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WHAT'S UP

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Fall

By: Emma Bareihs

Crafts for Kids

WHEN THE WEATHER TURNS COLD, THE WIND PICKS UP AND THE RAIN HAMMERS DOWN RELENTLESSLY, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE INDOOR ACTIVITIES TO KEEP KIDS BUSY. WITH JUST A FEW RANDOM SUPPLIES, KIDS CAN MAKE SOME PRETTY AWESOME PROJECTS. JUST REMEMBER TO HAVE A GOOD CLEAN-UP PLAN IN PLACE! HERE ARE SIX PROJECTS FOR YOUR KIDS TO KEEP BUSY THIS FALL.

What you'll need:

- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Black or brown tempera paint
- Black or brown construction paper
- Paintbrush
- Black pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Glue
- Googly eyes
- Black and silver markers
- Bat wing template (optional)

Create a Hanging Bat



Paint your toilet paper roll black or brown, depending on the color bat you'd like. Let dry. Draw bat wings onto construction paper and cut out. Glue wings onto back of toilet paper roll. Cut out small triangles from construction paper for ears and glue onto bat, along with googly eyes. Use marker to draw a mouth. Punch two holes in the bottom of bat for legs. Cut black pipe cleaner in half. Twist one end of each pipe cleaner through the punched holes. To create feet, snip the last inch off the pipe cleaner. Wrap the piece around the bottom of each leg. Fold the middle part of the foot to make a hook for hanging. Hang bat.

HAND and FOOTPRINT TURKEYS



Coat child's hand with yellow paint and press firmly onto white craft paper. Repeat with orange and red paint with the palm in the same spot to create turkey feathers. Set aside to dry. Coat child's foot with brown paint and toes with orange paint and press firmly onto white craft paper. Set aside to dry. Cut around the handprints and footprints when dry. Cut a red tear drop shape for the waddle and a yellow triangle shape for the beak. Attach waddle, beak, and googly eyes to footprint to create turkey face. Glue handprints to the back of footprint. Voila! A turkey.

What you'll need:

- Red, yellow, orange and brown craft paint
- Paintbrushes
- Wipes
- Red, white and orange craft paper
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue

Paper Plate LEAF WREATH



Cut out the middle of the paper plate. Stick leaves onto plate using sticky dots or glue guns until the plate is no longer visible. Make a loop out of ribbon and secure on the back of the paper plate. Hang and admire.

PINE CONE Bird FEEDERS

What you'll need:

- Pine cones (the more open the better)
- Peanut butter
- Twine
- Bird seed



Cut twine long enough to tie around the top of the pine cone and hang from a tree branch (12-20"). Tie twine around top of pine cone. Using a small spatula or butter knife, spread peanut butter on the pine cone. Pour birdseed into a bowl and roll the pine cone in the seed. Sprinkle more directly onto the pine cone if necessary. Hang in a location where you can watch the birds enjoy.

Popsicle stick SCARECROWS

What you'll need:

- 8 Popsicle sticks
- Glue
- Brown, yellow, white and orange paper
- Scissors
- Brown or black marker
- Brown paint
- Cereal box



Cut a rectangle out of the cereal box and spread glue all over it. Stick on 7 popsicles in a row. Cut a few strands of "hair" out of the yellow paper. Glue the last Popsicle stick diagonally to make the scarecrow's hat with the yellow hair behind it. Paint hat brown and let dry. Cut eyes from white paper, a nose from orange paper and create a flower with yellow paper. Draw on a smile with the marker.

PUFFY GHOSTS

Start by cutting a ghost template in the white cardstock. Glue cotton balls onto the template until the ghost is covered. Cut out eyes and a mouth from black paper, glue to ghost. For extra fun, add a string and hang up your ghost!



What you'll need:

- White cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cotton balls
- Black paper

Pumpkin Spice Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

By Mary Del Rosario

As my sister and I were Face-timing talking about how much we're looking forward to fall, she showed me her batch of pumpkin spice chocolate chip cookies that she had just baked. In that moment, I wish I could have reached through the screen and grab a cookie for myself. Immediately, I decided to run to the commissary, buy the ingredients and get to work: I was not disappointed with the outcome!

These cookies are the perfect fall treat and will compliment your pumpkin spice latte or hot chocolate. In the mood to "fall" for these cookies? Try this recipe.

