

## German Regions -- Abundant Natural Beauty

Germany is a country enjoying abundant natural beauty, and an elegance marked by a unique culture and history. The many German regions enjoy variations of this spectacular natural splendor while owning certain characteristics that sets each apart from the rest.

Specific geographic locations dictate certain features that have granted some German regions world renowned landmark status.

Most people like to divide Germany into five parts... [Central Germany](#), rich in history with modern day flair; [North Germany](#), the Seaman's home; [East Germany](#), which has the allure of a newborn culture; [West Germany](#), presenting the best of medieval grandeur; and [South Germany](#), a potpourri of majestic nature.

Let's take a look at more distinctive German Regions, most of which have their own character. Let me start with the most famous one worldwide...

The [Black Forest \(Schwarzwald\)](#) region is known for its [cuckoo clocks](#) and even more for its pristine Alpine beauty. Thick woods cover the area lending it an enigmatic beauty that borders on the eerie.

The mountain slopes are embellished by dramatic waterfalls and quaint little villages that preserve an age old culture. Three rivers, the Nagold, the Alb, and the Enz flow along the Black Forest area adding dramatically to its scenic splendor.

Tourists swarm this area in summer to enjoy its tranquility and rejuvenate in the many spas and mineral springs.

The [Bavarian Forest \(Bayerischer Wald\)](#) is one of the German regions replete with splendid castles, historic ruins, stunning landscapes, and a beauty that almost seems unreal. If that is what you love, then why not explore the entire [Bavarian](#) region (i.e., the federal state)? Picture perfect castles like the [Neuschwanstein Castle](#) belong to this region.

Local breweries continue their ancient art of brewing beer as do the porcelain and glass works manufacturers. By the way, Bavaria is the home of the famous Oktoberfest that Germany is famous for, located in [Munich](#).

The Rhine Valley region is yet another tribute to the spectacular historic magnificence that marks the German landscape. Cathedrals, monasteries, town halls, castles, and fortifications dot the region and attract thousands of visitors.

The Rhine in Flames festival (*Rhein in Flammen*) is a stunning representation of the regional

culture that culminates in a dazzling fireworks display.

The [North Sea](#) and [Baltic Sea](#) areas are again favorites with tourists for their endless possibilities where fun vacations are concerned. Coastal towns change dramatically to feature sandy beaches and rugged cliffs interspersed with extensive farmlands.

There are a number of nature parks here that bear exploration, as well as quite a few spas.

The Neckarland-Swabia region is a history laden landscape with castles and medieval cathedrals forming the skyline. The countryside is a verdant stretch of meadows, forests, lakes and streams that invite relaxation.

Hiking and biking trails crisscross the area making exploration a pleasurable exercise. Vineyards wrap around hill slopes, and in summer the area comes alive with fragrant blossoms that cover the various orchards.

The [Allgäu region](#) is one of the most placid landscapes in Germany with a generous spread of Alpine valleys, emerald woods, and turquoise lakes.

Perfect for trekking and hiking, there are any number of historical monuments along the way to add interest to the exercise. A trip on a mountain railway is a great way to simply immerse yourself in the verdant splendor.

The [Eifel region](#) differs considerably from the rest of Germany. Located in proximity to Belgium and Luxembourg, this German region is dominated by the Eifel hills and mountains, and has the distinction of possessing volcanoes, albeit dormant ones.

The rolling hillsides sport vineyards and orchards adding dramatically to the scenic beauty. What's more, it has its own share of historic castles and monuments.

In the [central region of Germany](#) is located the picturesque [Harz Mountains](#). Historic towns and poetic villages with half-timbered houses stand in the giant silhouettes of towering castles and fortifications.

There are many little known spa resorts hidden away in the verdant depths of this exquisite region known for its penchant for legends.

The [Odenwald](#) represents more the down-to-earth type of German regions, which covers the area between [Heidelberg](#) and [Frankfurt](#). Picturesque country roads give you the opportunity to discover cute little villages that are located along the way.

## **Other Notable German Regions**

There are numerous other regions in Germany that deserve mentioning...

