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Germany: There is a Life after the World Cup

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Special Report: World Cup = Good Vibes for Germany

It is not just the Germans who are waving the red, black and yellow this summer but also the hundreds of thousands of international visitors who visited Germany, many for the first time, for the World Cup.

According to a survey conducted in Berlin, Dortmund, Hamburg, Cologne and Munich, 90 percent of those asked said they would recommend Germany as a travel destination. Over 91 percent said they felt welcome in Germany and 93 percent agreed that the World Cup was a fabulous event. Almost half of those surveyed said it was their first trip to Germany and 73 percent were 39 or younger. Overall, 31 percent of the Americans who went to the World Cup combined their trip with a holiday.

Germany had predicted that one million foreign guests would visit Germany but the final count actually tallied twice as many! In addition to the planned 3.2 million visitors to the stadiums for all 64 games, over 20 million people attended the official fan fests in the 12 host cities.

Special Events

Jul 7 - Sep 3 Sand World Travemuende

The shoreline of
Travemuende will be
transformed with giant works
of art during Germany's fifth
annual sand sculpture
festival. From July 7 to
September 3, nearly 75
sculptors, will come from all
over the world to shape these
whimsical works from
approximately 9,000 tons of
sand, some with heights of up
to 11 meters. * www.sandworld.
de

Jul 15
Berlin- Love Parade
Berlin's Loveparade is back!
After two years, the massive

Feature: World Equestrian Games: Horses Take Center Stage in Aachen

Twenty years after the last World Equestrian Championship, Aachen will once again welcome the equestrian world from August 26th to September 3rd. www.aachen2006.de

Germany's supremacy in the saddle is world renown as the country produces some of the finest horsemen and horsewomen, trainers and horses around the world. But what is not as well known is the range of holidays in the saddle! You can visit a pony ranch with your family or visit stud farms with their own riding schools. Trekking riders can find riding ranches all over Germany especially in the states of > Lower Saxony, > North Rhine Westphalia, Baden Wuerttemberg and the Rhineland Palatinate. Each state offers ranch to ranch rides while your baggage and meals are cared for by your hosts.

Regional Focus: Northern Gems: Where the Germans Go in Summer

With the visit of President Bush and his wife in the Baltic town of > Stralsund this month, the northern Hanseatic, UNESCO World Heritage city will get some well-deserved attention. The medieval buildings and brick facades from the 14th century are a reminder of the city's importance as trading and merchant center in the Middle Ages. Stralsund also was an important East German naval port and where Chancellor Merkel started her political career.

Even world traveling Germans head to their own northern coast in summer to bask in the sun and the sand! On the coast of Lower Saxony, next to the Netherlands, the Frisian islands string out like a strand of pearls all the way to the tip of Schlewig Holstein just below Denmark. Each island has its own personality but all are known for fresh sea air, spa facilities, water sports, sand beaches and dunes, colorful meadows, blooming heather and magnificent views. As part of this chain of islands, Helgoland stands out as an oasis of quietude while the island of > Sylt (German only) appeals to Germany's rich and famous with its chique boutiques and villages, straw-roofed houses and five star hotels.

On the other side of Schleswig Holstein, the beautiful islands that dot the Baltic coast just off the coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern include Ruegen (German only) with its shining white chalk cliffs. The island of * Poel (German only), just off the coast of Luebeck is dreamy with its old lighthouses, charming houses and old-fashioned architecture.

