History

The rollercoaster ride of Germany's fascinating history begins with the Celts and Germanic tribes who clashed with the invading Romans. By the 9th century all the regions east of the Rhine had developed an identity of their own. The Middle Ages, however, were a bleak, barbaric time of feudalism when more seemed to be lost than won, and squabbling feudal princes hindered the creation of a German state. Once a federal state did take shape in the 19th century, the scene was set for a tumultuous path from unification to war, from democracy to fascism and WWII, and from there to chilly Cold War division, peaceful reunification and the Germany that we know today.

For a comprehensive overview of German history, see the German Culture website www.germanculture.com.ua.

TRIBES & THE ROMANS

The early inhabitants of Germany were Celts and later the Germanic tribes. In the Iron Age (from around 800 BC) Germanic tribes on the North German Plain and in the Central Uplands lived on the fringes of Celtic regions and were influenced by the culture without ever melting into it. Evidence of this is still apparent today in Thale, in the Harz Mountains.

The Romans fought pitched battles with the Germanic tribes from about 100 BC. The Germanic tribes east of the Rhine and the Romans on the western side fought for control of territory across the river until AD 9, when the Roman general, Varus, lost three legions – about 20,000 men – in the bloody Battle of Teutoburg Forest and the Romans abandoned their plans to extend eastwards (see boxed text, p28). By AD 300, four main groups of tribes had formed: Alemans, Franks, Saxons and Goths.

Did you know 9 November is Germany's 'destiny date'? It was the day of the uprising in 1848, the failed revolution in 1918, Hitler's Munich Putsch in 1923, the Night of Broken Glass in 1938, and the day the Wall fell in 1989.

The Roman presence is evoked today in the thermal baths and amphitheatre of Augusta Treverorum (Trier today), and in other Roman relics in Aachen, Xanten, Cologne, Bonn, Mainz (where 4th-century Roman shipwrecks can be viewed), Bingen (prized for its Roman surgical instruments), Koblenz, Augsburg and Regensburg. The Rhine and Moselle vineyards are a lasting tribute to the Romans' penchant for a tipple or two.

THE FRANKISH REICH

Based on the Rhine's western bank, the Frankish Reich became Europe's most important political power in medieval times. This was due, in part, to the Merovingian king, Clovis (r 482–511), who united diverse populations. In its heyday the Reich included present-day France, Germany, the Low Countries and half the Italian peninsula. Missionaries such as St Boniface (675–754) – considered the father of German Christianity – crossed the Rhine to convert pagans.

The Roman Empire and Its Germanic Peoples by Herwig Wolfram and Thomas Dunlap (translator) is an authoritative history spanning five centuries of Germanic tribe migrations and the foundations of the Roman Empire.

When fighting broke out among aristocratic clans in the 7th century, the Merovingians were replaced by the Carolingians who introduced hierarchical Church structures. Kloster Lorsch in present-day Hesse is one fine relic of this era. From his grandiose residence in Aachen, Charlemagne (r 768–814), the Reich's most important king, conquered Lombardy, won territory in Bavaria, waged a 30-year war against the Saxons in the north and was crowned Kaiser by the pope in 800. The cards were reshuffled in the 9th century when attacks by Danes, Saracens and Magyars threw the eastern portion of Charlemagne's

TIMELINE

800 BC
Germanic tribes and Celts inhabit the North German Plain and Central Uplands of the area called Germany today

100 BC–AD 9
Romans and Germanic tribes clash until defeat at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest halts Roman expansion eastwards

empire into turmoil and four dominant duchies emerged – Bavaria, Franconia, Swabia and Saxony.

The use of the title Kaiser was a direct legacy of Roman times (from 'Caesar').

Charlemagne's burial in Aachen Dom (Aachen Cathedral) turned a court chapel into a major pilgrimage site (and it remains so today). The Treaty of Verdun (843) saw a gradual carve-up of the Reich and when Louis the Child (r 900–11) – a grandson of Charlemagne's brother – died heirless, the East Frankish (ie German) dukes elected a king from their own ranks. Thus, the first German monarch was created.

EARLY MIDDLE AGES

Strong regionalism in Germany today has its roots in the early Middle Ages, when dynasties squabbled and intrigued over territorial spoils, watched on helplessly by a toothless, Roman-inspired central state.

Two Lives of Charlemagne edited by Betty Radice is a striking Charlemagne biography, beautifully composed by a monk and a courtier who spent 23 years in Charlemagne's court.

The symbolic heart of power was Aachen Dom, which hosted the coronation and burial of dozens of German kings from 936. Otto I was first up in the cathedral. In 962 he renewed Charlemagne's pledge to protect the papacy and the pope reciprocated with a pledge of loyalty to the Kaiser. This made the Kaiser and pope strange and often acrimonious bedfellows for the next 800 years and created the Holy Roman Empire, a nebulous state that survived until 1806 (see boxed text, opposite).

The first rulers to promote a strong German identity were Charlemagne's grandson, Louis the German (r 843–76) and Konrad I (r 911–18).

A power struggle between pope and Kaiser, who also had to contend with the local princes or clergy-cum-princes, was behind many of the upheavals in the early Middle Ages. In the Investiture Conflict under the reign of the Salian, Heinrich IV (r 1056–1106), the pope cracked down on the practice of simony (selling religious pardons and relics). Heinrich, excommunicated and contrite, stood barefoot in the snow for three days in Canossa in Italy begging forgiveness. He was absolved, but the Reich was convulsed by a 20-year civil war on the issue, which was finally resolved in a treaty signed in the Rhineland-Palatinate town of Worms in 1122. The graves of Heinrich and other Salian monarchs can today be found in the spectacular cathedral in nearby Speyer.

Under Friedrich I Barbarossa (r 1152–89), Aachen assumed the role of Reich capital and was granted its rights of liberty in 1165, the year Charlemagne was canonised. Meanwhile, Heinrich der Löwe (Henry the Lion), a Welf with an eye for Saxony and Bavaria, extended influence eastwards in campaigns to Germanise and convert the Slavs who populated much of today's eastern Germany. A Slavic minority, the Sorbs, can still be found in the Spreewald region of eastern Germany today.

The Reich gained territory to the east and in Italy, but soon fell apart dramatically because of early deaths, squabbling between Welf and Hohenstaufen pretenders to the throne and the election of a king and pope-backed anti-king. At this time kings were being elected by *Kurfürsten* (prince electors) but crowned Kaiser by the pope – a system that made an unwilling lackey out of a Kaiser. In 1245 the Reich plunged into an era called the Great Interregnum, or the Terrible Time, when Pope Innocent IV annulled his own Kaiser, the Reich was flush with kings and central authority collapsed into a political heap.

Although the central Reich was only a shadow of its former self, expansion eastwards continued unabated. Land east of the Oder River (now Germany's eastern border) had been settled by German peasants and city-dwellers in the mid-12th century. In the 13th century Teutonic knights pushed eastwards, establishing fortress towns such as Königsberg (present-day Kaliningrad). At its peak, the unified state of the knights stretched from the Oder to Estonia. (Later, in the 17th century, a large swathe of this land would become part of Brandenburg-Prussia.)

Hildesheim was a centre of power in the Ottonian Period (900–1050). Bishop Bernward raised young Otto III (r 983–1002) and graced the town with treasures to befit a new Rome, such as his famous Bernwardstüren in the Hildesheimer Dom.

Heinrich the Fowler: Father of the Ottonian Empire by Mirella Patzer brings 10th-century Germany to life in a heady blend of history and fiction.

THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

In 1273 a Habsburg dynasty emerged from the royal heap, mastered the knack of a politically expedient arranged marriage, and dominated European affairs until the 20th century. Rudolf's arrival (r 1273–91) ended the Terrible Time, but more importantly the Declaration of Rense (1338) dispensed with the pope's role in crowning a Kaiser. Now the king, elected by the *Kurfürsten*, was automatically Kaiser. In 1356 the Golden Bull set out precise rules for elections and defined the relationship between the Kaiser and the princes. It was an improvement but Kaisers were still dancing to the tune of the princes.

Heinrich IV's *Gang nach Canossa* is now a German expression to describe doing penance – 'to go to Canossa'.

ROMAN LEGIONS

For many years, Mount Grotenburg near Detmold in North-Rhine Westphalia was thought to be the scene of the Battle of Teutoburg Forest, but no-one can really say for sure where it happened. Kalkriese, north of Osnabrück in Lower Saxony, has a museum and park (www.kalkriese-varusschlacht.de) where in the 1990s archaeologists found face helmets, breast shields, bone deposits and other grisly battle remains. The ill-named Battle of Teutoburg Forest might have been fought there.

In AD 1 the Romans started building what is today central Europe's largest archaeological site – a wall running 568km from Koblenz on the Rhine to Regensburg on the Danube. Some 900 watchtowers and 60 forts studded this frontier line, dubbed Der Limes (The Limes). The 800km-long Deutsche Limes-Strasse (German Limes Road) cycling route runs between Regensburg in the south and Bad Hönningen in the north (near Koblenz), largely tracing the tower- and fortress-studded fortification. See www.limesstrasse.de for more about the Limes and routes along the wall. Another 280km-long cycling route links Detmold with Xanten (where there's an archaeological park), taking cyclists past various Roman remains and monuments.

WHAT WAS THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE?

It was an idea, mostly, and not a very good one. It grew out of the Frankish Reich, which was seen as the successor to the defunct Roman Empire. When Charlemagne's father, Pippin, helped a beleaguered pope (Charlemagne would later do the same), he received the title *Patricius Romanorum* (Protector of Rome), virtually making him Caesar's successor. Having retaken the papal territories from the Lombards, he presented them to the Church (the last of these territories is the modern Vatican state). Charlemagne's reconstituted 'Roman Empire' then passed into German hands.

The empire was known by various names throughout its lifetime. It formally began (for historians, at least) in 962 with the crowning of Otto I as Holy Roman Emperor and finally collapsed in 1806, when Kaiser Franz II abdicated. From 1508, Maximilian I and his successors favoured 'Emperor-Elect', a title that evolved as 'King of the Romans' under the Habsburgs.

The empire sometimes included Italy as far south as Rome. Sometimes it didn't – the pope usually had a say in that. It variously encompassed present-day Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Lorraine and Burgundy (in France), Sicily, Austria and an eastern swathe of land that lies in the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. It was also known as the 'First Reich' (not to be confused with Otto von Bismarck's Second Reich or Adolf Hitler's Third Reich).

Dancing, however, was the last thing on the minds of ordinary Germans. They battled with panic lynching, pogroms against Jews and labour shortages – all sparked off by the plague (1348–50) that wiped out 25% of Europe's population. While death gripped the (Ger)man on the street, universities were being established all over the country around this time. The first was in Heidelberg, making it Germany's oldest – and arguably its most spectacular – university city today.

The name Habsburg (Hapsburg) originates from *Habichts Burg* (literally 'Hawk Castle'), the spot on the Rhine (in present-day Switzerland, immediately across the border from Germany) from where the great Swabian family first hailed.

A QUESTION OF FAITH

The religious fabric of Germany was cut from a pattern created in the 16th-century Reformation. In the university town of Wittenberg in 1517, German theology professor Martin Luther (1483–1546) made public his 95 theses that questioned the papal practice of selling indulgences to exonerate sins. Threatened with excommunication, Luther refused to recant, broke from the Catholic Church and was banned by the Reich, only to be hidden in Wartburg castle (outside Eisenach, in Thuringia) where he translated the New Testament into German. Today, the death mask of Luther can be viewed in the Marktkirche in Halle; another can be seen at Luthers Sterbehaus in Eisleben (p225).

The first Bible was printed in Latin in 1456 using a revolutionary technique – hand-set type cast in moveable moulds – by the Mainz-born inventor of moveable type, Johannes Gutenberg (1397–1468).

It was not until 1555 that the Catholic and Lutheran churches were ranked as equals, thanks to Karl V (r 1520–58) who signed the Peace of Augsburg (1555), allowing princes to decide the religion of their principality. The more secular northern principalities adopted Lutheran teachings, while the clerical lords in the south, southwest and Austria stuck with Catholicism.

But the religious issue refused to die. Rather, it degenerated into the bloody Thirty Years' War, which Sweden and France had joined by 1635. Calm was restored with the Peace of Westphalia (1648), signed in Münster and Osnabrück, but it left the Reich – embracing more than 300 states and about 1000 smaller territories – a nominal, impotent state. Switzerland and the Netherlands gained independence, France won chunks of Alsace and Lorraine, and Sweden helped itself to the mouths of the Elbe, Oder and Weser Rivers.

THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

In the 18th century the Enlightenment breathed new life into Germany, inspiring a rabble of autocratic princes to build stunning grand palaces and gardens across the German lands. Berlin's Schloss Charlottenburg, Potsdam's Sanssouci Park and Dresden's Zwinger are fine examples of the spirit of this new age. Meanwhile, Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Friedrich Händel were ushered on stage and a wave of *Hochkultur* (high culture) swept through society's top sliver. For the time being, however, the masses remained illiterate.

The first potato was planted in Germany in 1621, the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1700 and Germany's first cuckoo clock started ticking in 1730.

Brandenburg-Prussia became an entity to be reckoned with, kick-started by the acquisition of former Teutonic Knights' territories and assisted by Hohenzollern king Friedrich Wilhelm I (the Soldier King) and his son, Friedrich II (r 1740–86). After the Seven Years' War (1756–63) with Austria, Brandenburg-Prussia annexed Silesia and sliced up Poland.

Between 1801 and 1803 an imperial deputation secularised and reconstituted German territory, usually at the behest of French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1806 the Rhine Confederation eradicated about 100 principalities. Sniffing the end of the Holy Roman Empire, Kaiser Franz II (r 1792–1806) packed his bags for Austria, renamed himself Franz I of Austria and abdicated in 1806. That same year Brandenburg-Prussia fell to the French, but humiliating defeat prompted reforms that brought it closer to civil statehood: Jews were granted equality and bonded labour was abolished.

In 1813, with French troops driven back by the Russians, Leipzig witnessed one of Napoleon's most significant defeats. At the Congress of Vienna (1815), Germany was reorganised into a confederation of 35 states and an ineffective Reichstag (legislative assembly) was established in Frankfurt, an unsatisfactory solution that only minimally improved on the Holy Roman Empire. The Reichstag poorly represented the most populous states, however, and failed to rein in Austro-Prussian rivalry.

In 1875 the Socialist Workers' Party was founded. This became the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD; German Social Democratic Party) in 1890, which by 1918 had renounced revolution and committed itself to parliamentary means.

By the mid-19th century, the engines of the modern, industrial age were purring across the country. A newly created urban proletarian movement fuelled calls for central government, while the Young Germany movement of satirists lampooned the powerful of the day and called for a central state.

Berlin, along with much of the southwest, erupted in riots in 1848, prompting German leaders to bring together Germany's first ever freely elected parliamentary delegation in Frankfurt's Paulskirche. Austria, meanwhile, broke away from Germany, came up with its own constitution and promptly relapsed into monarchism. As revolution fizzled, Prussian king Friedrich Wilhelm IV drafted his own constitution in 1850, which would remain in force until 1918.

THE HANSEATIC LEAGUE

The Hanseatic League, whose origins go back to guilds and associations established by out-of-town merchants, was founded in 1358 and was dominated by Lübeck (see boxed text, p683), which controlled a large slice of European shipping trade. At its zenith, the league had more than 150 member cities. It earned a say in the choice of Danish kings after the Danes inspired its wrath by sinking a flotilla of the league's ships off Gotland in 1361. The resulting Treaty of Stralsund turned the league into northern Europe's most powerful economic and political entity.

As well as Lübeck, the league included such cities as Riga and Danzig (now Gdansk) on the Baltic Sea, Hamburg and Bremen on the North Sea, and inland cities such as Cologne, Dortmund and Hildesheim. By the 15th century, however, competition from Dutch and English shipping companies, internal disputes and a shift in the centre of world trade from the North and Baltic Seas to the Atlantic had caused decline. Hamburg, Bremen, Rostock, Lübeck and Stralsund are still known as Hanse cities.

'HONEST OTTO' BISMARCK

The creation of a unified Germany with Prussia at the helm was the glorious ambition of Otto von Bismarck (1815–98), a former member of the Reichstag and Prussian prime minister. An old-guard militarist, he used intricate diplomacy and a series of wars with neighbours Denmark and France to achieve his aims. In 1871 – later than most other European countries – Germany was unified, with Berlin the proud capital of Western Europe's largest state. At that time, Germany extended from Memel (Klaipėda in present-day Lithuania) to the Dutch border, including Alsace-Lorraine (southwest) in present-day France and Silesia (southeast) in present-day Poland. The Prussian king was crowned Kaiser of the Reich – a bicameral, constitutional monarchy – at Versailles on 18 January 1871 and Bismarck became its 'Iron Chancellor'. Suffrage was limited to men in the new Reich and the national colours were black, white and red.

A communist vision of a classless and stateless society is portrayed in *The Communist Manifesto*, written in exile by Trier-born Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Capitalism will be toppled by a new working class, the pair warns readers.

Bismarck's power was based on the support of merchants and Junker, a noble class of nonknighted landowners. An ever-skilful diplomat and power broker, Bismarck achieved much through a dubious 'honest Otto' policy, whereby he brokered deals between European powers and encouraged colonial vanities to distract others from his own deeds. He belatedly graced the Reich of Kaiser Wilhelm I with a few African jewels after 1880, acquiring colonies in central, southwest and east Africa as well as numerous Pacific paradises, such as Tonga, where a weary Prussian prince might one day lay down his steel helmet and relax in the sun.

When pressed, Bismarck made concessions to the growing and increasingly antagonistic socialist movement, enacting Germany's first modern social reforms, but this was not his true nature.

By 1888 Germany found itself burdened with a new Kaiser, Wilhelm II, who wanted to extend social reform, and an Iron Chancellor who wanted stricter antisocialist laws. Finally, in 1890, the Kaiser's scalpel excised Bismarck from the political scene. After that, the legacy of Bismarck's brilliant diplomacy unravelled and a wealthy, unified and industrially powerful Germany paddled into the new century with incompetent leaders at the helm.

Bismarck to the Weimar Republic is the focus of Hans-Ulrich Wehler's *The German Empire 1871–1918*, a translation of an authoritative German work. For a revealing study of the Iron Chancellor himself, read *Bismarck, the Man and the Statesman* by Gordon Craig.

THE GREAT WAR

Technological advances and the toughening of Europe into colonial power blocs made WWI far from 'great'. The conflict began with the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, in Sarajevo in 1914 and quickly escalated into a European and Middle Eastern affair: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey against Britain, France, Italy and Russia. In 1915 a German submarine attack on a British passenger liner killed 120 US citizens. By 1917 the USA had also entered the war.

The seeds of acrimony and humiliation that later led to WWII were sown in the peace conditions of the 'Great War'. Russia, in the grip of revolution, accepted humiliating peace terms from Germany. Germany, militarily broken, itself teetering on the verge of revolution and caught in a no-man's-land between monarchy and modern democracy, signed the Treaty of Versailles (1919), which made it responsible for all losses incurred by its enemies. Its borders were trimmed back and it was forced to pay high reparations. To allow negotiations, a chancellor was appointed who for the first time was responsible to parliament. A mutiny by sailors in the bustling port of Kiel in 1919 triggered a workers' revolt and a revolution in Berlin, spelling a bitter end for Germany's Kaiser, who abdicated and went to the Netherlands.

Marc Ferro's *The Great War 1914–18* is a compelling account of WWI.

WEIMAR & THE RISE OF HITLER

The end of the war did not create stability – or peace – in Germany. Socialist and democratic socialist parties fought tooth and nail, while the radical Spartacus League (joined by other groups in 1919 to form the German Communist Party; KPD) sought to create a republic based on Marx' theories of proletarian revolution. Following the bloody quashing of an uprising in Berlin, Spartacus founders 'Red' Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919) and Leipzig-born Karl Liebknecht (1871–1919) were arrested and murdered en route to prison by *Freikorps* soldiers (right-leaning war volunteers). Their bodies were dumped in Berlin's Landwehr canal, only to be recovered several months later and buried in Berlin.

After abdicating, Kaiser Wilhelm II could settle in Utrecht (Netherlands) on condition he didn't engage in political activity. One of his last acts was to send a telegram congratulating Hitler on the occupation of Paris.

THE NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

Conceived to police public meetings and enforce law, the brown-shirted Nazi state police, the Sturmabteilung (SA), had become a troublesome bunch by 1934 – for Germans and their dictator alike. So much so, that on the night of 30 June 1934, Hitler ordered Schutzstaffel (SS) troops to round up and kill high-ranking SA officers. Their leader, Ernst Röhm, was shot and 76 others were knifed to death.

Hitler hushed up the gruesome night (dubbed 'The Night of the Long Knives') until 13 July when he announced to the Reichstag that, henceforth, the SA (which numbered two million, easily outnumbering the army) would serve under the command of the army, which, in turn, would swear an oath of allegiance to Hitler. Justice would be executed by himself and the black-shirted SS under the leadership of former chicken-farmer Heinrich Himmler, effectively giving the SS unchallenged power and making it Nazi Germany's most powerful – and feared – force.

Meanwhile, in July 1919, in the Thuringian city of Weimar (where the constituent assembly briefly sought refuge during the Berlin chaos), the federalist constitution of a new democratic republic was adopted.

The so-called Weimar Republic (1919–33) was governed by a coalition of left and centre parties headed by President Friedrich Ebert of the Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (SPD; German Social Democratic Party) until 1925 and then by Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, a gritty 78-year-old monarchist. The republic, however, pleased neither communists nor monarchists.

