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## Museums for Family-Friendly Vacations in Germany

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### Editors Choice: Munich's New Jewish Museum

In Munich's new Jewish Museum, opening on March 22nd, visitors can experience a world of insights into Jewish life and culture. Located on St. Jakobs-Platz in the center in the Bavarian capital, the building is designed as a flexible, dynamic meeting space offering space for temporary and touring exhibitions. A special section provides in-depth information on Jewish history and religion. The Jewish center will host a public elementary school, a kindergarten and a youth center as well as community auditorium. A daily event calendar will be available online, with comprehensive, up-to-date information on events related to Jewish culture in Munich. [www.juedisches-museum-muenchen.de](http://www.juedisches-museum-muenchen.de)

### Theme: From Cockoo Clocks to Easter Eggs - Handcrafted Treasures in Baden-Wuerttemberg

Beautiful woodlands and romantic valleys, magnificent castles and monasteries, vibrant cities and enchanting towns - that's the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The Black Forest and Lake Constance region are already famous far beyond Germany's borders for their beautiful landscapes. But one of the most impressive things about Baden-Wuerttemberg is its richness in culture and traditions. It looks back on a long and eventful history which has contributed a great deal to the state's cultural diversity. Baden-Wuerttemberg, which stretches from the Lake Constance in the South to the river Main in the North, is home to the famous cuckoo clocks, the Black Forest gâteau, the traditional Bollenhut and many other handicrafts.

### Special Events

#### 400-years Mannheim

On occasion of its 400th birthday the city of Mannheim is celebrating its vigorous history as well as its future. A vast number of cultural events from music festivals and literature events to dance performances and special movie programs will pay homage to the lively cultural scene of the city all year round. Mannheim's architecture including the congress building "Rosengarten Mannheim", is one of the largest historic art deco ensembles in Germany. For more information please visit: [www.mannheim2007.de](http://www.mannheim2007.de) (German only)

#### jazzahead! Jazz conference, Bremen

Mar 08 -11

Jazzahead! Jazz conference is a yearly event that provides a lively discussion forum for the European Jazz scene. This year's focus will be on jazz and film. Highlights of the

Ever since 1667 or thereabouts, when the first wooden clock was made in the Black Forest region, clock making has seen many fascinating developments. The famous cuckoo clock was invented here, and they, as well as many high-tech clocks, are still handcrafted in the area. Visitors to Baden-Wuerttemberg can follow the German Clock Route, which runs through the many of the most attractive and scenic parts of the Black Forest holiday region. The route features fascinating museums and attractions of clock-making tradition such as small workshops and clock-face painting studios. One of the highlights en route is the world's largest cuckoo clock in Schonach housing a 331 pound cuckoo.

➤[www.dasferienland.de](http://www.dasferienland.de) The German Clock Museum in Furtwangen, which has an extensive collection of timepieces, provides a fascinating insight into time-keeping around the world. ➤[www.deutsches-uhrenmuseum.de](http://www.deutsches-uhrenmuseum.de)

Another hallmark of Baden-Wuerttemberg is the Bollenhut, the traditional hat with large red or black pompoms. The Bollenhut is a country hat for women to be worn on holidays in the three neighboring Black Forest towns of Gutach, Kirnbach and Reichenbach. It was created around 1750 - originally with red or black circles, which were painted on a white straw hat. The color of the hat's pompoms is significant: red indicates that the lady wearing the hat is unmarried; black is worn by married women. Over the years it was developed into the eight or eleven woolen pompons altogether weighing about 4.5 pounds. Today the hats are still made by skilled seamstresses and milliners and the tradition is vital and alive. The Bollenhut and many other unusual hat creations are on display in the Black Forest Traditional Costume Museum in Haslach. ➤[www.haslach.de](http://www.haslach.de) (German only) and in the Black Forest Museum in Triberg.

