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GERMANY'S TRADITIONS

PUMPKIN FESTIVALS

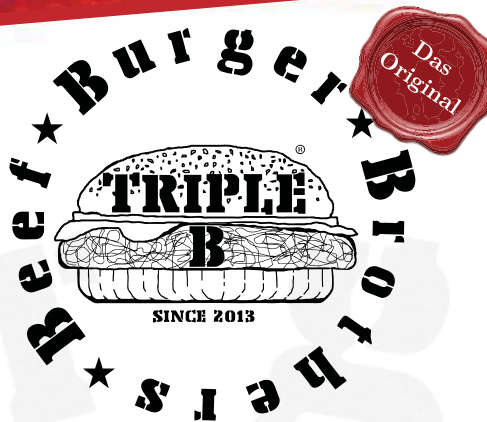
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MANAGER EUROPE

CAROLINE MILLER

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN,

DIRECTOR

MARIE WOODS

PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN,

MANAGER

HEATHER BAIER

WRITER-EDITOR

MARY DEL ROSARIO

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

CARRIE FARRELL, LAURA HERSH,
ANDREA VARGAS

ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

KAREN LEWIS

MARKETING COORDINATOR

RACHEL COTTER

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,

MANAGER

DOUG DOUGHERTY

MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,

CONSULTANTS

SEAN ADAMS, JAMES AFFLERBACH,
HEIDI BAYFIELD, TOM KEYS,
CLAUDIA STIER, JEFF TEESELINK

ADVERTISING COORDINATORS

AL GREEN, KRISTI KIMMEL

COVER DESIGN BY

CARRIE FARRELL

ADVERTISING OFFICE

Unit 29480, APO, AE 09211

Postfach 1980, 67607

Kaiserslautern, Germany

+49(0)631-3615-9000

or email: dougherty.doug@stripes.com

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TIME & TRADITION



KIDS AND ADULTS
ALIKE CAN ENJOY
ALL THE SIGHTS AND
TASTES OF FALL.

Germany's TRADITIONS

By Courtney Woodruff and Jessica Zenn



Pumpkins are just as symbolic of fall across Germany as they are in the U.S. Naturally, we must celebrate the coming of autumn with commemorative festivals. It just so happens that Germany is home to the largest pumpkin festival in the world in Ludwigsburg.

Located at Blühendes Barock, the Ludwigsburg Pumpkin Festival has more pumpkin related foods and activities than you could ever imagine. For those interested in pumpkin-inspired food and beverages, there will be pumpkin tarte flambée, popcorn, burgers, beer and of course, roasted pumpkin seeds. The largest batch of pumpkin soup is made during the last week in September. One pot holds approximately 2,000 servings!

While you snack on pumpkin flavored foods, there are plenty of events taking place. Children will especially love listening to tales from the pumpkin patch with Anselm Roser, carving pumpkins and walking through the little chamber of horrors. Adults can cheer on

pumpkin canoe racers as they try their hand at victory during the Pumpkin Regatta on Castle Lake. Yes, they really paddle around in hollowed-out pumpkins! There is also an area dedicated to artistic pumpkin carving, a giant pumpkin and squash showcase, as well as musical performances on Saturdays.

The culminating event that shuts down the festival is the smashing of pumpkins. During this time, the largest pumpkins are smashed and visitors can see what the interior of these mammoths really look like. Seeds are also collected during the event and sold to those interested in growing their own monstrosity.

While Ludwigsburg is the ultimate pumpkin fest in Germany, consider checking out these pumpkin patches or pumpkin-themed activities near you.

BAVARIA

JERRY'S PUMPKIN PATCH - LITZLOHE

Activities:

- Pick-your-own pumpkins
- Hayrides on Saturdays and holidays (weather permitting)

KAISERSLAUTERN

HITSCHERHOF PUMPKIN FARM - MASSWEILER

Activities:

- Farm store with decor and edible pumpkins
- Cut-your-own flower garden
- Corn maze
- Golf
- Annual festival

SUNSHINE PUMPKIN FARM - GERHARDSBRUNN

Activities:

- Pick-your-own pumpkin patch
- Hayrides
- Farm tours (appointment only - call: 06375-5852)
- Annual festival

RHEIN-MAIN

GOLDGRUN PUMPKIN FARM - HÜNFELDEN-MENSFELDEN

Activities:

- Farm shop
- Corn maze
- Golf

Whether you want to eat, carve or just smash some pumpkins, any of these locations would be fantastic! Kids and adults alike can enjoy all the sights and tastes of fall. ■



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GERMANY DAY TRIP Liechtenstein

By Jessica Zen



The doubly landlocked country of Liechtenstein is a nature lover's paradise and a castle junkie's dream land. Though small in size, it packs a huge punch when it comes to ideal ways to spend the day traveling the local area.