Start to finish: 55 minutes

Serves: 10

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup pumpkin purée
- 3 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1.5 cups almond flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pumpkin spice
- 1/4 tsp nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Directions

- Preheat oven to 176C (350F).
- Whisk together the pumpkin purée, egg, sugar and vanilla.
- Add the almond flour, baking soda, salt, pumpkin spice, cloves, and nutmeg.

- Whisk everything together then fold in the chocolate chips.
 - Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
 - Scoop the dough out onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
 - Bake for 15 minutes
- *If desired, add a couple of extra chocolate chips to the top before baking.

Recipe modified and adapted from thetoastedpinenut.com



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Embracing GERMANY

Alpine Cattle Drives

By Stacy Roman

Cattle drives invoke images harkening back to the Old West. Lone ranchers sporting a ten-gallon Stetson attempting to lasso a stray cow while riding a trusty steed across vast miles of arid, cacti-riddled landscape à la John Wayne, or the less-glamorous “City Slickers.” However, if you ask your friendly German neighbor about cattle drives, you’ll likely get a much different answer. The “Almabtrieb” or “Vihscheid” is the annual Alpine cattle drive which takes place in the high altitudes of the Bavarian mountains. It’s an event you won’t want to miss.

WHAT EXACTLY IS “ALMABTRIEB” AND “VIEHSCHIED?”

“Almabtrieb” and “Vihscheid” are basically the same thing — an Alpine cattle drive. In the Allgäu region of Bavaria, it’s referred to as “Vihscheid” or cattle separation. Near Berchtesgaden as well as in Austria and Switzerland, it’s more commonly known as “Almabtrieb.” Dating back to the Bronze Age, this time-honored tradition is engrained in German culture. Each spring, farmers and ranchers lead their branded cattle up to the higher pastures in the Alps. During the summer, the cows munch and graze their way around these green meadows. Not only does this help feed the cattle, but also helps reduce mountain erosion.

As the leaves begin to change and fall rears its head toward the end of September, it’s time to bring the cattle back down the mountains. Farmers dressed in traditional Bavarian garb (think Lederhosen, Dirndls and fedoras) lead their herd back to town. To celebrate, the cattle are often adorned with stunning floral headdresses, wreaths and gigantic metal bells which clang incessantly as they make their way home. Once the cows make it to the final destination, it’s time to start the party. Festivals with local fare, plenty of frosty beverages and traditional music are held. It’s quite similar to Oktoberfest, only a little rowdier.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

“Almabtrieb” and “Vihscheid” are subject to changes and cancellations, so you’ll want to check the visitor websites to be sure of the dates and details. In light of the recent pandemic, this year’s events may be smaller or may not be held at all. Also, if even just one cow meets an untimely demise or is severely injured during the summer months while up in the mountains, the procession is usually held without the fanfare and festival out of respect. If the cattle drive takes place, it usually occurs mid to late September. Most popular in the Tyrol, Allgäu and Berchtesgaden regions, each “Almabtrieb” carries its own distinct flare. In Schönau, the cows are herded onto a boat which takes them across the crystal-clear waters of Königssee. In some areas, other animals such as goats or sheep may join in the long walk home.

While the notion of cattle drives is considerably different from what we’re used to in the States, it’s no less spectacular to witness at least once while you’re stationed in Germany. They don’t party until the cows come home — they party because they came home. ■



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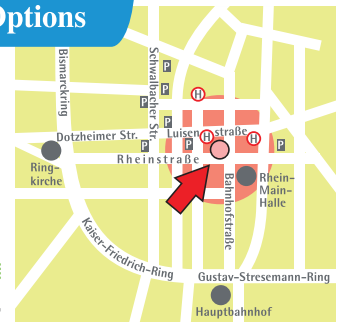
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GERMANY'S HIGHLIGHT

Fall Colors

By Amanda Palumbo



Grab your
pumpkin-spice latte
and Banana Republic scarf
because it is the season that
gives us the reason
to live: fall.



© SAIKOP123RF.COM



Jokes aside, what we love about Germany in spring and summer, its lush green vegetation, is why we fall in love all over again come September. The temperature starts to drop, the air becomes crisper and the leaves evolve into new hues. There really isn't a bad view in Germany during autumn, but there are a few key places to snap that Instagram-worthy photo of all those bright #fallcolors.