➤[www.schwarzwaldmuseum.de](http://www.schwarzwaldmuseum.de)

On the way through Baden-Wuerttemberg, visitors should make sure to sample the delicious local specialties such as fine wines, hearty rye bread baked over wood, Black Forest ham, the genuine Black Forest cake complete with cherries and the wonderful fruit schnapps. With over 14,000 distillers, the Black Forest has the highest distillery density in the world. Oberkirch, close to Offenburg, is the centre of German fruit spirit distilleries, where almost 900 small and tiny distilleries are located. The small town even houses a schnapps academy where graduates receive a "Wässerli-Diplom" (Schnapps Diploma). ➤[www.blackforest-tourism.com](http://www.blackforest-tourism.com)

In the spring time the Easter egg markets are not to be missed. From late March to early April throughout Baden-Wuerttemberg, there are many beautiful Easter egg markets and exhibitions where local craftsmen display their decorated eggs. Often other traditional Easter goodies are on sale as well such as baskets, arts and crafts and bunnies. Some of the most well-known festivals are the Easter market in Castle Schwetzingen near Heidelberg ➤[www.schwetzingen.de](http://www.schwetzingen.de) (German only) and the Easter egg exhibition in Sonnenbühl ➤[www.sonnenbuehl.de](http://www.sonnenbuehl.de) (German only).

### Feature: Germany's Museums are for All Ages

Germany has museums for all ages! Many of Germany's museums have exhibits that are hands-on, interactive and offer a range of fun activities for children and their parents. Starting in the north..."Please stand back from the platform edge... Here comes the model railway speeding through the miniature landscape." Visitors to Miniature Wonderland in Hamburg's warehouse district can experience one of the world's largest model railway tracks. Together, more than 450 trains and 50,000 trees, 30,000 figures, 10,000 cars, 5,000 meters of track and countless bridges form a record-breaking model layout. ➤[www.hamburg-tourism.de](http://www.hamburg-tourism.de)

Two hours west of Hamburg, in the east Frisian town of Emden, painters of all ages, goldsmiths and sculptors can explore their creativity at the painting school at Emden Art Gallery and Museum. With the expert instruction everyone of the family can discover their artistic talents.

event, will be world-class bands from the partner countries Finland, Norway, Sweden, Hungary, Italy and Germany featured in the European JAzzXchange program.

➤[www.bremen-tourismus.de](http://www.bremen-tourismus.de)

### Luther's birth house reopens, Eisleben

Mar 09

Martin Luther's birth house is reopening for visitors after half a year of renovations. The historic building which was awarded UNESCO world heritage status has undergone extensive restorations. Added to the building has been a connection to the neighboring free school for poor, which extends the exhibition area to a total of 13 rooms. The opening exhibition shows social and political environment around 1500, and gives insight into the spiritual life of the late middle-ages, which strongly influenced Luther's life work as a reformer. ➤[www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de](http://www.sachsen-anhalt-tourismus.de)

### Dresdner Festtage Richard Strauss, Dresden

Mar 13 - Mar 23

Every year Dresden honors Richard Strauss, who was closely involved with the city's opera house for six decades of his life. Visitors to this festival will be treated to ten works in ten consecutive days, including the rarely performed operas 'Friedenstag' (Peace Day), 'Die Liebe der Danae' (The Love of Danae) and 'Die schweigsame Frau' (The Silent Woman). ➤[www.semperoper.de](http://www.semperoper.de)

### Neckar Music Festival, Neckar Valley

Mar 16 - Jul 3

The festival presents a variety of music - classic, chanson and jazz - performed by international artists. The main emphasis lies on the 'prime age of the piano playing' from the late 19th and early 20th century. More than 20 concerts are scheduled to take place in some of the most romantic spots, along the Neckar River Valley and the Romantic Road, between

Inspiration can be derived in the art gallery from the extensive expressionist collection of Henri Nannen and the outstanding works donated by Otto van de Loo. The Emden art gallery and museum is a popular destination for art lovers from all over the world.

➤[www.niedersachsen-tourism.de](http://www.niedersachsen-tourism.de)

Next stop on the family museum tour is the Phaeno Science Center in Wolfsburg which is also home to VW's very cool Autostadt. Located between Berlin and Hannover, the Phaeno attracts young and old with interactive exhibits in a futuristic-looking building, complete with craters, terraces, plateaus and subterranean caves built by the London star architect Zaha Hadid. ➤[www.phaeno.com](http://www.phaeno.com) For kids wanting to earn their international license or who have parents who want to test drive the latest and greatest in VW autos, it is just a hop, skip and a jump to one of the world's most exciting car production centers: Autostadt.