CASTLES

The stunning alpine landscape of Liechtenstein is spotted with romantic castles. Vaduz Castle, the official residence of the prince, is not open to the public but still offers an impressive facade as it dominates the hillside. Though you cannot tour the castle itself, you can go on a guided tour of Vaduz that will give insights into the history of the castle.

Gutenberg Castle is a preserved medieval castle that is open to the public as a museum in the town of Balzers. It began as a medieval church and cemetery and has since been restored into the beautiful castle it is today. Visitors can tour the courtyard for free, as well as the chapel and rose garden on Sundays. Guided tours are available only during the summer.

While fully intact castles are indeed gorgeous, there is something to be said for the romanticism of castle ruins. The ruins in Schellenberg tell a story of bygone days, when indoor plumbing and electricity were nothing but a dream. The castles, originally constructed in the 1200s, were inhabited until perhaps the 16th century and then were left to be overgrown.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Nature aficionados will enjoy the Ruggeller Riet Nature Reserve, the 200 plus acre area in northern Liechtenstein that is teeming with local



HIKE THE FÜRSTENSTEIG AND THREE SISTERS TRAIL AND TAKE IN THE MAJESTIC VIEWS OF THE SWISS AND AUSTRIAN MOUNTAINS. CHECK OUT THE CASTLE RUINS IN SCHELLENBERG ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED IN THE 13TH CENTURY.

flora and fauna. Here you'll find lowland moors, ponds, Siberian Iris flowers and even a stork or two. As the western border of the country is formed by the Rhine River, this location offers a fantastic gravel bank where visitors can explore the stunning landscape.

The Grossabuent Outdoor Leisure Centre is a great outdoor location for families and offers a large swimming lake and activity area. Unlike most lakes, this one is cleaned naturally without the use of chemicals. In addition to the lake, there is a football field, climbing wall and slacklining area. The leisure center is open daily and swimming is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Families also tend to flock to Malbun, a village surrounded by steep slopes and breathtaking views. Bikers and hikers alike can use the Sareiser Joch chair lift to get to the top of the mountain and start their adventure. Don't miss out on the Malbun Donkey Festival dedicated to the stubborn creatures in August!

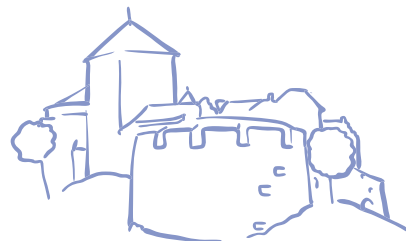
Avid hikers will love the Fürstensteig and Three Sisters Trail. The views include the Kuhgrat Ridge, Rätikon and the Swiss and Austrian mountains. Though moderately difficult, this five hour trek takes you to the top of the Alpspi-

tze. Intense switchbacks, incredible views and excellent exercise make this trail a must do.

GETTING THERE

Liechtenstein is south of both the Stuttgart and Bavaria regions. Since it is between Switzerland and Austria, driving through one of the two countries is a must to get there. It is approximately three and a half hours from either area, depending on departure points. Austria and Switzerland require vignettes to use their highways.

Though it is the fourth smallest country in Europe, Liechtenstein certainly doesn't lack travel appeal, as it's full of activities for families, outdoor lovers and castle enthusiasts. Check Liechtenstein off your ever-growing travel list by visiting for the day or even the weekend. ■



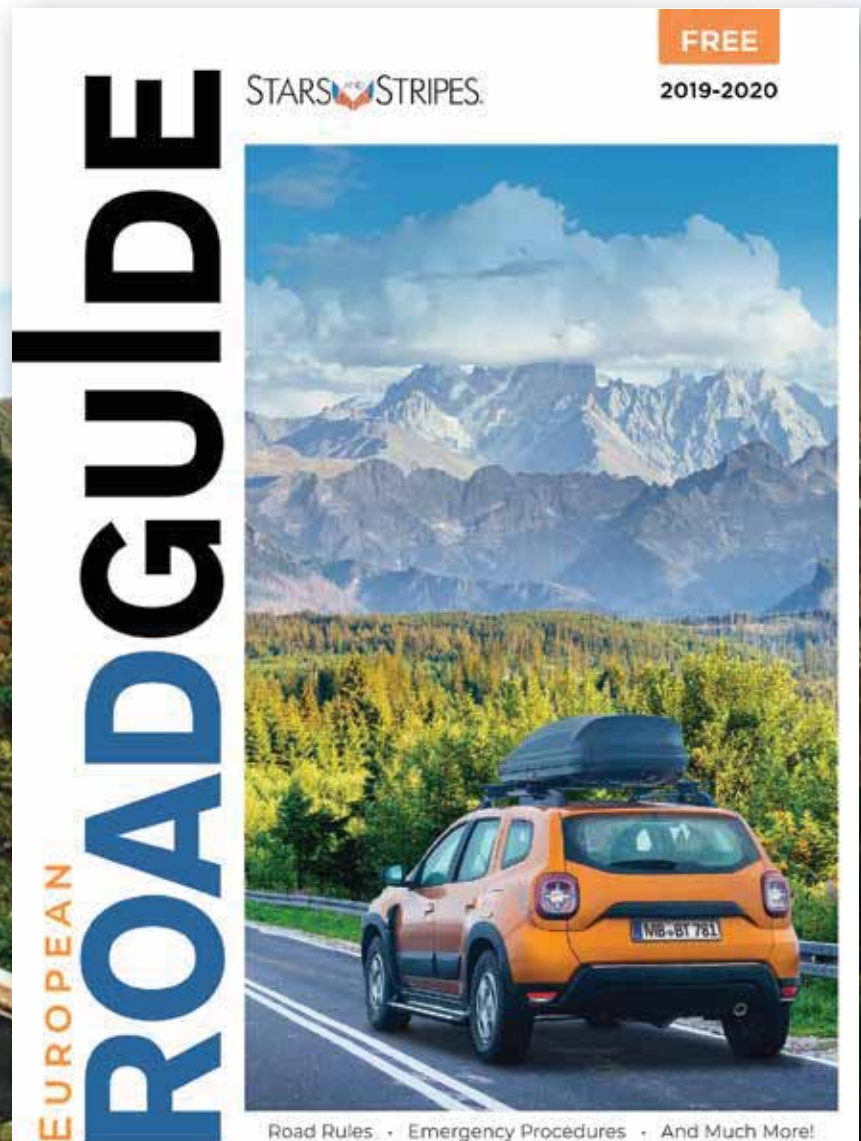
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TOP FIVE

