



News from Germany

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German National Tourist Press Office



**DeStress in Baden-
Wuerttemberg's Spa
Hotels**

The state of Baden-Württemberg, situated in southwest Germany bordered by France and Switzerland, is home to 60 healing baths and spas. A plethora of world class spas, the famed Black Forest and Lake Constance make Baden-Wuerttemberg one of the most popular tourist destinations in Germany.

The internationally renowned spa town of Baden-Baden is a must-visit for would-be spa connoisseurs. There you will find the elegant five-star Brenners Park Hotel (www.brenners.com), the luxurious Schlosshotel Buehlerhoehe (www.buehlerhoehe.de), the stately Steigenberger Europaeische Hof (www.steigenberger.de) and the stylish Dorint Sofitel Maison Messmer (dorintresorts.com). The treatments range from relaxing facials and bubbling sea baths to Thalasso Plus and various kinds of herbal baths and top notch dining.

Also in the Black Forest and not far away is a cluster of three other luxury spas situated around the enchanting

"Germany's Unusual Accommodations"

Table of Contents

- [House & Ice Hotels](#)
- [Hip Hamburg](#)
- [3 New Hotels](#)
- [Festivals & Events](#)
- [Special Deals](#)
- [Contact Information](#)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Tree House Hotels and Ice Hotels

From tree houses and ice hotels to five star castle hotels and cutting-edge design hotels, Germany has every type of accommodation possible for all types of taste! Travelers can overnight in wineries, farmhouses, spas, the former home of Wagner and even sheep's huts on top of the Alps. Two unusual choices for travelers might include the ice hotel high up on the Zugspitze, Germany's highest Alp that towers above the town of Garmisch. Relax with a glass of wine in your igloo and peek out at the tips of four Alpine countries. www.iglu-dorf.com. If you are planning a family trip, on the other hand, the Zentendorf Tree House in Saxony recently opened its doors, or branches, if you will. Guests can spend the night in wooden rooms suspended in branches 30 feet above the ground. Narrow walkways built into the branches of a black locust tree connect the various "rooms." Each room has 2-3 floors connected by ladders – perfect for a family with children. www.kulturinsel.de

[back to top](#)

FEATURED STORY

Hamburg's Hotels....Trendy, Cool and Hip

Hamburg, Germany's Venice of the North, is the first pick for the U.S. soccer team and many travelers who enjoy trendy accommodations! The soccer players will be housed in the former grand red brick Levante House otherwise known as the Park Hyatt (www.hamburg.park.hyatt.com) while real design hotel fanatics have plenty to choose from.

For the Side Hotel, the architect Jan Störmer created a forward-looking facade featuring a combination of glass and nature stone that stretches across all 12 floors. Located in the east of Hamburg, the hotel is close to the Binnenalster and only a few minutes walk from art and cultural centers www.side-hamburg.de

The five star Dorint Sofitel Am Alten Wall is located in the heart of Hamburg city, on the quiet Alsterfleet canal with its own wharf and is ideal for business travelers. The hotel boasts a modern design of steel and glass and has a variety of restaurants and 241 rooms. www.accorhotels.com

The Gastwerk hotel, formerly the old gas works "Gaswerk," has been re-created into an imposing monument with 135 atrium rooms, lofts and suites, and conference space. www.gastwerk-hotel.de/englisch.

town of Baiersbronn. A jewel nestled in the mountainside, the resort of Traube Tonbach (www.traube-tonbach.de), is ranked as Germany's top resort and restaurant (Schwarzwaldstube) with three Michelin stars. Traube Tonbach, offers top of the line spa facilities and an atmosphere of gracious elegance while maintaining a warm family tone set by the friendly owners, Mr. and Mrs. Finkbeiner. Nearby Hotel Barreis, www.bareiss.com, and Hotel Sackmann are other Black Forest charmers with special treatments and top restaurants with Michelin stars. For further information, please go to www.tourismus-bw.de

The 25 Hours Hotel (www.25hours-hotel.com) is geared to the savvy and trendy young professional with white walls sparkling with bright pink and chrome. The hotel has 89 rooms designed by young designers.

East Hotel (www.east-hotel.de) is located in the edgy new area of Schanzenviertel/St. Pauli. It has 103 rooms and the lobby and trendy Yakshi's Bar is located in a dark, loft-like space.

Hotel Wedina (www.hotelwedina.de) is something completely different and is more quirky than trendy. Books line the walls of this two house hotel where famous authors have stayed and each room has its own motif and style. Close to the city center, the hotel is one street away from the Alster.

[back to top](#)

REGIONAL FOCUS

3 New Hotel Openings

The Pure Hotel in Frankfurt (www.pure-hotel.de) opened recently in a re-created 19th century loft space. White lacquer and leather, Thalasso Glass Stone and parquet floors are supposed to bring about the idea of lightness, harmony and a place without borders. Located on Niddastrasse just off the Mainzer Landstrasse within walking distance of main shopping areas.

