



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Ep #1 - Welcome to the Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Transcript

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Cate (00:00)

Hello and welcome to the very first episode of the Germany Travel Planning Podcast. I'm Cate, your host, and I'm also the co-founder with my husband Aaron of MyGermanyVacation.com and the Germany Travel Planning Facebook group.

We are here to help you plan an unforgettable trip to Germany.

Whether you're dreaming of exploring charming villages, touring historic castles, or savoring authentic German food, you're in the right place. I am so excited to kick off this podcast today and to help you make your Germany travel dreams a reality.

In this first episode, I thought I'd introduce myself, share a bit about my background with Germany, and let you know what you can expect from this podcast. So let's start with the big question, why Germany? Well, my love for Germany goes back to when I was a teenager. I had always wanted to travel abroad and living abroad was this big dream that I had had.

I met someone from Germany when I was 15 and I immediately just fell in love with the language and I decided I'm going to go live in that country. I was a junior in high school at this time and when school started up again, I walked into my guidance counselor's office and I said, I wanna go live in Germany. I don't know how to do this. Please help me.



This was 1989 before the internet and I didn't know anyone who had moved abroad. I didn't even know people who had really traveled abroad. So it seemed super impossible, but I thought I'm going to make this happen.

I actually expected him to kind of laugh at me and say, it's not going to happen, it's not possible. But he said, let me see what I can do. And he came back to me a week later and he said, I found a scholarship you can apply for, I think you should do this. And so I said, all right, I'm going to do it. as I mentioned, this was 1989. And I remember sitting on the couch at my parents' house watching the Berlin Wall fall on TV as I'm filling out my application to live in Germany.

Fast forward several months, I did get the scholarship and it enabled me to move to Germany when I was 16 and I lived there for a year. I lived with a German host family, I went to a German high school and I learned German.

As you can imagine, it completely changed my life. That was my senior year of high school. I was there in 1990, 91. And so I was there for reunification And so I experienced everything that was happening in Germany at that time. And it was the most amazing time to be in Germany.

it completely solidified my love for travel and living abroad, and I just kept wanting to go back to Germany. So I studied German in college and then also in grad school, and I went back to study in Germany. I taught English and then later German in Germany.

And then I went back to do research in Germany

I kept finding opportunities and reasons to go back to Germany. So I have lived in several different parts of Germany, North, South, East and West. and then I've been able to spend several weeks in other parts of Germany. I have had the great fortune



of experiencing language and culture and daily life in several different parts of Germany.

And then I also took every opportunity I had to travel wherever I possibly could.

When I finished my PhD, I had the opportunity to work in international education travel around the world doing intercultural workshops for teachers. So I had several years where I was traveling to every country but Germany.

And I found that while that was an amazing opportunity, I really missed Germany and having Germany in my daily life like I had for so many years.

So in 2019, Aaron and I decided to do a two week road trip around Germany to revisit places that I had lived. He had visited some of them, but a few of them he hadn't visited and I hadn't been back to some of those in years and years. It was such a fun trip to go back and revisit all of these places at one time.

I remember at the end of the trip, we were in Stuttgart and Aaron was getting ready to go back home. I was staying for a couple extra days and we were just talking about how fun the trip was. And I was kind of joking that, you know, we had definitely had done the off the beaten path trip. And he said, but you know, that's what was so fun about it

A couple days later, Aaron had returned home to go back to work and I stayed in Stuttgart for a couple extra days. I had lived there for a year in college. And I was just walking around reminiscing about that time in my life

And all of a sudden, I thought I should create a website about traveling in Germany, because I have traveled all over the country. I know a lot about traveling in Germany. So I returned home, and the first thing I said to Aaron when he picked me up at the



airport is, we need to start a website about traveling to Germany. He said, that sounds great, let's do it.

I started the website, My Germany Vacation at the end of 2019. I went back to Germany for a couple of weeks to do some travel research. then we had these huge plans for 2020. And of course, you know how that went. So we kind of put that off to the side until 2022.

Halfway through 2022, Aaron decided it was time to move on from his IT job. And we were really wanting to make a change in our life. So we decided, hey, let's come back to this website that I had started and let's go to Germany and let's see what we can do. Let's see how we can help people travel to Germany.

In fall of 2022, we became digital nomads, we returned to Germany, and we started helping people plan amazing trips to Germany.

We now have a full travel planning company that has helped thousands of travelers like you enjoy the best of Germany.

And we now spend several months a year in Germany and in the countries surrounding Germany so that we can do in-depth travel research.

We travel by train, bus, rental car, we stay in hotels and Airbnbs.

We try out tours and we visit as many sites and castles as we possibly can all over Germany, both in the really popular places and in the off the beaten path places. We return to sites and castles and cities and locations multiple times so that the most up-to-date insider tips and help you plan the most amazing, unforgettable trip to Germany.



Germany is such a great place to travel. It's packed with stunning landscapes, history, castles, and of course, delicious food and drink. Plus, it's incredibly traveler-friendly. But like any destination, it comes with its own quirks and planning challenges. And that's where this podcast comes in.

Now, what can you expect from the Germany travel planning podcast? Each week, I'll cover a specific topic related to planning a trip to Germany.

Everything from navigating the train system to choosing where to go in Germany to tips on how to book your accommodations or how to plan a Christmas market trip.

It's designed to give you practical and actionable advice. I'll also share insider tips, fun cultural insights, and even some of my personal favorite spots that most tourists don't know about.

I have made plenty of travel mistakes throughout the years, but those mistakes have taught me valuable lessons that I'll be sharing with you here so that you can avoid making those mistakes yourself.

Some episodes you'll hear from me. In others, Aaron will join me. And in other episodes, I'll be bringing on guests like fellow travelers to share their trip reports. I'll be talking to our preferred partners. I'll bring on other guests to give you a well-rounded view of what it's like to travel in Germany.

Thank you so much for tuning into this first episode. I am super excited to help you plan your dream trip to Germany. Be sure to subscribe to this podcast so you don't miss any upcoming episodes.

And if you're ready to start planning your trip to Germany and neighboring countries now, head over to [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com).



There you'll find show notes for every episode of our podcast, as well as a variety of free and paid resources to help you plan your dream trip.

including our signature Germany Travel Planner, which is a comprehensive guide packed with everything you need to know to organize a smooth, stress-free, and unforgettable adventure to Germany and surrounding countries.

Plus, we offer one-on-one travel planning consults and custom itineraries, so you can get personalized support and expert advice tailored to your travel dreams.

Until next time, happy Germany travel planning!