The first blow to the new republic came in 1920, when right-wing militants forcibly occupied the government quarter in Berlin in the failed 'Kapp Putsch'. In 1923, hyperinflation rocked the republic. That same year Adolf Hitler (1889–1945), an Austrian-born volunteer in the German army during WWI, launched the Munich Putsch with members of his National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP). Hitler wound up in jail for two years, where he wrote his nationalist, anti-Semitic tome, *Mein Kampf*. Once out, he began rebuilding the party.

In 1923 a postage stamp cost 50 billion marks, a loaf of bread cost 140 billion marks and US$1 was worth 4.2 trillion marks. In November, the new Rentenmark was traded in for one trillion old marks.

Hitler's NSDAP gained 18% of the vote in the 1930 elections, prompting him to run against Hindenburg for the presidency in 1932, when he won 37% of a second-round vote. A year later, Hindenburg appointed Hitler chancellor, with a coalition cabinet of Nationalists (conservatives, old aristocrats and powerful industrialists) and National Socialists (Nazis). When Berlin's Reichstag mysteriously went up in flames in March 1933, Hitler had the excuse he needed to request emergency powers to arrest all communist and liberal opponents and push through his proposed Enabling Law, allowing him to decree laws and change the constitution without consulting parliament. The Nazi dictatorship had begun. When Hindenburg died a year later, Hitler fused the offices of president and chancellor to become *Führer* and chancellor of the Third Reich.

'Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made.'
BISMARCK

NAZIS IN POWER

The thumbscrews slowly tightened around Germany. In 12 short years of a 'Thousand Year Reich' proclaimed by Hitler, massive destruction would be inflicted upon German and other European cities; political opponents, intellectuals and artists would be murdered or forced to go underground or into exile; a culture of terror and denunciation would permeate almost all corners of society; and Europe's rich Jewish heritage would be decimated.

William Shirer's definitive 1000-page plus *The Rise & Fall of the Third Reich* remains a powerful reportage. His Berlin of those times is the literary equivalent of the brutal north face of the Eiger.

JEWS IN GERMANY

The first Jews arrived in present-day Germany with the conquering Romans, settling in important Roman cities on or near the Rhine, such as Cologne, Trier, Mainz, Speyer and Worms. As non-Christians, Jews had a separate political status. Highly valued for their trade connections, they were formally invited to settle in Speyer in 1084 and granted trading privileges and the right to build a wall around their quarter. A charter of rights granted to the Jews of Worms in 1090 by Henry IV allowed local Jews to be judged according to their own set of laws.

The First Crusade (1095–99) resulted in a wave of pogroms in 1096, usually against the will of local rulers and townspeople. Many Jews resisted the attacks before committing suicide once their situation became hopeless. This, the *Kiddush ha-shem* (martyr's death), established a precedent of martyrdom that became a tenet of European Judaism in the Middle Ages. But the attacks also set the tone for persecution by mobs during troubled times.

In the 13th century Jews were declared crown property by Frederick II, an act that afforded protection but exposed them to royal whim. Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg, whose grave lies in Europe's oldest Jewish cemetery in Worms, fell foul of King Rudolph of Habsburg in 1293 for leading a group of would-be emigrants to Palestine; he died in prison. The Church also prescribed distinctive clothing for Jews at this time, which later meant that in some towns Jews had to wear badges.

Things deteriorated with the arrival of the plague in the mid-14th century, when Jews were persecuted and libellous notions circulated throughout the Christian population. The 'blood libel' accused Jews of using the blood of Christians in rituals. The even more bizarre 'host-desecration libel' accused Jews of desecrating or torturing Christ by, among other dastardly deeds, sticking pins into communion wafers, which then wept tears or bled.

Money lending was the main source of income for Jews in the 15th century. Expulsions remained commonplace, with large numbers emigrating to Poland, where Yiddish developed. The Reformation (including a hostile Martin Luther) and the Thirty Years' War brought difficult times for Jewish populations, but by the 17th century they were valued again for their economic contacts.

Napoleon granted Germany's Jews equal rights, but reforms were repealed by the 1815 Congress of Vienna. Anti-Jewish feelings in the early 19th century coincided with German nationalism and a more vigorous Christianity. Pressure was applied on Jews to assimilate. Famous assimilated Jews, such as the Düsseldorf-born poet Heinrich Heine (1797–1856) – who claimed 'Christ rode on an ass, but now asses ride on Christ' – often exerted a liberal influence on society.

With unification in 1871, Jews enjoyed almost equal status in Germany, but they were still barred from government and could not become army officers. In the late 19th century Germany became a world centre of Jewish cultural and historical studies. There was a shift to large cities such as Leipzig, Cologne, Breslau (now Wroclaw in Poland), Hamburg, Frankfurt-am-Main and to the capital, Berlin, where one-third of German Jews lived.

Germany became an important centre for Hebrew literature after Russian writers and academics fled the revolution of 1917. The Weimar Republic brought emancipation for the 500,000-strong Jewish community, but also a backlash during the economic disasters in the 1920s. After Hitler came to power, the fate of German Jewry was sealed by new race laws. Increasing persecution led many to emigrate, and by 1939 less than half the 1933 population figure (530,000) remained in Germany. By 1943 Germany was declared *Judenrein,* or clean of Jews. This ignored the hundreds of thousands of Eastern European Jews incarcerated on 'German' soil. Around six million Jews died in Europe as a direct result of Nazism and its barbarity.

The number of Jews affiliated with the Jewish community in Germany is currently around 100,000 – the third largest in Europe – but the real number is probably twice that. Many Jews arrived from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s.

There are particularly informative Jewish museums in Berlin (p113) and Frankfurt (p517).

1618–48

The Thirty Years' War sweeps through Germany and leaves the Reich a disempowered region of 300-plus states

1740–86

Brandenburg-Prussia becomes a mighty European power under Frederick the Great

In April 1933 Joseph Goebbels, head of the well-oiled Ministry of Propaganda, announced a boycott of Jewish businesses. Soon after, Jews were expelled from public service and 'non-Aryans' were banned from many professions, trades and industries. The Nuremberg Laws (1935) deprived non-Aryans of German citizenship and forbade them to marry or have sexual relations with Aryans – anyone who broke these race laws faced the death penalty (and had to pay their own trial and execution costs to boot).

Hitler won much support among the middle and lower-middle classes by pumping large sums of money into employment programmes, many involving re-armament and heavy industry. In Wolfsburg, Lower Saxony, affordable cars started rolling out of the first Volkswagen factory, founded in 1938.

That same year, Hitler's troops were welcomed into Austria. Foreign powers, in an attempt to avoid another bloody war, accepted this *Anschluss* (annexation) of Austria. Following this same policy of appeasement, the Munich Agreement was signed in September 1938 by Hitler, Mussolini (Italy), Neville Chamberlain (UK) and Eduardo Daladier (France), and the largely ethnic-German Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia was relinquished to Hitler. By March 1939, he had also annexed Moravia and Bohemia.

A detailed history of WWII with Nazi leader biographies, a Holocaust timeline with more than 150 images, and a special focus on the pre-WWII years in Nazi Germany make this website stand out – www.historyplace.com.

WWII

Early Years

A nonaggression pact was signed between Hitler and Stalin's USSR in August 1939, whereby the Tokyo–Berlin–Rome axis (Hitler had already signed agreements with Italy and Japan) was expanded to include Moscow. Soviet neutrality was assured by a secret Soviet–German protocol that divided up Eastern Europe into spheres of interest.

Chester Wilmot presents an interesting account of WWII in his *The Struggle for Europe,* told from the perspective of an Australian journalist slap-bang in the thick of things.

In late August an SS-staged attack on a German radio station in Gleiwitz (Gliwice), Poland, gave Hitler the excuse to march into Poland. This proved the catalyst for WWII; three days later, on 3 September 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany.

Poland, but soon also Belgium, the Netherlands and France, quickly fell to Germany. In June 1941 Germany broke its nonaggression pact with Stalin by attacking the USSR. Though successful at first, Operation Barbarossa soon ran into problems and Hitler's troops retreated. With the defeat of the German 6th army at Stalingrad (today Volgograd) the following winter, morale flagged at home and on the fronts.

The Colditz Story (1955), directed by Guy Hamilton, is a gripping if sobering watch. Based on the book *The Colditz Story* (1952) by prison escapee Pat Reid, it portrays the escapes of Allied prisoners of war during WWII from the Nazis' legendary high-security prison in Western Saxony.

The Final Solution

At Hitler's request, a conference in January 1942 on Berlin's Wannsee came up with a protocol clothed in bureaucratic jargon that laid the basis for the

THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

Nazi horror escalated on 9 November 1938 with the *Reichspogromnacht* (often called *Kristallnacht* or the 'Night of Broken Glass'). In retaliation for the assassination of a German consular official by a Polish Jew in Paris, synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, property and businesses across Germany were desecrated, burnt or demolished. About 90 Jews died that night. The next day another 30,000 were incarcerated, and Jewish businesses were transferred to non-Jews through forced sale at below-market prices.

1806

Brandenburg-Prussia falls to the French and the Holy Roman Empire collapses

1815

The Congress of Vienna redraws the map of Europe and divides Germany into 35 states

murder of millions of Jews. The Holocaust was a systematic, bureaucratic and meticulously documented genocidal act carried out by about 100,000 Germans, but with the tacit agreement of a far greater number.

One of a clutch of fabulous films by Germany's best-known female director, Margarethe von Trotta, *Rosenstrasse* (2003) is a portrayal of a 1943 protest against the deportation of their Jewish husbands by a group of non-Jewish women.

Jewish populations in occupied areas were systematically terrorised and executed by SS troops. Hitler sent Jews to concentration camps in Germany (including Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald and Mittelbau Dora) and Eastern Europe. Sinti and Roma (gypsies), political opponents, priests, homosexuals, resistance fighters and habitual criminals were also incarcerated in a network of 22 camps, mostly in Eastern Europe. Another 165 work camps (such as Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland) provided labour for big industry, including IG Farbenindustrie AG, producer of the cyanide gas Zyklon B that was used in gas chambers to murder more than three million Jews. The former headquarters of this conglomerate is now part of Frankfurt am Main's university campus (see p518). Of the estimated seven million people sent to camps, 500,000 survived.

Resistance to Hitler was quashed early by the powerful Nazi machinery of terror, but it never vanished entirely. On 20 July 1944, Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg and other high-ranking army officers tried to assassinate Hitler and were executed. The mass extermination of Jews and other Nazi atrocities were outlined in the anti-Nazi leaflets distributed in Munich and other cities by the White Rose, a group of Munich university students whose resistance attempts cost most of them their lives (see boxed text, p302).

DEFEAT & OCCUPATION

Of the dozens of books covering Nazi concentration camps, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1942–1944* edited by Yana Volakova says it all. *This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* by Tadeusz Borowski is equally chilling.

Systematic air raids on German cities followed the invasion of Normandy in France in June 1944, and the return of the Allies to the European mainland. The brunt of the bombings was suffered by the civilian population; Dresden's Frauenkirche, Germany's greatest Protestant church, was destroyed during a British raid in February 1945 that killed 35,000 people, many of them refugees. (The church was painstakingly reconstructed for Dresden's 800th anniversary in 2006.)

With the Russians advancing on Berlin, a defeated and paranoid *Führer* and his new bride Eva Braun committed suicide on 30 April 1945 in Hitler's Berlin bunker, and on 7 May 1945, Germany capitulated and peace was signed at the US headquarters in Rheims and again in Berlin in what is now the Museum Berlin-Karlshorst (a German-Soviet history museum).

At the Yalta Conference (February 1945), Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin had agreed to carve up Germany and Berlin into four zones of occupation controlled by Britain, the USA, the USSR and France. By July 1945, Stalin, Clement Attlee (who replaced Churchill after a surprise election win) and Roosevelt's successor Harry S Truman were at the table in Schloss Cecilienhof in Potsdam (Brandenburg) to hammer out the details. At Stalin's insistence, France received its chunk from the Allied regions. Regions east of the Oder and Neisse Rivers (where the border is today) went to Poland as compensation for earlier territorial losses to the USSR.

THE BIG CHILL

In 1948 the Allies put together an economic aid package, the Marshall Plan, and created the basis for West Germany's *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle). Meanwhile, German cities were rising out of the rubble and first steps were being taken to re-establish elected government. These advances widened the rift between Allied and Soviet zones; in the latter inflation still strained local economies, food shortages affected the population, and the Communist and Social Democrat parties were forced to unite as the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED; Socialist Unity Party).

The showdown came in June 1948 when the Allies introduced the Deutschmark (DM) in their zones. The USSR saw this as a breach of the Potsdam Agreement, whereby the powers had agreed to treat Germany as one economic zone. The USSR issued its own currency and promptly announced a full-scale economic blockade of West Berlin. The Allies responded with the remarkable Berlin Airlift, whereby American, British, Canadian and some Australian air crews flew into Berlin's Tempelhof Airport (where there's a monument today) the equivalent of 22 freight trains of 50 carriages daily, at intervals of 90 seconds.

German Boy: A Child In War by Wolfgang Samuel is the true tale of a German family, told through the eyes of the young Wolfgang, who fled Berlin as the Red Army approached.

A NEW EAST & WEST GERMANY

In this frosty East–West climate, the Rhineland town of Bonn hosted West German state representatives in September 1948 who met to hammer out a draft constitution for a new Federal Republic of Germany (FRG, or BRD by its German initials). A year later, 73-year-old Konrad Adenauer (1876–1967), a Cologne mayor during the Weimar years, was elected West Germany's first chancellor. Bonn – Adenauer's hometown – was the natural candidate for the FRG's provisional capital.

A Train of Powder by Rebecca West ranks as one of the most informative books on the Nuremberg trials.

East Germany reciprocated by adopting its own constitution for the German Democratic Republic (GDR; DDR by its German initials). On paper, it guaranteed press and religious freedoms and the right to strike. In reality, such freedoms were limited and no-one dared strike. In its chosen capital of Berlin, a bicameral system was set up (one chamber was later abolished) and Wilhelm Pieck became the country's first president. From the outset, however, the Socialist Unity Party led by party boss Walter Ulbricht dominated economic, judicial and security policy.

In keeping with centralist policies, the East German states of Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia were divided into 14 regional administrations and the notorious Ministry for State Security (Ministerium für Staatssicherheit, also known as the Stasi) was created in 1950 to ensure SED loyalty (see boxed text, p39). Workers became economically dependent on the state through the collectivisation of farms, and nationalisation of production such as the Horch car factory in Zwickau near Leipzig (which later produced Trabants as the GDR answer to the West Germany's Volkswagen).

In Soviet zones the task of weeding out Nazis tended to be swift and harsh. In the west the Allies held war-crimes trials in courtroom 600 of Nuremberg's Court House (open to visitors today).

Interviews with former Stasi men in the mid-1990s forms the basis of Australian journalist Anna Funder's *Stasiland* – crammed with fresh and alternative insights into what the men of the Stasi did after it was disbanded.

THE 1950S

The economic vision of Bavarian-born (from Fürth), cigar-puffing Ludwig Erhard (1897–1977) unleashed West Germany's *Wirtschaftswunder*. Between 1951 and 1961 the economy averaged an annual growth rate of 8%.

Erhard was economic minister and later vice-chancellor in Konrad Adenauer's government. His policies encouraged investment and boosted

1848
Uprising and the first parliamentary delegation *(Nationalversammlung)* meets in Frankfurt

1864–71
Prussian Chancellor Bismarck's brilliant diplomacy creates a unified Germany with Prussia at its helm and Berlin as its capital

1914–18
WWI: Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey go to war against Britain, France, Italy and Russia; Germany is defeated

1919
Monarchical rule ends; under the Weimar Republic, women are granted suffrage and basic human rights are embedded in law

GERMANY'S CHANGING BORDERS

economic activity to support West Germany's system of welfare-state capitalism. He helped create the European Coal and Steel Community to regulate coal and steel production with France, Italy, West Germany and the Benelux countries, and in 1958 West Germany joined the European Economic Community (the EU today). Adenauer's deep-rooted fear of the USSR saw him pursue a ruthless policy of integration with the West.

In East Germany, Stalin's death in 1953 raised unfulfilled hopes of reform. Extreme poverty and economic tensions merely persuaded the government to set production goals higher. Smouldering discontent erupted in violence on 17 June 1953 when 10% of GDR workers took to the streets. Soviet troops quashed the uprising, with scores of deaths and the arrest of about 1200 people. Economic differences widened into military ones when West Germany joined NATO in 1955 and East Germany moved into the fold of the Warsaw Pact, where it remained from 1956 to 1990.

THE WALL

The exodus of young, well-educated and employed East German refugees seeking a better fortune in West Germany strained the troubled GDR economy so much that the GDR government – with Soviet consent – built a wall to keep them in. The Berlin Wall, the Cold War's most potent symbol, went up between East and West Berlin on the night of 12 August 1961. The inner-German border was fenced off and mined.

Having walled in what was left of the struggling population (330,000 East Germans had fled to the west in 1953 alone, and in 1960 almost 200,000 voted with their feet), the East German government launched a new economic policy in a bid to make life better. And it did. The standard of living rose to the highest in the Eastern bloc and East Germany became its second-largest industrial power (behind the USSR).

The appointment of Erich Honecker (1912–94) in 1971 opened the way for *rapprochement* with the West and enhanced international acceptance of the GDR. Honecker fell in line with Soviet policies (replacing reunification clauses in the East German constitution with a declaration of irrevocable alliance to the USSR in 1974), but his economic policies did promote a powerful economy until stagnation took root in the late 1980s.

A Concrete Curtain: The Life & Death of the Berlin Wall is a stunning and informative online presentation of the Wall by the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German History Museum) in Berlin. See www.wall-berlin.org.

STASI SECRETS

The Ministry of State Security, commonly called the Stasi, was based on the Soviet KGB and served as the 'shield and sword' of the SED. Almost a state within the state, it boasted an astonishing spy network of about 90,000 full-time employees and 180,000 *inoffizielle Mitarbeiter* (unofficial co-workers) by 1989. Since 1990, only 250 Stasi agents have been prosecuted and since the 10-year limit ended in 2000, future trials are unlikely.

When it came to tracking down dissidents, there were no limits. One unusual collection of files found in its Berlin archive kept a record of dissidents' body odour. Some dissidents who had been hauled in for interrogation were made to deliver an odour sample, usually taken with a cotton wool pad from the unfortunate victim's crotch. The sample was then stored in an hermetic glass jar for later use if a dissident suddenly disappeared. To track down a missing dissident by odour, Stasi sniffer dogs were employed. These specially trained groin-sniffing curs were euphemistically known as 'smell differentiation dogs'.

What happened to the dogs after the Stasi was disbanded is unclear. What happened to the six million files the Stasi accumulated in its lifetime is a greater cause for concern. In January 1990, protestors stormed the Stasi headquarters in Berlin (today a museum, memorial and research centre – see p185 for details), demanding to see the files. Since then, the controversial records have been assessed and safeguarded by a Berlin-based public body. In mid-2000, 1000-odd information-packed CDs, removed by the US Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) Operation Rosewood immediately after the fall of the Wall in 1989, were returned to Germany. A second batch of CIA files (apparently acquired by the CIA from a Russian KGB officer in 1992) were handed over in July 2003. The files, for the first time, matched code names with real names. Some of those with an *inoffizieller Mitarbeiter* file are fully fledged informants; others are 'contact' people who either knew they were giving information to someone from the Stasi or were unfortunate enough to be pumped of information without knowing it.

1933
Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany and creates a dictatorship

1939–45
WWII: Hitler invades Poland, France and Britain declare war on Germany; Jews are murdered en masse during the Holocaust

1945
Hitler kills himself in a Berlin bunker while a defeated Germany surrenders; Germany is split into Allied- and Soviet-occupied zones

1948
Allied-occupied West Germany becomes the FRG; Soviet-occupied East Germany becomes the GDR

ON THE WESTERN SIDE

View B&W photographs – including one of Walter Ulbricht announcing there 'would be no wall' and the subsequent graffiti-clad Wall – and map out your own Wall tour at www.the-berlin-wall.de.

Meanwhile, West Germany was still in the aged but firm hands of Konrad Adenauer, whose economics minister, Ludwig Erhard, once the Father of the Economic Miracle, was now importing foreign workers. By doing this he was making a post-hoc name for himself as the father of a multi-ethnic German society. About 2.3 million *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers) came to West Germany until the early 1970s, mainly from Italy, Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Morocco and former Yugoslavia, injecting new life into a host German culture that was slowly stirring after the mind-numbing strictures of the Nazi years. While Ludwig Erhard's guest workers arrived from one direction, young Germans who had been children under the Nazis now rode their imported Vespa motorcycles to Italy on holiday to bring home a piece of Europe for themselves.

In 1963 Adenauer was ousted by Ludwig Erhard, by then also his vice-chancellor, but in 1966 a fluctuating economy was biting deeply into Erhard's credibility, and Germany's first grand coalition government of Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) and SPD took office, with Kurt Georg Kiesinger (CDU; 1904–88) as chancellor and Willi Brandt (SPD; 1913–92) as vice-chancellor. The absence of parliamentary opposition fuelled radical demands by the student movement for social reform.

Berlin and the Wall by Ann Tusa is a saga about the events, trials and triumphs of the Cold War, the building of the Wall and its effects on the people and the city of Berlin.

The turning point came in 1969 when the SPD formed a new government with the Free Democratic Party (FDP) under Willy Brandt. The Lübeck-born, 1971 Nobel Peace Prize winner spent the Hitler years working in exile as a journalist in Scandinavia, where he was stripped of his citizenship for anti-Nazi writings. Normalising relations with East Germany (his East-friendly policy was known as *Ostpolitik*) was his priority and in December 1972 the Basic Treaty was signed, paving the way for both to join the UN in 1973. The treaty guaranteed sovereignty in international and domestic affairs (but fudged formal recognition since it was precluded by the West German constitution).