Karlstal Gorge

Karlstal Gorge makes a lot of our lists and for good reason: it's great for families, easily accessible and gorgeous all year long. Nestled in the Palatine Forest, these moss-covered rocky walls take on a magical new persona as the leaves change. Its architect, Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell, said it best when he described it as, "One of the most beautiful valleys of this type that I have seen." Friedrich enhanced its natural beauty in the 1780s and it's drawn thousands of visitors each year ever since.

The designer created a trail filled with wooden bridges leading to a gazebo perfectly placed next to a running stream. In the spring, the gorge is bursting with a bright range of green as the sun reflects off the gazebo's moss-covered roof. As the air starts to chill and the leaves change, Rheinland Pfalz's treasured gem metamorphosizes into a fall fairytale. What makes this place so unique is that while the leaves change into a range of oranges, yellows and browns, the moss maintains its chartreuse color. It's the perfect spot to snap a quick family photo that will be the Christmas card envy of your family.

Moselle Valley

If you're an avid Stripes reader, and I know you are, last month we featured the Moselle River Valley as a prime wine country spot. Come late September, all those vineyards put on a theatrical display exploding with color along Mother Moselle's rolling riverbanks. The area is normally chalked full of wine festivals and carnivals in the fall, however, the current pandemic has canceled all of them. The good news is, you can still enjoy what this area has to offer by visiting its quaint villages like Bernkastel-Kues and Cochem.

Moselle River cruises run year-round and offer a perfect and relaxing way to take in the artisanal autumn colors. Imagine sipping a glass of fine Riesling grown and produced from the very vineyards you're admiring as your boat sails down the river. Tickets start at just 11 euros.

