



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Ep 3 - Our Favorite Day in the Black Forest

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Are you thinking about adding the Black Forest to your Germany itinerary? Welcome to episode three of the Germany Travel Planning Podcast. In this episode, Aaron joins me to take you along on one of our favorite Black Forest day trips. We share where we went hiking, found breathtaking views, rode the best Alpine coaster ever, and the hidden gems we discovered along the way.

If you're dreaming of traveling to Germany, you're in the right place. Hey, I'm Cate co-founder with my husband Aaron of MyGermanyVacation.com and host of this podcast. Our goal is to help you plan and enjoy a meaningful and unforgettable trip to Germany and surrounding countries. So let's dive in.

Welcome to episode three of the Germany Travel Planning Podcast. This week, Aaron is joining me to talk about one of our favorite summer days in the Black Forest. Hey, welcome, Aaron. Hey, everyone. I thought we would just talk through our day and share where we went and what we did. Sound good? Yep, sounds great. Let's start with where we stayed in the Black Forest. Yep. So we were there for almost two weeks exploring Black Forest. And so we stayed in a very nice Airbnb just east of Triberg.

Yeah, it was a really, really nice area. And we chose that area because we were doing travel research all over the Black Forest, and we hadn't actually stayed overnight in that area. And it was great. So when we drove down to Todtnau, that area south of Freiburg, south of the Titisee and south of Triberg, that's where we had this really, really fun day. Yeah, there was a ton of things to see that day. It was great. We had good weather and everything.

Yeah, it was in the summer and it was so beautiful. It was so much fun. So it took us an hour, maybe a little over an hour to drive from the Triberg to the Todtnau area. Do you remember the drive? You drove it. Yeah, Black Forest is a great place to drive. You rolling hills and forested mountains. have farmland. It's really nice place to drive. In fact,

There aren't major highways, so you're kind of driving through country roads a lot. It's really pretty. Yeah. And like, I remember we would drive like up a hill and then down the hill and then up the hill and then down the hill and then around the curves. And it was so pretty. Like the whole time we were just like, this is so, so pretty. Yeah. You'd be in the midst of forest and then a minute later you'd be going through the field and then another minute you'd be going through a little tiny town.

Our first stop was this, I don't even know if you can call it a town, but it was called Bärenthal and it was just this little area with a couple of, there was a bakery, there was a Lidl store, there was a little schnapps store and museum. And then there was this store and I'll put the name of it in the show notes, but this store was a new building and it had all of these local Black Forest products. Yeah, it was a great store. It had everything related to the Black Forest. And this whole area was more like an intersection than a town, really. But it was great to find this store because, it had everything from the Black Forest you can think of, from souvenirs to food items to beer and wine, even, you know, books on the Black Forest. had pretty much everything. It was really neat.

Yeah, it was really quite astounding how many local items the store had. think they had beer, they had a whole refrigerated section of like beer and wine and cheese. And I mean, we spent quite a while just browsing the store and looking at all the products. They clothing, had kitchen items, household items. All sorts of gifts. Yeah, it was neat. It was a great place to stop. They also had a restaurant up on the second floor and they had a little cafe too.



So you could stop for a meal or you could stop there just for coffee and cake. We did not have time. We had a lot to do on this day. So we didn't have time to stop and eat unfortunately, but whenever we go back, we'll definitely stop there again. Yeah. It's a great place, especially for souvenirs. After that, we drove a little bit further down the road and we went to Feldberg, which is the highest point in the Black Forest. Yep. And when you think of the Black Forest, the highest point the Black Forest, you might think of something like a mountain peak, but it's not like that at all. It's really just a kind of rounded mountain. No peak at all. It's just a giant grassy area where people go for skiing in winter and hiking in the summer. I always think it's kind of interesting there because there's a parking garage. This is really big parking garage and we did park there.