By Mary Del Rosario

LUSH GREEN HILLS PEPPERED WITH GRAPE VINES THAT BOASTS THE MOST STUNNING VIEWS OF GERMAN TOWNS IS THE BEST WAY TO ENJOY THE GRAPE JUICE FOR ADULTS — WINE. WHETHER IT BE WHITE OR RED, DRY OR SWEET, THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO ENJOY A REFRESHING GLASS OF WINE THAN BY TRAIPSING TO THESE FIVE PICTURESQUE VINEYARDS.



AHR VALLEY

The Ahr Valley, named after the left tributary Ahr in the Rhine, is a romantic spot for hiking, cycling and clinking wine glasses with wonderful company. The quaint villages of Althenar, Rech, Mayschoss, Dernau and Walporzheim are dotted with half-timbered houses and steep, terraced vineyards. This valley is ideal for celebrating all things wine, especially when it comes to their wine festivals, which not only houses the best wines in the region, but is also a foodie's haven with their traditional "zwiebelkuchen," (onion tart) and other local favorites.

THIS TOWN THAT SITS ON THE RHINE RIVER IS HOME TO MANY VINEYARD SITES TO INCLUDE ROSENGARTEN, BISCHOFBERG KIRCHENPFAD AND BERG SCHLOSSBERG AND PRODUCES TASTY AND REFRESHING WHITE WINE.



BERNKASTEL-KUES

Bernkastel-Kues is not only known for their charming Christmas market but also their striking vineyards. Located in the middle of the Mosel, this wine-growing area is known as the "international city of vine and wine" due to the many guests who flock here from all over the world to delight in all sorts of home-grown wine. Green, vineyard-lined slopes dominate the landscape with the view of the Mosel River separating the town and vines. To create the perfect day trip, be sure to book a river cruise, visit the Mosel Wein Museum and of course, sample 160 varieties of wine at the basement of a former St. Nikolaus Hospital, which is now a popular "vinothek," (wine shop).

3



MEISSEN

Situated in the Elbe Valley, you'll find Meissen, Germany's smallest wine-growing area in the region of Saxony. Though it may be small, the level of luxury makes up for its size. Remnants of its grandeur past can be seen in the churches and wine estates as Saxony's aristocrats were responsible for the vineyards. Since this area is known for its royal past, be sure to participate in the Saxon Wine Route, which leads you to the gorgeous parts of the Elbe Valley and will teach you to be a wine connoisseur.

4



RÜDESHEIM AM RHEIN

For fans of Riesling — white wine that's either dry or sweet made from the Riesling grape — a stop at Rüdesheim is a much-needed escape. This town that sits on the Rhine River is home to many vineyard sites to include Rosengarten, Bischofsberg Kirchenpfad and Berg Schlossberg and produces tasty and refreshing white wine. A cable car provides scenic views over the Rhine Valley, while the Rheingau Wine Museum is an excellent way to gain insight of wine production. The beautiful location of Rüdesheim also allows you access to several stunning castles, so booking a river cruise is best.

IF WEATHER PERMITS, IT'S BEST TO PARTAKE IN THE TRIER WINE CULTURE TRAIL WHERE AN HOUR OF WALKING THROUGH THE WINE VILLAGE OF OLEWIG WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GROWNUP DRINK.

