Ott, who is also the owner of the Schussenrieder brewery right next door. So, take a tour and then have a beer.

Many breweries are still small and family-owned. And some of the best are found just off the beaten track. In the small town of Ehingen, with a population of 25,000, four private breweries brew more than 40 beers. In this self-proclaimed City of Beer Culture, just over an hour southeast of Stuttgart, you can take brewery tours, walk the Beer Trail, pedal along on a Bierkulturbike and even stay at the BierKulturHotel, the Beer Culture Hotel. For dinner, head for the ancient Schwanen restaurant, with its own micro-brewery. Order the four-course beer menu and enjoy a different beer with each dish – including dessert!

Land of 1,000 Beers

SouthWest Germany is dotted with small, family-owned breweries. You are never far from a freshly-brewed pint.

In Tettnang, they grow the world’s finest hops
FREIBURG – a new concept in an old town

The old heart of Freiburg, the gateway to the Black Forest, could not be more atmospheric, with its narrow alleyways, stony city gates and Bächle, the little streams that flow alongside the streets. But this city does not live in the past. One of the most innovative shops is Lust auf Gut. Walk through the door and you could be in New York, in an industrial chic loft with 8,000 sq ft/800 sq m full of beautiful things, ranging from men’s and women’s clothing to accessories, unusual furniture, indoor plants and tempting gifts. Adding to the fun is a cool cocktail bar and a hairdresser.

HEIDELBERG – hidden spots on the Philosophers’ Path

Most visitors to Heidelberg make the usual pilgrimage up the hill to the romantic ruined castle and then through the lanes of the Old Town, home of Germany’s oldest university. But walk across the old bridge over the River Neckar and you find more beautiful places just waiting to be discovered. Take a stroll along the Philosophers’ Path that runs along the river bank, passing small vineyards guarded by stone walls. High up on the hillside the charming, small Philosophers’ Gardens offers grand views of the ancient city and its castle.

Along the path are benches, where you can sit, relax and appreciate the flowers. For a longer walk, make your way up to the ruins of the Monastery of St Michael, the Michaelskloster, high on the Heiligenberg hill. From the top of the tower, there are even better views of the city.

Along the Philosophers’ Path, you not only have the best views of Heidelberg, but you can also enjoy the charming Philosophers’ Gardens.

One of Karlsruhe’s up-and-coming creative areas is on the site of a former slaughterhouse. In the photo: The hip Alina Café

KARLSRUHE – creativity in the old slaughterhouse

The city’s former slaughterhouse district in the eastern part of Karlsruhe has been transformed in recent years into a lively and innovative area. This is now where creativity and culture rub shoulders. Artists have opened studios in the old office buildings; enthusiastic young chefs have launched culinary enterprises. In the “start-up centre”, old shipping containers have been converted into new offices; a coffee roaster scents the air; a fun fancy dress shop is near the haunted house attraction. At the end of the day, the young crowd comes to eat at the Im Schlachthof restaurant or sip a cocktail in the Alten Hackerei, a trendy bar and beer garden.

Hidden Places

Want to find those ‘in’ places, the cool spots that only locals know about? Travel blogger Susi has all the inside information on SouthWest Germany’s hidden places.

SUSI MAIER / TRAVEL BLOGGER AT WWW.BLACKDOTSWHITESPOTS.COM
were stationed here to defend the city in times of war. Today, they have been restored as delightful little cottages and are among the most desirable places to live in the city. The cutest are in what is called Seelengraben.

STUTTGART – a secret in the city centre
The best view of Stuttgart is right in the very heart of the city, between the Schlosplatz square and the Schlossgarten garden, the State Opera House and the Parliament building! Yet most Stuttgarters know nothing about the astonishing free panorama from the top of the tower of the Musikhochschule, Stuttgart’s music college. From the college lobby, take the elevator to the top of the 165-ft/50-m-tall tower. From the observation terrace, you get a completely new perspective on the city. Why not combine your visit with one of the regular concerts, performed by students in the concert hall below?

