

travel*tips*

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2011 summer festival season

In addition to an array of smaller events, Germany will also be hosting some real festival highlights this summer. There is something for everyone: spectacular firework displays, romantic light shows and classical music performances. Here is a selection of what's in store this summer.

Rhine in Flames: This firework extravaganza takes place along the Rhine from May to September. During these months, the riverside promenades, hillsides and castles between Rüdesheim and Bonn are bathed in a dazzling panoply of light and colour. During the festival, a fleet of illuminated cruise boats makes its way from Linz back to Bonn, where a magnificent firework display to music provides the grand finale.

www.rhein-in-flammen.com

Ruhr Piano Festival: Top pianists from all over the world will be gathering for the Ruhr Piano Festival. From 6 May to 22 July, the Ruhr region in North Rhine-Westphalia will be hosting 58 concerts at 25 venues in 16 towns and cities. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Franz Liszt's birth, his work will feature prominently at the festival. In contrast, the festival's 'JazzLine' programme includes singer and Grammy award winner Patti Austin and Chick Corea.

www.klavierfestival.de

Heidelberg Castle Illuminations: Every summer on three Saturdays, Heidelberg Castle in Baden-Württemberg is beautifully illuminated as darkness begins to fall. On 4 June, 9 July and 3 September, Bengal fires flicker against the walls of the ruin and illuminate the picturesque façade of the castle. The spectacle is accompanied by a stunning firework display that radiates across the night sky over the romantic old quarter. One of the best places from which to watch this colourful spectacle is the deck of a Rhine-Neckar riverboat.

www.schlossbeleuchtung-heidelberg.de

Weimar Wagner Festival: Pioneering dramaturgical and staging details are what set this production of the 'ring in weimar' by the German National Theatre in Weimar apart from all others. Performances can be seen at both Weimar Wagner Festivals (5-13 June and 2-10 July). The programme also includes a new production of Tristan and Iseult as well as The Rhinegold, The Valkyrie, Siegfried and the Twilight of the Gods.

www.nationaltheater-weimar.de

Health & Wellness in 2011: Luxurious breaks fit for a king

Live like the lord of the manor

Krönnevit House in Western Pomerania is a true original. It is situated between Stralsund and Rügen and was built at the beginning of the 19th century in the neo-classical style. The property has an exceptionally spacious holiday apartment of approximately 270m² with a library, reception room and marble bathrooms. It is delightfully appointed with antique furnishings right through to the palatial bed chambers. The exterior features, which include a characteristic columned portal and extensive grounds with a garden pavilion, add to its special charm. In such an exquisite setting, it is easy to feel like the lord of the manor. Only a stone's throw away is the Western-Pomeranian Boddenlandschaft National Park, which lends itself to a variety of leisure activities. Tennis, horse riding, sailing and cycling are catered for nearby. Guests of Krönnevit House can also receive a green fee discount at Rügen Golf Club at Karnitz Castle. Another highlight is Hannedom leisure park which is only a short drive away.

Information

Schloss Krönnevit
Dorfplatz 2
18445 Krönnevit
Tel.: +49 (0)38323 231
Email: info@schloss-kroennevit.de
www.schloss-kroennevit.de

Total relaxation on the Romanesque Route

Hotel Wasserschloss Westerburg, situated near Halberstadt in the northern Harz region of Saxony-Anhalt, is one of the oldest and best preserved moated castles in Germany. It is one of 72 buildings featured on the Romanesque Route and is an exceptional monument to an era in German history when the Ottonian dynasty held sway. The castle grounds with a mature beech wood and other rare trees and shrubs are perfect for scenic strolls. For the more energetic, the adjoining sports ground offers ample opportunity to improve physical fitness. In the hotel itself, the idyllic surroundings are therapeutic and restful for body, mind and soul. To help guests unwind to the full, the hotel Wasserschloss Westerburg has a swimming pool with waterfall showers and counter-current canal, a hydrotherapy pool, a sauna with eight different settings, a pressure shower, a heated bench and offers cosmetic treatments, baths and massages.