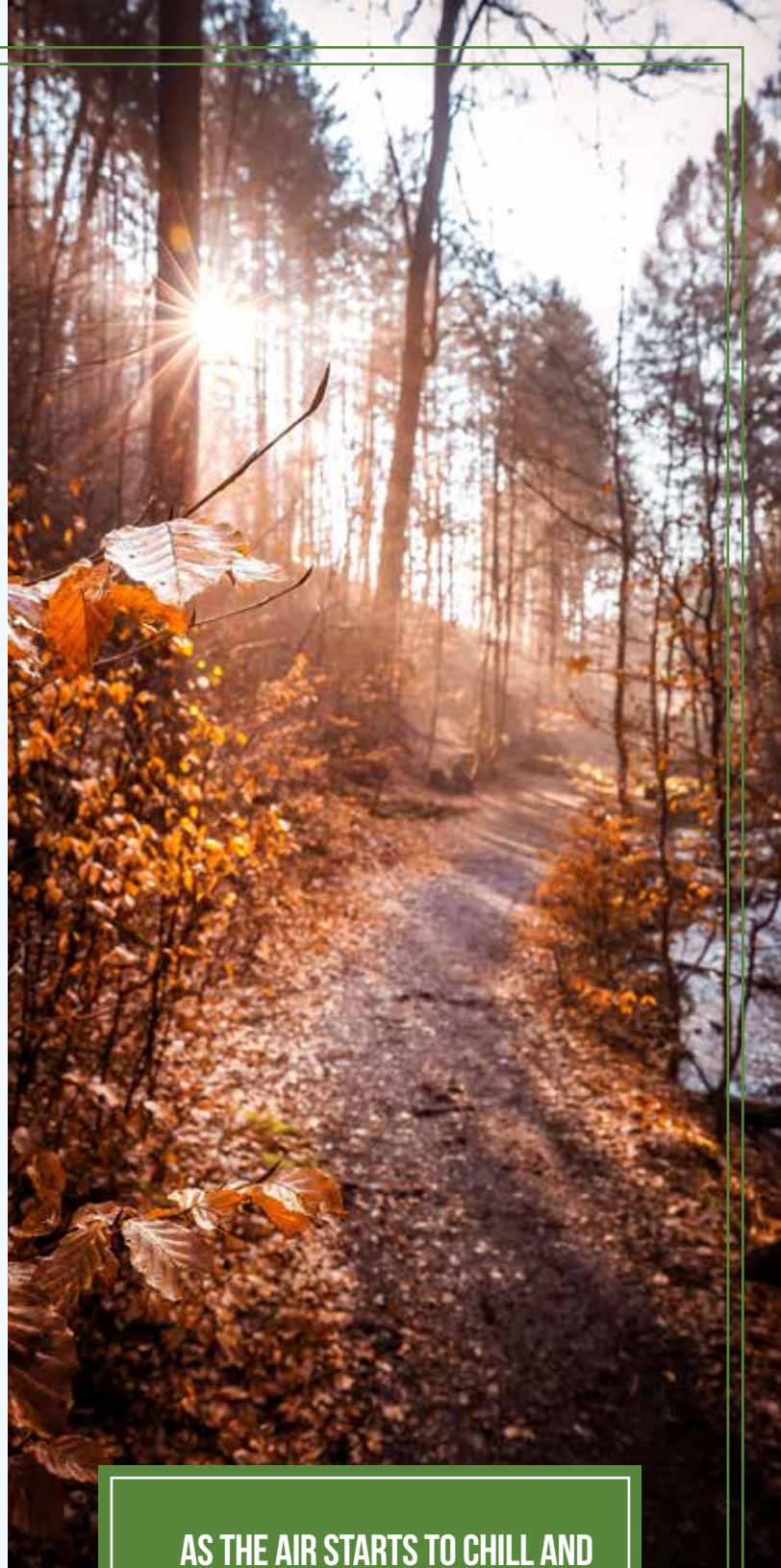
Rhine Gorge

This scenic 65-kilometer stretch along the Rhine River between Bingen and Koblenz has provided breathtaking views for centuries. There are so many reasons why this area is so special, from its rich history of a long-popular shipping route to its microclimate giving a home to species not found anywhere else. But, what this area does in the autumn months is a sight that no photo could possibly do justice.

The prime fall color spot is Loreley, or Lorelei, a rock formation towering 433 feet in the air, overlooking St. Goarshausen and the River Rhine. Hundreds of trees put on their greatest performance, presenting a kaleidoscope of colors begging to be photographed. Also visible from this lookout point is Burg Katz, a castle constructed in the 14th century, snuggled amongst trees providing a striking backdrop as it sits on a ledge overlooking the river. Some lucky soul calls that castle home, as it is privately owned and not open to visitors.

Good to know:

Autumn officially starts on September 22nd. Fall colors are usually at their peak around mid-October. While out admiring all the colors, make sure to have a jacket and an umbrella handy. Germany's weather can be very unpredictable in the fall. ■



**AS THE AIR STARTS TO CHILL AND
THE LEAVES CHANGE, RHEINLAND
PFALZ'S TREASURED GEM
METAMORPHOSIZES INTO
A FALL FAIRYTALE.**



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Rediscover Enchanting
GERMANY

By Stacy Roman

This time of year in Germany is almost magical. There's a chill to the air, the days grow shorter and festival season is usually in full swing. However, this year is a little different. While the leaves transform into brilliant shades of red and orange, most of the social landscape has changed. With the cancelation of festivals—including the world-famous Oktoberfest—it can feel a bit deflating. Don't let it get you down! Now is a fantastic time to rediscover how amazing our host nation truly is. From breathtaking scenery and bustling cities to time honored traditions and a bit of deep-fried goodness, there are plenty of reasons to fall in love with Germany.

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FULL OF WONDEROUS SIGHTS

There is no shortage of spectacular places to see. Castles dating back hundreds of years can be found everywhere. Even just driving on the autobahn, you're likely to spot them from afar. Nestled in valleys or perched atop a hill overlooking towns and rivers, some such as the timeless Schloss Heidelberg stand as testaments to their former glory. Others like Neuschwanstein and Burg Eltz boast unparalleled vistas and harken back to fairy tales from childhood.

In the north, the isolated wind-swept island of Sylt offers miles of sand dunes and pristine coastline. In the west, vineyards line the vast rolling hills along the Mosel and Rhine rivers. Fall is my favorite time to visit, as the changing leaves set the hillsides ablaze with crimson and gold. The Black Forest is a favorite for many. With hiking trails and charming villages, the region is also known for intricately carved handmade cuckoo clocks. Bordering Switzerland and Austria are the majestic mountains. Filled with jagged peaks, crystal clear lakes, deep ravines and gorges, the Alps are simply breathtaking.