Brandt was replaced by Helmut Schmidt (b 1918) in 1974 after a scandal (one of Brandt's close advisers turned out to be a Stasi spy). The 1970s saw antinuclear and green issues move onto the agenda, opposed by Schmidt and ultimately leading to the election of Greens party representatives to the Bonn parliament in 1979. In 1974 West Germany joined the G8 group of industrial nations. But the 1970s were also a time of terrorism in Germany, and several prominent business and political figures were assassinated by the anticapitalist Red Army Faction.

Brandt's vision of East–West cordiality was borne out by Chancellor Helmut Kohl (b 1930) who, with his conservative coalition government from 1982, groomed relations between East and West while dismantling parts of the welfare state at home. In the West German capital in 1987, Kohl received East German counterpart Erich Honecker with full state honours.

REUNIFICATION

Hearts and minds in Eastern Europe had long been restless for change, but German reunification came as a surprise to the world and ushered in a new and exciting era.

The so-called *Wende* ('change', ie the fall of communism) in Germany and reunification came about perhaps in the most German of ways: a gradual development that culminated in a big bang. Reminiscent of the situation in Berlin in the 1950s, East Germans began leaving their country in droves. They fled not across a no-man's-land of concrete, weeds and death strips between East and West this time but through an open border between Hungary and Austria. The SED was helpless to stop the flow of people wanting to leave, some of whom sought refuge in the West German embassy in Prague. Around the same time, East Germans took to the streets in Monday demonstrations following services in Leipzig's Nikolaikirche and other churches in East Germany, safe in the knowledge that the Church supported their demands for improved human rights.

Something had to give, and it did. With the demonstrations spreading and escalating into violence, Erich Honecker accepted the inevitable, relinquishing his position to Egon Krenz (b 1937). And then all hell broke loose: on the fateful night of 9 November, 1989, party functionary Günter Schabowsky informed GDR citizens they could travel directly to the West. Tens of thousands of East Germans jubilantly rushed through border points in Berlin and elsewhere in the country, bringing to an end the long, chilly phase of German division.

The unified Germany of today with 16 unified states (five of which are in eastern Germany and called the 'new states') was hammered out after volatile political debate at home and a series of treaties to end post-WWII occupation zones. The days of occupation by the four powers were now consigned to the past. Berlin acquired the status it has today of a separate city-state, and following reunification on 3 October, 1990 it was restored to the capital of Germany.

After the Wall by Marc Fisher is an account of German society, with emphasis on life after the *Wende* (fall of communism). Fisher was bureau chief for the *Washington Post* in Bonn and presents some perceptive social insights.

The single-most dominant figure throughout reunification and the 1990s was Helmut Kohl, whose CDU/CSU and FDP coalition was re-elected to office in December 1990 in Germany's first postreunification election.

Under Kohl's leadership, East German assets were privatised; oversubsidised state industries were radically trimmed back, sold or wound up completely; and infrastructure was modernised (and in some cases over-invested in) to create a unification boom that saw eastern Germany grow by up to 10% each year until 1995. Growth slowed dramatically from the mid-1990s, however, creating an eastern Germany that consisted of unification winners and losers. Those who had jobs did well, but unemployment was high and the lack of opportunities in regions such as the eastern Harz Mountains or in cities such as Magdeburg and Halle (both in Saxony-Anhalt) are still causing many young eastern Germans to try their luck in western Germany or in boomtowns such as Leipzig in Saxony. Berlin, although economically shaky – it has only one company listed on the German Deutscher Aktien Index (DAX; German stock index) – is the exception. Many public servants have since relocated there from Bonn to staff the ministries, and young people from all over Germany are attracted by its vibrant cultural scene.

Behind-the-scene footage, interviews, an account of the Wall's fall and shots of the 2500-brick wall rebuilt during the show is included on *The Wall: Live in Berlin,* the DVD of Pink Floyd's electrifying concert in Berlin in 1990.

Helmut Kohl also sought to bring former East German functionaries to justice, notably Erich Honecker, who fled after he resigned and lived an ailing and nomadic existence that culminated in his death in Chile in 1994. His court case had by then been abandoned due to his ill health.

The unification legacy of Helmut Kohl is indisputable. His involvement in a party slush fund scandal in the late 1990s, however, almost financially ruined his own party and resulted in the CDU party stripping him of his position as lifelong honorary chairman. In 1998, a coalition of the SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (Alliance 90/Green parties) defeated the CDU/CSU and FDP coalition.

1961
The GDR government builds the Berlin Wall between East and West Germany and turns East Germany into an industrial power

1972
Social Democrat chancellor Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik* normalises relations between the East and West; both countries join the UN

1982
A conservative coalition government is formed in West Germany under Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl

1989
Hungary opens its border with Austria and East Germans are allowed to travel to the West – prompting the fall of the Berlin Wall

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

The election win in 1998 was a milestone for the SPD. For Germany's Greens, however, victory was historic: it was the first time an environmentalist party had governed nationally – in Germany or elsewhere in the world.

Keep on top of German politics with www.germany-info.org.

Two figures dominated German politics, and their own parties, during the 'red-green' era from 1998–2005: Chancellor Gerhard Schröder (b 1945) and the Greens party vice-chancellor and foreign minister Joschka Fischer. During this era, Germany faced the question of how much it could modernise, particularly in the areas of foreign policy, the social market economy, energy, immigration and gay rights. In foreign policy, it became more independent, deploying troops abroad (under a UN mandate) for the first time since 1945 when Kosovo erupted in violence. Germany also sent troops to Afghanistan in 2001 and currently plays a pivotal role in trying to rebuild that country. However, the government, backed by support from an overwhelming majority of Germans, didn't commit troops to the second Iraq war and had an abysmal relationship with the USA. Possibly because of this, Germany's efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council had to be abandoned.

Germany is a constitutional democracy with a president and bicameral system based on the *Bundestag* (popularly elected lower house of 598 members) and the *Bundesrat* (upper house of delegates nominated by 16 states).

Not surprisingly, considering the Greens party participation in the government, progress was strong on environmental issues. An agreement was struck to switch off Germany's last nuclear reactor by about 2020. Work on modernising the economy and welfare structures, which also needed cross-party support to pass the upper house hurdle, was slow and often didn't go far enough. This included a series of labour market reforms which later formed part of an Agenda 2010 package, supported by all parties after much horse trading.

THE COLOUR MATCHING 'GREEN'

Love them or hate them, the Greens party has changed the face of German politics since the mid-1970s, when the party first emerged from the left-wing environmentalist and peace movements. Two figures that capture the spirit of the party best are Franco-German Daniel Cohn-Bendit (b 1945) and former German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer (b 1948).

Cohn-Bendit was a leader in France's student uprising in 1968 (the French government later tossed him out) and is co-president of the Greens party's European party faction. He's still very much a grass-roots type of Green, and you often see him on the street in Frankfurt's Bockenheim district – occasionally being hailed from across the street by a friendly newspaper seller, or being given an earful by a solid Hesse hausfrau at a newspaper stand. Joschka Fischer, one-time foreign minister, taxi driver and son of a butcher (German ancestry, but from Hungary) is notorious for his time as a member of a *Putzgruppe* (clean-up mob) which battled it out with police in squatter clashes in Frankfurt's Westend. Ironically, the elegant suburb of today owes its existence to the rebel squatters who fought tooth and nail to stop the bulldozers in the 1970s. Fischer is alleged to have punched a policeman (in an odd twist of fate, the policeman's surname name was Marx) in one violent clash. After a stint as Germany's highly popular foreign minister from 1998 to 2005, Fischer – five times married and, witty tongues might quip, the only Greens politician to practice his party's principle of leadership rotation – has now retired from parliament.

Given the politics of heavyweights such as Fischer and Cohn-Bendit, 'red' would seem the preferred colour of the Greens. Also, although it has yet to join forces with conservative parties at state or federal level, the Greens are no strangers to coalitions with 'black' (conservative) parties in city governments. It remains a hot issue, though.

1990
Berlin becomes capital of the new Germany; Kohl's government charts a rigorous course towards East–West economic integration

1998
A SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen coalition government is formed; Lonely Planet publishes its first guide to Germany

During the early 2000s, Germany's economic motor, the (often family-owned) medium-sized companies, successfully trimmed and adapted to new times by replacing their ageing patriarchs with highly skilled young managers. Always one of the world's largest exporters, Germany has consistently been the largest since 2004, and overall it has the world's third-largest economy (after Japan and the US). But its domestic economy is hamstrung by low consumption and a high unemployment rate of about 11%, or about 4.5 million people.

Discover stat after stat on the Germany of a new Europe on the website of the *Statistisches Bundesamt Deutschland* (Federal Statistical Office) – www.destatis.de.

GRAND COALITION

Economic wonders, woes and wobbles aside, by 2005 the country had ground to a political halt and people wanted change. In an act of political brinkmanship, Schröder engineered an early election and achieved what many believed was his aim: to force the creation of a grand coalition of the CDU/CSU and SPD. This turned out to be the political swansong of Germany's first SPD chancellor since the 1970s. After weeks of confusion, a deal was struck for a coalition led by Angela Merkel (b 1954), the first woman, eastern German, Russian speaker and quantum physicist in the job (see boxed text, below). The opposition is led by the FDP, which narrowly squeezed ahead of the Greens to become the third-largest party. Although a new grouping of the Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus (PDS; Democratic Socialist Party), the successor of the East German SED, and the Arbeit und Soziale Gerechtigkeit – Die Wahlalternative (WASG; Work & Social Justice – The Election Alternative), won almost as many votes as the Greens, it remains a political pariah at federal level.

Keep abreast with current affairs at www.dw-world.de.

The use-by date of the grand coalition is formally five years, after which the parties are expected to go their own way. Nevertheless, the political glue holding this one together is very thin, especially when it comes to the stance on welfare and wage issues, and it would come as no surprise if Germany faces fresh elections earlier than the scheduled date of 2010.

Two of the best websites for current reports and facts about Germany are *The Economist* magazine's country profile at www.economist.com/countries/Germany and the BBC News website (follow the Europe/Country Profile links) at http://news.bbc.co.uk.

Whatever happens, time is certain to bring new and exciting directions in the development of Germany, Western Europe's most powerful and populous country, situated at the heart of Europe.

ANGELA MERKEL – THE ENIGMATIC CHANCELLOR

One remarkable aspect of Angela Merkel's rise to chancellor is that being a woman and an eastern German was scarcely an issue. Another is how she has managed to survive every attempt by feisty political stags in her own CDU party to depose her. There is more to Germany's chancellor than meets the eye.

Merkel was born in Hamburg in 1954 but grew up in the boondocks – in the Uckermark region (in Brandenburg, near the Polish border), where her father had a posting as a pastor in East Germany. She studied physics in Leipzig (quantum chemistry), entering politics as the GDR was falling apart. Soon she was honing her political skills in the ministries of a reunified Germany (Women and Youth was one, Environment, Natural Protection and Reactor Safety was another) under Helmut Kohl. Her breakthrough came in the late 1990s when the paws of several CDU alpha animals were suddenly found to be carrying the dirt of a party slush fund. Politically enigmatic, and not quite fitting any mould (probably how she is, rather than wants to be), Angela Merkel became chancellor in 2005 after an unusual election that saw no single party able to form a government and almost every party *except* the one with the most votes – hers – hailing itself on election night as the 'real winner'.

2005
Angela Merkel becomes Germany's first woman chancellor, leading a grand coalition of major parties

2006
Germany hosts the football World Cup amid national celebration

The Culture

THE NATIONAL PSYCHE

The German state of mind is always a favourite for speculation – two 20th-century wars and the memory of the Jewish Holocaust are reasons. Throw in the chilling razor's edge of Cold War division, a modern juggernaut economy that draws half of Europe in its wake and pumps more goods into the world economy than any other, and a crucial geographical location at the crossroads of Europe and this fascination becomes understandable.

The German embassy in Washington DC provides useful cultural insights online at www.germany-info.org.

Often, though, it pays to ignore the stereotypes, jingoism and those media military headlines at home – and maybe even forgive Germans for the systematic way they clog up a football field or conduct jagged discussion. Sometimes it helps to see the country in its regional nuances. Germany was very slow to become a nation, so if you look closely you will begin to notice many different local cultures within the one set of borders. You will also find it one of Europe's most multicultural countries (p49), with Turkish, Greek, Italian, Russian and Balkan influences.

Life after reunification (unemployment, racial violence etc) in the Thuringian small town of Altenburg is the contemporary focus of Ingo Schulze's *Simple Storys* (Simple Stories; 2001), a debut novel that instantly credited the author as one of Germany's best new writers.

Around 15 million people today live in a part of Germany where until 1989 travel was restricted, the state was almighty, and life was secure – but also strongly regulated – from the cradle to the grave. Not surprisingly, therefore, many eastern Germans are still coming to terms with a more competitive unified Germany.

The east is still losing people hand over fist. Take the eastern German state of Saxony-Anhalt, which is enduring especially rough times and currently sheds some 15,000 of its youngest, most talented people each year to western Germany. To dampen the impact, the University of Magdeburg-Stendhal began sending *Rückkehrpäckchen* (returnee packages) with knick-knacks like mouse pads, local internet resources and even local newspaper subscriptions to those who now work in cities like Munich and Stuttgart. The idea is to invest in the future by keeping the home fires burning. It's a winning battle, because eastern Germans like their region even if they have to leave it for a while. Although there's a thriving industry surrounding nostalgia for typical GDR (German Democratic Republic, the former East Germany) products, few people long for a return to those days, and no-one regrets the loss of travel restrictions (see opposite).

Germans as a whole fall within the mental topography of northern Europe and are sometimes described as culturally 'low context'. That means, as opposed to the French or Italians, Germans like to pack what they mean right into the words they use rather than hint or suggest. Facing each other squarely in conversation, firm handshakes, and a hug or a kiss on the cheek among friends are also par for the course.

Flirting, fashion, fun, as well as everything else you need to gen up on culturally to study and live in Germany is on the Net at www.campus-germany.de.

Most Germans look fondly upon the flourishing tradition of the apprentice carpenters who travel throughout Germany and Europe on *Wanderschaft* (wanderings) to acquire foreign skills, or the traditionally attired chimney sweeps in towns and villages dressed in pitch-black suits and top hats. Even an otherwise ordinary young Bavarian from, say, the financial controlling department of a Deutscher Aktien Index (DAX; German stock index) 30 company might don the Dirndl (traditional Bavarian skirt and blouse) around München Bierfest time and swill like a hearty, rollicking peasant. On Monday she'll be soberly back at the desk crunching the numbers like it was all just good fun – which it was, of course.

Tune into current affairs in English with international German broadcaster Deutsche Welle at www.dw-world.de.

For all this popular tradition, Germans are not prudish. Nude bathing on beaches and mixed saunas (naked) are both commonplace, although many women prefer single-sex saunas (usually on a particular day). Wearing your swimming suit or covering yourself with a towel in the sauna is definitely not the done thing.

LIFESTYLE

The German household fits into the mould of households in other Western European countries. A close look, however, reveals some distinctly German quirks, whether that be a compulsion for sorting and recycling rubbish, a love of filter coffee and fizzy mineral water, or perhaps even an abhorrence of anything (but especially eggs) prepared in a frying pan before noon.

Tradition is valued, so in this household, Grandma's clock might grind and chime the morning hours somewhere in the room, although these

OSTALGIE

Who would want to go back to East German times? Well, very few people, although there was more to the country than being a 'satellite of the Evil Empire', as 1980s Cold War warriors would portray it.

The opening lines of director Leander Haussmann's film *Sonnenallee* (1999) are revealing: 'Once upon a time there was a land, and I lived there, and if I am asked how it was, I say it was the best time of my life – because I was young and in love.' Another film, the smash hit *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003), looked at the GDR (German Democratic Republic, the former East Germany) with humour and pathos. It also gave the Ostalgie craze – from *Ost* (East) and *Nostalgie* (nostalgia) – the kick-start it needed to become a permanent cultural fixture in Germany.

Ostalgie is hip. These days dour, grinning Erich Honecker doubles in trademark specs bring parties to life; GDR Club Cola is 'cool'; an otherwise inconspicuous cucumber – *Spreewaldgurken* – is elevated to the status of heraldic symbol. Polished Trabants turn fashionable young heads on cobblestone streets; the cheesy East German *Ampelmännchen* – the little green man that helped East German pedestrians cross the road – is cherished like a rare species of desert lizard. It's all part of an Ostalgie movement that won't die. For a taste of it, tune into GDR music at www.musik-der-ddr.de, check out the online dictionary www.ddr-woerterbuch.de, or have a chuckle at the GDR jokes at www.ddr-witz.de.

WHEN NAKED VEGETARIANS PUMP IRON

The idea of strapping young Germans frolicking unselfconsciously naked in the healthy outdoors is not new. A German *Körperkultur* (physical culture) first took shape in the late 19th century to remedy industrial society's so-called 'physical degeneration'. Out of this, Germany's modern *Freikörper* (naturist) movement was born.

The early movement was something of a right-wing, anti-Semitic animal, whose puritanical members were scorned by some outsiders as 'the lemonade bourgeoisie'. Achieving total beauty was the name of the game. Anathema to the movement, for example, was someone with a lascivious 'big-city lifestyle' that included smoking, fornicating, eating meat, drinking, and wearing clothes made of synthetic fibres, or anyone with predilections for artificial light. Early naturism also sprouted Germany's first vegetarian *Reform* restaurants and shops.

The most interesting characters to develop out of this odd era were bodybuilders – predominantly vegetarian and naturist but internationalist in spirit. Some achieved fame abroad under pseudonyms. Others were immortalised in Germany by sculptors, who employed them as models for their works.

Famous pioneers of the movement in Germany include Kaliningrad-born Eugene Sandow (1876–1925) who died trying to pull a car out of a ditch; Berlin-born Hans Ungar (1878–1970), who became famous under the pseudonym Lionel Strongfort; and Theodor Siebert (1866–1961), from Alsleben, near Halle, in eastern Germany.

days Grandma herself contemplatively sucks on her false teeth (which she might have had done cheaply in Poland) in an old-age home or discovers the benefits of having a voluble Romanian aged-carer in her own home. A TV will sit squarely in the living room and a computer somewhere else in the house (about 50% of households have one); maybe this is one of the 33% of households that have internet access. Eight in 10 Germans own a bike, and a car is also likely to be parked nearby, embodying the German belief that true freedom comes on four wheels and is best expressed tearing along a ribbon of autobahn at 200km/h or more while (illegally) talking on a mobile phone.

When it comes to hammering nails in coffins, about one-third of Germans are regular smokers.

With such high unemployment and many economically depressed regions in eastern Germany, there are large differences in the standard of living among Germans. A 50-something male working in manufacturing or insurance would earn on average about €3182 per month, but about 40% of that would disappear in tax and social security deductions; if the woman of the house also works – which could be difficult if the children are preschool or at half-day school – she might earn €2539. In eastern Germany, both might be on about €2300 per month.

The birth rate is low (1.34 children per woman), on par with Italy and Spain. On the face of it, though, the traditional nuclear family is still the most common ballistic model in Germany: 63% of children grow up with married parents and at least one sibling. But there's a big difference between eastern and western Germany. While 66% of children in western Germany have this upbringing, only 45% of eastern German kids do. People everywhere are marrying later, with men and women tying the knot at the average age of 32 and 29 respectively.

Abortion is illegal (except when a medical or criminal indication exists), but it is unpunishable if carried out within 12 weeks of conception and after compulsory counselling. Rape within marriage is punishable. Same-sex marriage (in the form of legally recognised same-sex partnerships) has been possible since 2001. Gays and lesbians walk with ease in most cities, especially Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and Frankfurt-am-Main, although homosexuals do encounter discrimination in certain eastern German areas.

German school hours (from 8am to 1pm) and the under-funding of childcare make combining career and children difficult for German women. The plus side is that parents enjoy equal rights for maternity and paternity leave, and everyone has the right to work part-time.

Women's issues are lobbied by the 52-member association Deutscher Frauenrat (German Women's Council) at www.deutscher-frauenrat.de.

On the whole, the number of women employed has increased – about 47% of the workforce is female. This is quite high for an EU country, but lower than in the USA and Scandinavia. In eastern Germany women tend to have be more of a presence on the managerial floors – one-third of upper management jobs – whereas the figure for western Germany is about one-fifth.

Most Germans have retired by the age of 63, but the government introduced changes in 2006 that increase the retirement age to 67 for those retiring in 2029. Changes are also in the pipeline to increase pension contributions among childless couples.

GERMAN HUMOUR

'According to a study by the Forsa-Institut one in 10 Germans has no problem with the idea that the Germans are dying out. Maybe after Germany loses the (football) match against the USA tonight it'll be one in five.'

FROM THE GERMAN CULTURE PROGRAMME *KULTURZEIT* (2006)

POPULATION

Germany is densely populated – 231 people for every square kilometre (compared with 118 per square kilometre in the expanded EU), although a far greater wedge is crammed into western Germany. The most densely populated areas are Greater Berlin, the Ruhr region, the Frankfurt-am-Main area, Wiesbaden and Mainz, and another region taking in Mannheim and Ludwigshafen. In eastern Germany, about 20% of the national population lives on 33% of the country's overall land.

The country's first gay publication, *Der Eigene*, went to press in 1906.