Information

Hotel und Spa Wasserschloss Westerburg
Silvia und Hartmut Lerche GbR
Westerburg 34
38836 Westerburg / Huy
Tel.: +49 (0)39422 9550
Email: info@hotel-westerburg.de
www.hotel-westerburg.de

Splendour fit for a king

Bensberg Palace was built in 1705 and is one of the largest baroque palaces in Europe today. It drew its inspiration from some fine works of architecture: the Palace of Versailles and Winchester Castle, no less. Even the German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe was impressed by the considerable proportions of this building in North Rhine-Westphalia. Today the most discerning of travellers enjoy its luxurious ambience. The beauty and wellness suite alone covers nearly 1,000m². It creates a haven of complete relaxation for mind and body. The swimming pool is exquisitely illuminated by thousands of shimmering stars and the Roman sauna suite is perfect for relaxing and unwinding. There is a wide range of activities in the gym and the hotel works in partnership with top clubs in the local vicinity to provide tennis, horse riding and golf. The Grand Hotel at Bensberg Palace offers a truly luxurious experience for every guest.

Information

Grandhotel Schloss Bensberg
Kadettenstrasse
51429 Bergisch Gladbach
Tel.: +49 (0)2204 420
Email: info@schlossbensberg.com
www.schlossbensberg.com

Fitness break in the land of myths

It is with good reason that the Romantik Hotel Schloss Rheinfels is a first choice destination for people in need of relaxation and looking for something a little bit different. The four-star luxury hotel is situated on a hill amidst one of the largest fortified sites in Germany. It is located in the town of St. Goar beside the river Rhine at the heart of some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe – the Middle Rhine Valley in Rhineland-Palatinate, declared a UNESCO World Heritage region. This area bears the hallmarks of its medieval past, and has been shaped by the myths and stories of German poets and philosophers. The castle itself was built in 1245.

Guests at Hotel Rheinfels have a grandstand view of the famous Loreley Rock. According to legend, it was from this rock that Loreley bewitched many a sailor on the Rhine with her song. The antiques and paintings inside the hotel give it a medieval feel. True to the period, the gym is known as the 'Folterkammer' (torture chamber) and antique equipment from the early 20th century is available for guests to use. The hotel's spa suite is the perfect place to rest and relax after a workout. The facilities include a pool with counter-current canal, an outdoor plunge pool, sauna and steamroom, tepidarium, solarium and a wellness area with loungers and a cosy bar.

Sports enthusiasts and nature lovers are also well catered for in the local vicinity. Two excellent walking trails and two tennis courts are only a short distance away. Mountain bikes can be hired free of charge and scooters for a charge, and two golf courses are only a short drive away from the castle.

Information

Schloss Rheinfels
Schlossberg 47
56329 St. Goar
Tel.: +49 (0)6741 8020
Email: info@schloss-rheinfels.de
www.schloss-rheinfels.de
www.st-goar.de

125th anniversary of the automobile: Museums

The cars of the rich and famous

Dortmund Automobile Museum in North Rhine-Westphalia offers its visitors a frequently changing exhibition programme. Permanent features of the museum include the high-quality exhibits and classic cars which document the history of the automobile. Many popular brands are represented here, such as Jaguar, Ferrari, Horch, MG, Alfa Romeo, VW, Mercedes, to name but a few. A number of historical motorbikes by famous manufacturers can also be seen here. Among the most fascinating exhibits are cars belonging to famous personalities. For example, you can take a close look at the Jaguars which once belonged to John D. Rockefeller or the German actor Heinz Rühmann. However, for many visitors the real highlight of the exhibition is the Formula 1 simulator. Here, you can put your own driving skills to the test in the cockpit of a racing car on a Formula 1 Grand Prix circuit of your choice – an experience that many car enthusiasts will never forget.