5



TRIER

Famous for the Porta Nigra and the Karl Marx House, Trier also presents itself as having one of the best wine cultures, especially when it comes to Riesling. Belonging to the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer region, this large wine grower of a town possesses a mild climate with perfect soil that is ideal for producing the delicious wine we can't get enough of. If weather permits, it's best to partake in the Trier Wine Culture Trail where an hour of walking through the wine village of Olewig will teach you everything you need to know about this grownup drink. However, for those who are curious to see Germany's oldest wine cellar, take the Wine Cellar Tour for Explorers.

TIP

Head to the Historic Winefest on August 17-19, 2019 where damsels, knights, jugglers and the Medieval Era come alive as well as an extensive list of wines.

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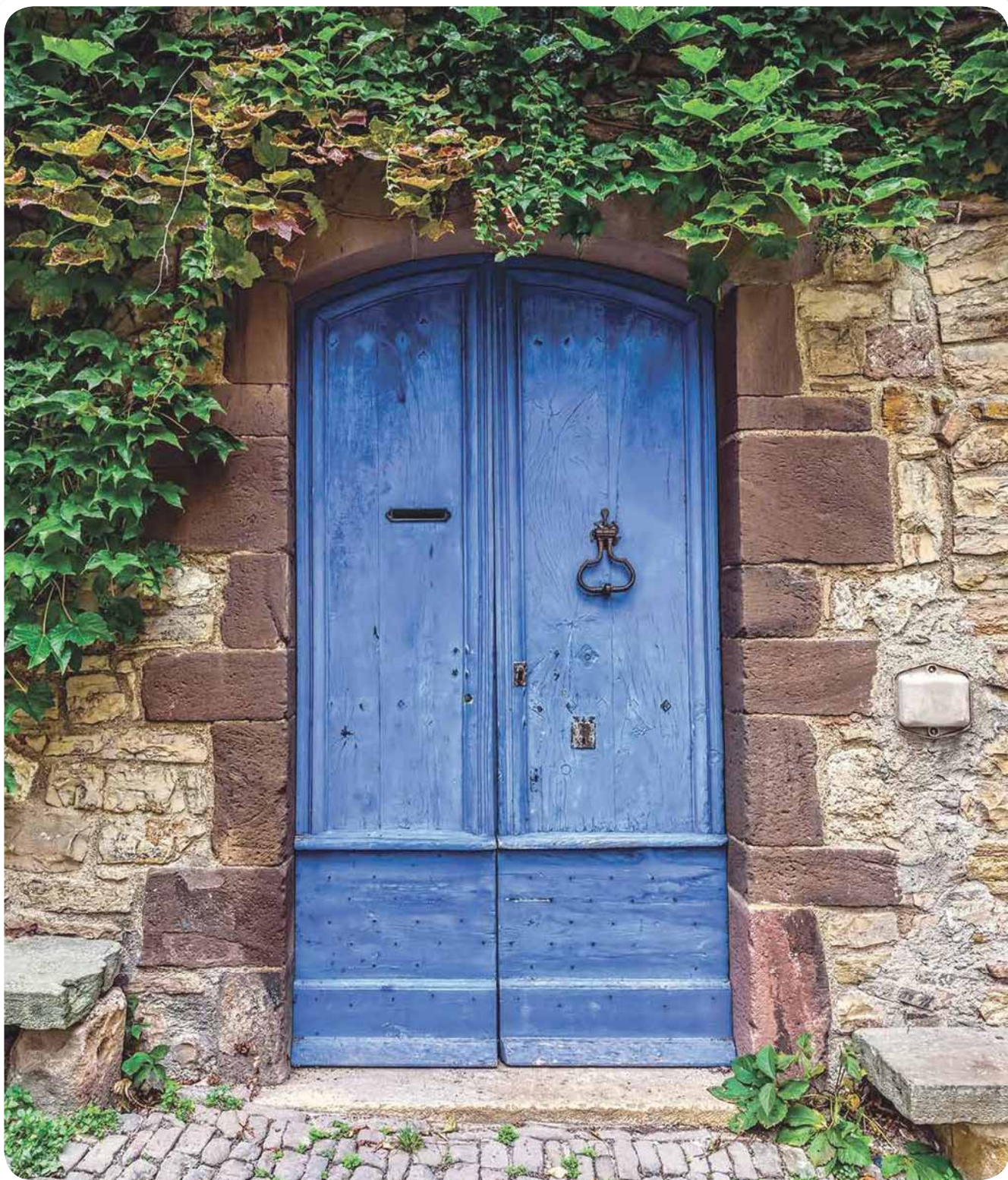
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“Be an opener of doors”

————— Ralph Waldo Emerson —————



Hike through the **History & Culture** of France's **ALSACE REGION**

By Stacy Roman

The Alsace region of France springs vivid pictures when I think of it— brightly colored half-timbered houses lining narrow cobblestone alleys, a foodie's paradise with Michelin-starred restaurants in quaint villages, and of course, award-winning wines. Cities such as Strasbourg, Colmar and Riquewihr beckon visitors with promises of charming and idyllic scenes, including their world-famous “Marchés de Noel” or Christmas markets. However, if you travel a little deeper beneath the surface, you'll discover there's so much more than meets the eye. With summertime slowly fading away, it's a great time to take a hike and a history lesson through this stunning region of France.





