GERMANY

Germany is as well known for its writers, composers, painters, and reformers as it is for its castles, forests, rivers, spectacular alpine landscapes and fairy tale legends. Many of the country's historical treasures still remain today, and many have been restored after being damaged during World War II. Germany offers the visitor a wealth of art, culture and scenery.



AREA: 137,847 sq. miles **POPULATION:** 84,000,000 **CAPITAL:** Berlin *(population: 3,800,000)*
GOVERNMENT: Republic **LANGUAGE:** German

FOOD & DRINK German sausages, from the dozens of different types of salami to the famous frankfurter, and Sauerbraten (pickled pot-roast) are found everywhere. Take the opportunity during your independent meals to try one of the favorites, such as: weisswurst mit brot (white sausage with bread), or curry wurst mit pommes frites (curried sausage in ketchup with french fries). For dessert, try käsekuchen (a very light cheesecake), or Schwarzwalderkirschtorte (Black Forest cake made with cherries and chocolate). Germany's many fine wines include Franconian, Rhine and Moselle. The best beer is brewed in Bavaria and Franconia.

CLIMATE Germany has a temperate climate. Winters are generally mild, except in mountainous regions. Summers are pleasant and sunny, with nice weather often lasting through October.

ALTITUDE Examples of the highest altitudes in Germany during our tours: Berchtesgaden (1,804 feet), The Eagle's Nest (6,016 feet), and Oberammergau (2,745 feet).

BANKING HOURS Banks are generally open Monday through Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM (closed one hour for lunch), and many remain open until 6:00PM on Thursday.

SHOPPING Leica is one of the most famous brands of cameras in Germany. Leitz produces less expensive cameras and is also a big name in binoculars. The first porcelain factory was founded in Germany in 1710 in Meissen. Original Meissen porcelain statuettes have a lifelike sparkle to their eyes and can be identified by their symbol of a blue crossed sword. Popular souvenirs are beer steins, Black Forest cuckoo clocks, wood carvings from Bavaria, Käthe Kruse toys and Hummel figurines. For the sweet tooth there is Marzipan, an almond flavored candy paste molded into forms of fruits and vegetables, combined with chocolate or used in pastries. Stores are generally open 8:30AM - 1:00PM and 2:00PM - 6:30PM, Monday through Friday, and on Saturday mornings. Many department stores stay open until 8:30PM on Thursday. Also, on the first Saturday of each month, stores stay open until 4:00PM.

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