Information

Automobil Museum Dortmund
U. Edle von Graeve
Brandisstrasse 50
44265 Dortmund
Tel.: +49 (0)231 475 6979
Email: info@oldiemuseum.de
www.oldiemuseum.de

Cars, locomotives and more on the island of Rügen

The Rügen Railway and Technology Museum (ETM) is located in the resort of Prora on the island of Rügen, and occupies the museum wing in the listed KdF building. Visitors can admire a fantastic selection of old locomotives, classic cars, trucks and fire engines in a covered exhibition space of more than 10,000m². Every year, the impressive collection is updated with additional vehicles. The railway exhibition presents a good cross-section of railway history with a narrow-gauge locomotive, diesel locomotives and steam trains. Among the most impressive exhibits is the Russian express P36-0123, the largest steam locomotive in Europe. Visitors can admire this behemoth on tracks in the 120-metre-long exhibition hall. In the exhibition of commercial vehicles, the 'Dennis Pumper' fire engine from Sheffield is one of the showpieces.

Information

Eisenbahn & Technik Museum Rügen
Am Bahnhof 3
18609 Prora
Tel.: +49 (0)38393 2366
Email: info@etm-ruegen.de
www.etm-ruegen.de

The *Phänomobil* in the Dresden Transport Museum

The motor car has also had an important part to play in Saxony's history. The Transport Museum in Dresden in the *Johanneum* (a former Electoral coachhouse and stable building in the heart of the old quarter) presents important chapters of automotive history, with a focus on models from former East Germany and Saxony. One example is the prototype of the first *Wanderer* car from 1924, although it never went into series production. Another is the three-wheeled *Phänomobil* from 1924, manufactured by the traditional Saxon manufacturer *Phänomen*. An important piece in this fascinating exhibition is the replica of the famous three-wheeler by Carl Benz from 1886, which is considered the forerunner of the modern-day car. The museum's collection comprises 66 cars, 48 heavy goods vehicles and buses, 200 two-wheeled vehicles, 108 trains, 9 trams and special purpose-built vehicles, and 49 large aviation exhibits including the only intact fuselage from the East German 152 jet passenger airliner. Visitors are advised to allow plenty of time if they would like to take a close look at all the exhibits.

Information

Dresden Transport Museum
Augustusstrasse 1
01067 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 86440
Email: info@verkehrsmuseum-dresden.de
www.verkehrsmuseum-dresden.de

Exploring the history of technology

The State Museum of Technology in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is presenting two exhibitions at the same time. The first is in Schwerin near to the castle in the former riding hall of the royal stables, the second in the glass pavilion in the Bürgerpark in Wismar. Both focus on the history of technology in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Numerous models and originals vividly illustrate the innovative ideas and designs which were developed by the people of the region.

The exhibition in Schwerin clearly shows that the region was not only active in shipbuilding, which is commonly known, but also in railway, automobile and aircraft construction. Some of the exhibits at the museum can actually be seen in action. The technology exhibition in Wismar showcases a series of fascinating motor vehicles that were built post-1945 in Eisenach. In addition, visitors can see a motorbike exhibition featuring vintage machines from the early part of the 20th century.

The *pièce de résistance* is a replica of the Fokker DR I aircraft. However, the exhibition also pays tribute to the history of aircraft, rail car and shipbuilding in the Hanseatic town of Wismar Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. A tram car from the town dating from the 1920s is a real highlight. Last but not least, the exhibition in the State Museum of Technology brings to life the history of the bicycle with numerous original examples. Visitors can even try out some of the exhibits themselves. The two sites also house collections on communications history, the history of milling and a comprehensive collection of welding equipment.

Information

Technisches Landesmuseum
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Postfach 1122
23951 Wismar
Tel.: +49 (0)3841 257 811
Email: info@tlm-mv.de
www.tlm-mv.de

FIFA Women's World Cup Germany™: Dresden, Leverkusen

Leverkusen – sports town on the Rhine

A “curiosity”, a “place with no history”: this is how the writer Wilhelm Westecker described Leverkusen, a town on the Rhine founded back in 1930 through the union of several smaller towns and communities. The Romans discovered the area much earlier and soldiers' equipment dating back to Roman times has been found here completely intact. Today, Leverkusen is probably best known to sports fans. Football, in particular, is a huge draw and an integral part of this young town. Top-flight Bundesliga team Bayer 04 Leverkusen is one of the most successful clubs in Germany. It has become an institution for the town and you don't have to be a seasoned fan to have heard of it. The club plays its home fixtures at the BayArena stadium which will also host four matches during the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany™, including a quarter-final. The first match will take place at the BayArena two days after the tournament kicks off in Berlin. Since its modernisation in 2009, the stadium now accommodates more than 30,000 spectators.