A bit further down the coast not far from Poland is the island of * Usedom (German only). A one time summer playground for King Wilhelm II, Usedom is part of a beautiful archipelago. The island still has the royal spas of Basin, Heringsdorf and Ahlbeck and many five star hotels as well as the wonderful annual music festival which takes place this year from September 22nd to October 16th. For English information visit: * www.allin-all.com

street parade returns to Germany's capital. Millions of revelers. DJs and clubs from all over the world make sure the event lives up to its reputation as the world's biggest street party. The Loveparade is hugely popular, attracting some of the biggest DJs and crowds from around the world spanning all facets of electronic music. Fifty-one different floats create a cacophony of beats. > www.

love-parade.com

Jul 15 - Sep 3 The Schleswig-Holstein **Music Festival**

The 21st Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival focuses on the Kingdom of the Netherlands with the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in commemoration of his 250th birthday. The Festival will also be commemorating the 100th birthday of Dmitri Shostakovich and the 150th anniversary of the death of Robert Schumann with many concerts and readings. * www. shmf.de

Jul 21 - Jan 7 Bonn - The Guggenheim Collection

The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany will display 200 modernist masterworks, including paintings by Cezanne, Degas, Brancus, Delaunay, Kandinsky, Klee, Mondrian and Picasso. The works are on loan from the Guggenheim's network of museums in New York, Venice, Berlin and Bilbao. American postwar art also will be featured along with contemporary works since 1990 from the Kunstmuseum Bonn. > www.bundeskunsthalle. de

Aug 6 - Aug 20 **Dresden - Moritzburg Chamber Music Festival**

Special Deals

Baltic Sea Cruise

Starting at a mere \$1655 per person, enjoy a seven day Peter Deilmann cruise from Potsdam to Stralsund and via the Oder to the Baltic. Visit the delightful mineral springs of Eberswalde and see Poland's largest port in Szcezin. Travel along the Achterwasser (inland waterway) to Heringsdorf, a chic seaside resort on the island of Usedom. In Ruegen you have the opportunity to visit the lovely seaside resort of Binz. The last stop before Stralsund will be the island of Hiddensee, this tiny, car-free island has been a quiet resort refuge for Europeans for centuries. *www.deilmann-cruises.com

Cycle from Hamburg to Sylt

You start in Hamburg and cycle to the northern island of Sylt. Wide expanses of land and water and the fresh sea air all around. Seven nights with breakfast in a single or double room, luggage transfers from Hamburg to Niebuell, information package, train journey from Niebuell to Sylt and back for 545 Euros per person. For more information go to * www. germany-tourism.de

Make Hay while the Sun Shines

Drop out for a couple of days! This delightful tour through the Lauenburg Lakelands in Schleswig Holstein starts and finishes at the island town of Ratzeburg. A seven mile ride brings you through the nature park to Dargow to a scrumptious evening meal before staying overnight at a hay inn. You return after breakfast next morning, paddling by canoe along the picturesque Schaalsee Canal and across Lake Küchensee, making your way back to a relaxing evening in Ratzeburg. Prices start with \$63 per person, get more information on *www.hlms.de

LTU and Avis offer Summer Specials: SpongeBob Enters Stage Right

LTU and Avis are offering some super summer fares and prices. For those in the New York area, LTU is offering an amazing roundtrip fare of \$568 (not including taxes) and a child's fare of \$381.00. LTU also has cut a deal with children's programming: Nick. And, as a result Sponge Bob and Dora the Explorer will be flying high with the kids. Avis is offering a discount until July 31st on its rental cars in Germany: up to \$40 on automatic transmission cars. * www.avis.com

Contact Information

For comments and enquiries, contact Victoria Larson, PR Manager, at the German National Tourist Office: phone: 212-661-7200 ext. 223 or email: victoria.larson@d-z-t.com

Next Issue: Shopping - Made in Germany. Special Report on Hamburg!

The Castle Moritzburg just outside of Dresden will come alive once again this year with the wonderful sounds of Jan Vogler and his roster of international musicians. Fifteen concerts will be presented in Volkwagen's Transparent Factory, the Schloss Moritzburg, the Frauenkirche and the Evangelical Church in Moritzburg. * www. moritzburgfestival.de

Aug 10 - Aug 13 Hanseatic Sail Rostock

More than 200 tall ships, traditional sailing ships and museum sailing ships are expected in Rostock Harbor and in Warnemünde Baltic Seaside Resort. During a beauty parade on the Baltic Sea, ships of all categories and from the four corners of the world offer the more than a million spectators a rare as well as beautiful sight. * www.

hansesail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

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