Most people inhabit villages and small towns, and German cities are modest by world standards: Berlin aside (3.4 million), the biggest cities are Hamburg (1.7 million), Munich (1.3 million) and Cologne (one million).

The population in former East Germany fell below the 1906 level after reunification as easterners moved to the more lucrative west. Oddly, Berlin's postreunification population boom has been offset by the exodus of young families from the capital to the surrounding countryside. The total population figure is slipping downwards and will hit 74 million (compared with today's 82.41 million) by 2050 at its present rate.

For more on Germany's foreign population, see p49.

After 14 days of bad weather your average German would be prepared to pay €33.45 for a sunny day, according to the weather site www.donnerwetter.de.

DOS & DON'TS

- Germans draw a fat line between *Sie* and *du* (both meaning 'you'). Addressing an acquaintance with the formal *Sie* is a must, unless invited to do otherwise. Muttering a familiar *du* (reserved for close friends and family) to a shop assistant will only incite wrath and bad service, although *du* is often acceptable in young people–packed bars. If in doubt, use *Sie*.
- Push firmly but politely with German bureaucracy; shouting will only slam down the shutters. Germans lower (rather than raise) their voices when mad.
- Give your name at the start of a phone call, even when calling a hotel or restaurant to book a room or table.

SPORT

Germany, always a keen sporting nation, has hosted the summer Olympics and football World Cup two times apiece; in 2006 the World Cup was very successfully hosted in 12 cities amid national fanfare and celebration.

Berlin as it really is leaps off the pages of Vladimir Kaminer's highly readable and humorous short stories in *Russendisko* (Russian Disco; 2002).

Football

Football incites the passion of Germans everywhere and has contributed much to building Germany's self-confidence as a nation.

Germany has played in more World Cups than anyone else and has won the prestigious title three times, in 1954, 1974 and 1990. Its first victory against Hungary in Bern, Switzerland, was unexpected and miraculous for a country slumbering deeply in post-WWII depression. The 'miracle of Bern' – as the victory is called – sent national morale soaring.

Bundesliga scoreboards, rankings and fixtures are online at www.germansoccer.net (in English) and www.bundesliga.de (in German).

West Germany won the 1974 World Cup in the home town of Munich's Franz Beckenbauer (b 1945) – dubbed 'Kaiser' and 'Emperor Franz' for his outstanding flair and elegance. Beckenbauer is the undisputed statesman of German football, a role that was strengthened during the World Cup in 2006, when he chaired the organising committee. The win in 1990 was remarkable because for the first time since 1945 Germany fielded a unified team from East and West.

CAREFUL WITH THAT DU, DIETER!

It's definitely not a good idea to use the familiar *du* form with the police – this could land you in court. In one bizarre case, the German pop singer and music producer Dieter Bohlen was charged with offensive behaviour when he used the familiar form to a police officer after being approached about a parking offence. The judge let Bohlen off the hook because *'du'* is part of his style. Impolite, yes, offensive no, ruled the judge.

West Germany's 1954 World Cup victory provides the impetus for Sönke Wortmann's *Das Wunder von Bern* (Miracle of Bern; 2003), a family drama about a WWII prisoner of war returning to a football-crazy son he no longer recognises.

In 2005, Jürgen Klinsmann (b 1964) took over the reins as national trainer of the German team, only to relinquish the position to his assistant Joachim Löw (b 1960) after a good performance – and a sensational win against Argentina – in the World Cup. In 2006 the Dresden-born Matthias Sammer (b 1967) assumed responsibility for German football's junior talent as sport director. Sammer, whose father was a highly successful trainer of the GDR team Dynamo Dresden (for whom Matthias Sammer also played) is often traded as a candidate for national trainer. If he ever gets the post, this would be another unique achievement for the fiery Saxon, who was the last player to kick a goal for East Germany and the first East German to play in a unified German national team.

Friday-night, Saturday and Sunday games are televised live on pay-TV at sports bars all over Germany, and round-ups of the weekend matches are broadcast on the *Sportschau* on ARD (German National TV Consortium; see p50) around 6.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Eurosport and Deutsches Sport Fernsehen (DSF; German Sports Television) also cover highlights. You can watch UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Cup matches live on DSF, which has broadcast rights to the Cup until at least 2008.

For a cracking read about football, the great football rivalry between England and Germany, and that famous match in 1966 with the controversial Wembley Goal, delve into Geoff Hurst's *1966 and all that*.

Tennis

Tennis was a minor sport in Germany until 1985 when the unseeded 17-year-old Boris Becker (b 1967), from Leimen near Heidelberg, became Wimbledon's youngest-ever men's singles champion. Overnight every German kid aspired to be the next Boris Becker. The red-head mentor, known for his power play, went on to win five more Grand Slam titles in a career that ended in 1999.

The self-willed and erratic Becker was as entertaining off the court as he was on it. His 'affair' in a broom closet with a Russian model in a London hotel in the mid-1990s produced a daughter and newspaper headlines that claimed 'sperm theft', while his tragic – and not surprising given the broom-closet drama – marital breakdown culminated in a humiliating televised courtroom drama. Similarly, the marriage of his fiercest German opponent during the early 1990s and fellow Wimbledon champion, Michael Stich (b 1968), also sailed onto acrimonious rocks and sank in a public blaze. Becker and Stich were hard acts to follow, and potential men's singles successors to the German tennis crown have so far proved to have feet of clay.

The Olympic torch was lit for the first time at the 1936 Olympics: 3000 athletes carried the flame from Olympia (Greece) to Berlin where medallists were later awarded a laurel crown and potted oak tree.

Only the lingering, warm after-glow of Mannheim-born Steffi Graf (b 1969) currently lights the tennis darkness. Graf is among the few women to win all four Grand Slam events in one year, and in 1988 – after also winning gold in Seoul at the Olympic Games – she became the only player ever to win the Golden Slam. Germans had always secretly hoped for a Boris–Steffi marriage that might have produced a Teutonic tennis wunderkind. For better or worse, it didn't happen, but Steffi Graf did marry Becker's arch-rival from the USA, Andre Agassi, and unlike everyone else, seems to be living happily ever after.

Hamburg hosts the men's German Open tournament each May; women play in Berlin in June.

Other Sports

Though still a minor sport in Germany, basketball is gaining in popularity, boosted by the star US National Basketball Association (NBA) player – and captain of the Dallas Mavericks – Würzburg-born Dirk Nowitzki (b 1978), who is arguably Europe's finest player at the moment.

Cycling has boomed since Rostok-born Jan Ullrich (b 1973) became the first German to win the Tour de France in 1997. In 2006 a shadow was cast on Ullrich's career after he was allegedly implicated in a doping ring. Ullrich subsequently withdrew from the Tour de France and has since fought to salvage his reputation – and his undeniable achievements. Erik Zabel (b 1970), who comes from Berlin's Prenzberg district, achieved the remarkable by winning the green tricot six years in a row from 1996 to 2001 in the Tour de France.

Germany's most successful golfer, Bernhard Langer, is the son of a Russian prisoner of war who jumped off a Siberia-bound train and settled in Bavaria.

With no less than seven World Champion titles and more than 50 Grand Prix wins, Michael Schumacher (b 1969) was the most successful Formula One racing driver ever to have taken to the circuit. After successive wins in 1994 and 1995 he also became the youngest double Formula One World Champion. Schumacher announced his retirement in 2006. Michael's younger brother Ralf (b 1975) made his Formula One debut in 1997 and has since notched up six big wins in his career. In Germany Formula One races are held at the Hockenheim circuit, which has been host to the German Grand Prix since 1977, and the European Grand Prix rips around Nürburgring.

The German team had good cause to celebrate at the Winter Olympics in Turin in 2006, winning 29 medals, including 11 gold. Five of these gold medals were in biathlon events, where Kati Wilhelm (b 1976) – like many of the winter sports stars, she comes from Oberhof in Thuringia – and Sven Fischer (b 1971) hobbled and shot their way through living rooms to the delight of millions of German fans.

If you like a good 180, 360 or backside, check out the annual Monster Mastership Skateboarding World Championship and associated events at www.mastership.de.

MULTICULTURALISM

Germany would seem more a country of emigrants than immigrants. Not so: it has always attracted immigrants, be it French Huguenots escaping religious persecution (about 30% of Berlin's population in 1700 was Huguenot), 19th-century Polish miners who settled in the Ruhr region, post-WWII asylum seekers, or foreign *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers) imported during the 1950s and 1960s to resolve labour shortages. After reunification, the foreign population soared (from 4.5 million in the 1980s to 7.3 million in 2002) as emigrants from the collapsed USSR and then war-ravaged former Yugoslav republics sought shelter. Currently about 35,000 *Spätaussiedler* (people of German heritage, mainly from Eastern Europe and Kazakhstan) enter the country each year.

About 6.7 million foreigners (just under 9% of the population) live in Germany, almost one-third of these from EU countries and almost half from Europe. Ethnic Turks form the largest single group (1.8 million or 26%), followed by ethnic Italians and former Yugoslavians (both 8%), Greeks (5%) and Poles (4%). Ironically, over 20% of the 'foreign' population is actually German-born, reflecting poor progress on the integration of – mainly – ethnic Turks in the large cities.

Slavonic Sorbs live in pockets of Saxony and Brandenburg, and a small Danish minority can be found around Flensburg (Schleswig-Holstein) on the Danish border.

Despite changes to Germany's antiquated 'blood-based' citizenship laws, patches of German society still inhabit the shadows on this question, with state political campaigns having been fought and won at the expense of foreigners, foreigners having to renounce previous citizenship before they can become German, and a recurring violence problem by extreme right-wing groups in eastern Germany directed (mainly) against foreigners – whose numbers rarely rise above a few percent of the population in towns there (see boxed text, p50).

Debate also regularly flares on the need to promote a German *Leitkultur* (lead culture), as opposed to multiculturalism; the trend to violence in schools with a high proportion of ethnic pupils (in some Berlin schools 80% of pupils are foreigners); and poor German skills among foreigners in the classroom.

OF SKINHEADS & OTHER BONEHEADS

Recent media attention has focused on the rise in racially motivated incidents in Germany, which range from verbal taunts to severe physical assault. In 2005, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution recorded 15,361 such episodes, including 958 violent crimes. This represents an increase of 27.5% over 2004 and a reversal of a trend that had lasted until that year. In April 2006, a German of Ethiopian descent was almost beaten to death in Potsdam and just a month later a Turkish-German politician was attacked in Berlin. In these, as in most, cases perpetrators belonged to right-wing skinhead or neo-Nazi organisations. Xenophobia seems to run especially deep in the former GDR states, whose people had little exposure to foreigners during the communist era and where chronic high unemployment fuels anger and frustration. In the most recent state elections, Brandenburg, Saxony and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania all voted members of right-wing parties into their regional parliaments.

The spate of incidents even prompted a former government official, Uwe Karsten-Heye, to declare the eastern states a 'no-go' area for nonwhites just before the beginning of the World Cup. Heye now heads **Gesicht Zeigen!** (www.gesichtzeigen.de, in German), a nonprofit organisation striving to combat xenophobia, racism and right-wing violence. While his remarks were widely criticised as being too general and for stigmatising a large part of the country (there is some right-wing extremism in western Germany too, of course), many people welcomed his frankness and the debate it spurred. Politicians of all stripes agreed that measures need to be stepped up to reverse the trend through education, prevention and law enforcement. Stay tuned.

On the whole, Germany, whose citizens achieved the remarkable by coping with up to 500,000 former Yugoslavian refugees *each year* in the early 1990s, treats foreigners with respect, even if it still has some political catching-up to do.

Die Ausgewanderten (Emigrants; 1997) by WG Sebald addresses the lost homeland of an exile in his vivid portrayal of four different journeys by Jewish emigrants – it's a good introduction to this weighty but wonderful novelist.

MEDIA

Germany's former chancellor, Gerhard Schöder, once said that all he needed to govern the country were *Bild,* the Sunday edition of *Bild* (called *Bild am Sonntag;* BamS) and *die Glotze* (Idiot Box). If it were that easy, we'd all be doing it.

Licence fees subsidise the country's two public TV broadcasters ARD (known as the 1st channel) and ZDF (the so-called 2nd channel). Unlike Mainz-based ZDF, ARD groups together several regional public stations, which contribute to the nationwide programmes shown on the 1st channel as well as the wholly regional shows transmitted on the so-called 3rd channel. Due to the sheer choice of channels, private ownership is relatively diverse and pay TV low on impact; ProSiebenSat.1Media and the Bertelsmann AG groups have the largest stables.

The Bambi Awards – Germany's annual media awards – see national celebrities such as Düsseldorf-born supermodel Claudia Schiffer proffer statuettes of fawns to showbiz stars and celebrities.

About six million households are able to receive some form of digital TV (cable, satellite or terrestrial), but the vast majority of households are currently connected via cable, satellite receiver or terrestrial aerial.

For better or worse, it's still possible to fall asleep reading a German newspaper, which masters the art of dry, factual reporting. Print media has a strong regional bias, and overt backing for particular political parties by newspapers is rarely at the expense of the hard facts. The most influential newspaper is *Bild,* whose circulation exceeds four million. Axel Springer and Bertelsmann are the largest publishers. Both the press and broadcasters are independent and free of censorship.

For an overview of media ownership in Germany, go to the English pages of www.kek-online.de.

RELIGION

The constitution guarantees religious freedom, the main religions being Catholicism and Protestantism, each with about 26 million adherents (around one-third of the country's total population each). Religion has a stronger footing in western Germany, and especially Catholic Bavaria.

Unlike the Jewish community, which has grown since the early 1990s due to immigration from the former Soviet Union, the Catholic and Protestant churches are losing worshippers. This is attributed partly to the obligatory church tax (about 9% of income) paid by those belonging to a recognised denomination. Most German Protestants are Lutheran, headed by the Evangelische Kirche (Protestant Church), an official grouping of a couple of dozen Lutheran churches with Hanover headquarters. Lutherans don't deem Methodists, Jehovah's Witnesses or other non-Catholic Christians to be proper Protestants.

In 2005, for the first time in almost five centuries, a German became pope. German Catholics responded with mixed feelings to the election of Joseph Alois Ratzinger (b 1927), who took the name Benedict XVI; some had hoped for a more progressive successor to John Paul II.

The head of the Jewish community's Berlin-based umbrella organisation, the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany), is Charlotte Knobloch (b 1932). The largest Jewish communities are in Berlin, Frankfurt-am-Main and Munich. Countrywide, 80 or more congregations are represented by the rather conservative council (see p34).

The German Protestant Church is online at www.ekd.de; the Catholics are at www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/de.html; and the Central Council of Jews at www.zentralratdjuden.de (in German).

ARTS

Visual Arts

FRESCOES TO EXPRESSIONISTS

Whether it be medieval fresco work, oil-on-canvas masterpieces, eclectic Bauhaus or exciting industrial design and fashion, Germany has visual arts for all tastes and interests.

Germany's earliest fresco work dates from Carolingian times (c 800) and is in Trier's St Maximin crypt and the Stiftskirche St Georg on Reichenau Island, whereas stained-glass enthusiasts will find colourful religious motifs lighting up Augsburg and Cologne cathedrals. By the 15th century, Cologne artists were putting landscapes on religious panels, some of which are on display in Hamburg's Kunsthalle.

Old Catholics (www.alt-katholisch.de), of which there are 20,000 in Germany today, rejected papal infallibility to break away from the Catholic Church in 1871. Celibacy is not an issue and the first female priests were ordained in 1996.

The heavyweight of German Renaissance art is the Nuremberg-born Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), who was the first to grapple seriously with the Italian masters; the Alte Pinakothek (Munich) has several famous works of Dürer, and his house is today a museum in Nuremberg. In Wittenberg, Dürer influenced Franconian-born court painter Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472–1553) whose *Apollo und Diana in Waldiger Landschaft* (Apollo and Diana in a Forest Landscape; 1530) hangs in Berlin's Gemäldegalerie (Picture Gallery).

Two centuries later, sculpture became integrated into Germany's buildings and gardens, creating the inspiration for Andreas Schlüter's (1660–1714) imposing *Reiterdenkmal des Grossen Kurfürsten* (Horseman's Monument of the Great Elector) in front of Berlin's Schloss Charlottenburg. The four-horse chariot with Victoria on Berlin's Brandenburg Gate is the work of Germany's leading neoclassical sculptor, Johann Gottfried Schadow (1764–1850).

Frankfurt has hosted the world's largest literary marketplace, the international book fair (www.frankfurt-book-fair.com), since 1949 when centuries-old East German host, Leipzig, had its door slammed shut by Soviet occupiers.

During the baroque period (from the 17th to mid-18th century), palace walls were frescoed to create the illusion of generous space. Balthasar Neumann's (1687–1753) grand staircase in Würzburg Residenz is arguably the finest example.

In the mid-18th century, neoclassicism ushered back in the human figure and an emphasis on Roman and Greek mythology. Hesse-born Johann Heinrich Tischbein (1751–1829) painted Goethe at this time in a classical landscape surrounded by antique objects. View *Goethe in der Campagna* (1787) in Frankfurt-am-Main's Städelsches Kunstinstitut (Städel Art Institute).

Religious themes, occasionally mystic, dominated 19th-century Romanticism. Goethe hated the works of Caspar David Friedrich (1774–1840), indelicately suggesting they ought to be 'smashed against the table'. A room is dedicated to Friedrich's works in Hamburg's Kunsthalle.

Also in the exciting collection of Hamburg's Kunsthalle are works by the founder of the German Romantic movement, Philipp Otto Runge (1777–1810), as well as intensely religious works by the Nazarener (Nazareths). The museum also showcases some later realistic works of Cologne-born Wilhelm Leibl (1844–1900) who specialised in painting Bavarian folk.

German impressionists are well represented in the Moderne Galerie of Saarbrücken's Saarland Museum. Key exponents of the late-19th-century movement include Max Liebermann (1847–1935), often slammed as 'ugly' and 'socialist'; Fritz von Uhde (1848–1911); and Lovis Corinth (1858–1925) whose later work, *Die Kindheit des Zeus* (Childhood of Zeus; 1905) – a richly coloured frolic in nature with intoxicated, grotesque elements – is housed in Bremen's Kunsthalle.

The Dresden art scene spawned Die Brücke (The Bridge) in 1905. Its expressionist members Ernst Kirchner (1880–1936), Erich Heckel (1883–1971) and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1884–1976) employed primitivist and cubist elements, but Germany's best expressionist painter, the North Frisian Emil Nolde (1867–1956), was an artistic lone wolf who only fleetingly belonged to Die Brücke and was forbidden from working by the Nazis in 1941. His famous *Bauernhof* (1910) is housed in Museumsberg Flensburg.

Munich's Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus showcases a second group of expressionists, Munich-based Der Blaue Reiter (Blue Rider), centred on Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944), Gabrielle Münter (1877–1962), Paul Klee (1879–1940) and Franz Marc (1880–1916).

BETWEEN THE WARS

One of Germany's most influential visual artists is Käthe Kollwitz (1867–1945), who travelled through naturalism and expressionism to arrive at agitprop and socialist realism. Complete series of her *Ein Weberaufstand* (A Weavers' Revolt; 1897) etchings and lithography based on a play by Gerhart Hauptmann (1862–1946), as well as other works, are showcased in Käthe Kollwitz museums in Berlin and Cologne.

Günter Grass' *tour de force, Die Blechtrommel* (Tin Drum; 1959), humorously traces recent German history – including Nazism – through the eyes of Oskar, a child who refuses to grow up. *Ein weites Feld* (Too Far Afield; 1992) addresses 'unification without unity' after the Wall falls.

Berlin's Bauhaus Archive/Museum of Design and Weimar's Bauhaus-Museum have fascinating exhibits on the Bauhaus movement, which continues to shape art and design. Works by Kandinsky, Hungarian László Moholy-Nagy (1895–1946), Klee and the sculptor Gerhard Marcks (1889–1981) are housed in the Berlin venue. See p212 for more on Bauhaus. Marcks' most visible work is *Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten* (Town Musicians of Bremen; see p644).

After a creative surge in the 1920s, the big chill of Nazi conformity sent Germany into artistic deep freeze in the 1930s and 1940s. In the capital, many artists were classified as 'degenerate' (opposite) and forced into exile – where a creative explosion abroad took place especially among the Bauhaus movement protagonists who settled in the USA. Other artists were murdered, retreated from public life or tossed in art altogether. In Quedlinburg a fine collection of works by Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956) survives thanks to a local citizen who hid them from the Nazis (see p245).

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY

Post-1945 revived the creative influence of expressionists such as Nolde, Schmidt-Rottluff and Kandinsky; and a new abstract expressionism took root in the work of Stuttgart's Willi Baumeister (1889–1955) and Ernst-Wilhelm Nay (1902–68) in Berlin.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Düsseldorf-based Gruppe Zero (Group Zero) plugged into Bauhaus, using light and space as a creative basis. The 'light ballets' of Otto Piene (b 1928), relying on projection techniques, were among the best known.

Arguably Germany's most exciting contemporary painter and sculptor is Anselm Kiefer (b 1945), some of whose works are in Berlin's (confusingly named) Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart. His monumental *Census* (1967) consists of massive lead folios arranged on shelves as a protest against a 1967 census in Germany; another, the haunting *Mohn und Gedächtnis* (Poppy and Memory; 1989), is a large lead aircraft with three small glass windows in the side filled with poppy seeds.