And it just seems kind of funny to think about going to a mountain peak or like, know, the highest area and there's this big parking garage, but I think it's because of the skiing. People park there and then they walk over to the, the gondola and then they go up to the top of the mountain. It's very, very convenient. It's very easy. The whole place is set up for skiing. You can't really notice it in the summer, but yeah, you can see all the equipment and facilities they have ready, ready to help you go skiing. Yeah. And there's a little area where they have a hotel, some restaurants, a few stores, maybe a little playground. And then there was also a nature center type museum thing. Yep, right at the base of the mountain. Yeah. We didn't have time to go in that, but I think that would be really interesting. What we did was we hiked up to the top of the mountain and there's a few different ways you can go up and down the mountain. We decided not to do the gondola. We decided to hike up and it took about 45 minutes. Yeah, more or less.

Yeah, 45 minutes to an hour. And on the way up, we took this kind of rocky, slightly rocky trail. It wasn't too bad. mean, we were, you know, it was a little bit of a, it wasn't super strenuous, but it wasn't like, you know, it's going up a hill. So it wasn't flat or anything. It was, it was a good workout, but it was so pretty. There were so many

times when we needed to stop and we would just look at the view or we would look at the flowers or the plants and there were lots of people who were hiking up, hiking up the mountain. It was amazing. You can see for miles and miles and the fields we came to were covered in yellow flowers, I remember. But yeah, you could see quite a distance there. And we were just wearing normal like Nike shoes. So you don't have to wear, you know, heavy duty boots or anything like that. We didn't have poles. There were other people who were hiking up with poles. We didn't have any. So I don't think I would do it with sandals, but wearing just regular Nike type tennis shoes, totally fine. So when we got to the top, you could actually walk, as Aaron mentioned, the whole mountain top is very grassy. And so you can continue walking quite a ways. And I think there were some cows. Remember we saw some cows, kind of grazing. I swear we saw cows. I guess I swear I have a memory of cows. I could be wrong, but.

I really think that we saw some cows up there, like on the top of the grassy area. They were grazing. They might've been a little bit off in the distance. Yeah, that's true. Also, you can keep walking once you're up the top. I mean, you can go to the next ridge. Yeah, right. There's a whole other trail. Yeah, it's like a whole trail. That one is flat. Yeah. Yeah. And so we walked to this lookout tower. And once you get there, you can take an elevator up to the top, I think. I think it cost a few euros. Yeah, I don't remember why we didn't do it. We probably just didn't have enough time. And the view from the, you know, from the mountain was fine. Yeah. But some people were going up, I think it was all automated. And I think there was some sort of like pig museum or pork or bacon museum or something. course, get to the top of mountain. What else are you going to find there?

We've been trying to remember exactly what it was, but I do have a memory of something like that. Yeah. So if you go there, you have to go check it out and then confirm with us what it was. The other thing I remember is that they had some wooden lounge chairs and people were just hanging out there and just really enjoying the day. Yeah.

So then we decided to go back down to our car and we decided not to take the cable car down. We just walked. We went to the other side of the mountain and walked down the other side. And that was more like just kind of a gravel road that we walked down. And off in the distance, we could see this lake that you can hike to. I think it takes an hour or two to hike to this little small lake. And again, beautiful views.

We hiked back down and then we walked back to the car. Yep, just like back down alongside a bunch of pine trees and then past the little ski hills for kids and then back to the parking garage. Yep. Then we got back in the car and we drove a little bit further to the town of Todtnau. Todtnau is a very, very small town. It's in a beautiful area. The town itself is kind of interesting because there's this really pretty church and then there's a mountain right behind it. And so the backdrop of it is really pretty and the main road in the town goes right to this church, so that's pretty. But we've been there a couple of times and we haven't spent too much time in the town itself. It's all the things around the town that are really the draw. We had gone through there, we're just passing through. Think with Todtnau now, it's a cute little town, a mountainous town but you really start appreciating it when you get up in some elevation and look down on it, I think. Yeah, yeah, for sure. So we went to the Hasenhorn-Rodobahn, which is the alpine coaster. And we were so excited to ride this alpine coaster. There was free parking, then we walked. The parking was right on the street, I remember. Yeah, little parking lot. Yeah. And then we walked about five minutes up to the chairlift. And we bought tickets right there right before we got on. And when we were there, I think it was about 12 euros each to take the chairlift up and then come back down on the Alpine coaster. There was no line. I think there was only one or two people in front of us. It wasn't crowded. Yeah. And this was the middle of summer. So I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn't very crowded. And we were there probably, I don't know, at 2 p.m.

