



The Official Newsletter of the German National Press Office

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Budget Traveler in Germany: Cool, Trendy and Savvy

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Table of Contents:

- Editor's Choice: Beer Gardens; the People's choice
- Theme: City Hopping with Low Cost Airlines and City Cards
- Feature: Royal Overnights for 100 Euros or less
- Regional Focus: City (Cards) on a Shoe String
- Special Events
- Special Deals

Editors Choice: Beer Gardens; the People's Choice

Every self-respecting German city has a beer garden and there is no better way to take the edge off your spring fever than to sip a local Lager in a leafy town square or garden. From Munich's English Garden to Hannover's Royal Gardens, enjoy a festive and relaxing atmosphere for three Euros or less.

Theme: City Hopping with Low Cost Airlines and City Cards

Special Events:

May 6 - Oct 29th Munich - Bavaria's Path to Modernity

In 1806 Bavaria became a kingdom. Structural change in politics, industry and society for the once agricultural country of Bavaria and for its handicraft is manifest in this exhibit. Traditional methods of working are just as important in modern handicraft as the application of new materials and technologies, for example in the aerospace industry. This special show in the Deutsches Museum has exhibits, enactments and media stations provide a graphic impression of this subject.

➤ www.handwerk.hdbg.de

In Europe, low cost airlines are taking off, so to speak, and Germany is no exception. It is trendy now to go city hopping on low cost airlines and it is a wonderful way to experience the diversity of Germany's cities. Travelers are using [German Wings](#) and [Hapag-Lloyd Express](#) as well as [Deutsche BA](#), [Germania](#), [AirBerlin](#), [Condor Airlines](#) and [HapagFly](#).

To celebrate World Cup's 12 host cities, Lufthansa, the national airline, is adding a new twist to its international flights with a [GloBall Airpass](#). For as little as 60 Euros per flight, travelers can choose to purchase between 3 and 10 flight segments. The GloBall Airpass must be purchased in conjunction with an international/intercontinental ticket to Germany.

Of course, you can always use the superb German railway as that is a fast and efficient way of traveling around Germany. [Rail Europe](#) has specials for the World Cup and often offers 2 for 1 deals at various times of the year and special rates for seniors.

Welcome Cards are usually the cheapest and simplest way of getting to know a city. You can choose the length of a card's validity as well as the number of people using it. In addition to public transportation, many cities offer additional discounts for sightseeing tours, guided walks, and shopping. You can find them in all tourist information bureaus in town and city centers and train stations. Prices vary from 7,50 Euros for a single day to 38 Euros for a three day family card. See Regional Focus (below) for specific cities.

May 20

Augsburg - The long night of Mozart

Augsburg, birthplace of Leopold Mozart, celebrates the composer's 250th birthday with a series of special concerts. On May 20th, Maximilianstraße becomes a nocturnal boulevard for lovers of the arts. Museums and churches, the theater and the Augsburg College of Music are hosting tempting artistic events for art lovers. Everybody is invited to stroll through the impressive city centre of Augsburg and follow Mozart's roots.

www.mozartstadt.de

Jun 9 - Jul 9

World Soccer Cup Festivals

After 32 years, the FIFA World Soccer Cup returns to Germany. All of the 12 host cities - Berlin, Frankfurt, Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Hannover, Kaiserslautern, Cologne, Leipzig, Munich, Nuremberg and Stuttgart are offering exciting open-air cultural programs and fantastic open-air fan festivals with public viewing screens. www.fanguide2006.fifaworldcup.com

Jun 17 - Jun 25

Kiel Week Sailing Regatta

The greatest sailing event in the world and the biggest summer festival in northern Europe will be welcoming guests from all over the world. Top class sailors from 50 countries will compete. Enjoy six days of summer atmosphere, festival feeling and watching some of the greatest sailing boats in the world.

www.kieler-woche.de

Feature: Royal Overnights for 100 Euros or Less

Think about it! When do you get treated like a king or queen? Not at home certainly but rather in Deutschland! The best part about it is that you don't have to pay through the nose to experience royal treatment and enjoy excellent German hospitality and hotellerie.