A TALE OF TWO COUNTRIES

It may be an understatement to say the Alsace has a complex and tumultuous past. Settled by the Celts, cultivated by the Romans, and claimed by the Germans and the French, Alsatian culture is incredibly unique. In the past four centuries, the area has been passed between Germany and France at least five times — with the proprietor dependent on who won the latest war. The result is a fascinating hodgepodge of German and French influences. Street signs are written in both French and Alsatian (a German dialect), and food is either decidedly German or French with a twist of the other. For instance, “Flammkuchen” — a delicious, pizza-like flatbread with crème fraîche, caramelized onions and savory bits of pork — is also known as “Tarte Flambée.”

TAKE A HIKE

Nestled along the banks of the Rhine River, the region encompasses a 3,200-square mile swath of land sandwiched between the Black Forest and the Vosges Mountains. With rolling hills of vast vineyards, the views are breathtaking. Take advantage of the dwindling tourists and great weather and hit the trails! There are plenty of paths linking the picture-perfect villages, with winery stops along the way. If you’re up for a bit of adventure, here’s a 24-kilometer challenge for you: start the day in lovely Sélestat, take a nice breather in enchanting Hunawihr, and finish in beautiful Kaysersberg-Vignoble.

SÉLESTAT

Situated a mere 17 kilometers from the French-German border, Sélestat is a quintessential Alsatian town. Start your day with a visit to the Maison du Pain d’Alsace (Alsace Bread Museum). Learn the art of Alsatian baking and pick up a few tasty treats. Afterward, hike up the hill to Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle, a 12th century castle rebuilt by Kaiser Wilhelm II at the turn of the 20th century. Or stop off-the-beaten-path and monkey around with more than

200 Barbary monkeys at Montages des Singes. Bibliophiles won’t want to miss the Bibliothèque Humaniste (Humanist Library). This library houses rare, original manuscripts from the 15th and 16th centuries.

HUNAWIHR

Located just south of Ribeauville (approximately 16.5 kilometers from Sélestat), Hunawihr is truly a hidden gem. The tiny town is named after the legend of St. Hune, a washerwoman who would wash the clothes of the poor. Stroll through the narrow streets without the hurried feel of the bigger towns. Climb to the fortified church Église St. Jacques le Majeur, which sits atop the hill overlooking the village. If your legs are a bit tired, you can forgo the hill and hit up one of the nearby nature parks. NaturOparc is home to hundreds of storks, European otters and other marine mammals. If smaller creatures are more your speed, walk through Jardin de Papillons (Butterfly Gardens) and discover caterpillars and beautiful butterflies. Or just stop at Restaurant Suzel or Caveau du Vigneron for traditional Alsatian fare.

KAYSERSBERG-VIGNOBLE

A mere 7.2 kilometers from Hunawihr (just past the medieval walled city of Riquewihr) is the birthplace of famed theologian and philosopher Albert Schweitzer. Tucked away on the eastern slopes of the Vosges Mountains, Kaysersberg is the perfect ending to the day. Walk along the 16th century stone bridge that crosses the Weiss River. If you’ve got a little more gas in your tank, hike to the ruins of Chateau de Kaysersberg at sunset for a stunning glimpse of the Alsace below. Home to several Michelin-starred restaurants such as Le Chambard and l’Alchémille, there is no shortage of amazing gastronomy. However, if you want to keep it a little more low-key, grab a pint and a Tarte Flambée at Le Sham’Rock Pub.

With the lazy days of summer winding down, grab your hiking shoes and backpack for one last hurrah through this magical region of France. ■







Bucket List

Paris Edition

By Elizabeth Jones

Paris is home to iconic landmarks, renowned delicacies and locations that inspired some of the world's best literary work as well as being home to famous scenes from Hollywood's best movies. There's no better way to soak it all in than to complete this bucket list created specifically for the city that everyone adores.

1. Go beneath the city and tour the creepy, yet fascinating catacombs.
2. Drink champagne on a river cruise down the Seine River.
3. Either confuse or excite your taste buds with escargot.
4. Snap a pic in front of the Arc de Triomphe and what may truly be the world's busiest roundabout.
5. Head to Montmartre and see the striking architecture of the Sacré-Coeur.
6. Admire "Mona Lisa" and other moving art pieces in the Louvre.
7. Eat your body weight in all of the warm, flaky croissants.
8. Walk through Champs-Élysées to either shop 'til you drop or say you've, "been there, done that."
9. Have a picnic underneath the Eiffel Tower.
10. Munch on macarons from the famous Ladurée.

