

GERMANY FACES

# Discover German Originality



Heritage Tours in Germany

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German National Tourist Office  
[www.ComeToGermany.com](http://www.ComeToGermany.com)



Germany

# Discover your Heritage in Germany

## Destinations, Attractions, Sights and Places to See and Visit

With more than 7 million individuals, Germans were the largest group of emigrants in 19th century America. Today, more than 42 million Americans claim German heritage according to the 2000 Census. We invite you to discover 400 years of German-American history as you trace your family roots and uncover exciting stories in Germany.

### The Migration Experience

The first Germans arrived in 1608 at Jamestown on the Mary and Margaret. In 1683 the Concorde, also called the "German Mayflower" brought a group of Mennonites to Philadelphia to make "Germantown" the first German settlement in America. Soon others followed - many of them Protestants, Amish or religiously motivated groups from all over Germany, such as Baden, Württemberg, Saxony, Bavaria and the Palatinate.

During the 19th century, land became the main motive for European emigrants to come to America and they plowed the western plains and built canals and railroads. Emigration became a social phenomenon from the 1820s onward. In 1883 alone, 250,000 people emigrated from Germany.

By the end of the century, emigrants, now increasingly coming from Eastern Europe, went to the coal mines, industrial sites and bustling ethnic neighborhoods across America. With the events of World War II, Jewish refugees, displaced persons and war brides formed the last wave of approximately 600,000 emigrants from Germany.

Freedom of religion, a patch of land, a shop in the city, and escape were all promises of America that motivated these individuals to embark on the trip of a lifetime.

After understanding the impact that German immigrants had on American history, you should not be surprised to learn that many well known Americans have German roots. Donald Trump's grandfather was from Baden-Baden. Fürth in Franconia was the hometown to singer Billy Joel, actress Sandra Bullock and Henry Kissinger. Last but not least, Astronaut Neil Armstrong's family emigrated from Ladbergen near Osnabrück.

In the following pages, you are kindly invited to trace these fascinating stories and learn about your roots in Germany.



**01 Bremen**  
Bremen was an important trading partner with the first US Consulate in 1796. America brought tobacco and cotton to Bremen and from Bremen, people traveled to America. In 1857 the city became home to the famous North German Lloyd shipping company.

A statue of the Bremen Town "Musicians", four destitute farmyard animals set out to find a better place to live, serves as a quiet reminder of Bremen's history and as a tribute to the many emigrants who started their adventure in Bremen.

### 02 Bremerhaven



The American schooner "Draper" was the first ship to enter the "Bremer-Hafen" (Bremen harbor) in 1830. Bremerhaven soon became Europe's busiest port with 7 million people leaving Germany from its shores. Europe's biggest theme museum on emigration, the German Emigration Center, opened in 2005 and was honored with the European Museum of the Year Award 2007. Exciting and authentic, it presents information on historic and current emigration and offers resources to search for family roots ([www.dah-bremerhaven.de](http://www.dah-bremerhaven.de)).



**03 Cuxhaven**  
"America is just around the corner" is a saying still heard today, after the HAPAG

(Hamburgisch Amerikanische Paketfahrt Aktiengesellschaft) company started its steamship service out of Cuxhaven in 1889. Today the historical Hapag Terminal and the "Steubenhoeft" quay form a museum with special exhibitions and an extensive database ([www.hapag-halle-cuxhaven.de](http://www.hapag-halle-cuxhaven.de)).

### 04 Hamburg

Between 1850 and 1939, Hamburg served as the

"Gateway to the World" for some 5 million emigrants, many of them transit migrants and Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe.

Hamburg's museum to the emigrants, the "BallinStadt" (named after the HAPAG's general manager) opened in 2007 and is located on the grounds of the former 'Emigrants' Halls' on the Elbe River's Veddel Island ([www.ballinstadt.de](http://www.ballinstadt.de)).