- [Bergisches Land](#), a hilly region in the North Rhine-Westphalia state, is another place that attracts visitors from all over Europe.
- [Breisgau](#) is another culture-rich region with a delicious wine and scenery, natural beauty.
- [Chiemgau](#) attracts visitors year round and is a popular winter sports and ski venue.
- Another one in North Germany is [East Frisia \(Ostfriesland\)](#) — with mud flats, resort islands, vast flower fields, and refreshing ocean winds.
- [Emsland](#), a Lower Saxony moorland, offers ideal cycling horseback riding, and birdwatching terrain.
- The [Erzgebirge, also called Ore Mountains](#), located in the south of [Saxony](#) bordering the Czech Republic, is where the wooden toy making industry has its home.
- And what about [Franconia \(Franken\)](#), with its nestled [Franconian Switzerland \(Fränkische Schweiz\)](#), it is considered the Cream of the Crop of Bavaria. :-)
- The [Hassberge Nature Park](#), or *Naturpark Haßberge*, is 804 square kilometers of lakes, nature, castles, vineyards, themed hiking trails, food, beer, and storybook villages.
- The tiny North Sea island of [Helgoland \(aka Heligoland\)](#), with its unforgettable “Lange Anna,” offers cliff hiking, duty-free shopping, bird watching, sunbathing, and remarkable cuisine in its sunny one square mile!
- The [Lusatia \(Lausitz\)](#) in East Germany (bordering Poland) is a vacation destination for both nature and city lovers.
- [Lower Lusatia \(Niederlausitz\)](#) — Popular for glass, textiles, wood, and mining.
- The [Lüneburg Heath \(Lüneburger Heide\)](#) in North Germany, an idyllic vacation spot providing you with hiking, cycling, and horse riding opportunities alongside its medieval towns and... blooming heather.
- [Nordfriesland and the North Frisian Islands](#) in North Germany offer exceptional vacation possibilities.
- I personally consider the [Ortenau](#) one of the top spots of Germany, beside the Black Forest, of course. ;-)
- Or the [Palatinate Forest \(Pfälzer Wald\)](#) in the south of the state of [Rhineland-Palatinate](#), an area that was once the seat of royalty. Nowadays it is mainly famous for its [delicious wine](#) that is growing here.
- Then there are the [Rhön Mountains](#) in Central Germany, appreciated by hiking biking, and hang gliding enthusiasts alike.
- The [Ruhrgebiet \(a.k.a Ruhr Area\)](#) is Germany’s most quickly evolving area that transformed from a center of the coal mining industry to a cultural giant.
- [Sauerland](#) is where quaint villages, huge reservoirs, winter resorts, exceptional cheese and beer, and nature reserves offer something appealing.
- [Saxon Switzerland \(Sächsische Schweiz\)](#) is a National Park prominent for its marvelous sandstone cliffs and formations.
- The [Siegerland](#) represents a nice blend of ancient hamlets, forest wilderness trails, and 21st century technology.

- The [Spessart](#) in Hesse offering panoramic vistas, chapels and castles, and a mining route dating back to medieval times.
- [Swabia \(Schwaben\)](#) is the region with the broadest collection of nature preserves, ancient and modern towns, soaring mountains, summer and winter sports, and wellness centers — they're all here!
- The [Swabian Alb \(Schwäbische Alb\)](#) region has more to offer than one tourist can experience in a lifetime!
- In the [Tecklenburg Land](#), medieval villages, modern cities, mountain forests and rugged cliffs all await you.
- The [Teutoburg Forest \(Teutoburger Wald\)](#), in the state of [North Rhine-Westphalia](#), is an ancient region of wooded hills with some of the best hiking trails in the entire country.
- The [Thuringian Forest \(Thüringer Wald\)](#), in the state of [Thuringia](#), which is an inspiration to poets for centuries.
- [Upper Lusatia or Oberlausitz](#) — The Simple Beauty Of East Germany.
- The [Upper Palatinate or Oberpfalz region](#) has all the forest trails, ancient churches castles, and fun festivals for the perfect vacation — not to mention its fascinating history of glass production!
- The [Vogtland](#) in Saxony and Thuringia has historical towns known for musical instrument and lace production
- The [Weserbergerland](#) region, a good place for a cycling or hiking vacation, inspired many of the tales told by the Brothers Grimm.
- Then the [Westerwald](#) in Central Germany with its unforgettable, postcard-perfect Westerwald Lake Plateau (*Westerwälder Seenplatte*).
- Finally, the [Wetterau](#) region is famous for its apple wine and mineral waters, and its spas are world-renowned.

I'm sure you will enjoy your travels through the various German regions. Make sure to have your camera handy! ;-)