Eibsee Lake,
Bavaria



VIBRANT METROPOLISES

Even if you're not fond of busy urban centers, Germany's cities are wonderfully eclectic and unique. Housing the European Central Bank and the German stock market, Frankfurt is a burgeoning financial powerhouse. Along with its skyscrapers and blossoming businesses, Frankfurt is home to plenty of traditions. Each year it hosts the Buchmesse—the world's largest book fair. It also has its share of culinary favorites with "Apfelwein," apple wine and "Grüne Soße," green sauce which originate in the region.

The capital city of Berlin has a rich and complex history. Once split into two, East and West Berlin, signs of the dichotomy are still visible today. Visitors can trace the delineating line of the Berlin Wall by walking along the bricks which are cemented into the ground. Remnants of the wall remain and are now a living art gallery.



Brandenburg Gate

Reaching further back are museums dedicated to coming to terms with the atrocities committed in World War II. A visible reminder of the war still stands at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. The bombed shell of the building pierces the sky, with gaping holes in the tower. While the church was rebuilt in a more modern style, the original remains as testament to the cost of war.



German
currywurst



Legendary beers
of Germany

EAT AND DRINK ALL THE THINGS

There is an amazing amount of good German eats to discover. Sure, we all miss our legit Mexican cuisine; however, I promise you there are plenty of delicious dishes which might help make up for it. "Käsebrezels," cheese pretzels bigger than your face, crispy golden weinerschnitzel, and melt-in-your-mouth "apfelstrudel" topped with vanilla sauce are just a few tasty morsels to try. Although each region has its own specialties (Lebkuchen in Nuremberg, Flammkuchen in Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz), one of the most popular dishes around the country is currywurst. Thought to have originated in Berlin, this savory dish consists of a cooked bratwurst slathered in a curry-based ketchup sauce and is often accompanied by piping hot frites.

Of course, it wouldn't be a meal without having something to wash it down with. Grab a liter or "Maß" of one of Germany's legendary beers.

Once brewed to perfection according to Reinheitsgebot, or purity laws, beer was created with water, barley and hops. The brews created and sold at Oktoberfest each year must follow the tradition of Reinheitsgebot. More a wine drinker? Taste your way along the Deutsche Weinstraße, or German Wine Road. Spanning the rolling hills along the Mosel and Rhine Rivers, discover award-winning wines which makes this region so special.

When you're first assigned to Germany, it's easy to start planning your trips to other countries and cities. However, don't forget to look right in your backyard. From spectacular landscapes, culinary hikes and seasonal markets, there is so much to explore and rediscover in this fantastic host nation we're lucky enough to call home. Although this year may look a bit different from most, the traditions and culture of Germany still shines through. ■

THINK OF ALL
THE BEAUTY
STILL LEFT
AROUND
YOU AND BE
HAPPY!

Anne Frank



Enjoy September summer with MWR

Rheinblick Club Championship

Take part in this 36-hole, stroke play event Sept. 5-6. Cost to enter is \$25 for Rheinblick and Rhein-Main members; \$25 plus applicable tournament greens fee for all others. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485.

Air Rifle and Archery Day

Outdoor Recreation offers a combined Air Rifle and Archery Day on Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Clay North. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

Friday Night Scramble

The Rheinblick Golf Course hosts Friday Night Scrambles on Sept. 11 and 18 starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for Rheinblick members; \$20 for non-member U.S. ID cardholders. Call civ (0611) 143-548-5485.

Mainz Biking Trip

Head out on two wheels with an Outdoor Recreation bike guide to explore Mainz on Sept. 12. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

Recreational shooting

Outdoor Recreation hosts recreational



Outdoor Recreation hosts a Paintball day on Sept. 19.

shooting at the Wackernheim Range from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 26. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9830.

Scramble of the Year

Make your own team for this 18-hole, four-person, scramble-format golf tournament on Sept. 26 at the Rheinblick Golf Course. The shotgun start is at 9 a.m. Cost

is \$25 for club members; \$25 plus applicable greens fees for all others. For more information and to register call civ (0611) 143-548-5485.

Paintball Day

Outdoor Recreation hosts Paintball Day on Clay North on Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9801.

