



The Official Newsletter of  
the German National Press Office

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## Cruising Germany's Rivers

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### Table of Contents:

- Editor's Choice: Lose your heart to Heidelberg
- Theme: Germany's Romantic Rivers are IN
- Feature: Baden Wuerttemberg's Water Pearls
- Regional Focus: Schwerin's Island Castle
- Special Events
- Special Deals

### Editors Choice: Lose your heart to Heidelberg

Romance, nostalgia, freedom and love lost are the themes of the live production of Heidelberg's The Student Prince starting June 26th. Heidelberg has an effect on people and even the diverse likes of Goethe, Alan Ginsberg and Mark Twain were captivated. Goethe called the view from the Old Bridge the most beautiful he'd ever encountered; Alan Ginsburg wrote a poem about the view of Old Heidelberg from the "Philosopher's Walk" and Mark Twain wrote, "There is no pleasanter place for such a meal than a raft that is gliding down the winding Neckar past green meadows and wooded hills, and slumbering villages, and craggy heights graced with crumbling towers and battlements."

### Special Events (Other than the World Cup!)

#### Jun 2 - Jun 5

Carnival of Cultures  
For four days, this unique carnival brings together people from around the world to celebrate their cultural backgrounds in Berlin. Traditional clothes from around the world, tasty food and music from different ethnic communities create an international atmosphere.

➤ [www.karneval-berlin.de](http://www.karneval-berlin.de)

### Theme: Germany's Romantic Rivers are IN

#### Jun 3 - Jun 5

Frankfurt Sky Arena  
One weekend before the World soccer cup forty powerful projectors will create a myriad of beautifully choreographed football-

Germany's rivers are nothing if they aren't romantic. You may sing the Lorelei on the River Rhine; recite Mark Twain on the Neckar River; hum bars of Strauss on the "Blue" Danube; sip wine on the Moselle River and whistle Dixie on the Elbe, which runs right through Dresden famous for its annual Dixieland Jazz Festival. People are catching on, bookings are up and cruise lines are increasing the number of ships and the types of cruises.

In delightful contrast to the speedy Autobahns, the great rivers that crisscross Germany have served as thoroughfares to kings and generals and today are a luxurious and relaxing way to take in so much of the country with all of its diversity. Sky scrapers grace the banks of the river Main, Cologne's cathedral reigns over the Rhine and medieval monasteries dot the Danube.

Americans have a wealth of companies to choose from for river cruises to Germany, including Avalon Waterways, Amadeus Waterways, General Tours, Peter Deilmann River Cruises, Tauck World Discovery and Viking River Cruises that variously explore many of Germany's great waterways.

In the comfort of your deckchair, you can take in much of Germany's country and city landscapes, history, food and wine and culture. The Elbe near the Eastern border of the country takes in the cities of Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden and even Meissen of porcelain fame. On the other side of the country, the Rhine marks the western border which flows through Frankfurt, Ruedesheim, Cologne and beyond. The Moselle winds charmingly through the Moselle wine region and includes towns such as Bernkastel Kues, Koblenz and Trier. In the more southern part of the country, the Danube meanders past towns, such as Rothenburg, Wuerzburg, Nuremberg, Kelheim, Regensberg, and Passau.

Smaller rivers and the tributaries to the larger rivers also offer so much to see. In the northwest, the Weser River runs through Germany's Fairy Tale Country where the Brothers Grimm lived and wrote. The Oder River actually marks the border between Germany and Poland, and the Mueritz-Elde Waterway with its lovely canals is exactly the right choice for those seeking an off-the-beaten track alternative.

related motifs will sparkle like stars in the night sky. The skyline of Germany's banking metropolis will metamorphose into a giant light and sound sculpture. The best place from which to view this spectacle will be the Museum Embankment of the river Main. [www.cvb-heidelberg.de](http://www.cvb-heidelberg.de)

### **Jun 16 - Jul 16**

Bad Kissingen - Kissinger Sommer

The Kissinger Sommer draws famous stars and new artists flock to perform in Bad Kissingen in the Franconian region of northern Bavaria from the middle of June til the middle of July every year. World famous performers such as Cecilia Bartoli will join a line of other stars.

