



Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Ep 8 - 10 Simple Germany Adventures You Can't Miss

Transcript

Welcome to episode eight of the Germany Travel Planning Podcast. Today we're diving into 10 simple yet unforgettable experiences in Germany that you absolutely shouldn't miss. These are not your typical visit this famous landmark recommendations. Instead, we're diving into the simple pleasures that will give you an authentic taste of German life, whether you're a first time visitor or a seasoned traveler.

Before we begin, 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.

Okay, let's dive into the 10 simple Germany adventures you absolutely cannot miss. The first one is to visit a German bakery. There is no better way to start your day in Germany than by stepping into a bakery. You'll find dozens of different kinds of bread varieties that you probably don't have at home. And one of my favorite things to get is a Brötchen, which is a little bread roll. And I will write this in the show notes so you can see how that word is written.

But these are great. You will find these all over Germany and they're very popular for breakfast but sometimes we just buy them as a snack. They're very inexpensive, they have lots of different kinds and especially if you want something that's a little more savory versus sweet, getting a Brötchen is the best way to go.



You'll also find different kinds of croissants and lots of sweet treats like pastries, cakes, cookies. I mean, there's so much. And once you see them, you're going to want to try them all. Just a warning.

You'll find German bakeries everywhere. I mean, they really are a cornerstone of daily life in Germany and locals will stop by and pick up bread every day or two.

A few of my personal favorite bakery treats are chocolate croissants or pistachio croissants. I've been seeing those more and more and they are delicious.

I also love the pastries that have cherries in them. So good. When I want something savory, I often go for the cheesy Brötchen or pretzel. Pretzels are delicious.

You can also often pick up a hot or cold drink at a bakery and sometimes they even have sandwiches. So bakeries are great places to go for quick breakfast, lunches or snacks.

Experience number two. Try Spaghetti Eis or spaghetti ice cream in English.

Okay, this one is as fun as it sounds. Spaghetti Eis is kind of a quirky German dessert that looks like a plate of spaghetti, but is actually vanilla ice cream that is pressed through a pasta maker and topped with strawberry sauce to mimic tomato sauce. And then white chocolate shavings are sprinkled on top to mimic parmesan. And underneath the ice cream, there is a mound of frozen whipped cream. And it's so good. This dessert is playful and delicious. It is a must try for anyone with a sweet tooth. And it is not just for kids.

It's said that Spaghetti Eis was invented in Mannheim in the 1960s, and it is a childhood favorite for many people in Germany. It's also really fun to watch people's reactions when they see it for the first time, or if you're traveling with your kids, take them to an Eis cream shop and say, we're going to get Spaghetti Eis cream and see

how they react. Plus it's a very Instagramable dessert, but if you're eating it in the summer, you have to be ready to take a picture because it will start melting immediately.

The third experience you must try is an Eis kaffe, which is a German iced coffee. So we were just talking about ice cream. So let's talk about Eis kaffe now because Germany takes iced coffee to a whole nother level. Eis kaffe is a decadent drink made with cold coffee, a scoop of vanilla ice cream and a generous dollop of whipped cream on top.

Eis kaffe is both a drink and a dessert and it is absolutely delicious. The ice cream starts to melt slowly into the coffee and it kind of creates this creamy, dreamy concoction that is refreshing and indulgent.

Some cafes will even add a little extra flair by adding chocolate shavings or chocolate syrup or something like that. And it's always served with a spoon and a straw. Usually you'll sit down at a table at a cafe or an Eis cream parlor to enjoy it. But I have been seeing more Eis kaffe to go in the past few years. But I do recommend take a break, go to a cozy cafe or some place with a sunny terrace, might have a nice view, and order an Eis kaffee and sit down at a table and enjoy it because it's the perfect afternoon pick-me-up. Eis kaffee is one of our favorite things.

Eis kaffe is one of our favorites. If Eis kaffe sounds good, but coffee isn't your thing, you can often order an Eisschokolade, which is iced chocolate. So it's the same drink, but they use cold chocolate milk instead of coffee. And it's delicious too.

Experience number four, enjoy afternoon Kaffee und Kuchen, which is coffee and cake.

You're probably noticing by now that a lot of these must-try experiences center around food and that's because there are so many really great experiences that center around food and this one is one of my favorites. You absolutely have to



experience Kaffee und Kuchen. This is the German tradition of having coffee and cake in the afternoon. Often between the hours of three and five, but really you can have it anytime.

Germans take their cakes seriously. And you'll find bakeries, cafes, and Konditoreien filled with an array of beautiful, delicious cakes. There are so many different kinds. You could spend your entire life trying a new one each day, and I don't think that you would actually try them all. But you will find everything. Chocolate, nuts, Marzipan, I guess marzipan in English, fruit. I mean, you will just find so many different kinds. And you're going to have a hard time choosing one because there's so many good cakes. So that's why you need to have Kaffee und Kuchen every day.

When you're ready to take a break from sightseeing, start looking around for cake that looks good. You can just pop into different bakeries and cafes and Konditoreien and you can just see what looks good and then decide to sit down, order coffee or tea or water, Coke, whatever, and then your cake and just relax. Kaffee und Kuchen really is the perfect way to slow down and just savor the moment.

This tradition is all about taking a break, enjoying really good food, and maybe catching up with family and friends, or just doing a little people watching. It's a little slice of German life that you don't want to miss on your trip.