Treat yourself to your choice of cuisine with Wiesbaden MWR

What's your favorite food choice? Is it savory Asian cuisine? Do you prefer zesty Latin fare? Do delectable Italian dishes get your mouth watering? Whatever your desire, Wiesbaden MWR has a rich assortment of eateries designed to meet that need:

Bamboo Asian Restaurant — Located in the former Hainerberg Shopping Center (Building 7762) near the AAFES Service Station, the Bamboo Asian Restaurant features everyone's favorite dishes ranging from fried rice to sushi, crispy chicken to spicy curries. Bamboo is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Delivery service is available from 5-8:30 p.m. To place orders, call civ (0611) 143-548-9425.

Latin Street — Authentic Mexican-style tacos, slow-cooked chicken, flavorful enchiladas and various other Latin

specialties are on the menu at Latin Street, located in Building 1214 on Clay Kaserne (next to the Arts and Crafts Center). A range of beverages and cocktails are also available. The cozy eatery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; Saturday from 4-9 p.m. To place a take-out order call civ (0611) 143-548-9472.

Little Italy Restaurant and Catering Center — Pizzas, scrumptious pasta dishes, steaks, freshly made salads and a range of Italian delights are the attractions at the Little Italy Restaurant, located in Building 1011 (the Community Activity Center) on Clay Kaserne. Little Italy is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-11 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. and 5-11 p.m. Take-out and delivery is available. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9413.

Wiesbaden Entertainment

Center — The Wiesbaden Entertainment Center (located in Building 7891, across from Army Community Service) in Hainerberg Housing offers traditional American eats (hamburgers, sandwiches, barbecue chicken), pizza, salads and more. The WEC Strike Zone is open Monday to Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-out and delivery is available. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9402.

Rheinblick Restaurant — Cem Klein's Restaurant and Bistro at the Rheinblick Golf Course (Weisser Weg, 65201 Wiesbaden) provides golfers and guests with a range of culinary offerings — breakfast items, pastas, bratwurst, sandwiches, dinner items and more. The restaurant is open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dagger Cantina — Located on

the Dagger Complex in Darmstadt-Griesheim, the Dagger Cantina serves those who work on the complex with a range of food choices (pasta, sandwiches, baked goods, chicken and pizzas). The Dagger Cantina is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Java Express — Set in Building 1011 (Little Italy, Community Activity Center) on Clay Kaserne, the Java Express is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pick up your favorite beverage, baked goods, sandwiches and more.

Shali Java Café — Set inside the Shalikashvili Mission Command Center (Building 1000) on Clay Kaserne, this eatery serves patrons with a variety of breakfast and lunch offerings including sandwiches, salads and more. The Shali Java Café is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.





10 Reasons to Love Germany

By Mary Del Rosario

1. The number of castles there are will make you feel like you're living in a fairytale. Burg Eltz, Hohenzollern Castle, Lichtenstein Castle, and Cochem Castle are among the popular ones.
2. Tasty dishes such as "käsespätzle," cheesy noodles, bratwursts, schnitzel and döner will please your palette and will warm your soul.
3. Beer and wine in copious amounts.
4. There are countless fests to partake in to include Oktoberfest, Bad Dürkheim Wine Fest and many culinary hikes.
5. The locals pride themselves as being efficient and environmentally friendly.
6. Its centrally located position makes traveling to other countries easily accessible.
7. The charming Christmas Markets will be an event you'll look forward to every holiday season.
8. There are bakeries around every corner filled with heavenly baked goods and the freshest bread.
9. From the Black Forest to the Fairytale road, enchanting cities are to be found in every area.
10. You can take beautiful photos wearing your dirndl or lederhosen with a castle or field as the backdrop.



Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on November 16, 2020.

The Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Sexual Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack and provides information about the case, *In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC*, No. 20-10343 (Bankr. D. Del.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, visit www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

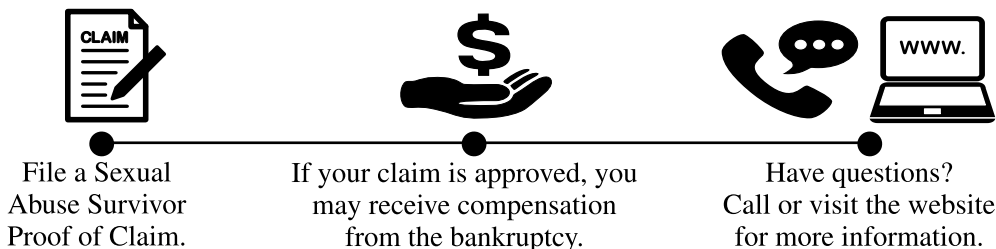
Anyone who was sexually abused during their time in Scouting, on or before February 18, 2020, must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or any entity or activity associated with Scouting. Sexual Abuse Claims include, but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, exploitation, or touching, sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, even if the behavior was not sexual or against the law, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not. These acts could be between a: (1) child and an adult or (2) child and another child.

