# VISITING GERMANY



## 1 Warm up

**Look at the questions about Germany and select the correct answer.**

1. How many countries does Germany share a border with?

   a. 8 b. 9 c. 10

2. What is the population of Germany?

   a. 61 million b. 71 million c. 81 million

3. What is the capital city of Germany?

   a. Munich b. Berlin c. Bonn

4. What is the currency of Germany?

   a. Euro b. Deutschmark c. Frank

5. How many different beers can you find in Germany?

   a. 500 b. 1500 c. 2500

6. Which of these car manufacturers is German?

   a. Audi b. Fiat c. Peugeot

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## 2 Visual guide

**Look at the images of German culture below.**



1. Berlin wall



2. Oktoberfest



3. Black Forest



4. Neuschwanstein Palace



5. Baroque architecture



6. Frauenkirche



7. Dresdner Christstollen



8. Munich



9. Augustusplatz

**Now put the words from above into the correct sentences.**

1. I'm a huge beer lover and one day I would love to go to_____.
2. _____ looks similar to one of the popular plazas in my city as it is surrounded by buildings as well.
3. She doesn't really like cakes with too much cream so I think_____would be perfect for her.
4. I understand why people love_____but I just prefer buildings to have more of a modern spin.
5. I got the chance to look down on_____and I just loved seeing all those red rooves.
6. I've heard that the walks you can go on in the_____are absolutely breathtaking and the air is so clean.
7. I remember watching the_____come down on TV and it was a moment that I will never forget.
8. _____ looks like such a unique church, the roof is made up of beautiful domes.
9. If you get a chance you really need to visit_____, it really looks like it came out of a fairytale.

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**Answer the following questions.**

1. What else do you know about Germany? Tell your partner.
2. What kind of architecture are you a fan of?
3. Have you ever seen examples of German culture in your own country?




## 3 Listening for specific information

**Watch the first part of a video about Germany (00:00 - 01:30) and tick the items that you hear. Two of them are not mentioned.**

- ☐ cities
- ☐ coasts
- ☐ skyscrapers
- ☐ forests
- ☐ icebergs
- ☐ the Alps
- ☐ landscapes
- ☐ palaces
- ☐ coasts
- ☐ valleys
- ☐ vineyards
- ☐ castles

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## 4 Vocabulary 1

**Look at the text from the video below and then match the vocabulary to the correct definition.**

Prepare for feasts, treats and temptations as you take in Germany's beautiful scenery, fascinating cities and culture and romantic palaces. Germany is blessed with beautiful and diverse natural landscapes from the dune-covered coasts of the north, down to the moody forests, river valleys and vineyards of the centre and of course the splendour of the Alps in the south where beautiful natural views are only improved by spectacular castles.

The glamour and grit of Berlin are great for fans of vibrant culture, edgy architecture and fabulous food. There's haute cuisine in a former brewery, all night parties in power stations and world-class art in a World War II bunker.

If you're looking for alpine flavour, Munich has it in spades but the Bavarian capital also has plenty of cheerful beer gardens and open spaces to while away a sunny day. The 19th century romantics found beauty and inspiration in Germany's oldest university town. Generations of students have attended lectures, sung with beer steins in their hands and carved their names into tavern tables.

In mist, snow or shine the deep, dark black forest is just beautiful. If it's back-to-nature moments you're after then this slice of south-western Germany is the place to go.

1. _____ (n): a place where alcohol is consumed, similar to a pub
2. _____ (adj.): having a cool and exciting quality
3. _____ (n): meals that are large and often for a special occasion
4. _____ (n): a small hill of sand near the sea or in a desert
5. _____ (n): a shelter that is strongly built and usually situated underground
6. _____ (n): a cloud made up of very small drops of water that make it difficult to see
7. _____ (n): grand and impressive beauty

## 5 Listening for details

**Watch part two of the video (01:30 - 02:40) and answer the questions.**

1. Who commissioned Neuschwanstein Palace to be built?
2. When are the best times for outdoor activities?
3. How much does it cost for a fancy hotel and tickets to the opera?
4. How did the video describe the train system in Germany?

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1. Which of the places in the video did you find the most impressive? Why?
2. Would you be a fan of doing "**outdoor pursuits**" in Germany?
3. Would you rather travel around Germany by car or train? Why?

## 6 Vocabulary: adjectives

**Look at the phrases taken from the video below. Try to match the noun to the correct adjective and then think of a synonym to add to the table.**

culture / palaces / culture / alpine forests / scenery / forests / beer gardens / castles

| | Adjective | Synonym | Noun |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | beautiful | 1 | 2 |
| **2.** | romantic | 3 | 4 |
| **3.** | moody | 5 | 6 |
| **4.** | spectacular | 7 | 8 |
| **5.** | vibrant | 9 | 10 |
| **6.** | cheerful | 11 | 12 |
| **7.** | mysterious | 13 | 14 |
| **8.** | fascinating | 15 | 16 |




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## 7 Language in context

**Read the following information and answer the questions.**

In the video the speaker describes Germany as feeling like: "...**the past is very much the present wherever you go.**"

1. What do you think is meant by the phrase: "the past is very much the present"?
2. In your country does it feel like the past is very much the present or does it have a completely different feeling?



## 8 Skimming for general understanding

**You are going to read about Germany in more detail. Match the following paragraph titles (1-10) to the article on page seven. Two of the titles are not needed.**

1. Delayed redevelopment
2. A gem of a city
3. Berlin or Bonn?
4. Important dessert
5. The effect of communism
6. Recovery of the church
7. Popularity grows
8. Modern rebirth
9. A square of many sides
10. Surprises in the east

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# East is Best

**Head to Dresden and Leipzig for a trip to remember**

**A.** ___ Despite becoming a single country in October 1990, the east and west sides of Germany still offer differing experiences for the excited traveller. In fact, as time passes, the number of people choosing to visit the east increases and the significant treasures that part of the country possesses are a delight for those who decide to take a chance.