[www.badkissingen.de](http://www.badkissingen.de)

### **Jun 16 Jun 18**

Erfurt - Merchants' Bridge Festival

Every year the character Till Eulenspiegel opens

Thuringia's biggest old town festival, which centers on the Krämerbrücke (Merchants' Bridge), the longest bridge in Europe to have houses and shops built all along its sides. People in lively and cheerful mood will be enjoying music and art, with traveling entertainers, craftsmen and market traders in an historic setting. [www.erfurt-tourismus.de](http://www.erfurt-tourismus.de)

### **Jun 24 - Aug 13**

Heidelberg Castle Festival and The Student Prince

The ancient ruins of the Heidelberg Castle offer every summer a perfect setting for the world famous Castle Festival. In 2006 the new staging of Sigmund Romberg's classic Heidelberg operetta "The Student Prince" and the dramatic version of "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" will be the highlights of the festival.

## **Feature: Baden Wuerttemberg's Water Pearls**

Baden Wuerttemberg, Germany's most southwesterly state, is home to the Bodensee or Lake Constance and various other smaller lakes, including the ever-so-scenic Titisee.

Lake Constance is a luxurious paradise for all those who decide to visit. The island of Mainau is a garden lover's delight. Roses and dahlias flower during summer and autumn, whilst palm trees, citrus plants and butterflies lend a special southern flair to the Mainau; 25 breeds of tropical butterflies live on the island and visitors can participate in courses on gardening and horticulture. A children's petting zoo is there along with all sorts of delightful evening concerts and events.

The island of Reichenau, a UNESCO World Heritage site also sits in the Lake Constance. Reichenau was a well known Benedictine monastery in the Middle Ages and today the three Romanesque churches are considered some of the best examples of monastic architecture.

Constance itself is a delightful university and resort town, and is the economic and cultural center of this area. The best way to take in the town is a boat cruise to view the wonderful villas, gardens and buildings that lie along the shore line.

A bit northwest is Lake Titi (named after Roman Emperor Titian). The Titisee is not far away from Constance or from the town of Freiburg and it is referred to as the pearl of the Black Forest. Boat trips and scenic tours around the glacier lake on the "Titus" Roman boat galley are popular. Surrounded by dark firs, flowering meadows and fairy-tale woods, the Titisee is one of Germany's prettiest lakes. In and around the Titisee is the Black Forest clock center and the production centers of brand names including Aigner leather goods and Mont Blanc pens. It is a place of tradition and craftsmanship and where people linger over coffee and Black Forest cake. [www.tourismus-bw.de](http://www.tourismus-bw.de)

### Regional Focus: Schwerin's Island Castle

Schwerin the Capital of Mecklenburg Vorpommern is a delightful stop not far from Hamburg. Its island castle, modeled on the French Renaissance castle, Chambord, lures visitors with its beauty. Rivers and lakes surround lush parks and walkways but there are also well regarded museums, opera houses, hotels and open air festivals. Packages start at just over 100 Euros for two nights for one person with tours and a meal. [www.schwerin.com](http://www.schwerin.com)

### Contact Information

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**Next Issue:** Summer Time in the North, the Baltics, the North Sea Islands and special deals

For more information go to [www.cvb-heidelberg.de](http://www.cvb-heidelberg.de)

### Special Cruising Deals

#### Treasures Along the Elbe

The magnificence of medieval Europe, including Gothic cities and noted sites from the Reformation, make up this luxury cruise. The Elbe River flows from the North Sea to eastern Germany; the towns along the river have charmed musicians and poets, princes and commoners for centuries. 9 days from \$2,499 including airfare.

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

#### Moselle and Castle Gorge Region

Explore a stretch of the river that has more wonderful castles than any other river in the world. Your floating hotel, the 5-star MV Heidelberg, will cruise down the breathtaking Moselle river valley offering the picturesque towns of Cochem, Bernkastel, Remich and Trier, with its steep bluffs, hilltop castles and world-class vineyards. 7-night cruise from \$1,495.00 per person. [www.deilmann-cruises.com](http://www.deilmann-cruises.com)

#### Blue Danube Discovery

Passau, Regensburg, Nuremburg from Budapest to Prague - 13 days from \$1949 cruise & land. Superior first class hotels and cruise for 7 nights along the beautiful Danube. All meals and most sightseeing are included while cruising; daily breakfast is included in Budapest and Prague. Your English-speaking crew is friendly and professional, and you'll enjoy gourmet meals and wine with dinner. Weekly departures. [www.brendanvacations.com](http://www.brendanvacations.com)

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