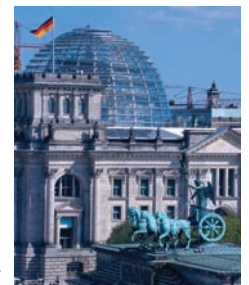


### 05 Glaisin

The charming town of Glaisin is home to Germany's best known novel on emigration "Jörn Jacob Svehn der Amerikafahrer" (1917). The fictional letters mentioned therein are currently being translated into English. A small exhibit and well preserved farm buildings memorialize the many emigrants from Mecklenburg and Pomerania.

### 06 Berlin

Emigrant stories from Berlin often relate to artists and intellectuals such as Marlene Dietrich, who, as an American citizen, finally found rest in her hometown. Two of the most famous speeches made during the Cold War were delivered in Berlin including President John F. Kennedy's in June 1963 with the now famous ending "Ich bin ein Berliner!" On June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan spoke to the people of West Berlin and challenged the general secretary of the Soviet Union with: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this Wall!"



### 07 Potsdam

To researchers and travelers, Brandenburg's history is closely related to the Prussian King Frederick the Great and his residence-gardens of Sanssouci in Potsdam. In the nearby Cecilienhof Palace, the Treaty of Potsdam was negotiated during the summer of 1945 by Harry S. Truman, Stalin and Atlee.

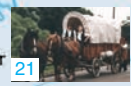
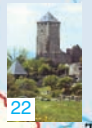
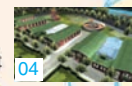
# Heritage Map of Germany

Please note that this map only contains cities that are relevant to American immigration.

For more maps of Germany and tourist information please visit

[www.ComeToGermany.com](http://www.ComeToGermany.com) and

[www.germanoriginality.com](http://www.germanoriginality.com)



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## Destinations, Attractions, Sights and Places to See and Visit

### 08 Magdeburg

A statue commemorates Baron Friedrich Ferdinand von Steuben from Magdeburg, Inspector General of the American Army during the War of Independence. He came to America at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin. Today, the famous "Steuben Parade", one of the largest observances of Germanic heritage throughout America is held in New York City each year ([www.germanparadenyc.org](http://www.germanparadenyc.org)).

### 09 Radebeul

Radebeul near Dresden is home of a museum to Karl May. For generations Karl May (1842-1912) was one of the best loved and most widely read German writers. He wrote best-sellers, such as the "Winnetou" series, about the American West long before he actually traveled to America in 1908.

### 10 Mühlhausen



It is said that a suspension bridge in this small Bavarian town served as August

Roebling's model for the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.

### 11 Kassel and the Mercenaries Route

Some 30,000 men from Hesse and other principalities were sent to fight for Great Britain in the American Revolution. The Hessian convoys set out from the park "Karlsaue" and the count's palace "Orangerie" in Kassel to Bremerhaven (then "Geestemünde"). Their route along the Weser river parallels the German Fairy Tale Road.

### 12 Bad Blankenburg



Friedrich Froebel founded the first Kindergarten in Bad Blankenburg in 1840. His pedagogical concept

was introduced to America with a kindergarten in Watertown, Wisconsin in 1855.

### 13 Klein Losnitz

The Klein Losnitz peasant's museum is a charming place to tell the migration experience from the Fichtelgebirge area with the biographical portraits in original homes.

### 14 Buttenheim

The birthplace of Levi Strauss is home to a museum that tells the story of the Jewish community in Buttenheim, Strauss' emigration to California in 1847 and of course the success-story of the world famous Levi's jeans.



### 15 Finsterau

The open air museum at Finsterau presents life in the Bavarian forest from where many people found their way to America, especially Chicago.

### 16 Schiefweg

The "Emerenz Meier House" in Schiefweg / Waldkirchen is a beautiful restored home, restaurant and museum that tells about this courageous woman, her poetry and her life in the "Waldlerviertel" on Chicago's Northside.