Have you ever been to Paris? Tell contentteam@stripes.com some bucket-list-worthy items you would put on this list! ■



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European Getaways

Canal Cities

By Emma Bareihs

Trade, strategy, irrigation. The history of canal waterways has left a long-lasting impression on Europe's cities. Once used as ports for merchants, these waters are a sparkling touch to the rich history of the surrounding land. Throughout the years, one function remains the same: transportation. Travel back in time by discovering the roots of the famed canal cities of Amsterdam, Venice and Colmar.

VENICE, ITALY

The beautiful city of Venice started as nothing more than malaria infested swamps, until around A.D. 400 when settlers from the Roman Empire began to build the city out of marble from the isolated Venetian lagoon. Now the city comprised of 100 small islands linked together by bridges, Venice, is possibly the most-well known canal city.

When exploring Venice there is so much to do. Enter from the famous Grand Canal to be welcomed by the Venetian architecture of Palazzo Ducale and the Basilica di San Marco. Escape the tourism by exploring the backstreets, where you'll find Italian leather shops and churches dating back past the 11th century. Visit the Ca'd'Oro gallery of Renaissance art to go back in time with Baron Giorgio Franchetti. Try some of the freshwater lagoon fish for dinner and gelato for dessert, and of course, find a ticket booth for the world-renowned gondola rides so you can view this artistic city from another angle.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

The eccentric character of Amsterdam is an enticing environment, especially for today's younger generations. Originally a fishing village in the 13th century, Amsterdam is built around a dam in the center of the city. In the Middle Ages, the canals served as moats and transported merchandise to and from ships. Although only 25 percent of the canals from the 13th century are still navigable, Amsterdam's canals are one of the city's major highlights.

Cruise the waterways by ferry or open-air boat to get a feel for the Dutch city. A favorite way to navigate the city, besides by boat,

is by bike. Cross the canals on two wheels to find a cozy cafe or historic museum to explore. Book tickets in advance to tour the famed Anne Frank house while you're there. If you're an art junky, be sure to check out the Van Gogh Museum for the world's largest Van Gogh collection. And finally, don't forget to stroll through the Albert Cuyp Market for a local feel of the city.

COLMAR, FRANCE

Leading into the Rhine River, the Canal de Colmar is one of the greatest gems of this charming city. Ten miles west of the Rhine River, Colmar, France is a quaint canal city built by industrialists in the 19th century. In the area known as Little Venice, the canal swerves its way through the city's fisherman's district. On foot, you can hop down the cobblestone paths to discover the town's enchanting fountains, statues, gothic churches and museums. Explore the canal's banks which are lined with restaurants and cafes located in colorful, half-timbered medieval style buildings. But, don't forget the wine! Known for being nestled in the Alsatian wine region, enjoy a glass of wine on the narrow streets along the water in truly one of the most beautiful European cities. With 1,000 years of history to offer, the canals of this imperial city keep the history of the region flowing.

At one time these canals were driving forces in the survival of these cities, now these resourceful and beautiful waterways serve as the backdrop to many a romantic and scenic dinner. Walk where merchants once sold goods, admire the architecture reflecting from the water, or soak up the history and charm of these cities but no matter what, consider choosing a canal city for your next getaway. ■



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Amsterdam in 24 HOURS

By Mary Del Rosario

Amsterdam, with its hundreds of canals and hipster vibes is a world on its own. Even with all this city has to offer, appreciating it in one day is still possible. Whether you've found an inexpensive flight or are using Amsterdam as a pit-stop while exploring the rest of the Netherlands, check out this itinerary to maximize your enjoyment in this beautiful city.

MORNING

Start your day with a free walking tour with Sandeman's New Amsterdam Tour.

Tip: Buy the OV chip card for unlimited use of public transportation making the rest of your sightseeing possible in 24 hours.

Is your stomach growling yet? Head to Pigniq, located in the beautiful Jordaan area, for a delicious breakfast.

Visit the Anne Frank House because you can't go to Amsterdam and not tour this historic site!

Tip: Tickets for the Anne Frank House can be sold out months in advance. Try to book them as soon as possible.

Next, head down to the Nine Streets, a network of streets housing charming boutiques, trendy cafes and restaurants.

AFTERNOON

This city boasts many canals that need exploring, so book a canal cruise to be a part of this can't-miss-experience.

Escape the hustle and bustle of this quaint, yet busy city and enjoy a tranquil moment at the green oasis known as Vondelpark.

Check out the Rijksmuseum, a Dutch national museum dedicated to Amsterdam's history and art. Speaking of museums, if you're a fan of Banksy's work, head to the Moco Museum that houses the anonymous English-based graffiti artists' work.

For a snack to tie you over until dinner, try the famous stroopwafel, two thin layers of waffles with a caramel filling in the middle.

Take the interactive tour at the Heineken Experience to witness first-hand the process of creating this popular beer.