Up north on the Baltic Sea coast, the Hohe Duene Yacht Haven and the A-Rosa Travemuende Resort are creating waves. The Hohe Duene is located on the peninsula of Hohe Duene in Rostock-Warnemuende and caters also to large conferences and conventions. There is a boat hall, a heliport and even the hotel's own 3-masted schooner "Santa Barbara Anna" has meeting space in the large captain's quarters. Organized events range from speedsailing with the "Illbruck" yacht that won the last "Volvo Ocean Race" to building dragon boats in a team with a regatta. www.yhd.de

The opening of the A-Rosa Resort in Travemuende, one hour from Hamburg, claims it is now Germany's most modern and exclusive Thalasso Center with seven special Thalasso spa cabins and water piped in direct from the Baltic Sea. Thomas Mann stayed there as a child with his family. With 164 rooms and 41 suites, the neoclassical building is refurbished beautifully to its original and elegant form. www.a-rosa.de

The InterConti Hotel in Duesseldorf also opened last year in Duesseldorf giving the city a beautiful new luxury hotel in the heart of the fashion metropolis and just walking distance from many of the city's famous cultural and historical sights. The hotel comprises 254 guest rooms and 32 suites and is close to the airport and train station. www.ichotelgroup.com

[back to top](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Don't miss these on-going exhibits:

Toulouse Lautrec and the Artists of the Montmartre at the Kaethe Kollwitz Museum in Cologne through the 29th of January (www.kollwitz.de). The Matisse Exhibit in Duesseldorf at the Art Museum Nordrhein-Westfalen (www.henrimatisse.de) through February 19th. Monet and Camille: Portraits of Women in Impressionism at the Bremen Kunsthalle through February 26 (www.monet-camille.de).

In case you missed it, the Phaeno Science Museum opened in late November to great acclaim. The architect, Zaha Hadid, has created an avant-garde, futuristic building that looks like a star-trek spaceship. Inside visitors can pass through open landscapes with craters, terraces, plateaus and subterranean cavern formations. The building is just opposite Volkswagen's own futuristic Autostadt in Wolfsburg. www.phaeno.de

1 Jan - 31 Dec '06, Halle's 1200th Birthday
City anniversary celebrations with many events. (www.halle.de)

1 Jan - 31 Dec '06, Dresden's 800th Birthday
City anniversary celebrations with many events. (www.dresden-tourist.de)

28 Jan '06, Berlin
After-Hours Museum Night
Concerts, plays, literary readings and culinary specialties in more than 100 Berlin museums. (www.berlin-tourism.de)

27 Jan -14 Feb, Munich
Mozart's 250th Birthday: Opera Festival
A week-long opera festival in honor of Mozart's 250th birthday includes the staging of six of the composer's operas: La Clemenza di Tito, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni, The Abduction from the Seraglio, Le nozze di Figaro and The Magic Flute. (www.bayerische.staatsoper.de)

24 Feb - 1 Mar '06, Cologne
Carnival!
Called Cologne's Fifth Season, carnival comes with imaginative costumes, parties and balls, ending with several parades, on Sunday and Rose Monday, the latter with a timely World Soccer Cup theme in 2006.
(www.koelnerkarneval.de)

23 Feb - 1 Mar '06, Mainz Carnival
Carnival is the most important popular festival in Mainz, known as the 'Fifth Season' of the year! The carnival campaigns begin on New Year's Day with a procession of Carnival regiments through the centre of town. Thereafter, numerous carnival sessions in and around Mainz lead up to the 'crazy climax', which is the world-famous Mainz Carnival Parade. This takes place on the Monday before Lent and is watched live by over half a million visitors. (www.mainz.de)

[back to top](#)

SPECIAL DEALS

Classic Berlin

Let yourself fly away to a culture-filled weekend in the trendy European capital of Berlin for \$929 including airfare. Four nights and six days to see the controversial Palace of the Republic, to climb the Reichstag, to visit Daniel Liebeskind's Jewish Museum and take in Helmut Newton's exhibit and so much more. Enjoy a one-day pass for a City Circle Berlin tour; take advantage of the three-day Berlin Museum & Transportation Card and so much more! Daily Breakfast included. Book Now through March at www.generaltours.com

Experience Munich During the 2006 World Cup

Big City style and rural charm, Alpine character and Mediterranean verve, art treasures and the Oktoberfest, traditional customs and high technology, beer gardens and haute cuisine, operas and in bars, these are all ingredients of the special Munich mix that makes Bavaria's state capital so endlessly fascinating, and so popular with visitors from all over the world. Although this package does not include World Cup tickets, it does cost only \$859.00 per person! This package includes a hotel for eight days and six nights and a rental car for seven days. Book by January 19th and good through August 30th. www.europeasap.com

City Cards: When in Rome.....When in Wiesbaden....

In almost every city in Germany, the tourist bureaus sell "city cards" that for a discounted price will get you into many museums and galleries as well as offer rides on public transportation. These cards are great deals and can save tourists a great deal of money! In Wiesbaden located just outside of Frankfurt, for example, you can buy a city card for 9.95 Euros for two consecutive days for a free ride on any public transportation and get discounts to any museum and most of the spas and even the famous casino where Dostoyevsky broke his own bank! For more information, go to www.wiesbaden.de

[back to top](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION



For comments and enquiries, contact Victoria Larson, PR Manager, at the German National Tourist Office: 212-661-7175 or victoria.larson@d-z-t.com.

Also, please register on our press extranet (if you haven't already done so) at www.germany-extranet.com/index_press.html.

Next Issue:

Be on the Outlook for Mozart, Music Festivals, and more!

[back to top](#)

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