### 17 Ulm



Albert Einstein, world renowned physician and Princeton professor, born in Ulm in 1879, became an American, then a Swiss citizen. A window in the Ulm Münster cathedral (the tallest

steeple in the world) depicts Einstein next to Kepler, Galileo and Newton. Also a monument, a bronze sculpture and a well memorizes Einstein.

### 18 Bad Mergentheim

A small museum at Hachtel-Bad Mergentheim presents Ottmar Mergenthaler, emigrant to Baltimore in 1872 and inventor of the Linotype typesetting machine.

### 19 Walldorf

In 1783 John Jacob Astor left his hometown of Walldorf near Heidelberg. The towns' name became a synonym for Astor's "Waldorf-Astoria" financial empire.

### 20 Hambach

The Hambach fortress is considered the "Cradle of German Democracy" where in 1832 approximately 30,000 patriots demonstrated for German unity. The revolutionaries from the Palatinate, Baden and Württemberg are known as the "Forty Eighters" due to the German Revolution in 1848, during which the German Federation was formed as a successor to the German Empire which had ceased to exist in 1806. Many of the "Forty Eighters" emigrated to America. Friedrich Münch and Friedrich Hecker became very prominent as so called "Latin Farmers" around St. Louis.

### 21 Oberalben

The local emigrant museum at Oberalben near Kusel depicts Palatine emigration in a quaint exhibit ([www.auswanderermuseum.de](http://www.auswanderermuseum.de)).

### 22 Lichtenberg

The nearby castle in Lichtenberg tells the story of the traveling musicians



from around the area. Among them is George Drumm of Erdesbach, composer of the White House Hymn, "Hail America".

### 23 Liblar

A monument to Carl Schurz stands in Liblar. The most prominent of the German American patriots was born in a tenant house of Gracht castle. Political refugee in 1852, he became US Secretary of the Interior in 1881. In New York City, a park has been named after him.



### 24 Krefeld

The monument of Franz Daniel Pastorius in Krefeld commemorates the departure of 13 pioneer families from the Dutch-German borderland in 1683 to Germantown, PA. Pastorius' home in the Bavarian town of Bad Windsheim stands as a landmark memorial to his name.





Located in the heart of Europe, Germany provides the visitor with an exciting and unique vacation experience. Everything from bustling metropolises, enchanting towns, majestic mountains and sprawling rivers can be found in a country known for its hospitality and friendliness.

### Turbulent History and Gone-by Places



Your forefathers carried passports of the numerous German principalities and gave up their allegiance to the King of Prussia, the Duke of Oldenburg, the King of Württemberg or whoever ruled the country at the time. Your family documents may show gone-by names and many of the ancestral homes are

not to be found in today's Germany, so to trace roots within this turbulent history from absolutism to modern democracy geographic gazetteers, old maps and archival holdings are as useful as up-to-date road maps. We therefore encourage you to prepare in advance for your excursion into the past: check spellings of names and places, verify dates, and define research options before you go. Individual travelers might consider hiring pre-trip research assistance or a guide's services to go on a personal itinerary in Germany. The German National Tourist Office, as well as its partners in heritage travel, provide a range of services from basic information to packaged tours, customized arrangements and driver-guided excursions.



### [www.germanoriginality.com](http://www.germanoriginality.com)



On our website you will find links to ancestry websites, the history of famous German Americans and inventions of German origin. Furthermore, discover an emigration time line, an interactive map of important German American heritage places and German products. We also provide you with community features, including German American festivals and events in the U.S., travel tips, cooking ideas and recipes.

For further information on travel to Germany and special heritage offers, go to our website [www.ComeToGermany.com](http://www.ComeToGermany.com). To get more information on the current and historical Germany, visit the website of the German Information Center: [www.germany.info](http://www.germany.info).

Whether you will finally stand in your forefather's church, find a document, walk the ground of the farmstead, meet with distant cousins, visit the pier of farewell or just "be there" and explore a beautiful country, we welcome you to discover your heritage in Germany.



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