



The Official Newsletter of the German
National Tourist Press Office

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Welcome to our latest press newsletter about car country Germany. We hope you enjoy our new format!

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Editor's Choice: Drive, but watch out for the Frogs!



Germany is famous for its highways, or Autobahns, but for those who like to put the pedal to the metal, watch out for the frogs in some regions during breeding time!

Other warnings:

1. Some stretches of Autobahn have speed limits.
2. The right lane must be used when free and overtaking on the right is forbidden.
3. No flashing headlights or left turn signals at a car moving slowly in front of you.
4. Children under 13 are not allowed in front seat of any vehicle with back seat.
5. Seat belts front and rear are obligatory everywhere.
6. There is no turn on red!

Other than these few things, enjoy your trip through Car Country Germany:

Special Events:

"Trash-People"

Roncalli Platz, Apr 21-May 1
After a trip around the world, the fascinating "Trash People" are home again. The art sculptures built out of trash have been to Red Square in Moscow, under the Grand Arch in Paris, on the Great Wall of China, in front of the Pyramids near Cairo and on the Grand-Place in Brussels and have fascinated millions of visitors. From April 21 to May 1, 2006 Cologne artists HA Schulte will display the "Trash people" in the center of the city. They will be placed in front of one of the most famous cathedrals in the world, the Cologne Cathedral. This event with the title "Cologne People" will cause a sensation beyond the boundaries of the city of Cologne because it is the only

Theme: Stuttgart Stars in Germany's Car Crown

To the delight of fans and drivers of German cars around the world, Mercedes and Porsche will be opening new, classy, architecturally-revealing museums in Stuttgart. With the new Mercedes museum and production center slated to open this May and the new Porsche museum scheduled to open next year, Stuttgart is a shimmering star in Germany automobile heaven!

On May 20th, the new Mercedes-Benz Museum will open its doors. The futuristic structure based on a double helix with twisting staircases has, for the first time, enough room to show the company's complete automobile collection, with exhibits ranging from early vehicles to the racing cars of the present. Enjoy too a behind the scenes tour of the Mercedes Benz Plant in Sindelfingen. ➤ www.mercedes-benz.de

Karl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler lived very different lives but their passion and collaboration resulted in the invention of the automobile. Just outside of Stuttgart in the small village of Schorndorf, the Gottlieb Daimler House accommodates a small museum while an exhibition in the nearby Carl Benz house in Ladenburg includes a demonstration of models of Benz's most important inventions: the king-pin steering, the electric ignition with spark plug and the surface carburetor. ➤ www.mercedes-benz.com

In 2007, the new Porsche temple will offer space for 80 cars, about four times as many as can be seen in the present Porsche museum. ➤ www.carpages.co.uk

Feature: Germany's Car Country: from VW in the North to the new BMW Museum in the South

History, Passion & Technology - Germany's car brands - Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche and Volkswagen - are world famous as well for their innovation and quality. Hop in one of Germany's posh cars and start your automobile tour of Germany in the north in Wolfsburg with Volkswagen (VW) and work your way south to Munich and BMW's new museum scheduled to open early next year!

Wolfsburg is home to Volkswagen, the first manufacturer in Germany to open an automobile world of adventure in 2000 - Autostadt Wolfsburg. Located in a 61-acre park, it contains over 70 attractions as well as a Ritz-Carlton Hotel. In the "TimeHouse" museum, classic cars of all brands are on display, the AutoLab contains a fascinating, interactive Car Design studio, whilst visitors of all ages can try out their road skills at the various driving attractions ➤ www.autostadt.de. New to Wolfsburg since November is the Phaeno Science Center right next to the Autostadt. The Phaeno museum seduces its visitors to engage in playful discovery and experimentation of natural phenomena on their own.

Next stop on the road is Dresden in the eastern state of Saxony. The VW transparent factory, made of glass, makes the fascination of automobile production visible to the outside world. It is not only the birthplace of the "Phaeton", Volkswagen premium class, but also a place where car production becomes an experience. ➤ www.glaesernemanufaktur.de

Driving southwest, one hour south of Frankfurt, the Automobile and Technology Museum in Sinsheim has more than 3,000 exhibits, including

German stop before it moves on to New York and the Antarctic. ➤ www.haschult.de

Masterpieces of Classic Modernity

Bremen, Apr 23-Jul 23

From April 23 to July 23 2006 the Paula Modersohn-Becker Museum in Bremen will star Masterpieces of classic modernity. On loan from the Karl Ernst Osthaus Museum in Hagen, the exhibition: "From Renoir to Feininger: Masterpieces of classic modernity" features works by different artists. The artwork of Renoir, Maillol, Liebermann, Alexej Jawlensky, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Erich Heckel, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff as well as creations by Franz Marc and August Macke will be placed alongside a significant selection of works by Emil Nolde and Lyonel Feininger. This entire exhibition is an impressive showcase of modern art history and definitely worth a visit.