I think we probably was about 2 p.m. by the time we got there. So we got on the chairlift and we went up the mountain and you're facing the mountain. So you're going, you're looking towards the mountain and you're off the ground, not super high



off the ground, but I don't love heights. So I was holding on for dear life the whole way up, but it wasn't too bad. I kept turning around to see the town and see that the mountain is really quite a view.

That is, yeah, it really is very pretty as the higher you up you get. And when you turn around and you just see the whole valley and the town and the black forest hills and mountains in the distance, it was really breathtaking. Yeah. Hill after hill. Really pretty. How long do you think it took us to get up the mountain? 10, 12 minutes. Yeah. So I think maybe 10 minutes on the chairlift. So then we got to the top and there's a little hut where you could get snacks and beer and coffee and cake because it's Germany and you can get beer coffee and cake pretty much everywhere and you can also do a little hiking they had I think a few tables and we just spent a little time walking around and just looking at the view yeah because you can walk in the direction and look over the other valley in fact I remember a guy there who was getting ready to do some paragliding remember

Oh yeah, right. the whole set up and he was just waiting maybe for someone else or for the right wind to take off. Yeah, right. So we didn't spend too much time. I kind of wish we had had more time to get something to eat and sit at the table and just enjoy the view. So we did enjoy it for probably, I don't know, 10, 20 minutes. And then we walked over to where you get on the Alpine coaster, which only took us like two or three minutes to walk over there. There was nobody in line in front of us. I think you got on first because you go faster than I do. I tend to go faster down these things than you do. So you got on first and, you know, you just get in your own coaster. For those of you who haven't done this type of thing before you get in your own little car.

and then they put a seatbelt on you and you have control of the brakes. Like if you pull back, you brake and if you push forward, then you go forward and you just go down the mountain and then you can brake where you want to. You're essentially holding two levers in both hands and you pull on these levers, it will slow you down and push on them. think it will release.



Yeah, release the brake and you go faster and you could go really fast The first couple of times they did I was kind of nervous. I wasn't sure how fast I could go and one time I went on a smaller coaster and I actually asked the guy right before I took off I said can I just go down this whole thing without breaking and he said yeah, that's totally fine So on this one, this is a big coaster it you know, because you take the chairlift all the way up the mountain and then you go all the way back down the mountain on this coaster and there's twists and turns and it's so much fun. I did brake around some of the curves because you do go pretty fast and on this one I wasn't totally sure if I should be breaking or not so I did kind of break a little bit, did you? Yeah, I probably did too although you don't have to. You're not gonna go flying off this thing. It's been tested a million times but you almost feel like you have to brake. You start going really fast and you get faster and faster, build up speed. And there's even like a corkscrew part of this ride where you loop around, around, around, around, and then keep going downhill. So it's fast. It's a really lot of fun. It's a pretty smooth ride. know, the wind is blowing everywhere, but it's a lot of fun. Yeah. And when we go back, I want to do that one again, and I am not going to break the entire way down.

I think even on that one, you could go down without breaking and you would go fast, but it would be really fun. It was great. forward to doing that again. Yeah. And I think it would be had more time. We would have done it again.

But we didn't have enough time. So after that, we went back to our car and then we drove maybe 10 minutes and we kind of started going up the hill and we went to a waterfall and we parked on a street. We used Google Maps to navigate there and it was a two lane road kind of going up some switchbacks. And then we saw a little parking area that was right off the road. So we just snagged a parking space because there were quite a few cars there. And then there was a building where you could get snacks and food and it was like a little restaurant. There are a bunch of people there. Yeah. And then we walked on a path to the waterfall and there was a



like ticket machine where you would buy tickets. gate that you needed to buy your ticket to get through the gate.

