

Germany -- Historical Places, Modern Culture

Germany is not an attention seeker. It's probably for this reason that its rich culture, amazing history, and spectacular natural beauty go unnoticed more often than not.

The country has some of the most impressive [regions](#), [castles](#), forts, churches, cathedrals and town houses that represent the best of Baroque, Gothic, Renaissance and Classic art and [architecture](#).

[Quaint cities and villages](#) tucked away contentedly in picturesque valleys, with cobble-stone streets and old curiosity shops, seem a world away from the rush hour oriented modern life that we've come to take for normal. From the Alpine ranges to silver beaches, from the dense woods of the [Black Forest](#) to the medieval city of [Nuremberg](#); this and more is chicken soup for the tourist's soul.

To the west, by the banks of the [Rhine](#) in [Cologne](#) stands the gothic marvel, the Cathedral dedicated to the Magi. Massive in size and splendor, it is believed to be one of a kind supported by a hundred pillars and having a profusion of strategically placed stained glass art.

On the South lies [Lake Constance](#), holding aloft the paradisaical island of flowers, Mainau, with the majestic [German Alps](#) in the background. You will not be able to take your eyes off the spectacular show of vibrant blooms spread like a lush carpet across the land. The neighboring Reichenau Island holds the famous abbey by the same name and is a UNESCO world heritage site. Need one say more? :-)

Rügen to the north has a distinctly dramatic landscape of about 15 km of sheer white chalk cliffs rising over 120 meters, overlooking the emerald and turquoise waters of the sea below. While these cliffs themselves are an inspiring vision, the view from the top is again another mind blowing experience.

To the north-east, in [Berlin](#), the Brandenburg Gate has witnessed more historic moments in [German history](#) than any other monument. When the Berlin Wall finally became history, it was celebrated wholeheartedly under these very portals. This sandstone structure of immense beauty has now gone from historic importance, to an emotional symbol of German unification.

You'll be pleased to know that fairy tale kingdoms still exist... at least in Germany. Come, see for yourself. Immerse yourself in the charming comfort of a bygone era and find that peace that neither yoga nor transcendental meditation can provide.