In northern Bavaria, for starters, there is **Castle Colmberg**, which lies halfway between Ansbach and Rothenburg ob der Tauber in the area called Franconian Switzerland. The rooms start at 75 Euros per night and the castle kitchen and wine cellar offer Franconian delicacies and wines. www.burg-colmberg.de

In the state of Baden Wuerttemberg, not far from Heidelberg, stands **Castle Hornberg**, an 11th-century knight's castle, high above the River Neckar. Enjoy authentic and unmistakable charm of former centuries. Rooms go for 100 Euros per night. www.burg-hotel-hornberg.de

Cinderella's castle on the Fairy Tale Road in Hessen, **Castle Sababurg**, was made famous by the Grimm Brothers but today, the castle hotel has a wedding chapel, a theater, palace ruins as well as a romantic castle garden. Rooms are available for 50 Euro per person. For information on both hotels go to www.gast-im-schloss.de

In the northern state of Mecklenburg Vorpommern, in the beautiful and unknown Mecklenburg Lake District is **Castle Hotel Grossplasten**, an elegant hotel and spa built originally in 1751. Prices start at 45 Euros per person. The nearby **Klink Castle** has over 108 rooms and suites, a

Special Deals:

wellness-area with a panorama swimming pool with a view of the Lake Müritz. Prices start at 42,50 Euros per person. Both hotels at www.auf-nach-mv.de

In western Germany, through the association of Culture & Castles www.culture-castles.de, travelers can find a delightful assortment of private castles turned hotels. **Burg Boetzelaer** in Kalkar-Appeldorn, for example, is a 12th century former knight's castle embedded in the idyllic Lower Rhine park landscape along with Lake Boetzelar Three elegant double bedrooms and two romantic suites in the main part of the castle invite you to take a lavish and restful break in a fairytale-like tower. Prices start at 95 Euros.

Berlin City Break

Berlin city breaks are an intoxicating mix of the old and the new, from the old streets of East Berlin through to the impressive glass domed parliament building; the city has plenty to impress you with. Book by August 31. Only \$ 1,119.00 per person including airfare as well as 6 nights at selected hotels in the city.

www.europeasap.com

Regional Focus: City (Cards) on a Shoe String

Leipzig: A special feature of the LEIPZIG CARD are discounts on tickets for selected performances at the Gewandhaus concert hall, the Leipzig Opera House, theater productions at Schauspielhaus Leipzig, cabaret performances and events at the Leipzig Bach Festival. www.leipzig.de

Duesseldorf: With the DUESSELDORF WELCOME CARD, you can get discounts for the opera or a visit to the Aquazoo as well as for a cruise on the Rhine River. You can also get substantial discounts on theater performances and musical events. www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de

Hamburg: Hamburg offers the HAMBURG CARD that now comes with a Power Pass for under 30 year-olds. A new feature of the Power Pass is a copy of PRINZ (the German "time out") for tips on the scene - clubs, bars, restaurants, cafés, and shopping. www.hamburg-tourism.de

Munich: With the MUNICH WELCOME CARD you get discounts on guided tours through the new Allianz Arena or on horse-drawn carriages rides through the old town of the city. Get to know different museums, palaces and the famous Olympiapark. www.muenchen.de

High in Hamburg

Discover Hamburg and relax in the brand-new Steigenberger Day Spa, a unique world of recreation, beauty and fitness above Hamburg's rooftops! An ayurvedic Abhyanga massage will help you to keep your Doshas in balance. 2 overnight stays including breakfast buffet, Wellness-Cocktail, free use of the Day Spa with sauna, steam bath, Kneipp area, fitness studio, an ayurvedic Abhyanga - whole body massage (ca. 90 minutes) with indian herbal oils and an ayurvedic steam bath. Special offer from Steigenberger Hotel for as low as \$270 per person, for more information go to www.steigenberger.de

Contact Information

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Next Issue: River Cruising, Specials and more!

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