Yeah, and nobody was checking. It was a little confusing. I remember there were lots of other people there and we weren't really sure whether we had to buy a ticket or what the ticket was for and nobody was checking tickets. We finally figured it out and they do want you to buy a ticket to visit the waterfall, but nobody's checking. So we got our tickets and we walked maybe 15 minutes to the waterfall. Yeah, wasn't terrible. Like the hike to the waterfall wasn't too bad. There was a little bit of an incline, but it wasn't like super steep. It was, it was a pretty easy hike and it was very pretty because you're going back into like a more forested area and then you get to this waterfall and it was just gorgeous. It's huge. It goes up and up and up and up and there's all sorts of benches and a couple big benches where you can recline like you just lie back right in front of the waterfall. Yeah, we did that. We were managed to snag that one. That's a popular one. So we had to wait a little bit, but we snagged that one and you just you're just reclining on this double wooden bench thing and the waterfall is just right in front of you. And it's nice because it was like it was getting kind of hot.

And so it was nice to have the spray for the waterfall. It kind of cooled down. And there was also an observation sort of area, a covered observation area platform too, so you can look there. I noticed lots of trails, right? We could have kept hiking in almost any direction at that point. Yeah, and there were like little bridges that went over the river and there were these different trails at different elevations. So...you know, there was one that was right by the trail that we came in on and just kind of continued on. And then you could also go up some stairs. And then there were probably two or three other trails, at least. So you could hike up or you could just continue on at kind of the same level and just continue on a little bit more through the Black Forest area. There were people hiking all over. I mean, there were quite a few people who were who just kind of disappeared on some of those trails and just kept hiking. So I think that would be really fun. And even just hiking to the waterfall





would be really fun. Maybe take 45 minutes or an hour to hike there, enjoy the area, kind of look around and then go back to the car. But we decided we also wanted to see the suspension bridge and it's called the Black Forest Line. And we could see it from below.

When we walked to the waterfall, we could see the suspension bridge way up in the air. Yeah, that's one of neatest things when you come to that spot, you look up and it's so high and so far away. but there's this giant suspension bridge going right over the waterfall. it's, it's really cool. I mean, it's only a couple of years old at this point. So it's like brand new. It's super long. It's as long as the empire state building is tall.

So it's a really, really fun. Well, so we wanted to hit that it was getting really, really hot. And we weren't sure we weren't sure when it closed. I remember you you ran up there. I was worried it was gonna close before I could get up there. And of course, it's all uphill. Like, yeah, you have to you have to gain a lot of altitude before you get to the bridge from the waterfall.

So you like literally ran up all those stairs and the trail and we were texting. So I was going up some more slowly and we were texting each other, you know, to keep in touch. You know what I was? By the time we got to the top, I was pretty out of breath, but it wasn't closing anytime soon. So I ran to the top without any real need to do that.

Anyway, I did have to pay to get a ticket, think, or our ticket, maybe our ticket got us in, I can't remember. Yeah, we might have actually bought the ticket for the suspension bridge when we bought the ticket to go see the waterfall. Yeah, that's probably right. I think that it. So there's a turnstile, you go in and then you can enter the suspension bridge. And there's a few different places where you can buy tickets to see the waterfall and the suspension bridge at some of the entrances. And then also where you actually access the suspension bridge, you can drive up there too. They have a little parking lot. And so you can actually drive and park and see the



waterfall and then get back in your car and then drive up to the suspension bridge, park there, and then go to the suspension bridge. Or you can park in one of those lots and then walk up or down to the other site. So the suspension bridge is great. mean, you're walking on a great...basically so you can see through to the waterfall and the forest floor below and it's wide, you know, it's big. It's no problem with like being three or four people wide, you know, you can pass other people. It's quite big, but it's just amazing up there because you can see forever. It spans from hill to hill as a valley underneath you. A beautiful green scenery in any direction you look and it's super long. it takes, you know, maybe a good 10, 12 minutes maybe to walk from one end of the bridge to the other, but it is really, really cool. So as you were doing that, I was walking up to meet you and I wasn't exactly sure which trail you took. So I was just sort of finding my way and I ended up taking this other trail and I walked into like this neighborhood of houses and along the little creek. then I managed to find, I use Google maps. So I like managed to find my way back, but I took the scenic route for sure. And so by the time I got back, I could see you on the suspension bridge. And I remember I took some pictures of you, like you were out there on the suspension bridge and you were waving and then you came in and, I remember the lobby has had closed down. I think we had seen some opening hours. That's why we were so worried that we weren't going to make it.