'Rubble in itself is the future. Because everything that is, passes.'
ANSELM KIEFER

The same Berlin museum displays works by Düsseldorf's Joseph Beuys (1921–86). Wherever Beuys laid his trademark hat, controversy erupted. *Strassenbahnhaltestelle* (Tram Stop; 1976) consists of rusty iron tram lines and a cannon with a head poking out of it. Beuys says it was inspired by a childhood experience, but bear in mind that he was a radio operator in a fighter plane shot down over Crimea during WWII. He claims to have been nursed back to health by local Tartars, who covered him in tallow and wrapped him in felt. The largest collections of his work are in Darmstadt's Hessisches Landesmuseum (p526; including his revealing *Stuhl mit Fett* – Chair with Fat; 1964) and in Schloss Moyland (p549), near Kalkar in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Anselm Kiefer is now working in stage design, while another contemporary, action-artist HA Schult (b 1939) has been busy travelling the world with his sculptures of people created from rubbish. His *Trash People* – 1000 life-sized figures – set out from Xanten in Germany more than a decade ago and has since visited about a dozen world locations. In April 2006 the famous 1000 arrived in Cologne and were complemented by Galaxy Man – made from Ford Galaxy car parts. Their final stations will be New York and Antarctica in 2007.

'We produce rubbish, we're born of rubbish and return to rubbish'
HA SCHULT

Bavarian Florian Thomas (b 1966) and Dresden-born Eberhard Havekost (b 1967) are two influential artists whose works are now in the Museum Frieder Burda in Baden Baden. Thomas' brand of photorealism owes much to the German contemporary icons Gerhard Richter (b 1932) and Sigmar Polke (b 1941). His *Lieber Onkel Dieter!* (Dear Uncle Dieter!) and *Arusha* are highlights. Eberhard Havekost uses computer reworked images as the basis for some of his photorealist works – often playing dramatically with light and shadow. Works by Sorb sculptor and painter Georg Baselitz (b 1938) are other indigenous highlights of the Museum Frieder Burda. Baselitz was tossed out of art school in the GDR for his artistic provocations, only

DEGENERATE ART

Abstract expressionism, surrealism and Dadaism – 'Jewish subversion' and 'artistic bolshevism' in Nazi eyes – were definitely not Hitler's favourite movements. In fact by 1937, such forms of expression fell under the axe of *Entartung* (degeneracy), a German biological term borrowed by the Nazis to describe virtually all modern movements. The same year, paintings by Klee, Beckmann, Dix and others – all supposedly spawned by the madness of 'degenerates' – were exhibited in Munich and promptly defaced in protest. Ironically, the exhibition drew a daily scornful yet curious crowd of 20,000-odd.

A year later, a law was passed allowing for the forced removal of degenerate works from private collections. While many art collectors saved their prized works from Nazi hands, the fate of many other artists' works was less fortunate. Many works were sold abroad to rake in foreign currency and in 1939 about 4000 paintings were publicly burned in Berlin.

to have West German authorities confiscate works from his first exhibition there. Take a look at his *Die Grosse Nacht im Eimer* (Big Night Down the Drain), depicting a masturbating figure, and you can see – if not quite understand – why.

Thomas Bayrle (b 1937) is another name you will come across in German museums of contemporary art. Born in Berlin, he now lives in Frankfurt-am-Main and teaches at the Städel Art Institute. In 2006 the Museum fü Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt exhibited his installations entitled *40 Years of Chinese Rock 'n' Roll*. These are movable wood constructions depicting mass behaviour. One has an image of Mao Zedong with hundreds of gymnasts in the background, in others people are brushing their teeth or swilling beer.

The Neue Sammlung permanent collections of the double-banger Neues Museum in Nuremberg and Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich are not to be missed as stations on the contemporary art and design circuit; changing exhibitions have ranged from jewellery through GDR art-poster design to a retrospective of covers from the magazine *Der Spiegel*.

Contemporary photography is another area where Germany excels. Around the time Beuys waved adieu in the 1980s, photographers Andreas Gursky (b 1955) and Candida Höfer (b 1944) were honing their skills under Bernd Becher (b 1931) at Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie (Art Academy). Leipzig-born Gursky, whose work can be seen in Cologne's Museum Ludwig, encompasses superb images of architecture, landscapes and interiors, sometimes reworked digitally. Höfer's work, along with the works of other Becher students, can be found in Hamburg's Kunsthalle.

In 2003, another photographer from the Düsseldorf academy, Thomas Ruff (b 1958), provoked controversy with a series of nudes based on pornographic images he downloaded from the internet. More socially acceptable, London-based Bavarian Jürgen Teller (b 1964) is a darling of fashion photography and has shot Björk and a pregnant Kate Moss, among others.

For a comprehensive lowdown of Germany's contemporary art scene and events see www.art-in.de (in German).

In Leipzig, a Neue Leipziger Schule (New Leipzig School) of artists has emerged recently and achieved success at home and abroad, including painter Neo Rauch (b 1960).

Given Germany's rich collections, travelling the contours of visual arts might be an interesting way to organise a trip. In addition to excellent permanent collections in major museums, you'll find lots of smaller art spaces with changing exhibitions. Venues like Berlin's **Kunst-Werk** (www.kw-berlin.com) and **Galerie Eigen+Art** (www.eigen-art.com) offer a contemporary 'shock of the new'.

Berlin's **Art Forum Berlin** (www.art-forum-berlin.de) showcases video, photography, painting, sculpture, installations, graphics, and multimedia each year in September–October. For household design, the Bauhaus Museum in Weimar shows how it began and the Vitra Design Museums in Berlin (expected to open in 2007) and Weil am Rhein have other fascinating exhibits. Visual art of another variety, Berlin Fashion Week, takes place in late January and July each year, with some events usually open to the general public.

Berlin is not just the heart of a thriving art scene in Germany, in 2006 it became Europe's first City of Design as part of the Unesco Creative Cities Network – gaining recognition as a crossroads of design, architecture and the visual and performance arts.

Architecture

CAROLINGIAN TO ART NOUVEAU

Among the grand buildings of the Carolingian period, Aachen's Byzantine-inspired cathedral – built for Charlemagne from 805 – and Fulda's Michaelskirche are surviving masterpieces. A century on, Carolingian, Christian (Roman) and Byzantine influences flowed together in a more proportional interior with integrated columns, reflected in the elegant Stiftskirche St Cyriakus in Gernrode (Harz Mountains) and the Romanesque cathedrals in Worms, Speyer and Mainz.

GERMAN DESIGN TODAY

Mateo Kries heads the Vitra Design Museum in Berlin (scheduled for reopening in 2007): 'Designers leave their imprint on urban life as social actors. These are my personal favourites in German design.'

- Furniture – Konstantin Grcic, because he combines research in new technologies with original forms and smart minimalism.
- Textiles – Kostas Murkudis, because I like unpretentious clothing.
- Architecture – Realities United, because they try things out.
- Jewellery – everything that is not designed explicitly, because I want jewellery to be very personal and unique.
- Graphics – The illustrator LULU, because her illustrations look lovely and extremely cool at the same time.

The Unesco-listed Kloster Maulbronn (1147) in Baden-Würtemberg is considered the best preserved monastery of its ilk north of the Alps.

Early Gothic architecture, slow to reach Germany from its northern-French birthplace, kept many Romanesque elements, as the cathedral in Magdeburg (Saxony-Anhalt) illustrates. Later churches have purely Gothic traits – ribbed vaults, pointed arches and flying buttresses to allow greater height and larger windows, seen in Cologne's cathedral (Kölner Dom), Marburg (Elisabethkirche), Trier (Liebfrauenkirche), Freiburg (Münster) and Lübeck (Marienkirche). From the 15th century, elaborately patterned vaults and hall churches emerged. Munich's Frauenkirche and Michaelskirche are typical of this late Gothic period.

For an informative and illustrated dip into Berlin architecture – past, present and future – visit the Senate Department of Urban Development at www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de.

The Renaissance reached Germany around the mid-16th century, bestowing Heidelberg and other southern cities with buildings bearing ornate leaf work and columns, while in northern Germany the secular Weser Renaissance style produced the ducal palace (Schloss) in Celle (Lower Saxony).

From the early 17th century to the mid-18th century, feudal rulers ploughed their wealth into residences. In Baden-Württemberg, the residential retreat of Karlsruhe was dreamt up, while Italian architect Barelli started work on Munich's Schloss Nymphenburg. In northern Germany, buildings were less ornamental, as the work of baroque architect Johann Conrad Schlaun (1695–1773) in Münster or Dresden's treasure trove of baroque architecture demonstrates. One of the finest baroque churches, Dresden's Frauenkirche (1743), was destroyed in the 1945 fire-bombing of the city, reconstructed, and reopened in 2005. Late baroque ushered in Potsdam's rococo Schloss Sanssouci.

Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, based on a Greek design, is a brilliant showcase of neoclassicism. This late-18th-century period saw baroque folly and exuberance fly out the window – and strictly geometric columns, pediments and domes fly in. The colonnaded Altes Museum, Neue Wache and Schauspielhaus – all designed by leading architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781–1841) – are other pure forms of neoclassicism still gracing the capital. In Bavaria, Leo von Klenze (1784–1864) chiselled his way through virtually every ancient civilisation, with eclectic creations such as the Glyptothek and Propyläen on Munich's Königsplatz.

A wave of derivative architecture based on old styles swept through late-19th-century Germany. A German peculiarity was the so-called rainbow style, which blended Byzantine with Roman features. Renaissance revivalism found expression in Georg Adolph Demmler's (1804–86) Schloss in Schwerin, while sections of Ludwig II's fairy-tale concoction in Neuschwanstein (Bavaria) are neo-Romanesque.

Germany's iconic Reichstag building (1894) was designed by Paul Wallot (1841–1912) in the Wilhelmian (neobaroque) style; it was restored in the 1990s with a stunning glass-and-steel cupola (inspired by the original) by internationally acclaimed British architect Norman Foster. Wallots' use of steel to create a greater span and large glass surface was subsequently adopted by the early-20th-century Art Nouveau movement, which created some of the country's most impressive industrial architecture: look no further than Berlin's Wertheim bei Hertie department store.

Erich Mendelsohn and the Architecture of German Modernism by Kathleen James zooms in on Mendelsohn's expressionist buildings in Berlin and Frankfurt.

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY

No architectural movement has had greater influence on modern design than Bauhaus, which was spearheaded by the son of a Berlin architect, Walter Gropius (1883–1969). Through his founding in 1919 of the Staatliches Bauhaus – a modern architecture, art and design institute in Weimar – Bauhaus pushed the industrial forms of Art Nouveau to a functional limit and sought to unite architecture, painting, furniture design and sculpture. Critics claimed Bauhaus was too functional and impersonal, relying too heavily on cubist and constructivist forms. But any visit to the Bauhaus Building in Dessau (where the institute was based after 1925) or the nearby Meisterhäuser (Master Craftsmen's Houses), where teachers from the school (such as painters Kandinsky and Klee) lived, instantly reveals just how much the avant-garde movement pioneered modern architecture. In Berlin, the Bauhaus Archive/Museum of Design (Gropius designed the building himself in 1964) is a must-see. Also see Design for Life (p212).

The Nazis shut down the Bauhaus school in 1932 and rediscovered the pompous and monumental. One of the most successful attempts was Werner March's (1894–1976) Berlin Olympisches Stadion (Berlin Olympic Stadium; 1934) and surrounding features. Work on overhauling the ageing stadium was finished in 2004, with new roofing, restoration of original materials, and the lowering of the playing field to intensify the atmosphere.

COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Unesco's 'Memory of the World' programme safeguards the world's most precious documentary heritage. German contributions include the following:

- A unique collection of 145,000 pieces of worldwide music (excluding Western art and pop) in Berlin's Ethnologisches Museum (Museum of Ethnology), recorded between 1893 and 1952 (listed 1999; p117).
- Goethe's literary estate, stashed in the Goethe and Schiller Archives in Weimar's Stiftung Weimarer Klassik (2001).
- Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the score of which is kept in the Alte Staatsbibliothek (Old National Library in Berlin; 2001; p106).
- The negative of the reconstructed version of Fritz Lang's silent film, *Metropolis* (1927), pieced together from a fragmented original (2001).
- The 1282-page *Gutenberg Bible* – Europe's first book to be printed with moveable type – is one of four of the original 30 to survive. Learn about the digital version at www.gutenbergdigital.de (2001); the original cannot be viewed.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN GERMANY

Following is a list of Germany's fabulous treasures and the years in which their Unesco status was declared:

- Aachen Dom (Cathedral; 1978; p568)
- Augustusburg and Falkenlust castles in Brühl (1984; p561)
- Bamberg (1993; p364)
- Bauhaus sites in Weimar and Dessau (1996; p262 and p212)
- Berlin's Museumsinsel (Museum Island; 1999; p107)
- Bremen Rathaus and Rolandstatue (2004; p642)
- Classical Weimar (1998; p261)
- Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg (1994; p245)
- Cologne Dom (1996; p551)
- Dresden's Elbe Valley (2004; p174)
- Muskau Park in Bad Muskau (2004)
- Garden kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (2000; p215)
- Goslar Altstadt and mines of Rammelsberg (1992; p231 and p232)
- Hildesheim's Dom and St Michaeliskirche (1985; p615)
- Kloster Maulbronn (1993; p421)
- Lorsch Abbey and Altenmünster (1991; p527)
- Lübeck (1987; p683)
- Luther memorials in Eisleben and Lutherstadt Wittenberg (1996; p224 and p217)
- Messel Pit fossil site (1995; p527)
- Potsdam's parks and palaces (1990; p147)
- Regensburg (2006; p378)
- Reichenau Island (2000; p458)
- Speyer's Kaiserdom cathedral (1981; p474)
- Trier's Roman monuments, Dom and Liebfrauenkirche (1986; p497)
- Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes (2005; p28)
- Upper Middle Rhine Valley (2002; p483)
- Völklinger Hütte ironworks (1994; p508)
- Wartburg castle (1999; p270)
- Wieskirche, Wies' pilgrimage church (1983; p345)
- Wismar and Stralsund historic centres (2002; p719 and p722)
- Würzburg's Residence and Court Gardens (1981; p327)
- Zollverein colliery complex in Essen (2001; p573)

The monumental efforts of another political persuasion are captured attractively today in the buildings that line Berlin's (former East German) Frankfurter Allee. Yet another highlight that outlived the country that created it is the 361.5m-high TV tower (1969) on Alexanderplatz. One structure that was much less successful – and has survived history only in fragments – is that most potent symbol of the Cold War – the Berlin Wall.

Experimental design took off in the 1960s in Düsseldorf with Hubert Petschnigg's slender Thyssenhaus (1960), which inspired Tel Aviv's Eliyahu House. In the 1970s Munich was graced with its splendid tent-roofed Olympisches Stadion (1972), which today visitors can scale with a rope and snap hook or abseil down for an architectural kick of the hair-raising sort (see Visitor Service at www.olympiapark.de). In the meantime, Bayern-München football team has sailed over to the Allianz Arena, a remarkable rubber-dinghy-like translucent object that makes a fitting home for 'FC Hollywood'. A flurry of other building and roofing activity in stadiums took place in the lead up to the 2006 World Cup, including an interesting membrane roof supported by steel ropes over Frankfurt's Waldstadion in 2005.

Jugendstil – an alternative name in German for Art Nouveau – takes its name from the arts magazine *Jugend* (the word *Jugend* means youth), first published in Munich in 1896.

Frank Gehry (b 1929) has left exciting imprints on German cities over the past two decades, first through the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein (1989), and later with his wacky Der Neue Zollhof (New Customs House; 1999) in Düsseldorf, the Gehry-Tower (2001) in Hanover, and the DZ Bank (1999) on Berlin's Pariser Platz.

Berlin, of course, is the locus of many of the most contemporary building projects in Germany today. On Potsdamer Platz Italian architect Renzo Piano (b 1937) designed DaimlerCity (1998) and Nuremberg-born Helmut Jahn (b 1940) turned a playful hand to the glass-and-steel Sony Center (2000). Another Jahn creation that raises eyebrows and interest in Berlin is the minimalist and edgy Neues Kranzler Eck (2000).

Berlin Alexanderplatz: The Story of Franz Biberkopf by Alfred Döblin (translated by Eugene Jolas) is a masterful 600-odd-page epic set in the seedy Alexanderplatz district of 1920s Berlin (filmmaker Rainer Fassbinder made a 15-hour film version of it).

Two spectacular successes in Germany designed by American star-architect Daniel Libeskind (b 1946) are Osnabrück's Felix-Nussbaum-Haus (1998) and his more famous zinc-clad zigzag Jüdisches Museum (2001) in Berlin. His transparent wedged extension to the Militärhistorisches Museum in Dresden is scheduled for completion in 2008. Back in Berlin, New York contemporary Peter Eisenman achieved the remarkable by assembling 2700 concrete pillars – it also has a subterranean information centre – to create the haunting Holocaust Memorial (2005).

In 2006, Berlin christened its latest star attraction amid light shows – the vast Hauptbahnhof, a transparent-roofed, multiple-level *Turmbahnhof* (tower station; the lines cross at different levels) that takes glass-and-steel station architecture to new limits. The station was designed by Hamburg-based firm von Gerkan, Marg und Partner, who also designed Swissôtel-Kudamm-Eck (2001) with its eye-catching 70-sq-metre video screen.

The contrast (or collision, depending on your view) of old and new in the extension of Cologne's Wallraf-Richartz-Museum (2001), a design by Oswald Matthias Ungers (b 1926), is a worthy addition to a city with one of the world's most beautiful cathedrals. In 2003 Dresden-born Axel Schultes (b 1943) and Kiel's Charlotte Frank (b 1959), both Berlin-based, won the German Architecture Prize for their design of the Bundeskanzleramt (New Chancellery; 2001) dubbed 'the washing machine' by Berliners. Munich architect Stefan Braunfels (b 1950) masterminded Munich's modernist Pinakothek der Moderne (2002).

The Designpreis der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (German Design Prize) is Germany's prestige award for design. It is given annually in two categories – products and people (www.designpreis.de).

For an interaction of light and architecture, try to catch the Luminale festival in the Rhine-Main region (www.luminale.de), an event in April each year whereby light artists use sound and light to transform buildings, museums and parks into illuminated works of art or 'light laboratories'.

Music

LOVE BALLADS TO 20TH-CENTURY CLASSICAL

German music in the 12th century is closely associated with Walther von der Vogelweide (c 1170–1230), who achieved renown with love ballads. A more formalised troubadour tradition followed, but it was baroque organist Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), born in Eisenach, who influenced early European music most. His legacy can be explored in Leipzig's Bach Museum in the house in which he died. Another museum in Eisenach is dedicated to his life and work.

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685–1759) was a contemporary of Bach who hailed from Halle in Saxony-Anhalt (his house is also now a museum), but lived and worked almost exclusively in London from 1714.

Händel's music found favour in the circle of Vienna Classic composers, and it was Joseph Haydn (1732–1809) who taught Bonn-born Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827), whose work reflects the Enlightenment. Beethoven is also the most important of the composers who paved the way for Romanticism.

Fourteen informative essays bring the vibrant musical age of Luther et al alive in the 300-page-plus *Music in the German Renaissance,* edited by John Kmetz.

Among the Romantic composers, Hamburg-born Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–47) is hailed as a sheer genius. He penned his first overture at the age of 17 and later dug up works by JS Bach to give the latter the fame he enjoys today.

Born in Leipzig, dying in Venice, Richard Wagner (1813–83) dominates 19th-century music like no other person. Other composers ignored him at their peril. Hitler, who picked up on an anti-Semitic essay and some late-life ramblings on German virtues, famously turned Wagner into a post-mortem Nazi icon. A summer music festival in Bayreuth celebrates Wagner's life and works (p369).

Hamburg brought forth Johannes Brahms (1833–97) and his influential symphonies, chamber and piano works. Two figures whose legacies can be explored today in cities such as Bonn, Leipzig and Zwickau are composer Robert Schumann (1810–56) and his gifted pianist-spouse Clara Wieck (1819–96). Schumann (born in Zwickau) and Wieck (born in Leipzig) are buried in Bonn's Alter Friedhof (p565). Pulsating 1920s Berlin ushered in Vienna-born Arnold Schönberg (1874–1951), inventor of a new tonal relationship that turned music on its head. One of his pupils, Hanns Eisler (1898–1962), went into exile in 1933 but returned to East Berlin to teach in 1950. Among his works was the East German national anthem, Auferstanden aus Ruinen (Resurrected from Ruins), lyric-less from 1961 when its pro-unification words fell out of favour with party honchos.

Hanau-born Paul Hindemith (1895–1963) was banned by the Nazis and composed his most important orchestral compositions outside his homeland. The **Hindemith Institute** (www.hindemith.org) in Frankfurt-am-Main promotes his music and safeguards his estate. Perhaps better-known is Dessau-born Kurt Weill (1900–50), another composer who fled the Nazi terror. He teamed up with Berthold Brecht (p66) in the 1920s and wrote the music for *Die Moritat von Mackie Messer* (Mack the Knife) in Brecht's *Dreigroschenoper* (Threepenny Opera). Weill ended up in New York where he wrote successful Broadway musicals.

Germany's most prestigious orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (1882), was shaped by conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler (1886–1954) and, from 1954 until his death in 1989, the illustrious Herbert von Karajan (1908–89). Dresden Opera Orchestra and the Leipzig Orchestra are also important stops on the classical trail. The young Kammersymphonie Berlin (Berlin Chamber Symphony), established in 1991, recaptures the multifaceted music scene of 1920s Berlin through its focus on less common orchestral works. Acclaimed (and glamorous) German violinist, Anne-Sophie Mutter (b 1963), gave her first solo performance with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra (founded 1966) at the age of 14 and made her first recording with the Berlin Philharmonic a year later.