Information

Information im Rathaus Fremdenverkehr
Friedrich-Ebert-Platz 1
51311 Leverkusen
Tel.: +49 (0)214 406 3307
www.leverkusen.de
www.bayarena.de

Learning close to nature

What was life like back in the Middle Ages? How can you generate electricity from sunlight? And what do birds do in winter? Children can learn all this at the EnergieStadt children's museum at the NaturGut Ophoven sustainability centre in Leverkusen. The museum's tagline is 'discover and try things out'. The centre is set in a green space in the town where children can learn about the world they live in while having fun. At the exhibition about nature and the environment visitors can climb through a socket, experiment in the solar lab and fly into the future in a time machine. In the 'urban fun' section children can also find out what it's like to fly like a bird and play animal karaoke. The first carbon-neutral environmental information centre in Germany, NaturGut Ophoven has received many awards for its work. The centre has even been honoured by the regional government of North Rhine-Westphalia for its projects.

Information

Förderverein NaturGut Ophoven
Talstrasse 4
51379 Leverkusen
Tel.: +49 (0)2171 734 990
Email: zentrum@naturgut
www.naturgut-ophoven.de

Dresden gripped by football fever

Featuring one gem of baroque architecture after another, Dresden is often referred to as 'Florence on the Elbe'. Many of the buildings are centuries old and have only recently been renovated. The Church of Our Lady, for instance, which is famous far beyond Germany's borders, was not fully rebuilt until 2005. Dresden's Zwinger Palace and Semper Opera House are also well known around the globe. All three buildings were severely damaged during the Second World War and had to be completely rebuilt in the years that followed. The reconstruction of the Church of Our Lady after the fall of the Berlin wall was a particularly symbolic step, also referred to as the 'miracle of Dresden'. Dresden town centre is protected by preservation orders. In summer the people of Dresden and visitors from all over the world flock to the banks of the River Elbe to enjoy this lush oasis in the heart of the city. No doubt the riverbanks will also prove a popular meeting place during the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany™. The Rudolf Harbig stadium is in the city centre and has only recently been rebuilt. More than 27,000 spectators are expected to attend each of the three group games and one quarter-final here. A number of under-20s women's matches have already been played in Dresden.

Information

Dresden Marketing
Messering 7
01067 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 5017 3130
Email: info@dresden.travel

Sport exhibition in Dresden

From football to mini golf: sport brings people of all social classes and nationalities together. Whether as a team or in individual competition, it demonstrates the incredible performances that human beings are capable of achieving. Naturally, athletes need to be physically fit. However, being mentally prepared is just as important for sporting success. At the Deutsches Hygiene Museum in Dresden, visitors of all ages can discover what sporting enthusiasm is all about.

The exhibition entitled 'Auf die Plätze' (On your marks) is aimed at both keen athletes and couch potatoes, fans and sceptics. Visitors can learn about the importance of sport in society, how much it has become a stage for the modern ideal of beauty and what body images it conveys. The exhibition explores the psychological, social and historical dimensions of sport, fitness and exercise. You can discover, for instance, how politics uses sport for its own self-aggrandisement. The museum illustrates a rising trend throughout society towards 'sportification'. Does this lead to more fair play or to greater competitiveness? Sport has long since become a commercial success story, with a whole industry growing up around it. However, it is also about playing games as a group and enjoying individual leisure activities. As part of the exhibition, a number of international contemporary artists have been invited to express their thoughts on sport. Exhibits include interactive video installations and photographs as well as short films.

In the interactive area for children at the Deutsches Hygiene Museum, younger visitors can use all five senses to discover how the human body functions. Visitors are encouraged to try things out for themselves for a truly hands-on experience.