EVENING

See what makes Amsterdam liberal at the Red-Light District, but be weary of pickpockets and your items in this area!

From Asian to Mexican and everything in between, there are plenty of restaurants to choose from for dinner.

To celebrate a successful day, enjoy cocktails at Vesper Bar, an elegant bar decked out with James Bond memorabilia.

Though charming and old-world, Amsterdam provides plenty of sights and activities to see and do. The best part of living in Europe is that you can always visit this city again if you want to come back for more! ■



HELLO
august

EVENTS AROUND GERMANY

EDITOR'S *Picks*

August Events

By Karen Bradbury



STUTTGART SUMMER FESTIVAL

August 1-4 in Stuttgart

Culinary excellence, fine drinks and 100 hours of live music are served up in the illuminated castle gardens.



MAGICAL ST. WENDEL

August 2-4 in St. Wendel

Sixteen international street magicians dazzle with imaginative acts and sleight-of-hand. On Sunday, the medieval town is a family fun zone.



TUCHER BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL

August 2-11 in Bamberg

The spirit of New Orleans drifts through the air as top blues and jazz musicians give free open-air performances.



SLAYING OF THE DRAGON

August 2-18 in Furth im Wald

Germany's oldest traditional folk spectacle portrays the slaying of a fierce dragon which threatened the town in the Middle Ages.



RHEINGAU WINE FESTIVAL

August 8-19 in Wiesbaden

Top-class regional wines, culinary specialties and live music transform Wiesbaden's city center into a chic and cheerful party mile.



MAGIC LIGHTS IN BLOOMING BAROQUE

August 17 in Ludwigsburg

Delightful palace gardens host shows by day but at night tens of thousands of candles and lanterns are set alight.



MIDDLE AGES SPECTACULUM

August 24-25 in Speyer

Brave knights, damsels, craftsmen, jesters, musicians and other characters set up camp in the shadow of the cathedral.



FLOWER PARADE

August 25 in Bad Ems

Known as Germany's largest flower parade, a colorful vision of wagons decorated with 1.5 million dahlias, animates the streets of a charming spa town.

PLAN
AHEAD

IMPERIAL CITY FESTIVAL

September 6-8 in Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Perfectly-preserved Rothenburg brings the ups and downs of its tumultuous history back to life in living color through this festival made up of costumed reenactors, invading troops and thundering cannons. Program highlights include torchlit processions and fireworks high above the Tauber Valley.



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Arts & Crafts

Aug. 24: Back to School Sale

Arts & Crafts Center, Patch Barracks, Bldg. 2329, 10a.m. – 5 p.m. Get everything you need to look cool and creative this school year by stocking up on school and art supplies! Regularly priced items are 25% off, with extra discounts on marked down merchandise, and up to 70% off some fabrics. Discounts don't apply to classes, framing items, engraving, photo printing, ceramics, rental fees and balloons. DSN 430-5270 / CIV 0711 680-5270.

Child & Youth Services

Aug. 22: Rock Solid Climbing Kick-off Clinic

Panzer Fitness Center, Panzer Kaserne, Bldg. 2990. Child and Youth Services (CYS) and ODR have joined forces to help introduce community youth to rock climbing. Come out and reach new heights, test your courage and physical ability! Cost is \$15 (ages 7-11, 2 - 3p.m.) and \$20 (ages 12-15, 3 - 4:30p.m.). Register at Parent Central Services or online via WebTrac. Register by noon on the Wednesday before the event. DSN 430-7480 / CIV 0711-680-7480.

Aug. 23: Middle School Teen Back 2 School Block Party

The school year is quickly approaching and everyone is coming back from their summer vacation! Time to connect with old friends and even make some new ones at the Patch Youth Center (The Hub) Block Party. Come out and learn or re-familiarize yourself with all the cool opportunities that The Hub has to offer! Enjoy all the fun activities going on at the party such as a live DJ, dancing, a social media contest, food and

drinks, and a variety of games and activities. DSN 430-7480 / CIV 0711-680-7480.

Golf

Aug. 23-25: Stuttgart Golf Course 2019 Club Championship

Stuttgart Golf Course, Aldinger Strasse 975, 70806, Kornwestheim. Are you the next Club Champion? Win a trophy valued at \$250 and a Pro Shop Gift Certificate! The winner will be determined by the 36-hole low gross score, playing in the championship flight from the white tees. All other flights will be determined by the net score from the yellow tees. Please note that number and types of flights depend on number of participants and at least 5 participants are required for separate Women's and non-established handicap flights. Practice round is Friday, August 23. Cost is \$60 for members, \$90 for ID cardholders, and \$75 for reciprocal annual members of US Army Golf Courses. Cost includes green fees, two lunches, range balls & golf cart on the weekend, contests and prizes. Register with the Pro Shop by August 20. Please contact the Pro Shop for more details. CIV 0714-187-9151.