CONTEMPORARY

The tempestuous Schumanns inspired filmmakers worldwide: Katherine Hepburn played Clara in Clarence Brown's *Song of Love* (1947), and Berlin-born Nastassja Kinski starred alongside pop idol Herbert Grönemeyer in Peter Schamoni's *Fruehlingssinfonie* (Spring Symphony; 1999).

Jazz is popular in Germany, and most towns have a jazz club or two. The group Berlin Voices blends modern jazz, pop, Latin, soul and gospel in very strong performances, whether it be covering Billy Joel in new ways, exploring Manhattan Transfer rhythms, or performing their own stuff. Till Brönner (b 1971) – who studied at the Cologne Music School – has trumpeted, sung and composed his way to renown, recording his *Oceana* album (2006) in Los Angeles with contributions from Madeleine Peyroux (b 1974) and singing Italian model Carla Bruni (b 1968). The guitar-based (but backed with percussion and bass) M&M delivers a funky jazz sound mixed with Western and classical guitar. These contemporaries complement the soaring sounds of musicians such as Albert Mangelsdorff (b 1928), saxophonist Heinz Sauer (b 1932), and Klaus Doldinger (b 1936) who formed the legendary fusion band Passport. JazzFest Berlin brings the best of German and European jazz to the capital each November (p124).

One big question facing most German rock bands is whether to sing in German, English or both. Scorpions, probably the most successful band abroad, sang in English. Two other highly successful bands abroad that didn't really have this dilemma were the (mostly) instrumental Tangerine Dream and Kraftwerk. Tangerine Dream has the honour of being the first band to cut a chart success with Virgin Records in the 1970s. About three decades before its time, Düsseldorf-based Kraftwerk created the musical foundations for techno which in turn spawned Berlin's legendary techno-orientated Love Parade (p124) in 1989.

For more information, practical and historical, on the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra tune into www.berlin-philharmonic.com.

Remarkably, both bands are still active, but to witness what a new generation has done, visit Sven Väth's Cocoon Club in Frankfurt (p523), catch the Love Parade if it survives beyond 2006, or look for gigs by musician/DJs Ian Pooley, Paul van Dyk or Westbam.

Members of the Neue Deutsche Welle (NDW, German New Wave) always sang in German – although Nena, its tame international mothership, successfully recorded her hit single 99 Luftballons in English, too. The movement spawned the Hamburg School of Musicians, which later washed to the surface of Hamburg's lively music and arts scene. Recognised acts such as Blumfeld, Die Sterne and the Tocotronic are all still going strong since emerging in the 1990s. Die-hard legends gathering no moss are Germany's most enduring punk band, Düsseldorf-based Die Toten Hosen; punk queen Nina Hagen (whose transformations still seem ahead of their time); and Die Ärzte. Meanwhile, Herbert Grönemeyer, 'Germany's Springsteen' (also a decent actor) and leather legend Udo Lindenberg (who has resided in Hamburg's Hotel Atlantic longer than many of us have been alive) are still thriving. Grönemeyer's 2002 album *Mensch* was a monster hit, and he more recently composed and sang the anthem for the football World Cup in 2006.

Watch the videos and hear the music of Germany's most influential techno band at www.kraftwerk.com.

German bands often move to Hamburg, or in many cases to Berlin, to plug into the music scene and break through. Giessen-bred Juli is one soft-rock band that works out of Hamburg, where the sound is often more melodic. Bautzen-born Silbermond is based in Berlin. Towering above these two newcomers is Wir Sind Helden, considered one of the best pop-rock bands around in Germany at the moment.

Element of Crime, led by multitalented Sven Regener (b 1961), has probably had more influence on the arts spectrum than anyone else, having composed and played scores for films including Leander Haussmann's *Sonnenallee* (Sun Alley) and *Herr Lehmann* (Regener wrote the book and script of the latter). All-girl feminist punk band, Chicks on Speed – a trio of gals from Munich, New York and rural Australia – are also good fun.

EXPLORING GERMAN MUSIC – IN 10 CDS

Stack your CD player with the following, sit back and take a whirlwind tour through German musical history:

- *Crusaders: In Nomine Domini & German Choral Song around 1600* by various composers (Christophorus label)
- *Brandenburg Concertos* by JS Bach
- 'Water Music' by Handel
- *Beethoven: Nine Symphonies* performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
- *Tannhäuser und der Sägerkrieg auf dem Wartburg* (Tannhäuser and the Song Contest of the Wartburg) by Richard Wagner
- *Brahms: Violin Concerto, Double Concerto* performed by Anne-Sophie Mutter, Antonio Meneses and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
- *Ataraxia* by Passport (sax and jazzy stuff; 2002)
- *Tour de France Soundtracks* by Kraftwerk (track No 9 is about a heart monitor)
- *In Between & The Remixes: 1997–2000* by Jazzanova (the second is the breakbeat–jazz lounge act's own debut album)
- *99 Cents* by Chicks on Speed (punk, funk and fashion fused)

The rap scene in Germany is never short of a protagonist and a tough plot – Germany has lots of rappers, some of dubious quality and politics. Heidelberg's Advanced Chemistry and Stuttgart-bred Die Fantastischen Vier are the mild-mannered godfathers of the form in Germany (some would say still the best), paving the way for a younger, more sinewy breed of Gangsta rappers like Bushido, the Berlin-based Sido, or Frankfurt-based Azad. Deichkind, a foursome from Hamburg, has some of the best lyrics. Mannheim has produced a raft of hard-nosed rappers; interestingly – and evident by his prose style – writer Feridun Zaimoglu (p63) emerged from a small, ethnic-Turk rap scene in Kiel.

Find reviews for the latest contemporary German titles to be translated into English at www.new-books-in-german.com.

Literature

EARLY LITERATURE

Oral literature during the reign of Charlemagne (c 800) and secular epics performed by 12th-century knights are the earliest surviving literary forms today, but the man who shook up the literary language was Martin Luther, whose 16th-century translation of the Bible set the stage for German writers.

In the 17th century, Christoph Martin Wieland (1733–1813) penned his *Geschichte des Agathon* (Agathon; 1766–67), a landmark in German literature because it was the first *Bildungsroman* (a novel showing the development of the hero); Wieland was also the first to translate Shakespeare into German.

Luther said, 'Look at their gobs to find out how they speak, then translate so they understand and see you're speaking to them in German.'

Shortly after Wieland was summoned to Weimar in 1772, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) rose to become Germany's most powerful literary figure, later joining forces with Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805) in a celebrated period known as Weimarer Klassik (Weimar classicism; p266).

Writing in Goethe's lifetime, the lyricist and early Romantic poet, Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843), created delicate balance and rhythms. Interestingly, he was largely ignored from the mid-19th century, only to be rediscovered in the early 20th century and to be misused by Hitler for Nazi propaganda.

A 600km-long Fairy-Tale Road (p536) leads literary travellers around Germany in the footsteps of the Grimm brothers, Jakob (1785–1863) and

Wilhelm (1786–1859). Serious academics who wrote *German Grammar* and *History of the German Language,* they're best known for their collection of fairy tales, myths and legends.

The Complete Fairy Tales by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm is a beautiful collection of 210 fairy tales, passed orally between generations and collected by German literature's most magical brothers.

The Düsseldorf-born Heinrich Heine (1797–1856) produced one of Germany's finest collections of poems when he published *Buch der Lieder* (Book of Songs) in 1827, but it was his politically scathing *Deutschland: Ein Wintermärchen* (Germany: A Winter's Tale) that contributed to his work being banned in 1835. By that time, Heine – one of Germany's most famous Jews – was in Paris, in love with an illiterate salesgirl, and was surrounded by pesky German spies.

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY

The Weimar years witnessed the flowering of Lübeck-born Thomas Mann (1875–1955), recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1929, whose greatest novels focus on social forms of the day. For Mann, 'Germany's first lady' was writer and poet Ricarda Huch (1864–1947), a courageous opponent of Nazism. Mann's older brother, Heinrich (1871–1950), adopted a stronger political stance than Thomas in his work; his *Professor Unrat* (1905) provided the raw material for the Marlene Dietrich film *Der Blaue Engel* (The Blue Angel; opposite).

A vivid picture of mid-19th-century German society is painted in Heinrich Heine's *Deutschland: Ein Wintermärchen* (Germany: A Winter's Tale), based on a trip the writer took from Aachen to Hamburg.

Berlin's underworld during the Weimar Republic served as a focus for Alfred Döblin's (1878–1957) novel *Berlin Alexanderplatz* (1929). Hermann Hesse (1877–1962), another Nobel prize winner, adopted the theme of the outsider in *Steppenwolf* (1927) and imbued New Romantic spirituality into his work after a journey to India in 1911. Osnabrück-born Erich Maria Remarque's (1898–1970) antiwar novel *Im Westen nichts Neues* (All Quiet on the Western Front; 1929) was banned in 1933 and remains one of the most widely read German books.

Of the generation writing today, Günter Grass (b 1927) is the most celebrated. Grass burst into the literary limelight with his first novel, *Die Blechtrommel* (Tin Drum; 1959) and is almost as much an icon as Social Democrat Willy Brandt, for whom he ghost-wrote in the 1970s.

Although East Germany no longer exists, fortunately most of its best writers still do. Christa Wolf (b 1929) is the best known and most controversial; she admitted to working as an informer for East Germany's secret police briefly in the late 1950s before the state got heavy on artists, and she later spoke out for dissidents. Like Wolf, Sarah Kirsch (b 1935) supported the cause of singer and songwriter Wolf Biermann (b 1936) during the furore that led to his loss of GDR citizenship.

Meaty Thomas Mann starters include *Buddenbrooks,* a look at declining bourgeois values; *Der Zauberberg* (Magic Mountain), which links personal and social illness around the time of WWI; and the menacing *Doktor Faustus* in which the central character exchanges health and love for creative fulfilment.

Thomas Brüssig (b 1965), a novelist and screenwriter from Berlin, rose to prominence in the mid-1990s with *Helden wie Wir* (Heros like Us; 1995). He also wrote the screenplay for the film *Sonnenallee* (p65) and is a member of the Lübeck-based Gruppe 05 – co-founded in 2005 by Günter Grass with other writers to get more young scribes involved in politics. Other members of the group whose works reward exploration include Burkhard Spinnen (b 1957), who has published more than a dozen novels and essays; and novelist, poet and essayist Matthias Politycki (b 1955).

Skipping back to a few relative old-timers for a moment, a trio of contemporary literary figures was born in 1944 – the strongly mystic Botho Strauss, crime novelist and Berlin professor Bernard Schlink (whose books have won prizes and much praise), and novelist WG Sebald (1944–2001) who assured his place as one of Germany's best writers with his powerful portrayal of four exiles in *Die Ausgewanderten* (Emigrants). Munich-based writer and playwright, Patrick Süskind (b 1949) achieved international acclaim with his *Das Parfum* (Perfume), his extraordinary tale of a psychotic 18th-century perfume-maker.

Russian-born Vladimir Kaminer (b 1967) is a popular and interesting author who hit Berlin in the early 1990s, started a regular disco with Russian beats in Berlin's Mitte district, and published his first collection of stories under the title *Russendisko* (Russian Disco; 2000). Today he tours regularly on readings and continues to spin vinyl at the disco and elsewhere. His collection of anecdotal travel stories, *Mein deutsches Dschungelbuch* (My German Junglebook; 2003), is a recent and highly enjoyable addition to his works.

Pick up *Der geteilte Himmel* (Divided Heaven), by East German writer Christa Wolf, to discover the fate of a woman's love for a man who fled to West Germany.

Feridun Zaimoglu (b 1964) is Turkish-born, wrote an inaccessible first novel using the language of German rap (*Kanak Sprak;* 1995) and since then has become one of Germany's most important new generation of writers, producing a handful of eclectic novels and short stories. He is also one of its most vocal and incisive on social issues. His novel *Leyla* (2006) is about a girl growing up in Turkey in the 1950s and 1960s. Zaimoglu copped flak in 2006 for similarities to a novel by fellow Turkish-German author and playwright Emine Sevgi Özdamar (b 1946), whose *Das Leben ist eine Karawanserei* (Life is a Kervansaray; 1992) was *Times Literary Supplement* Novel of the Year in 1994.

So sind wir (That's the Way We Are; 2005) and earlier works by Gila Lustiger (b 1963), as well as *Berliner Verhältnisse* (Berlin Affairs; 2005) by Raul Zelik (b 1968) and *33 Augenblicke des Glücks* (33 Moments of Happiness; 1995) by Ingo Schulze (b 1962), will reward deeper exploration.

Cinema

German film is happening again. After a couple of years in which it seemed to pause for breath and seek new directions, the industry is bringing out quality productions and film-goers are rediscovering German cinema, which nevertheless only accounts for about 20% of box office sales.

Read *Simplicissimus* (Adventures of a Simpleton) by Hans Jacob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen as an appetiser to the German novel.

Local directors can draw upon a rich heritage out of the UFA (Universum Film AG; German film studios) studio in Babelsberg (Potsdam), founded in 1911 and now a large studio and multimedia complex on the fringe of Berlin. One early classic is Fritz Lang's silent proletarian classic *Metropolis* (1927), about a subterranean proletarian subclass – it's the first film to use back projection.

In the early 1930s film *Der Blaue Engel* (Blue Angel; 1930), directed by Josef von Sternberg, Marlene Dietrich (p64) wooed an audience with hypnotic sensuality and became a star overnight. The 1930s were productive but difficult years. The premier of Fritz Lang's talkie, *Das Testament des Dr Mabuse* (Testament of Dr Mabuse; 1933), about a psychiatric patient with plans to take over the world, had to be shifted to Austria because of some out-of-joint Nazi noses. Hitler would also drive acting greats like Peter Lorre (1904–64; an ethnic German Hungarian) and Billy Wilder (1906–2002; an ethnic Austro-German who wrote scripts in Berlin) to Hollywood exile.

Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1927) stands out as an ambitious cinema classic. A silent science-fiction film, it depicts the revolt of a proletarian class that lives underground (see also p152).

In the 1960s film again entered a new age that brought forth the German New Wave movement (Der Junge Deutsche Film) and directors Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1946–82), Wim Wenders (b 1945), Volker Schlöndorff (b 1939), Werner Herzog (b 1942) and director-actor Margarethe von Trotta (b 1942). All except Fassbinder, Germany's *enfant terrible* of film who lived hard and left behind a cocaine-spiked wreck, are working today. The resonance of Fassbinder's *Die Sehnsucht der Veronika Voss* (Longing of Veronica Voss; 1981), Wenders' narrative classics *Paris Texas* (1984) and *Der Himmel über Berlin* (Wings of Desire; 1987), Herzog's *Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes* (Aguirre, the Wrath of God; 1972) and Schlöndorff's film rendition of the Günter Grass novel *Die Blechtrommel* (Tin Drum; 1979) can still be felt in local productions today.

A film from the 1990s that towered above all others was Tom Tykwer's electric-paced *Lola Rennt* (Run Lola Run; 1998), staring one of Germany's

MARLENE DIETRICH

Marlene Dietrich (1901–92), born Marie Magdalena von Losch into a good middle-class family in Berlin, was the daughter of a Prussian officer. After acting school, she worked in the silent film industry in the 1920s, stereotyped as a hard-living, libertine flapper. But she soon carved a niche in the film fantasies of lower-middle-class men as the dangerously seductive *femme fatale,* best typified by her appearance in the 1930 talkie *Der Blaue Engel* (Blue Angel), which turned her into a Hollywood star.

The film was the start of a five-year collaboration with director Josef von Sternberg, during which time she built on her image of erotic opulence – dominant and severe, but always with a touch of self-irony. Dressed in men's suits for *Marocco* in 1930, she lent her 'sexuality is power' attitude bisexual tones, winning a new audience overnight.

Dietrich stayed in Hollywood after the Nazi rise to power, though Hitler, no less immune to her charms, reportedly promised perks and the red-carpet treatment if she moved back to Germany. She responded with an empty offer to return if she could bring Sternberg – a Jew and no Nazi favourite. She took US citizenship in 1937 and sang on the front to Allied GIs.

After the war, Dietrich retreated slowly from the public eye, making occasional appearances in films, but mostly cutting records and performing live. Her final years were spent in Paris, bedridden and accepting few visitors, immortal in spirit as mortality caught up with her.

Der Blaue Engel (Blue Angel; 1930) tells the tragic tale of a pedantic professor who is hopelessly infatuated with a sexy cabaret singer. Watch this to see the vamp image that Marlene Dietrich enjoyed all her life.

finest actors today, Franka Potente (b 1974). Tykwer's film based on the Patrick Süskind novel *Das Parfum* (Perfume: The Story of a Murderer; 2006) is set to become another landmark for the director.

Die fetten Jahre sind Vorbei (Edukators; 2004) is arguably Germany's most underrated film. This Austro-German co-production by Austrian director Hans Weingartner, staring German actors Daniel Brühl and Julia Jentsch, brings together an anarchist new generation with an ex-hippy-cum-businessman in a kidnapping imbroglio with lots of telling twists. Marc Rothemund's (b 1968) highly acclaimed *Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage* (Sophie Scholl: The Final Days; 2005) portrays the interrogation, trial and judgement of Scholl's brave act of resistance against Nazism through her own eyes (see p302). Another highly esteemed production is director Fatih Akin's (b 1973) *Gegen die Wand* (Head-On; 2004), which brings the Turkish ethnic scene to the fore when a young ethnic-Turkish woman rebels against her upbringing by marrying a much older, down-at-heel German.

Read what the critics say about 500-plus German films at www.german-cinema.de.

The most visible international face of contemporary German film is Wolfgang Becker's laconic and highly successful *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003), with its re-creation of GDR life for a bed-ridden mother. Oliver Hirschbiegel's (b 1957) *Der Untergang* (Downfall; 2004) is a chilling account of Hitler's last 12 days – from his final birthday to his suicide – mostly in his Berlin bunker. It caused a furore in Germany because some people thought it portrayed Hitler too harmlessly. The performance of Swiss Bruno Ganz (b 1941) as Hitler is undeniably brave and stunning.

Other films that have gained kudos at recent Berlin International Film Festival screenings – Germany's premier film awards – are the disconcerting *Requiem* (2005) from director Hans-Christian Schmid (b 1965), about a true case of exorcism; Andreas Dresen's (b 1963) *Sommer vorm Balkon* (Summer in Berlin; 2004), a quirky relationship film set one summer in Berlin; and director Oskar Roehler's (b 1959) *Elementarteilchen* (Elementary Particles; 2005) based on the novel by French author Michel Houellebecq.

A film that scooped more awards than any other in 2006 was Florian von Donnersmarck's (b 1973) *Das Leben der Anderen* (Lives of Others; 2006), portraying the Stasi and its network of informants five years prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Berlin's Babelsberg studio complex and film museums in Berlin and Frankfurt-am-Main are good starting points for anything to do with the German film tradition.

Television

For a general overview of media, see p50.

Social etiquette in Germany demands that you never telephone a friend at 8pm – this is when the state-funded ARD broadcasts its *Tagesschau* news programme. German TV itself is unlikely knock you off your lounge room chair, but it will give some interesting insights into the country. Big Brother achieved monumental heights of tedium in its heyday, and reality TV is still a force today, especially when it comes to raising difficult children or swapping your family.

The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl (1993), directed by Ray Muller, is a stunning three-hour biographical epic of Hitler's most famous filmmaker. Highlights include pieces to camera by a 90-year-old Riefenstahl.

At the high end, one area where Germany excels is in pan-European broadcasting, such as its Kulturzeit (Culture Age; 3Sat, various times) collaboration with Austria and Switzerland, and the ARTE channel collaboration with France.

The long-running *Tatort* (ARD, 8.15pm Sunday) police series is a top-rating show that rotates between a dozen or more German cities, plus Vienna. The opening music and graphic is original from the first show in 1970. The Cologne and Berlin productions are top-notch, often wry and up to the standard of a mini cinema production.

Although production stopped in 1998, the crime classic *Derrick* remains the most successful German TV production ever. However, with episodes like 'The Manure Fork Murder' and 'Death in Lingerie', *Der Bulle von Tölz* (Sat1, 8.15pm Wednesday) is an unlikely success, especially as it's set in bucolic Bad Tölz (p323); the main character, Kommissar Berghammer (played by Ottfried Fischer), lends his weight to the show's moniker as the 'corpulent crime series'.

Watch the news with ZDF at www.zdf.de or ARD at www.ard.de (in German).

Germany's most influential current affairs TV show is broadcast on ARD at 9.45pm each Sunday, and is usually studded with a half dozen prominent guests.

TOP FIVE GDR RETRO FILMS

- Leander Haussmann's *Sonnenallee* (Sun Alley; 1999) is set in a fantastical Wall-clad East Berlin in the 1970s, and evokes everything nostalgic for the former GDR.
- *Helden wie wir* (Heroes like Us; 1999) directed by Sebastian Peterson, based on the novel by Thomas Brussig, sees the protagonist (who claims to have been Erich Honecker's personal blood donor) recount the story of his life, including how his penis allegedly leads to the collapse of the Berlin Wall.
- Dull lives are led in dull Frankfurt an der Oder in dull East Germany – until Ellen and Chris are caught doing it. Laughs abound in *Halbe Trepe* (Grill Point; 2001), directed by East German–born Andreas Dresen.
- The Wall falls the day the bartending lead actor hits 30 in West Berlin's bohemian Kreuzberg district. Haussmann's humorous *Herr Lehmann* (Berlin Blues; 2003) is based on a cult book by the Element of Crime lead singer Sven Regener.
- *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003), the box-office smash hit by Wolfgang Becker, has cult status as a son tries to re-create the GDR for a bedridden ailing mother whose health can't stand the shock of a fallen Wall.