When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

You should file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim by **November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. **If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils or organizations that sponsored your troop or pack, including any right to compensation.** Only BSA is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against the BSA Local Councils or other organizations, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721 for help on how to file a claim by mail. Scouting participants who were at least 18 years of age at the time the sexual abuse began may also have claims related to sexual abuse and should consult the appropriate claim form at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:



If a plan to reorganize BSA is approved, it could release claims you hold against certain third parties, including against BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack. Please visit the website to learn more.

Other Support

BSA will fund in-person counseling for current or former Scouts or their family. To request in-person counseling, please call 1-866-907-2721 or email restructuring@scouting.org.

Your information will be kept private.

Mespelbrunn Castle



WHY GO THERE

This romantic location, hidden in a forest of colors, is one of few castles that remains unscathed from various wars. Its survival is likely due to its moderately concealed location within the mountain forests. Though the castle is not particularly large, it offers a delightful insight into the past, especially since it has continuously been inhabited.

Mespelbrunn Castle

ON YOUR RADAR

By Jessica Zen

Nestled in the forest of the Spessart Mountains and surrounded by a water-filled moat, Mespelbrunn Castle is truly a historical gem. Known as a water castle, it features a mashup of late medieval and early Renaissance architectural styles. This amazing piece of history is untouched by the ravages of war and still functions as a residence today in Germany. This little castle is the perfect spot for a day trip from Frankfurt, as it is located just outside the city.

This lovely castle dates back to 1412 when it was just a modest house. Hamann Echter was the first owner and was given the title of Vizedom of Aschaffenburg from Prince Johann von Nassau, the Archbishop of Mainz. The original house has undergone many updates to become an impressive castle. In 1427, surrounding walls, towers and a defensive moat were added. Today the only thing remaining from the 15th century is the impressive round tower. Most of what you can see today was built in the 16th century, from 1551-1569. The architectural updates strongly reflect a traditional Renaissance manor house.

Perhaps the most famous Echter family member to live in the castle was Julius Echter (1545-1617). He was the Prince-Bishop of Würzburg and constructed multiple churches in the area in an effort to perform an ecclesiastical restoration of the Catholic Church. These new churches were Gothic style, featuring steep, black slate roofs. In just three years, around 100,000 people returned to the Catholic faith. The Echter family owned the castle until 1665, when the last male heir passed. Through marriage, the Counts of Ingelheim took ownership of the castle and eventually opened it to the public in 1930 for tours.

When you visit the castle, you'll see a square-shaped central building resting on the east side of the lake. The inner courtyard is surrounded by multiple-story wings and there are two towers. The southern wing of the castle is currently inhabited by the Counts of Ingelheim. However, you can still tour the north wing and other parts of the castle. Rooms open for touring feature the family's furniture that has been collected over the years. You can visit the Knight's Hall, chapel, banquet hall, which is full of weapons and the ancestor's hall, featuring family portraits. There is also a particularly interesting Chinese room that features items from East Asia.

If you're hungry, the little cafe on site is a great place to grab a bite to eat. Here you can find schnitzel, sandwiches, salads, coffee, brats and more. Enjoy views of the castle while you fuel up and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding forest.

Mespelbrunn Castle is a great day trip from Frankfurt, as it is only about an hour away via A3. Once you arrive, you must take a 40-minute tour to see the interior. All tours are in German, unless you request one in English prior to arrival. There is ample parking just outside the castle grounds.



Add Mespelbrunn Castle to your growing list of travel destinations. After all, it's not every day you get to see a castle that is surrounded by a moat, has a 15th-century tower that is standing and is still inhabited! Step back in time and appreciate the intricate architectural styles and the beautiful nature that surrounds the castle grounds. Who knows, maybe you'll be inspired to build a "castle" and grounds of your own some day! ■

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