➤[www.autostadt.de](http://www.autostadt.de)

The Imhoff-Stollwerk Chocolate Museum in Cologne takes gourmands on a journey through 3,000 years of chocolate-making history. Chocolate lovers will learn about the secrets of chocolate, about the worship of cocoa by natives of Central America and about modern-day chocolate production. After the tour through the museum visitors can choose from a large variety of sweet treats such as drinking chocolate and chocolate cakes. ➤[www.schokoladenmuseum.de](http://www.schokoladenmuseum.de)

North of Frankfurt, in the open-air museum Hessenpark, visitors of all ages can explore 400 years of German living culture and traditions. Over 100 buildings, from farmsteads and laborer houses to a school and a post office, have been removed from their original sites in villages all over Hessen and reconstructed on 160 acres. The Museum is organized into five groups of buildings, according to the regions they have been relocated from and give visitors an idea of what rural life was like before.

➤[www.hessenpark.de](http://www.hessenpark.de)

The German Toy Museum in Nuremberg is where the heart of the toy world beats. Steam engines, dolls and Lego remind adults of their childhood, while today's children admire the space station and discover toys from Africa and Asia. The museum presents the many facets of the plaything from antiquity to the present day, focusing on wooden toys, exquisite dolls' parlors and kitchens and a "world of tin".

➤[www.spielzeugmuseum-nuernberg.de](http://www.spielzeugmuseum-nuernberg.de)

In Munich, children's hearts will beat a bit faster with sailing ships, models of atoms, windmills, space probes, diesel locomotives, industrial robots, organs, lifeboats. This unbelievable abundance of technical achievement - and lots more - can be found in the Deutsches Museum. It is not only one of the first scientific-technological museums in the world, but also one of the most frequently visited. The laws of nature, instruments and technological methods are presented in this Mount Olympus of knowledge on a scientifically high level, yet in an enthralling and entertaining way. ➤[www.deutsches-museum.de](http://www.deutsches-museum.de)

### Special Information: News from Germany

Receive the German Embassy's free weekly newsletters covering cultural events, sports, economic and political developments in Germany today. Excellent coverage with news, features and profiles. Visit [www.germany.info/newsletter](http://www.germany.info/newsletter) to sign up and join the almost 70,000 readers of these newsletters today!

### Contact Information

Mannheim und Heilbronn.

➤[www.neckar-musikfestival.de](http://www.neckar-musikfestival.de)

(German only)

### Special Deals

#### Munich Spring Special

Picasso Tours is offering a four day/three night package to Munich in the heart of Bavaria for travel during March. The package includes roundtrip economy air fare from New York or Boston to Munich, three nights' accommodations at the three-star Germania Hotel including daily breakfast. Prices start at \$474 per person for double occupancy for bookings during March. The package is also available from the following US gateways with roundtrip add-on fares: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

➤[www.picassotours.com](http://www.picassotours.com)

### German Highlights

Cruise the Rhine, visit Cologne's Cathedral, stroll the metropolis of Berlin, visit Leipzig, walk on medieval streets in Nuremberg, travel along the Romantic Road and much more. For those who want to visit the highlight cities of Germany, this 12-day vacation package by Globus Journeys is a perfect fit. Packages start at \$1,579 including airfare for traveling from April to October. Offer available until sold out.

➤[www.globusjourneys.com](http://www.globusjourneys.com)

### "Cul-tour" package Baden-Württemberg

Experience Baden-Wuerttemberg's cultural richness! The "Cul-tour" package in Karlsruhe includes a one or two night stay including breakfast as well entry to the Baden State Museum, the "Staatliche Kunsthalle" art museum, the Center of Art and Technology ZKM and current special exhibitions. Visitors also receive a welcome card for free use of public transportation. The package starts at 85 Euro per person in a double room and is available year round. ➤[www.tourismus-bw.de](http://www.tourismus-bw.de)(German only)

### Trier's Easter package

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: Art & Culture: Germany's Unusual Museums

Pick one out of 12 hotels in and around Trier and explore the region's famous Roman heritage. Experience the UNESCO's World Heritage Site's Roman Monuments and the Cathedral of St. Peter and Church of Our Lady with this special Easter package. The offer includes up to three overnights including breakfast, a city tour, Easter dinner and an Easter egg nest with sweet surprises. Prices start at \$137.50 per person.  
>[www.trier.de](http://www.trier.de)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

For comments and enquiries, please contact the Information Center at the German National Tourist Office:

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