For more on Ostalgie, see p44.

Theatre

With more than 6000 stages across the country, Germany is a paradise for the theatre-goer. Most plays are staged in multipurpose theatres (opera and music will often be performed there too) and are subsidised by the state. The average theatre in the network of city, regional and national spaces will put on about 20 or more plays each year.

Past masters of the Enlightenment who frequently get a showing include Saxony's Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729–81); Württemberg-born Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805), who features especially strongly in Weimar's theatre landscape today; and of course Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who tinkered with his two-part *Faust* for 60 years of his life and created one of Germany's most powerful and enduring dramas about the human condition.

Read what's on the box this week with the online German TV programme guide at www.tvtv.de (in German).

Georg Büchner's (1813–37) *Woyzeck* is another popular piece and, having anticipated Theatre of the Absurd, lends itself to innovative staging. In 1894 the director of Berlin's Deutsches Theater hired a young actor, Max Reinhardt (1873–1943), who became German theatre's most influential expressionist director, working briefly with dramatist Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956). Both men went into exile under Nazism – Brecht to try his hand at a couple of Hollywood scripts and to answer for his vaguely Marxist politics before the House Committee on Un-American Activities during the McCarthy-era witch hunts. Brecht's *Leben des Galilei* (Life of Galileo; 1943/47) was rewritten with a new ending after atomic bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was first performed in Beverly Hills.

The definitive read for anyone interested in a more detailed account of the rise of German theatre is Michael Patterson's hard-to-find but worth-the-search *The First German Theatre: Schiller, Goethe, Kleist and Büchner in Performance*.

The Augsburg-born dramatist (his birthplace is a pilgrimage site today) returned after WWII to East Berlin and in the 1950s he created the Berliner Ensemble (p140), a venue that produced his plays and became one of the capital's most vibrant theatres. See below for more details about Brecht.

Heiner Müller (1929–95), a Marxist who was critical of the reality of the GDR, became unpalatable in both Germanys in the 1950s. In the 1980s, existential works such as *Quartet* (1980) earned him an avant-garde label.

BERTOLT BRECHT

Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956) is Germany's most controversial 20th-century playwright, poet and drama theorist. He wrote his first play, *Baal,* while studying medicine in Munich in 1918. His first opus to reach the stage, *Trommeln in der Nacht* (Drums in the Night; 1922), won the coveted Kleist Prize, and two years later he moved to the Deutsches Theater in Berlin to work with the Austrian actor and director Max Reinhardt.

Over the next decade, in plays such as *Die Dreigroschenoper* (Threepenny Opera; 1928), Brecht developed his theory of 'epic theatre', which, unlike 'dramatic theatre', forces its audience to detach itself emotionally from the play and its characters and to reason intellectually.

A staunch Marxist, Brecht went into exile during the Nazi years, surfaced in Hollywood as a scriptwriter, then left the USA after being called in to explain himself during the communist witch-hunts of the McCarthy era. The exile years produced many of his best plays: *Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder* (Mother Courage and Her Children; 1941), *Leben des Galilei* (Life of Galileo; 1943/47), *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan* (Good Woman of Setzuan; 1943) and *Der Kaukasische Kreidekreis* (Caucasian Chalk Circle; 1948).

Brecht returned to East Berlin in 1949 where he founded the Berliner Ensemble with his wife, the actress Helene Weigel, who directed it until her death in 1971. During his lifetime Brecht was suspected both in the East for his unorthodox aesthetic theories and scorned (and often boycotted) in much of the West for his communist principles. Others again saw him as a pragmatist and opportunist. His influence, however, is indisputable. Brecht's poetry, so little known in English, is also a fascinating string in the bow of German literature.

In the 1960s, Berlin director Rudolf Noelte (1921–2002) took centre stage as the master of German postwar theatre.

Directors like Peter Stein (b 1937) have earned contemporary German theatre its reputation for producing classic plays in an innovative and provocative manner. One of the Jungen Wilden (Young Wild Ones) in the 1970s and 1980s, Stein founded Berlin's Schaubühne (p140) theatre as a collective in 1970 (even the cleaner had a say as to what went on) and today it is one of Germany's best.

Also in the capital, Berlin-born Frank Castorf (b 1951) is arguably Germany's most dynamic contemporary director, heading up Berlin's Volksbühne (p140) and piecing together innovative productions in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Christoph Schlingensief (b 1960) is the best-known of Germany's new breed, having staged productions at Berlin's Volksbühne and elsewhere; he's also active in film and action art. In 2004 he directed Wagner's *Parsifal* (Perceval) at the Bayreuth festival, raising Cain with critics and traditionalists alike – including his own Perceval actor, with whom a public brawl developed about Schlingensief's production style. His production was well-received, and he was back in Bayreuth in 2005 to great acclaim.

Read up-to-date reviews of the latest plays by German playwrights at www.goethe.de/enindex.htm.

Some of the contemporary playwrights to watch out for especially are Munich-born, Berlin-based Rainald Goetz (b 1954); Werner Fritsch (b 1960), whose dark plays portray a violent world, occasionally veering on the obscene; Simone Schneider (b 1962); and Moritz Rinke (b 1967).

Environment

THE LAND

Germany is not just about the Black Forest, the Alps and the Rhine River. Across its 356,866 sq km, Europe's fourth largest country boasts moor and heath, mud flats and chalk cliffs, glacial lakes and river wetlands. Hugged by Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark, the country is mountainous in the south, but flat in the north. Indeed, many visitors are surprised to learn Germany even possesses low-lying islands and sandy beaches.

True, the stereotypes have been forged in the south, where you'll find the 2962m Zugspitze, the highest peak, as well as the famous mountain resort of Berchtesgaden. However, only a small section of the Alps falls within Germany – compared to neighbouring Austria and Switzerland – and it's all in Bavaria. In the wooded mountain range of the Schwarzwald (Black Forest), in Baden Württemberg to the west, nothing rises above 1500m.

Bound to be controversial, the 2005 book *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich* by Franz-Josef Bruggemeier, Mark Cioc and Thomas Zeller (eds) takes a look at the Nazis' love of the great outdoors and explores how fascist and conservationist practices overlap.

Starting its journey in Switzerland and travelling through Lake Constance, Germany's largest lake, the 1320km Rhine River winds its way around the Black Forest, before crawling up the west side of the map to drain into the North Sea. The Elbe, Oder and other German rivers likewise flow north, but the Danube flows east.

Moving towards the central belt, you'll find the most memorable vineyards and hiking areas in the warmer valleys around the Moselle River. Just north of here, the land was formed by volcanic activity. To the east, south of Berlin, you'll find the holiday area of the Spreewald, a picturesque wetland with narrow, navigable waterways.

Where Germany meets Holland in the northwest and Denmark in the north, the land is flat; the westerly North Sea coast consists partly of drained land and dykes. To the east, the Baltic Sea coast is first riddled with bays and fjords in Schleswig-Holstein, before it gives way to sandy inlets and beaches. On the country's northeastern tip, Rügen, its largest island, is renowned like England's Dover for its chalk cliffs.

WILDLIFE

Like most Western European countries, Germany has few large animals still living in the wild. Of the 76 German mammals studied for the 'Red List' of endangered or extinct species, 16% are in danger of dying out. However, wildlife watchers needn't despair, there are plenty of healthy smaller critters.

Animals

Snow hares, marmots and wild goats are easily found in the Alps (the marmot below the tree line, the goat and snow hare above it). The chamois is also fairly common in this neck of the woods, as well as in pockets of the Black Forest, the Swabian Alps and Elbsandsteingebirge (Sächsische Schweiz), south of Dresden.

Autobahns and animals are not a good mix, but luckily Germany is one of the leading countries for building wildlife overpasses or 'green bridges' across motorways. More than 40 are now complete.

A rare but wonderful Alpine treat for patient bird-watchers is the sighting of a golden eagle; Berchtesgaden National Park staff might be able to help you find one. The jay, with its darting flight patterns and calls imitating other species, is easy to spot in the Alpine foothills. Look for flashes of blue on its wings.

Pesky but sociable racoons, a common non-native species, scoot about eastern Germany, and soon let hikers know if they have been disturbed with a shrill whistle-like sound. Beavers can be found in wetlands near the Elbe River. Seals are common on the North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts.

The north coast also lures migratory birds. From March to May and August to October they particularly stop over in Schleswig-Holstein's Wattenmeer National Park and the Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park whilst going to and from southerly regions. Forests everywhere provide a habitat for a wide variety of songbirds, as well as woodpeckers.

Some animals are staging a comeback. Sea eagles, practically extinct in western Germany, are becoming more plentiful in the east, as are falcons, white storks and cranes. The east also sees wolves, which regularly cross the Oder River from Poland, and European moose, which occasionally appear on moors and in mixed forests.

The wild cat has returned to the Harz Mountains and other forested regions, but you shouldn't expect to see the related lynx. Having died out here in the 19th century, lynx were reintroduced in the 1980s, only to be illegally hunted to extinction again. Today, a few populate the Bavarian Forest National Park, although chances of seeing one in the wild are virtually zero.

Deer are still around, although with dwindling natural habitat and their shrinking gene pool, the **Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung** (German Wild Animal Foundation; www.deutschewildtierstiftung.de) has expressed concern for the animal's future.

The highly unlikely title *Animals in the Third Reich: Pets, Scapegoats, and the Holocaust* by Klaus P Fischer and Boria Sax looks at the treatment of animals under Hitler's Third Reich and Nazism's symbolic use of nature for its own twisted means.

Owls of the World: Their Lives, Behaviour and Survival by James R Duncan makes the ideal companion for wildlife enthusiasts out to spot Germany's eagle-owls, Eurasian pygmy owls and other owl species.

Plants

Studded with beech, oak, birch, chestnut (mostly of the inedible horse-chestnut variety), lime, maple and ash trees, German forests are beautiful places to escape the madding crowds and relax. Mixed deciduous forest carpets river valleys at lower altitudes, and coniferous species grow thicker as you ascend. One-third of Germany's 3000 species of native ferns and flowering plants might be endangered, but you wouldn't realise it here.

Waldfrüchte (berries) are particularly colourful, but for the most part poisonous. The same applies to mushrooms, which are essential for the development of healthy root systems in trees, especially in deciduous forests. Chanterelle *(Pfifferlinge)* mushrooms are a seasonal culinary delight.

Alpine regions burst with wildflowers – orchids, cyclamen, gentians, pulsatilla, alpine roses, edelweiss and buttercups. Meadow species colour spring and summer, and great care is taken these days not to cut pastures until plants have seeded. Visitors should stick to paths, especially in alpine areas and coastal dunes where ecosystems are fragile. In late August, heather blossom is the particular lure of Lüneburg Heath, northeast of Hanover.

Consisting mainly of firs and pines, the Black Forest derives its name from the dark appearance of these conifers, especially when seen from the hillsides.

SETTING FREE THE BEAR?

Although the bear is the symbol of the capital, Berlin, the wild animal hasn't lived on German soil since 1835. That changed briefly in 2006, when a brown bear wandered into Bavaria. However, the short life of 'Bruno', as he was christened by tabloid newspapers like *Bild,* was a rather sad footnote to history.

Bruno (officially codenamed JJ1) was part of a programme to reintroduce bears to the Italian Alps when he ambled into Germany and became the first wild bear there for more than 170 years. Spotted by local photographers, he became a media celebrity, sometimes vying with the football World Cup 2006 for headlines.

Animal rights activists began a strenuous campaign to protect the bear, hoping to capture him alive and move him. Farmers, however, started blaming Bruno for killing livestock, and because of a perceived risk to humans the Bavarian government gave the go-ahead to shoot him…which eventually hunters did.

Even after his death, the WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature) hopes it can leverage the public affection Bruno engendered to establish a sensible bear repopulation programme in Germany. But for some Germans the story of Bruno is an unedifying episode they'd just rather forget.

NATIONAL PARKS

Flora and Vegetation of the Wadden Sea Islands and Coastal Areas, by KS Diikema (ed) and WJ Wolff (ed), remains indispensable for anyone spending time in any of the three Wattenmeer (Wadden Sea) national parks.

The country's vast and varied landscapes are protected to varying degrees by 90 nature parks, 13 biosphere reserves and 14 national parks (detailed in the table below), although only 0.04% of land is fully protected. In western Germany, the Upper Middle Rhine Valley is safeguarded as a Unesco World Heritage Area to prevent further damage.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Germans are the original Greens. They cannot claim to have invented environmentalism, but they were there at the outset and it was they who coined the word to describe the movement. A few 'Values', or 'Ecology' parties were knocking around beforehand, but it was the group of politicians associated with Rudi Dutschke, Petra Kelly and artist Joseph Beuys who first hit on the name The Greens (Die Grünen) when contesting local and national elections in 1979 and 1980. They gained a strong foothold in Bremen, and other political groups across the world decided they quite liked the moniker. The rest, as they say, is history (see p42 for more on Die Grünen).

For comprehensive national park details and hot links to park websites, surf www.germany-tourism.de.

National Park & Website	Features	Activities	Best Time to Visit	Page
Bavarian Forest www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de	mountain forest & upland moors (243 sq km): deer, hazel grouse, foxes, otters, eagle-owls, Eurasian pygmy owls	walking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, botany	spring & winter	p388
Berchtesgaden www.nationalpark-berchtesgaden.de	lakes, subalpine spruce, salt mines & ice caves (210 sq km): eagles, golden eagles, marmots, blue hares,	wildlife, walking, skiing	spring & winter	p351
Eifel www.nationalpark-eifel.de	beech forest (110 sq km): wild cats, beavers, kingfishers, wild yellow narcissus	wildlife, flora, hiking, hydrotherapy spa	spring & summer	p571
Hainich www.nationalpark-hainich.de	mixed deciduous forest (76 sq km): beech trees, black storks, wild cats, rare bats	walking	spring	p270
Hamburg Wadden Sea www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de	mud flats with meadows & sand dunes (120 sq km): sea swallows, terns	mud-flat walking, bird-watching	spring & autumn	p677
Harz www.nationalpark-harz.de	amazing rock formations & caves (247 sq km): deer, black woodpeckers, wild cats	walking, climbing	spring, summer & autumn, not weekends (too busy)	p229
Jasmund www.nationalpark-jasmund.de	cretaceous landscape of chalk cliffs, forest, creeks & moors (30 sq km): white-tailed eagles	walking, cycling	not summer (paths like ant trails)	p732

The Greens' concern for the health of the planet and their strong opposition to nuclear power certainly struck a chord with the local populace. Contemporary Germans recycle regularly, often prefer to ride bicycles rather than catch buses, and carry their groceries in reusable cloth (rather than plastic) shopping bags; all this is simply second nature here.

Green ideology has also wielded an enormous influence on the political agenda. In the 1990s, Greenpeace Germany made international news trying to stop nuclear-waste transport in Lower Saxony and heavily populated North Rhine-Westphalia. German Greenpeace members also helped scuttle Shell's controversial plans to sink the Brent Spar oil platform in the North Sea.

Even more tellingly, the Greens were in government between 1998 and 2005, as the junior partner in Gerhard Schröder's coalition. Under the leadership of Joschka Fischer, the party had a major say in decisions to cut carbon emissions and to wind down the nuclear industry. Although some of these policies are already being reversed under the new, more conservative 'grand coalition' government of CDU, CSU and SPD under chancellor Angela Merkel, individual Germans' commitment to green issues remains solid.

For information on Germany's 90-odd nature parks, see www.naturparke.de (in German).

National Park & Website	Features	Activities	Best Time to Visit	Page
Kellerwald Edersee www.nationalpark-kellerwald-edersee.de	beech & other deciduous trees, lake (57 sq km): black stork, wild cats, rare bats, stags	walking, wildlife	spring, summer & autumn	p533
Lower Oder Valley www.nationalpark-unteresches-odertal.de	riverplain (165 sq km): black storks, sea eagles, beavers, aquatic warblers, cranes	walking, cycling, bird-watching	winter (bird-watching), spring (other activities)	p162
Lower Saxony Wadden Sea www.nationalpark-wattenmeer-niedersachsen.de	salt-marsh & bog landscape (2780 sq km): seals, shell ducks	swimming, walking, bird-watching	late spring & early autumn	p637
Müritz www.nationalpark-mueritz.de	beech, bogs & lakes galore (318 sq km): sea eagles, fish hawks, cranes, white-tailed eagles, Gothland sheep	cycling, canoeing, bird-watching, hiking	spring, summer & autumn	p711
Saxon Switzerland www.nationalpark-saechsische-schweiz.de	spectacular sandstone & basalt rock formations (93 sq km): eagle-owls, otters, fat dormice	walking, climbing, rock climbing	not summer (throngs with Dresden day-trippers)	p180
Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea www.wattenmeer-nationalpark.de	dramatic seascape of dunes, salt marshes & mud flats (4410 sq km): sea life, migratory birds	bird-watching, tidewatching, mud-flat walking, swimming	spring & autumn	p696
Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft www.nationalpark-vorpommersche-boddenlandschaft.de	dramatic Baltic seascape (805 sq km): cranes, red deer, wild boar	bird-watching, water sports, walking	autumn (crane watching), summer (water sports)	p721

Energy

Schleswig-Holstein is the German – and probably world – leader in wind power. The state generates 25% of its power from wind turbines, compared to 6% which is the national average.

Travelling across Germany, one can't help but be struck by the number of giant wind turbines dotting the landscape, especially in the windswept north. You start to wonder just how many there are. Well, more than 16,000 at the last count, apparently.

While other countries debate its pros and cons, Germany has long embraced this technology. It's the world's leading producer of wind energy, accounting for between 32% and 40% of entire global capacity in 2005 (depending on whose figures you believe). This provides roughly 6% of German electricity, but by 2010 the country expects turbines to fuel 12.5% of its needs, and to help meet that target it's building huge wind farms far off the Schleswig Holstein coast. Up to 5000 turbines could be installed as far as 47km out to sea.

The federal government also backs research into other alternatives, with some €30 million invested in geothermal energy, solar power, hydroelectricity and biomass (animal waste, plants etc) projects. Near Regensburg, Bavaria boasts one of the world's largest solar plants, generating enough electricity for 4500 people (over 3.5 million kWh a year).

The current pre-eminence of renewable energies partly derives from the country's decision in 2001 to shut down its nuclear industry. That year, the so-called red-green government (with red representing Schröder's centre-left SPD party) developed a timetable to phase out all 19 of its nuclear energy plants by 2020. But these reactors provide a third of the country's energy needs, and the government was attempting simultaneously to reduce its carbon emission levels by 40% from 1990 levels, so it massively stepped up investment in alternative energies.

Ting! Ting! Road rage in eco-friendly Germany often happens on the footpath (sidewalk), when inattentive pedestrians step into an oncoming cyclist's way. Watch out for the cycle lanes – and stay well out of them!

Each of the 19 nuclear reactors was to be shut down on its 32nd birthday, and the first to go was Stade (outside Hamburg) in November 2003. However, by 2005, with only one other reactor decommissioned, there was a change of government and seemingly a change of heart in Berlin. Critics were warning of an energy crisis and in 2006 the nuclear industry was lobbying environment minister Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) to postpone the closures by some five to eight years. Although a staunch nuclear opponent himself, Gabriel admitted to news magazine *Der Spiegel* that not everyone in the Grand Coalition government shared his views.

Pollution

Green information galore, including daily ozone readings from 370 points, is posted on the website of the Federal Environment Agency *(Umweltbundesamt;* www.umweltbundesamt.de, in German).

When it comes to addressing pollution, Germany might recently have blotted an otherwise fairly enviable copybook. Until 2006, the country was seen as the European leader in reducing carbon-dioxide emissions and offsetting the effects of acid rain and river pollution. However, new carbon-emission quotas for industry announced in the middle of that year were criticised for being unambitious or even lax. Environmental groups accused Angela Merkel's government of not taking its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol seriously enough.

This controversy is a far cry from the period from 1987 to 2000, when Germany proudly achieved the environmental turnaround of the European century with the success of the Rhine Action Programme. Declared dead by 1970, the Upper Rhine was spawning salmon and sea trout again by 1997 – for the first time in 50 years. The transformation was all the more remarkable given that some 15% of the world's chemical industry plants are settled along the riverbanks.

A longer-term Action Plan High Water was put in place until 2020, working on restoring other riverbanks and important adjoining meadows, in a bid to stave off damaging floods.

HOW TO RECYCLE A TEABAG

It might be something of a national joke, but recycling a teabag really does require all but one of the five rubbish bins found in German homes.

Germans are Europe's biggest recyclers. Into the bio bin *(Biomüll)*, goes biodegradable waste – garden rubbish, potato peelings, food leftovers, coffee granules and used tea bags (minus metal clip, string and paper tag). The paper *(Papier)* bin takes recyclable paper, waxed cardboard, cardboard and teabag paper tags. There's a third *Grüne Punkt* bin for recyclable items – including packaging materials, margarine tubs, empty food tins, cans and teabag clips. Except for glass – which obviously a tea bag doesn't contain – everything left, including the synthetic string on a teabag, goes in the fourth bin for residuary waste *(Restmüll)*.

Bins found in train stations and airports are slightly different: *Glas* (glass), *Papier* (paper), *Verpackung* (packaging) and *Restmüll* (residuary waste).

Empty mineral water bottles (both plastic and glass) plus beer and other cans are another recycling story. When you buy these in the shop, many have a *Pfand* or returnable deposit, usually between €0.25 and €0.50 per bottle. This is to persuade even the laziest of consumers to return their empties to one of 100,000 specified shops and points of sale countrywide. Germans usually save these up until they have a bag full (or three) to return. Be prepared to wait if you find yourself behind such a customer in a supermarket queue!