**B.** ____ Dresden is an excellent place to start a trip in eastern Germany. Nicknamed "Jewel Box" due to the Baroque architecture that is present in the centre of the city, it is the capital of Saxony and was previously a residence for royalty.

**C.** ____ The unfortunate reality is that most of the historic city centre had to be rebuilt after it was bombed heavily in 1945. Estimates suggest that 85% of the centre was destroyed. However, take time to visit a symbol of Dresden's recovery and discover how the city bounced back. The Frauenkirche (The Church of our Lady) was completely ruined in the World War II bombing but was slowly rebuilt using as much of the original material as possible. If you visit the church, you can notice that the darker stones are the ones from the original building.

**D.** ____While wandering the streets of historic Dresden, take time to try Dresdner Christollen, a fruitcake that is a delicious combination of butter, almonds and raisins soaked in rum. The traditional recipe is so well-loved that the name is protected by law and must include an exact distribution of ingredients.

**E.** ____ A one-hour drive from Dresden takes you to Leipzig, an intriguing city that has recently blossomed into a must-visit destination. Due to the poverty suffered by the East after the war, the money needed to redevelop Leipzig did not arrive until later than other cities. The reunified Germany did not see a space for heavy industry, and this had previously been Leipzig's main source of employment.

**F.** _____ From 1990-2000 over 100,000 people left Leipzig due to increased unemployment. However, in 2000 elaborate plans were launched to save Leipzig. These included redeveloping both the downtown and historical areas and attracting more modern businesses. As a result, since 2010, Leipzig has been described by the German media as being a cool, trendy urban space with a relatively high quality of life.

**G.** _____ As a visitor, one of the must-go places in the city is Augustusplatz, a busy square which is located on the eastern side of the historical area. Augustusplatz offers you the chance to view a number of buildings that were built across the decades of the 20th century, from the Opera House to the quietly exceptional concert hall Gewandhaus and the Panorama Tower. The tower, which is part of the university, gives you a magnificent view of the whole city. One bonus to the square is that it is useful as a base for your trip because from there, you can find trams that will take you to every corner of the city.

**H.** _____ Eastern Germany may not grab your attention like the extremely popular sites of the west, but should you want to discover unknown places and find little secrets all for yourself then you should certainly give it a go.

*Sources: Lonely Planet, The Guardian, BBC, TripAdvisor*

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## 9 Reading comprehension

**Read the sentences and decide if they are true, false or not given. Give reasons for your answers.**

1. Members of the Royal family used to reside in Dresden. _____
2. 30% of the centre of Dresden was not damaged during the war. _____
3. In the past, Leipzig's main source of income was heavy industry. _____
4. The residents of Leipzig were strong supporters of the former government. _____
5. The focus was on redeveloping the historical part of Leipzig. _____
6. From Augustusplatz you can catch trams which will take you all around the city. _____
7. Eastern Germany is much cheaper to visit than western Germany. _____

## 10 Vocabulary 2

**Look at the selection of vocabulary taken from the article and match the words to the definitions.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | significant | a. | large or important enough to have an influence |
| **2.** | baroque | b. | the way something is spread across a particular area |
| **3.** | wandering | c. | amazingly good |
| **4.** | sample | d. | complicated but carefully planned |
| **5.** | distribution | e. | used to describe European architecture and culture from the 17th & 18th century |
| **6.** | elaborate | f. | slowly walking around without any plan or definite place to go |
| **7.** | exceptional | g. | try a little bit of a particular food or drink to see if you like it |

**Fill in the gaps in the sentences.**

1. I was desperate to_____the new chocolate bar that Cadbury's was going to release.
2. The_____of young families seemed to be close to the main cities.
3. The government's decision to increase tax seems to have a_____impact on the economy.
4. She was described as an_____student and as a result was moved up a year.
5. My dad always hates_____, he just wants to go from A to B as quickly as possible.
6. The idea for the surprise party seemed_____but I just knew my best friend would love all the Star Wars costumes.
7. The interior of the church, which was built in 1689, is typical_____style.

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## 11 Talking point

**Look at the questions and discuss them with your partner.**

1. Have you or has anybody you know travelled to Germany? If not, would you like to go there someday?
2. What was the most interesting thing that you read about history in Eastern Germany? Are there any similarities to the history in your country?
3. Would you like to try "Dresdner Christollen"? What kind of desserts do you usually enjoy?
4. Why do you think more people visit the western part of Germany?



## 12 Extension

**Look at the three texts below. Complete each one with the vocabulary in the box. Summarise your paragraph to your teacher. Try and use different vocabulary as this will develop your ability to paraphrase.**

took up / devised / citizenship / contributions / equation / period

### A) Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein is perhaps the most famous scientist who ever lived, he certainly _____[1] the most well-known scientific _____[2] in the world- E=mc2 and his effect on the world of physics as a whole will never be undervalued.

Born in Ulm, Einstein spent a _____[3] of his childhood in Munich before moving with his family to Switzerland. In 1914, he returned to Germany and became a Professor at the University of Berlin and he remained there for almost 20 years. In 1933, he gave up his German _____[4] for political reasons and set sail for the USA. Once there, Einstein _____[5] a position at Princeton University and while he was living in America he made a number of crucial _____[6] to the world of quantum physics.

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