Asparagus Peeling Competition and Festival

Zerbst and Schwetzingen, May 5 and 8

The State of Baden-Wuerttemberg is known for its "Asparagus Road" with the "Asparagus Capital of the world" called Schwetzingen where a renowned asparagus festival is taking place on May 5. For the eleventh time already, the picturesque town of Zerbst in Saxony-Anhalt will host the world championship asparagus peeling competition. On May 8 the former world champion who comes from a northern city will be defending his title against the other contestants. The participants are pre-screened and judged by the weight and quality of their asparagus, and how fast and thoroughly they are able to

vintage cars, racing cars, motorbikes, and even airplanes. The museum displays Europe's largest permanent Formula 1 exhibition as well as the continent's largest variety of classical vintage motor vehicles, and the most comprehensive Maybach collections worldwide. ➤ www.museum-sinsheim.de

Car fans who fancy themselves as the next Michael Schumacher, Ferrari's Formula 1 top driver, should stop at Hockenheim or Nuerburg race tracks. Visitors can experience high-speed racing at both the F1 tracks, where they get the opportunity to drive around the Formula 1 track either in their own car or as a passenger in a racing car. ➤ www.nuerburgring.de

Not far away, visitors on the car country road should make a pit stop in Stuttgart and visit the brand new Mercedes Benz museum and factory as well as the Porsche Museum scheduled to open next year. (see Feature Story)

Driving then more south and east, Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm in Bavaria boast of Audi which combines both past and future in its two Audi Forums. Built at the turn of the millennium, the eye-catching buildings house impressive permanent exhibitions on the company and cars. Temporary exhibits focus on auto mobility, design, and art. Both sites offer tours of the plants giving visitors the chance of a behind-the-scenes look at Audi's production line. ➤ www.museummobile.de

In Munich BMW welcomes visitors to its museum and to its plant just outside of the city. In 2007 BMW will open its new BMW World center. Designed not only to let visitors experience the history of BMW, it will also to serve as a venue for meetings and cultural events close to the former Olympic Center. ➤ www.bmw-welt.com

Regional Focus: Trabi Tours in Eastern Germany Are In: Retro-Gauge!

A few years ago only a few enthusiasts dared to show themselves in public with their small, DDR Trabis. Now the cult vehicle of the East is back. To drive a Trabi has become the dream of car fanatics and visitors. In Berlin and Dresden, visitors can combine nostalgic sightseeing with the real atmosphere of the former "East Germany".

Pull the choke, start the car, shift to low gear of the manual change, push the gas pedal and start your sightseeing tour. While enjoying sights such as the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin or the Frauenkirche in Dresden passing by the windows of your personal Trabi, a guide provides the driver and passengers with information about historical facts and funny stories via radio. Trabi drivers can choose between a 90-minute-tour and a mini safari of 45 minutes. For more information visit ➤ www.trabisafari.com. On the webpage you can also download the unique sound of the Trabi as mp3-file to prepare for your trip!

complete. In addition there will be different tourist offers for visitors to get to know the town.

Special Deals:

Swabian Auto Tour

Visitors to Germany can take a 5 day tour through the car country to learn all there is to know about cars. The tour includes a VIP Tour through the Mercedes Factory where they get to see the Engine Plant as well as the Mercedes Benz Forum. Participants will spend an evening as an invited guest of Mercedes-Benz in their M-B Forum with Live Entertainment. All meals, transfers, rentals, tickets & tips are included in the package as well as unique lunches and dinners featuring different places each day, all with wonderful "Swabian" food. The price starts at \$3,399 per person. ➤ www.germanautotours.com

Crossing Germany in a Boat!

Journey across Germany from the Danube to the Rhine on a remarkable cruise that links these mighty rivers with a passage through the magnificent Danube-Main Canal. Your cruise aboard the luxurious 5-star vessel, the intimate MV Casanova, is a marvelous way to discover some of Central Europe's loveliest countryside and delightful, medieval towns. Special offer from General Tours for as low as \$3099 for one person including airfare, for more information go to ➤ www.generaltours.com

12 Day Tour Captures Highlights of Germany

Start with a Rhine cruise and a visit to Cologne's Gothic Cathedral and finish with pictures at Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin. After visiting Leipzig

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Next Issue:

Low Cost Travel in Germany: Rail, Rental Cars and Low Cost Airlines.
Biking and Walking.

you can walk the medieval streets of charming Nuremberg. Fortified Rothenburg, along the Romantic Road, should not to be missed, and then you can tackle a stein of beer at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich or in the mountain resort of Garmisch in the Bavarian Alps. For those who want to see the highlight cities of Germany, this 12-day vacation is a perfect fit, for only \$1469 for one person including airfare. Find all the detail information on www.globusjourneys.com.

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