BADEN-BADEN – romantic views from the Battert Cliff
High above Baden-Baden, the jagged rock formations and impressive ruins of the old castle point up to the sky like bony fingers. Although most visitors prefer to ride the funicular railway up the Merkurberg mountain for those holiday photos, the view from the Battert Cliff is much wilder and more picturesque. Rising behind the sprawling ruins of the city’s original fortress, a footpath leads through the woods and rocks. Especially romantic and great for a selfie is the view from the Ritterplatte viewing point. Here the panorama sweeps from the Black Forest to Baden-Baden and on to the broad Rhine valley.

On the Neckar, the Kaffeebucht Café and Beach Bar is perfect with a cold drink in your hand and your feet in the sand.

MANNHEIM – a delicious reminder of the past
On Schillerplatz square, the Café Fräulein Schiller is a green oasis in the middle of Mannheim. In good weather, there is even outdoor entertainment. The cosy interior, with vintage furniture, such as comfy sofas and armchairs, looks more like your granny’s sitting room. Then, there is the delicious food. Perhaps a breakfast of freshly baked bread rolls or waffles? Or a light lunch of quiche? Not forgetting the tempting cakes. Everything is homemade, of course, using local ingredients. On the menu, you can also find gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan dishes, as well as homemade lemonade.

PFORZHEIM – for the best view, get the key to the tower
High on the Wartberg is an old round tower. Built back in the 14th or 15th century as part of the Pförzheim city walls, this is the best place for great views of the city! Although the Wartturm is always locked, that does not mean that you cannot get in. The insider’s tip is to go to the L’Osteria restaurant nearby and ask if you can borrow the key!

ULM – colourful cottages on the city wall
Back in the 17th century, Ulm’s Grabenhäuser, the rampart cottages, were built on the city walls. Originally, they were living quarters for soldiers, who were stationed here to defend the city in times of war. Today, they have been restored as delightful little cottages and are among the most desirable places to live in the city. The cutest are in what is called Seelengraben.

STUTTGART – a secret in the city centre
The best view of Stuttgart is right in the very heart of the city, between the Schlosplatz square and the Schlossgarten garden, the State Opera House and the Parliament building! Yet most Stuttgarters know nothing about the astonishing free panorama from the top of the tower of the Musikhochschule, Stuttgart’s music college. From the college lobby, take the elevator to the top of the 165-ft/50-m-tall tower. From the observation terrace, you get a completely new perspective on the city. Why not combine your visit with one of the regular concerts, performed by students in the concert hall below?

More information
www.tourism-bw.com/cities

Susi Maier is a travel blogger, freelance editor, a Berliner by choice and Baden-Württemberger by upbringing. Her travels have taken her to the Antarctic, but she always likes to return home to Baden-Württemberg to report on her adventures there and elsewhere in her blog www.blackdotswhitespots.com.
It’s easy to plan your holiday in SouthWest Germany on your computer or phone. Use our English-language website: www.tourism-bw.com; check social media; order free brochures.

Further information

It is easy to plan your holiday in SouthWest Germany on your computer or phone. Use our English-language website: www.tourism-bw.com; check social media; order free brochures.

Social Media
See great photos; find fun ideas; get insider tips for that perfect holiday on our special sites

facebook.com/visitbawue

instagram.com/visitbawu

#visitbawu

Contact
State Tourist Board Baden-Württemberg / SouthWest Germany
8 Esslinger Strasse, 70182 Stuttgart
Tel. +49 (0) 711/ 23 85 80
info@tourismus-bw.de

www.tourism-bw.com

Free brochures
Love wellness and culture, cycling, hiking and wine? Find those special topics on our website. Or order free brochures on line
www.tourism-bw.com/brochures
Come star-gazing with us – and have your eyes opened.

The Mercedes-Benz Museum – more than 130 years of automotive history.
Further information is available online: www.mercedes-benz.com/museum

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.