Information

Stiftung Deutsches Hygiene-Museum
Lingnerplatz 1
01069 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 484 6124
Email: presse@dhmd.de
www.dhmd.de

2011 summer festival season

East meets West in Dresden

From 18 May to 5 June, the Dresden Music Festival invites visitors to witness a musical encounter between European culture and Asian philosophy. Inspired by the coinciding of the Protestant Church Festival and the music festival in the capital of Saxony, the programme explores the themes of religion and spirituality and focuses on the cultural values that have shaped the people of Asia and Europe. The event features solo evenings, chamber music and orchestral concerts held at atmospheric venues in and around Dresden. The varied programme attracts top-class artists and includes performances by high-calibre guests such as the New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Alan Gilbert, the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle, Dresden State Orchestra, Leipzig's Gewandhaus Orchestra, Kreuzchor boys' choir and St. Thomas's choir.

Information

Pressebüro der Dresdner Musikfestspiele
An der Dreikönigskirche 1
01097 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 478 5624
Email: presse@musikfestspiele.com
www.musikfestspiele.com

From DJs to classical music in Schleswig-Holstein

With 131 concerts, 44 locations and 73 venues, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival is now a firm fixture on the international music scene. The event has been held since 1986 in Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and Hamburg in the north of Germany, as well as in Denmark. The festival programme ranges from classical music and jazz to crossover projects. International guest performers such as Ann-Sophie Mutter and Grigory Sokolov play Viennese classics, while young festival-goers dance to beats played by the hottest DJs. Each year since 1996 the festival has focused on a particular country. In 2011 the festival takes us on a journey of discovery through Turkey. Soloists, conductors and composers showcase the diverse facets of Turkish music, including a musical exploration of Anatolia, traditional chamber music and DJs from the buzzing capital, Istanbul. Promoting new talent is an extremely important part of the festival, which is why highly promising young performers are invited to come together and play music at various academies and workshops. This year's event also includes a DJ workshop for the first time.

Information

Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival
Palais Rantzau, Parade 1
23552 Lübeck
Tel.: +49 (0)451 389 5724
Email: brinker@shmf.de
www.shmf.de

Austrian culture on the Saar

Every two years, the Saar Music Festival in the region where Germany borders France and Luxembourg focuses on a particular composer or the culture of a chosen country. The theme for 2011 is 'Servus Austria'. Under this motto, Austrian artists present the full spectrum from classical music through to Austro-pop and chanson, and from ballet to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna. Theatres, museums, restaurants and retail outlets also offer a programme of activities on the same theme at various venues. Converted industrial halls, stately homes and architecturally interesting churches provide an unmistakably atmospheric setting for the concerts in Saarland, Lorraine, Luxembourg and Rhineland-Palatinate. This year's list of distinguished guests includes the Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern Radio Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna State Opera Ballet, Vienna's Burgtheater, Vienna Boys' Choir, Vienna's Spanish Riding School, Erika Pluhar & Band, Christina Stürmer and Rainhard Fendrich.

Information

Saar Music Festival
Rotenbühlerweg 28a
66123 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 (0)681 976 100
Email: musikfestspielesaar@yahoo.de
www.musikfestspielesaar.de

Discovering the unheard from classical music to Bond

The third-largest music festival in Germany, the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Festival has long enjoyed a reputation as an internationally acclaimed event. From 10 June to 11 September visitors will flock to the region to experience the aural delights of the new theme 'Unerhörtes entdecken' (discover the unheard). The event will bring talented newcomers from all over the world to Heiligendamm. The Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra from Asia will give its European première. Other performers include the Emerson String Quartet from New York, star bandonéon player Carel Kraayenhof, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra and legendary pianist Martha Argerich. Meanwhile, in the Land Fleesensee region, the James Bond Gala presents a programme of film music from 'Dr. No' to 'Quantum of Solace'.

Information

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Festival
Lindenstrasse 1
19055 Schwerin
Tel.: +49 (0)385 591 850
Email: service@festspiele-mv.de
www.festspiele-mv.de

Music in stately homes, churches and wineries

A very special event will take place between 25 June and 27 August in the Rheingau region of Hessen. The Rheingau Music Festival features 153 concerts at 43 delightful venues in the Rheingau and neighbouring regions. This includes such spectacular backdrops as Eberbach Abbey, the Johannisberg Estate and many other stately homes, churches and wineries.