Must try experience number five is visit a Biergarten or a beer garden. You know that Germany is famous for its beer, but instead of just grabbing a pint at a bar or grabbing something at a grocery store to enjoy in your hotel room, if the weather is nice, head to a beer garden. Even if you're not a beer person, visiting a beer garden is a fun cultural experience.

These outdoor spaces are social hubs, and locals will gather there to enjoy a beer or another drink, whether alcoholic or non-alcoholic, and also sometimes food, and then of course, good company. Gardens often have long communal tables and a



lively welcoming atmosphere. Some of them even have playgrounds or areas where you can play games.

You can sit down and enjoy a beer or another drink and also food. You can get things like pretzels and sausages or even full dinners and then sometimes also lighter things like salads.

Beer gardens originated in Bavaria and are especially popular there, but these days you'll find them around Germany. But these days you'll find them in other parts of Germany as well. And it really is just such a fun experience to go in the evening and get something to drink and maybe something to eat and just relax.

So I highly recommend going to a beer garden, order a Mass, which is a one liter of beer, of the local brew. Or you could try something a little bit different, like a Radler which is beer mixed with lemonade, which is actually better than it sounds.

And don't forget to say Prost before drinking. That's when you're toasting.

And don't forget to look at the show notes because I will write these German words down so you can see what they look like.

Must try experience number six, browse a Bavarian traditional clothing store. Dirndl and Lederhosen are not just for Oktoberfest. So if you're visiting Bavaria, I highly recommend browsing a Trachten store or a traditional clothing shop because seeing the craftsmanship and variety of these outfits up close is fascinating. Just looking at the embroidery, the buttons, the weaving, and leather work that will last generations. It's also really interesting to see how much these clothes cost, especially the high-end options because they are definitely not inexpensive.

These traditional outfits have a rich history and are still worn for different special occasions and festivals, mostly in Bavaria.



Even if you don't plan on buying anything, these shops are fascinating to look at and it's definitely worth visiting at least one.

If you're interested in picking up a set of traditional clothes, stay tuned because we're going to add the best places to shop for Trachten in Munich that were recommended to us by a local to our interactive map that comes with our DIY Germany travel planner.

Experience number seven is eat international food. You will have many opportunities to eat all kinds of delicious traditional German dishes, but you don't have to survive on Schnitzel alone.

There's lots of international food that you can try when you're in Germany.

Here's a few suggestions. One is Döner or Döner Kebab. This is a huge favorite. It's a Turkish inspired wrap filled with grilled meat, veggies and sauce. You can also get vegetarian versions. It's cheap, delicious, you'll find it everywhere, and it's perfect for a quick meal on the go.

We found Vietnamese food to be consistently excellent throughout Germany and also very affordable. We found lots of really great lunch specials at Vietnamese restaurants. So that's also one of our favorite go-tos.

American style burgers but with a German spin are also really popular right now.

And of course, Italian is also very popular in Germany. So if you want pasta or pizza, that will be absolutely no problem to find that. That's a longtime favorite.

I've also had really good Venezuelan food, Ethiopian food, French food. You'll also find great fusion food and food from lots of other countries in bigger cities like Berlin, and



especially in food markets and food halls. Exploring the international food scene is a delicious way to see how global influences have shaped German cuisine and culture.

And if you're going to Berlin, there's a food tour that I highly recommend. I'll link it up in the show notes. You really have to go check it out.

I really enjoyed this tour because we went to both traditional German restaurants and some international restaurants and then there were some really good desserts and beer that were included as well. So check out the show notes because you will love the tour.

Experience number eight, taking the train or public transportation. For those of us who live in car dependent countries and who don't rely on public transportation at home, hopping on a Deutsche Bahn train or riding public transit in Germany can feel like an adventure in itself.

We actually have a lot of clients come to us and they say, we really want to take at least one train just for the experience.

German trains are comfortable and mostly efficient, and they can be a great way to see the countryside while traveling from one city to the next. Even local trams and buses can be a really fun experience.

Okay, we've got two more must try experiences. Experience number nine is go for a Sunday walk or hike.

Many Germans love to go for walks on the weekends, especially on Sundays when everything else is closed. It's something that I used to do a lot when I lived in Germany. And with so many beautiful trails and parks and forests, it's easy to see why Germans enjoy doing this. I mean, everywhere you look, there's a trail where you can go walking or you can go hiking.



Whether you're in the Black Forest or wandering through vineyards in the Rhine Valley or just exploring a local park, this is a great way to connect with nature and experience a slice of everyday German life.

And now for the last experience. Number ten is go for a bike ride.

Germany is incredibly bike friendly with well marked paths just for bikes and lots of bike rental options. So whether you join a guided bike tour or just rent a bike for a couple of hours, it's a fantastic way to explore. In cities like Berlin or Munich, you can easily bike to major landmarks and parks and through neighborhoods.

If you're in the countryside, you'll find scenic routes that could take you past castles or beautiful rivers or through charming villages. A bike ride is not only eco-friendly, it's fun and it's a great way to feel like a local.

There you have it, 10 simple but memorable adventures to try in Germany. Whether you're visiting for the first time or the 10th, these little experiences will make your trip unforgettable.

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Be sure to check out the show notes for links and resources I mentioned in today's episode.

And visit our website, 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 to ensure that you make the most of your time and enjoy the best of Germany.

Until next week, happy travel planning!