



# 10 REASONS TO VISIT WEST GERMANY

With a landscape that has inspired some of the most iconic fairy tales of our time, as well as bustling cultural capitals and a wealth of unusual and exciting things to do, West Germany has a lot more to offer tourists than you might think. Often overlooked in favour of the bright lights of Berlin, or the snow-smothered scenery of the south, this fascinating region can provide a more unspoiled and authentic view of Germany – one that can easily be enjoyed from the comfort of a luxury liner. Here are the top 10 reasons why West Germany should be next up on your travel wish list.

**1 FASCINATING ROMAN RUINS**

It might surprise you to learn that some of the world's best-preserved ruins from the Roman Empire can be found in West Germany, including the Imperial Baths of Trier, Porta Nigra and the Basilica of Constantine. These ancient sites offer a unique insight into the Roman rule in Germany, the history of which can also be explored at the Romano-Germanic Museum in Cologne.



Porta Nigra



## 2 THE HOME OF GRIMM BROTHER'S FAIRY TALES

Inspired by the rich folklore and enigmatic scenery of the region where they grew up, brothers Jacob and Ludwig Emil Grimm penned some of the world's most famous fairy tales, including *Snow White*, *Rapunzel*, and *Cinderella*. The German Fairy Tale Route takes travellers to various important locations from their lives, including their birthplace in Medieval Hanau and the timbered turrets of Marburg, where they attended university.

## 3 ROMANTIC RIVER CRUISES

A far cry from the gigantic megaships that patrol the Mediterranean, river cruises on the Rhine are a much more civilised affair, inspiring the romantic, bourgeois atmosphere of a bygone era. Luxury liners take passengers on a journey of discovery from Cologne to the Black Forest and beyond, stopping off at rolling vineyards, mystical castles, and charming riverside settlements along the way.



Rhine



Cologne Cathedral - Image by: IndustryAndTravel / Shutterstock.com

## 4 THE CULTURAL CITY OF COLOGNE

Culture vultures should look no further than the unconventional city of Cologne, which offers everything from astounding Gothic cathedrals to wonder-filled art galleries and museums. Straddling the River Rhine, you'll also find a colourful, cobbled old town and a trendy Belgian quarter, offering contemporary coffee shops, vintage boutiques and live music venues.

## West Germany Prestige Awards



Baden-Baden

### 5 THERMAL HOT SPRINGS

Unbeknownst to some, West Germany boasts a wealth of thermal and mineral springs, the majority of which are located in the mysterious mountains of the Black Forest. The charming spa town of Baden-Baden has attracted celebrities, monarchs, and dignitaries over the years – from Queen Victoria to Barack Obama – all eager to take a dip in its curative, soul-soothing waters, and enjoy the hopelessly whimsical old-world architecture.

### 6 DELIGHTFUL DELICACIES

From the Black Forest gateaux that's every bit as dark, rich, and seductive as it's namesake, to the unapologetic yet delicious simplicity of a *frankfurter*, the gastronomic delights of West Germany know no bounds. Keen foodies can enjoy fine dining in Dusseldorf, or choose to eat fresh seafood harbour-side in Hamburg, with a vast array of regional delicacies to tick off the list.



Black Forest gateaux



Cologne Carnival - Image by iStock/Shutterstock.com

### 7 IRRESISTIBLE MARKETS AND EVENTS

While Dusseldorf hosts one of the country's largest Christmas markets, attracting visitors from around the world, West Germany also hosts a whole calendar of interesting festivals and events. Cologne Carnival is an explosion of colour, music and costumes, and takes place in the week before Lent, while the Reeperbahn Festival in Hamburg offers over 350 live concerts, film screenings and art exhibitions in late September.



Black Forest

## 8 STUNNING SCENERY

While many would head straight for the alpine vistas of the south in search of Germany's best scenery, those in the know can enjoy an abundance of unspoiled landscapes right here in the west. Adventurous folk should check out the gorgeous, castle-lined crags of Rhineland, or traverse the mist-coated mountains of the Black Forest, where emerald lakes and tranquil rivers punctuate each tree-lined valley.

## 9 ECCENTRIC NIGHTLIFE

With Germany's reputation as a nation of beer-lovers, it's no surprise this region's historic and beautifully preserved cities also offer ample opportunity for a lively night out. Dusseldorf's old town features a wealth of riotous pubs, all supposedly connected and known collectively as the 'world's longest bar'. Meanwhile, Frankfurt is known for its house and techno offering, and Cologne has a vibrant LGBTQ+ nightlife scene.



Frankfurt



Robert Lewandowski - image by MDI / Shutterstock.com

## 10 FANTASTIC FOOTBALL TALENT

Popular with the neutrals for their beautiful kits as well as their free-flowing attacking football, any football fan visiting West Germany will want to catch Borussia Dortmund in action. Famous for developing young talents into international superstars, the club helped launch the career of Robert Lewandowski and is currently home to Erling Haaland, a player widely tipped to succeed Lionel Messi as the best in the world.