And I think it was just the opening hours of the lobby where you can get tickets, but you can also just get tickets from a machine and it's open until like dark, think probably eight o'clock or something or maybe, maybe dusk. So it was actually open later and we didn't realize until we got there that even if the lobby is closed, you can still go on the bridge. I remember when you get about the middle of the bridge, you look down and that super tall waterfall actually looks small from where you are. So it gives you some idea of scale, of size, of that place. Yeah. And I didn't go out on it because I got up there when you were basically already back. And also, I hate heights. I decided that you had tested that out. That was enough. I took photos. Yeah. I think next time I probably would do it. Who knows if I'd actually make it all the way across the bridge? I don't know.

But we actually did go to another suspension bridge in the northern part of the Black Forest. And that one was shorter. And I did make it all the way across that one. You clinging to the edge. I was clinging to the edge of that bridge. Yes, I was. It was worth it. It was so worth it. So I think next time I probably would go up. that one in the Black Forest line that we're talking about now, that one just seems scarier because it's so long. Yeah. Yeah lot of fun, I really liked it. Yeah. So I remember after that, was getting later. We were probably hungry by this time because we didn't really stop anywhere for food. I think we ate breakfast at home, we picked up some snacks on the way, and then I think we'd planned on eating dinner back at our Airbnb. And we were trying to just do as much as we could during the day. So I think we were probably hungry and our legs were so tired because we had just hiked all the way up to the Black Forest line and we were both like really going quickly. So I remember we found a faster way back down on the stairs, but I think we took a little bit of time for our legs to recover before we walked back down. And then we hung out at the waterfall just a little bit because it had kind of cleared out and nobody was there. And then we walked back to the car.

And then we drove back. We just drove back to our Airbnb and we drove a little bit of a different way. And it was equally pretty. I mean, we're not the whole route the whole time, like the whole day. We just kept saying, this is so pretty. It's so beautiful. Yeah, Blue sky, some clouds, but yeah, temperature is nice and made for a great day. Yeah. And I think, you know, we we talk about this still as one of our favorite days. We've spent a lot of time in the Black Forest and we've had really wonderful experiences, but everything just kind of came together to make this day super, super fun. And it's, of all the things we talked about, you can easily do it in a day. If you're coming from Freiburg, that's easy to do from Freiburg. If you're coming from Triberg, you can do it. If you're coming from north of Triberg, it's going to take longer to get there. So you just need to leave earlier, but all the things that we did, can absolutely do that in a day and enjoy it. Yeah, it's a great park, great area in the southern black forest, but there's great things to do from the north to the south. But this is, you know, especially fun



area to be in if you get to go there. And you can actually go to the Todtnau Now area and just stay there.

There are several parts of the Black Forest that are really fun to stay in because the Black Forest is pretty big. And so if you only have a day or two, you could actually just go to the Todtnau area, spend a night or two and just concentrate on that area. Yeah, that would be totally worthwhile.

Alright, well, if you enjoyed this type of episode, let us know because we could definitely talk through other days that we've had in Germany where we've had really fun experiences and we'd love to share them with you. Yeah, it's always fun recounting these and we have tons of stories. yeah, we have lots. All right, well thanks so much for joining us. Bye everyone.

Thanks so much for listening to the Germany Travel Planning Podcast. If you enjoyed today's episode, please leave us a review. Leaving a review is a fantastic way to support the podcast because it helps others discover our Germany travel content and trip planning tools. We also encourage you to share this podcast with your fellow travelers. Be sure to check out the show notes for the links and resources I mentioned in today's episode. And visit our website, [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com) for expert travel resources that make planning your Germany trip easier and stress-free, including free travel guides, our step-by-step DIY Germany travel planner, and personalized services like custom itineraries, one-on-one trip planning consults, and itinerary reviews to ensure that you make the most of your time and enjoy the best of Germany. Until next week, happy travel planning!

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- [Here's the shop](#) we mentioned with all of the local items and gifts



- [DIY Germany Travel Planner](#) (includes our Black Forest regional guide and our interactive map with hotels, sights, castles, etc, for the Black Forest and all over Germany)
- [Custom itinerary service](#)
- [One-on-one trip planning consult service](#)
- [Itinerary review service](#)