Outdoor Recreation

Aug. 10: Alpaca Trekking

Kelley Barracks, Bldg. 3320. Ready for an adventure? Alpaca your things for you! Come explore the Black Forest alongside an Alpaca! Your newfound furry friend will accompany you on a scenic stroll through the countryside of this famous forest. Afterwards we will enjoy coffee and cake! Please note: Tour is not suitable for those who cannot walk independently. Cost is \$54 per person, SWPC \$27. Register with ODR by July 31st. DSN 421-4291 / CIV 0711-729-4291.

Aug. 17: Discovering Scuba

Kelley Barracks, Bldg. 3320. Want to leave your cares and worries on the shore? Then SCUBA is for you! Take our intro to SCUBA class to learn what SCUBA is all about. Your class will begin with an equipment orientation. Then, alongside dedicated and knowledgeable instructors you will go for a dive. That's right – you get to test the waters on your first day! Following your dive, we will indulge in a delicious BBQ dinner. Cost is \$129 per person, SWPC \$64. Register with ODR by August 8th. DSN 421-4291 / CIV 0711-729-4291.

Social

Aug. 23: BOSS End of Summer Party

BOSS, Panzer Kaserne, 12 – 3 p.m. Calling all single, unaccompanied and single parent

Servicemembers to close out the summer with BOSS! Get out of work early, enjoy some fun activities and learn about how you can get involved with the Stuttgart BOSS program. Enjoy free burgers, hot dogs and drinks, join sporting activities like football, frisbee and corn hole, and party with our live DJ! Don't miss the opportunity to win prizes and learn about other community programs! DSN 430-4061 / CIV 0711-680-4061.

Aug. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Wednesday Night Dinners

MWR Tours, Panzer Kaserne, Bldg 2915, Room 312B, 5:30p.m. Meet new friends and enjoy the delicious taste of Stuttgart's signature cuisine while traveling to different local restaurants in the community every Wednesday night! MWR Tours will provide round-trip transportation from Panzer Hotel to the restaurant, and staff will assist with menu translation. Cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (ages 12 and under), and \$25 per family of four. Dinner costs are on your own. Register with MWR Tours. DSN 596-2104 / CIV 09641-70-596-2104.

Travel

Aug. 24: Rothenburg ob der Tauber

MWR Tours, Panzer Kaserne, Bldg 2915, Room 312B. Take a day trip and visit what is widely recognized as the most charming village in Germany! Spend the day exploring, eating a schneeball and walking through the medieval walls. Your day ends with the infamous Night Watchman Tour. Register with MWR Tours or ODR by August 15th. Cost is \$74 per person, \$39 SWPC. DSN 596-2104 / CIV 09641-70-596-2104.


Aug. 31: Mainz Wine Market Dinner Cruise

MWR Tours, Panzer Kaserne, Bldg 2915, Room 312B. Attend the Mainz wine market and enjoy not only the wine but also the live music on two outdoor stages, the artist market presented in the rose garden, and then a stroll through this idyllic atmosphere while sipping the varied wines from all the regional winemakers. Then all aboard the ship for an all-inclusive night of dinner and dancing while floating down the Rhine River! Register with MWR Tours or ODR by August 22nd. Ages 18+. Cost is \$159 per person. DSN 596-2104 / CIV 09641-70-596-2104.

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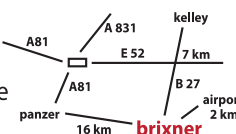
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VENDIMIA WINE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Through Sept. 16 in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain
In Andalucia, the annual grape harvest is celebrated with parades, concerts, fireworks, flamenco and tours of the bodegas and vineyards.



MINSTREL FESTIVAL

Sept. 1 in Ribeauvillé, France
It's a return to medieval times in this charming Alsatian village filled with costumed peasants, lords and ladies, fiddlers and jesters.



BELGIAN BEER WEEKEND

Sept. 6-8 in Brussels, Belgium
Brewers from throughout the land tap endless styles of their delicious beers from stalls set up in the majestic Grand Place.



BALLOONS FESTIVAL

Sept. 6-15 in Ferrara, Italy
Hot air balloons rise high above as back on ground, a park bustles with fun for kids, historical games and food and drink stands.

Things to do next month!

September

By Karen Bradbury



THE BRAEMAR GATHERING

Sept. 7 in Braemar, Scotland
Scottish traditions are on full display here with pipe bands, dancing and games of strength. You might even see the queen here!



OPEN HOUSE LONDON

Sept. 21-22 in London, England
London's iconic buildings and lesser-known spaces await exploration on this special weekend of exceptional openings and guided walks.



INTERNATIONAL OYSTER & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Sept 27-29 in Galway, Ireland
Gourmets flock here to enjoy cooking demos, tastings, live music and downing mass quantities of tasty, locally-caught oysters.



KITE FESTIVAL

Sept. 28-29 in Scheveningen, Netherlands
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