Information

Rheingau Music Festival
Rheinallee 1
65375 Oestrich-Winkel
Tel.: 49 (0)611 794 9680
Email: info@rheingau-musik-festival.de

News and dates

'Trabi' tours in Dresden

Dresden is a city with a history worth exploring, and what better way to do this than travelling in convoy through the old town in a Trabant, or 'Trabi'. Visitors can even take to the wheel themselves. A tour guide travels in the leading car and gives a commentary on the places of interest. This is broadcast through the radios in the cars behind so that each and every passenger can learn all about their very own favourite spots around the city. Painted in bright, eye-catching colours, the cars follow each other through the streets and are guaranteed to cause a stir. The route runs past the Zwinger Palace and Church of Our Lady to the 'Blaues Wunder' (a steel suspension bridge over the Elbe) in Dresden's oldest quarter. At the end of the tour all participants receive a special 'Trabi' driver's licence.

Information

Trabisafari
Ostra-Allee 25
01067 Dresden
Tel.: +49 (0)351 8990 0110
Email: dresden@trabi-safari.de
www.trabi-safari.de

A celebration of jazz

The 'jazz lines' festival takes place in the Bavarian capital Munich from 27 March to 3 April. Over the course of eight days, more than 20 events present the wealth of possibilities, techniques and opportunities for creative innovation that jazz offers. Musical highlights include performances by international jazz legends such as Ralph Towner and Paolo Fresu, Fred Frith and Louis Sclavis, Kimmo Pohjonen and Trygve Seim. The musical programme even extends to media such as film and photographic art. The American guitarist Bill Frisell, for instance, showcases the photography of Michael Disfarmer, while the Italian Francesco Bearzatti pays homage to Tina Modotti, the 1920s photographer and femme fatale.

Information

Munich Kulturreferat
Burgstraße 4
80331 Munich
Tel.: +49 (0)89 2339 6939
Email: kulturreferat@muenchen.de
www.muenchen.de

The winegrower's year

Every month there's something exciting happening in the world of wine. The winegrowers cultivate their soil in spring - not with horses like they used to do, but with modern machinery - and a number of winemakers throughout the region invite visitors to sample their wines. The spring gets off to a particularly wonderful start in Würzburg with the crowning of the Franconian wine queen on 24 March. Every month the viticulture calendar shows where wine lovers can find events relating to their favourite tippie. There's a fantastic selection of top wine-themed events to choose from. Those interested in wine can also find out when the vines start to blossom, how the grapes are harvested and how they then get turned into wine.

Information

German Wine Institute
Gutenbergplatz 3-5
55116 Mainz
Tel.: +49 (0)6131 282 969
hge@deutscheweine.de
www.deutscheweine.de/Wein-Tourismus/
Weinkulturkalender

10 April

Every year, the 'Marathon on the Dyke' attracts thousands of runners to the Hanseatic town of Tangermünde. The route runs alongside the River Elbe and through the centre of this small town.

Information

www.elbdeichmarathon.de

Until 29 May

The Gralglas glassworks in Dürnau has always placed great value on the design of its vases and decanters. The factory now presents an exhibition dedicated to the history of German design from 1930 to 1981.

Information

www.duernau.de

15 April to 11 September

The 'Industrial age' exhibition at Munich's municipal museum charts the history of industrial photography with 150 original examples. The first photos taken back in 1855 were of bridge building.

Information

www.stadtmuseum-online.de

Until 29 May

The Museum of Modern Art in New York presents its collection of contemporary painting at the Martin Gropius building in Berlin. The exhibition features 250 works by 120 artists.

Information

www.berlinerfestspiele.de

6-8 May

Hamburg's port celebrates its 822nd birthday on water, on land and in the air. Visitors can admire a host of sailing ships, frigates and luxury liners. The highlight is the firework display on the Saturday.

Information

www.hamburg.de/hafengeburtstag

Until 19 June

Painter Emil Nolde enjoyed travelling and his journeys inspired him to create many paintings. The Gustav Lübcke Museum in Hamm presents these works in an exhibition entitled 'Reiselust' (passion for travel).

Information

www.hamm.de/gustav-luebcke-museum.html