Per capita, Germany produces 10kg of rubbish daily.

In 2002, the government was still polishing its green credentials when it stepped up an ecological tax on petrol, diesel, heating oil, natural gas and electricity. The same year it pledged to reduce Germany's 1990 level of greenhouse gas emissions by 21% between 2008 and 2012 – by 2004, its emissions were already 17.5% down on those notched up in 1990.

But in 2006 the German government throttled back on its greenhouse gas plans, asking that industry cut back just 0.6% on carbon emissions between 2008 and 2012. Even worse, it gave many business free carbon allowances and even totally exempted a number of major industrial plants from limits until 2022.

The German government insisted it would still meet its Kyoto targets, by teaching autobahn motorists to drive more slowly and hence economically. However, international critics were derisive – and concerned. They thought there could be ramifications for the rest of the EU now that such an important player has turned a slightly paler shade of green.

Charismatic Green Party co-founder Petra Kelly and partner Gerd Bastian were shot at their home in 1992 in mysterious circumstances. Joint suicide? Murder-suicide? Double murder? Secret service plot? *The Life and Death of Petra Kelly*, written by Sara Parkin, provides tantalising details.

Food & Drink

Unlike France or Italy, Germany has never been a culinary destination. In the international imagination, its food is often just something – usually a *Wurst* (sausage) – to accompany its superlative beer. Relying heavily on meat, cabbage and potato, the country's traditional cuisine has a not entirely undeserved reputation as hearty but dull. As one old saying cruelly has it, the problem with German food is that a week later you want some more!

However, Germany has been redeeming itself gastronomically in the past decade in much the same way as has happened in Britain. Top chefs have been experimenting with time-honoured dishes in a wave that's referred to as the *Neue Deutsche Küche* (New German Cuisine), and *multi-kulti* (multicultural) influences – ranging from Turkish to Mediterranean to Asian – have put baba ganoush, burritos and curries on menus and pesto, coconut milk and coriander on Aldi supermarket shelves.

You still won't find the love of excellent food – and the ability to produce it – permeating every corner of every neighbourhood restaurant as you will in, say, Italy. However, the *Imbiss* fast-food stall is a ubiquitous phenomenon, allowing you to eat on the run easily, and if you choose your restaurants with just a little care, it is possible to treat your palate here.

The modern doner *(Döner)* kebab doesn't emanate from Turkey, but Germany. In 1971, Turkish immigrants running the Berlin restaurant Hasir introduced salad into an ancient Turkish dish; even outlets in Turkey have been making it this way ever since.

STAPLES & SPECIALITIES

Wurst, *Brot*, *Kartoffeln* and *Sauerkraut* (sausage, bread, potatoes and cabbage): yes, sometimes all the national stereotypes ring true. In Germany you'll certainly find things like *Kalbshaxe* (knuckle of veal) and *Sauerbraten* (roast beef marinated in wine and vinegar), but were you aware that *Quark*, a yoghurt-like curd cheese, accounts for 50% of domestic cheese consumption? Or, did you realise that locals are equally devoted to asparagus, mushrooms, pumpkin and venison?

Sausage

In the Middle Ages, German peasants found a way to package and disguise animals' less appetising bits, and the *Wurst* (sausage) was born. Today, it's a noble and highly respected element of German cuisine, with strict rules determining the authenticity of *Wurst* varieties. In some cases, as with the finger-sized Nuremberg sausage, regulations even ensure offal no longer enters the equation.

There are more than 1500 sausage species, all commonly served with bread and a sweet *(süss)* or spicy *(scharf)* mustard *(Senf)*.

Bratwurst, served countrywide, is made from minced pork, veal and spices, and is cooked in different ways (boiled in beer, baked with apples and cabbage, stewed in a casserole or simply grilled or barbecued).

See how German chefs rank among Europe's best at the bang-up-to-date www.die-besten-koeche.com (also in English).

The availability of other sausages differs regionally. A *Thüringer* is long, thin and spiced, while a *Wiener* is what hot-dog fiends call a Frankfurter. *Blutwurst* is blood sausage (not to be confused with black pudding, which is *Rotwurst*), *Leberwurst* is liver sausage, and *Knackwurst* is lightly tickled with garlic.

Saxony has brain sausage *(Bregenwurst)*, Bavaria sells white rubbery *Weisswurst*, made from veal, and Berlin boasts the *Currywurst* (slices of sausage topped with curry powder and ketchup). For more on the latter, see the boxed text on p130.

Bread

In exile in California in 1941, German playwright Bertolt Brecht confessed that what he most missed about his homeland was the bread. That won't surprise anyone who has sampled the stuff. German bread is a world-beater, in a league of its own. It's tasty and textured, often mixing wheat and rye flour, and is available in 300 varieties.

'Black' rye bread *(Schwarzbrot)* is actually brown, but a much darker shade than the slightly sour *Bauernbrot*. *Pumpernickel* bread is steam-cooked instead of baked, making it extra moist, and actually is black. *Vollkorn* means wholemeal, while bread coated in sunflower seeds is *Sonnenblumenbrot.* If you insist on white bread *(Weissbrot)*, the Germans have that too.

Fresh bread rolls (*Brötchen* in the north, *Semmel* in Bavaria, *Wecken* in the rest of southern Germany) can be covered in poppy seeds *(Mohnbrötchen)*, cooked with sweet raisins *(Rosinenbrötchen)*, sprinkled with salt *(Salzstangel)* or treated in dozens of other different ways.

Brezeln are traditional pretzels, covered in rock salt.

Potato

Germans are almost as keen as Russians about the potato. The *Kartoffel* is not only Vegetable Nummer Eins in any meat-and-three-veg dish, it can also be incorporated into any course of a meal, from potato soup *(Kartoffelsuppe)* as a starter, to potato waffles *(Kartoffelwaffeln)* or potato pancakes *(Reibekuchen)* as a sweet treat.

Living in the USA? Shop for *Brot* und *Wurst* as if you're in Germany at www.germandeli.com.

In between, you can try *Himmel und Erde* (Heaven and Earth), a dish of mashed potatoes and stewed apples served with black pudding, or potato-based *Klösse* dumplings. *Pellkartoffeln* or *Ofenkartoffeln* are jacket potatoes, usually capped with a dollop of *Quark*.

Many 'potato festivals' are held throughout the country.

Sauerkraut

Finally comes a quintessential German side dish that many outside the country find impossible to fathom: *Sauerkraut*. Before the 2006 FIFA World Cup, one football magazine suggested, with typical abrasiveness: 'It's pickled cabbage; don't try to make it sound interesting.' Okay, we won't. It's shredded cabbage, doused in white-wine vinegar and slowly simmered. But if you haven't at least tried *Rotkohl* (the red-cabbage version of the white-cabbage *Sauerkraut*) you don't know what you're missing. Braising the cabbage with sliced apples and wine turns it into *Bayrischkraut* or *Weinkraut.*

Regional Dishes

Although contemporary German restaurants offer as much of an international mix as anywhere in the world, the country's traditional cuisine has been much more resistant to outside influences than that of, say, Hungary or Italy. Consequently, traditional regional variations remain quite noticeable too.

The food in southern states features many pork and veal dishes, accompanied by noodles or dumplings. It's in the northern states that root vegetables such as potatoes predominate, and here there's a much greater focus on fish.

Towards the country's borders, its cuisine does take on French, Scandinavian and even Slavic flavours. But it's a subtle difference and the taste usually remains recognisably German.

Indisputably *the* handbook of German cuisine since it was published in the 1960s, *Dr Oetker's German Cooking: The Original* was handily re-released in 2003, filling you in on all the basic techniques and classic dishes

BAVARIA

The Chinese say you can eat every part of the pig bar the 'oink', and Bavarian chefs seem to be in full agreement. No part of the animal is spared their attention as they cook up its knuckles *(Schweinshax'n)*, ribs *(Rippchen)*, tongue *(Züngerl)* and belly *(Wammerl)*. Pork also appears as *Schweinebraten* (a roast) and the misleadingly named *Leberkäse* (liver cheese), where it's combined

with beef in a dish that contains no cheese – and in Bavaria at least – no liver. The Bavarians are also quite fond of veal *(Kalb)*.

Dumplings are another menu staple, from potato-based *Klösse* and *Leberknödel* (liver dumplings) to sweet *Senfknödel*, which is made from *Quark*, flour and eggs, then dunked in milk. Dumplings also make a major appearance in the Franconian favourite of *Hochszeitsuppe* (wedding soup) – a clear meat broth garnished with bread dumplings, liver dumplings and pancakes.

Discover 101 things to do with a pig in Olli Leeb's *Bavarian Cooking*, jam-packed with cultural and culinary insights into one of Germany's most distinctive regional cuisines.

BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Neighbouring influences are evident in Baden-Württemberg. Snail soup *(Schneckensuppe)* crosses the border with Alsace, while locals also enjoy *Geschnetzeltes* (veal slices in a white wine and cream sauce) as much as the Swiss.

Pasta is another recurrent theme, with *Spätzle* (literally 'little sparrows') a type of egg-based noodle, served as a main meal or used to dress meat or fish. The ravioli-like *Maultaschen* are stuffed with ground meat, onion and spinach.

SAARLAND

Just as in Baden-Württemberg, the food here shows many French influences. Fried goose liver and *coq au vin* are common on menus, as is *Budeng mit Gellenewemutsch*, a *boudain* (hot black pudding) served with a German mash of carrots and potatoes.

When it comes to the crunch though, Saarlanders revert to true German form, and *Schwenkbraten* (marinated pork grilled on a spit) is probably their most popular dish.

RHINELAND-PALATINATE

Two former chancellors named dishes from this region as their favourite, selecting two meals as different as the men themselves. Helmut Kohl nominated *Saumagen*, a stuffed pork belly with pickled cabbage that's the German equivalent to Scottish haggis, while postwar chancellor Konrad Adenauer preferred *Reibekuchen*, small potato pancakes served with blueberry or apple sauce.

Despite all this, *Rheinischer Sauerbraten* (roast beef marinated in spiced vinegar and braised) is the region's signature dish.

HESSE & WESTPHALIA

Neighbouring Hesse and Westphalia produce outstanding cured and smoked hams (typically smoking them over juniper berries). In Hesse, they like pig in the form of *Sulperknochen*, a dish from trotters, ears and tails, served with mushy peas and pickled cabbage. Westphalians prefer *Pfefferpotthast*, a meat stew spiced with capers, lemon juice and beer.

HAMBURG & AROUND

No two dishes better sum up northern Germany's warming, seafaring fodder than *Labskaus* and *Grünkohl mit Pinkel*. There are variations, but traditional *Labskaus* from Hamburg is a minced dish of salt herring, corned beef, pig lard, potato and beetroot, topped with gherkins and a fried egg. It's a sailor's favourite and, some locals claim, brilliant hangover food – plenty of salt, plenty of fat and not too hard to chew.

Grünkohl mit Pinkel combines steamed kale with pork belly, bacon and *Pinkelwurst* (a spicy pork, beef, oat and onion sausage from Bremen).

Eel soup *(Aalsuppe)* is sweet-and-sour – it's garnished with bacon and vegetables, and spiced with apricots, pears or prunes.

FALSE FRIENDS

When ordering food in parts of the country, sometimes a little knowledge of German can be a dangerous thing. So, don't expect half a chicken when you order a *Halve Hahn* in Cologne. It's a rye-bread roll with gouda cheese, gherkin and mustard. *Kölscher Kaviar* is similarly confusing – it's not caviar, but black pudding. And *Nordseekrabben* in Hamburg and Lower Saxony? They're small prawns…of course.

As you move towards Scandinavia, the German diet begins to encompass Nordic staples such as rollmops and herring *(Hering)* in all its other guises (raw, smoked, pickled or rolled in sour cream).

MECKLENBURG WESTERN POMERANIA

This northeastern state shares Hamburg's obsession with herring, eel and other types of seafood, throwing in a propensity to smoke its fish and a penchant for Baltic cod. Otherwise, it has a quite distinctive cuisine, with locals famed for liking things sweet-and-sour.

Take *Mecklenburger Rippenbraten* for example, rolled pork stuffed with lemons, apples, plums, and raisins; or *Mecklenburgische Buttermilchsuppe*, which is a sweet buttermilk soup flavoured with spices and jam; or the Russian-style *Soljanka*, sour soup with sausage or fish, garnished with lemon and sour cream.

Other typical mixes include raisins with cabbage, honey with pork, and plums with duck. Even the typical *Eintopf* (stew, often a potato version) is served with sugar and vinegar on the side.

Bread pudding is a very popular dessert throughout the state, but visitors might prefer the more unusual and delicious *Sanddorn* (sallow thorn). Nicknamed the 'Mecklenburg lemon', this is a shrub berry with a subtle citrus flavour, and is used to great effect in teas, ice-creams and other dishes (as well as beauty products).

Germany's most famous TV chef, Tim Mälzer, updates some standards in his best-selling book, *Born To Cook*, such as making *Kalbshaxe* with star anise and *Labskaus* with poached salmon.

BERLIN

Alongside Hamburg, Berlin has one of the country's most cosmopolitan restaurant scenes, but it can still lay claim to a few local delicacies. First on the list comes *Eisbein*, or pigs' knuckles, then *Kohlsuppe* (cabbage soup) and *Erbensuppe* (pea soup).

Ironically, the *Berliner* doughnut, which President John F. Kennedy once claimed himself to be, does not emanate from the capital. For something sweet, locals are much more likely to tuck into the coffee cake known as *Kugelhupf* (also spelled *Gugelhupf*).

SAXONY & THURINGIA

These regions are slightly less meat-obsessed than some of their cousins. *Kartoffelsuppe* (potato soup) is a favourite, and *Leipziger Allerlei* (Leipzig hotpot) often comes in vegetarian versions. There are even lentils to be found in such dishes as *Linsensuppe mit Thüringer Rotwurst* (lentil soup with Thuringian sausages). For dessert, you can try *Quarkkeulchen,* made from curd, boiled potatoes, flour, sugar, and raisins – although these have spread to other parts of Germany, too.

Seasonal Specialities

In an era in which fruit jets around the globe clocking up frequent-flyer miles, and high-tech farming boosts year-round supplies, Germans remain touchingly devoted to their seasonal specialities.

No period ranks higher on the culinary calendar than *Spargelzeit* (asparagus season), when Germans devour great quantities of mostly white asparagus, which they generally consider tastier than the green variety.The season kicks off with the harvesting of the first crop in mid-April and lasts until 24 June – the feast-day of St John the Baptist – which is fitting, given the almost religious intensity with which this 'king of vegetables' is celebrated. You'll find restaurants with separate asparagus menus and whole books devoted to the subject, while many towns and cities even hold asparagus festivals in May and June.

Herring weeks are frequently held on the Baltic coast in spring. Other notable seasonal specialities include *Pfifferlinge* (chanterelles) and *Kürbis* (pumpkin), an autumn treat.

Sweets

When Lübeck started producing marzipan in the Middle Ages, the almond paste was considered a medicine not a sweet. We want to know: can we get it on prescription?

Germans more often exercise their sweet tooth over *Kaffee und Kuchen* (coffee and cakes) than they do after a meal. Desserts (*Nachspeisen* or *Nachtische*) are usually light affairs, say custard and fruit, *Rote Grütze* (a tart fruit compote topped with vanilla sauce), ice cream or a fruit salad.

However, let's not forget that this is the country that brought the world the sugary, creamy, calorie-laden, over-the-top *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* (Black Forest Gateaux).

And if that isn't enough of a calling card for sugar fiends, Germany offers an enormous range of other delicious confections, from *Lebkuchen* (gingerbread) and *Nürnberger Lebkuchen* (soft cookies with nuts, fruit peel, honey and spices from Nuremberg) to *Leckerli* (honey-flavoured ginger biscuits) and *Lübecker Marzipan* (marzipan from Lübeck).

Christmas brings its own specialities. *Stollen* is a spiced cake loaded with sultanas, raisins and candied peel, sprinkled with icing sugar and occasionally spruced up inside with a ball of marzipan. It's rarely baked in German homes today (although when it is, it's exquisite), but you'll find it in abundance in Christmas markets – *Stollen* from Dresden is reputedly the best.

DRINKS

While coffee in Germany is not as strong as that served in France or Italy, you can expect a decent cup. All the usual varieties are on offer, including cappuccinos and lattes, although you still frequently see French-style bowls of milky coffee, or *Milchkaffee* (milk coffee).

Tea frequently comes in a glass or pot of hot water, with the teabag served to the side. East Frisians in Bremen and Lower Saxony are the country's biggest consumers of tea, and have dozens of their own varieties, which they traditionally drink with cream and *Kluntje* (rock sugar).

Germans once almost exclusively drank sparkling mineral water *(Mineralwasser),* with loads of bubbles *(mit Gas* or *mit Kohlensäure)*. Truly still mineral water *(stilles* or *ohne Kohlensäure*) has become much more widespread, but it remains harder to find than in some other European countries.

Note that the price of many drinks in plastic bottles includes a *Pfand*, or deposit, which will be given back to you if you return the bottle to the shop or similar outlet. Soft drinks frequently come in cans *(Dosen)*, too.

When not guzzling beer or wine (see opposite and p81), Germans like a shot of schnapps (any hard liquor). This comes in a variety of flavours, from apple *(Apfel)*, pear *(Birne)*, or plum *(Pflaume)* to wheat *(Korn)*.

Digestive herbal drinks such as *Jägermeister* are also still popular, although mainly among the older population.

BETTER THAN GLÜHWEIN

Served in winter and designed to inure you to the sudden drop in temperatures, hot spiced *Glühwein* is a common commodity at Germany's popular Christmas markets. However, it's not the only mulled wine the country produces. Far more spectacular and intoxicating is *Feuerzangenbowle* – 'fire-tongs-punch' – which has become a cult tipple, thanks to a movie of the same name.

Contrary to the usual advice, *do* try this at home – providing you can get hold of the necessary equipment (try a German Christmas market). Fill a large saucepan with two or three bottles of red wine, cloves, a stick of cinnamon and slices of citrus fruit, and gently heat. Place a *Zuckerhut* (sugar cone) into a special silver cradle (the *Feuerzange* or 'tong'), and rest them both horizontally over the saucepan. Pour over-proof rum (between 50-60%) over the sugar cone with a ladle (for safety's sake, not straight from the bottle). Let it soak for a minute and then carefully put a lit match over the sugar, igniting it. As the flaming sugar falls into the spiced red wine below, it produces a delicious and heady drink.

The 1944 film *Feuerzangenbowle* has four men reminiscing about their school days over a bowl of the self-same punch; when it transpires that one of them was educated by a private tutor and has no idea what they're talking about, they disguise him and send him back to school as an adult. Long banned for its anti-authoritarian attitudes, it's now screened in cinemas before Christmas.

Beer

It's not as cheap as the Czech Republic's world-famous lagers, but German beer is patently up there with the best and is well worth the premium. Brewing here goes back to Germanic tribes, and later monks, so it follows in a hallowed tradition. Unsurprisingly, a trip to an atmospheric Bavarian beer garden or a Cologne beer hall is one of the first things on many foreign visitors' 'to-do' lists.

The 'secret' of the country's golden nectar dates back to the *Reinheitsgebot*, or purity law, demanding breweries use just four ingredients – malt, yeast, hops and water. Passed in Bavaria in 1516, the *Reinheitsgebot* stopped being a legal requirement in 1987, when the European Union struck it down as uncompetitive. However, many German brewers still conform to it anyway, seeing it as a good marketing tool against mass-market, chemical-happy competitors.

Horst Dornbusch's *Prost!: The Story of German Beer*, is exactly that.

Thanks to the tradition of the *Reinheitsgebot,* German beer is supposed to be unique in not giving you a *Katzenjammer* or *Kater* (hangover). However, partygoers downing 5 million litres of the stuff at Munich's Oktoberfest (see p304) must surely disagree!

VARIETIES

Despite frequently tying their own hands and giving themselves just four ingredients to play with, German brewers turn out 5000 distinctively different beers.

BREWERY TOURS

Most visitors to Germany are content just to quaff the country's excellent beer – whether from a huge Bavarian stein or one of Cologne's trademark skinny glasses. The more curious might be interested to see how it's mixed.

You can do this at any of the **Holsten breweries** (www.holsten.de), while Beck's (p645) and Friesisches Brauhaus zu Jever (p636) also run tours. Meanwhile, the art of 19th-century beer-making is unravelled at Maisel's Brauerei-und-Büttnerei-Museum in Bayreuth (p368), the world's most comprehensive beer museum (according to the *Guinness Book of Records*). There's also a new Brauerei-Museum in Dortmund (p577), once Germany's most important beer town. Tour details are included in the regional chapters.

They achieve this via subtle variations in the basic production process. At the simplest level, a brewer can choose a particular yeast for top or bottom fermenting (the terms indicating where the yeast lives while working – at the top or bottom of the brewing vessel).

The most popular form of brewing is bottom-fermentation, which accounts for about 85% of German beers, notably the Pils (Pilsener) popular throughout Germany, most Bock beers and the Helles type found in Bavaria.

Top-brewing is used for the Weizenbier/Weissbier (wheat or 'white' beer) popular in Berlin and Bavaria, Cologne's Kölsch and the very few stouts brewed in the country.

What did Germany's first railway line carry when it opened between Nuremberg and Fürth in 1835? Beer.

Many beers are regional, meaning a Saxon Rechenberger cannot be found in Düsseldorf, where the locally brewed Altbier is the taste of choice. The following list runs through some interesting varieties.

BEER GLOSSARY

Alkoholfreies Bier Nonalcoholic beer.
Altbier A dark, full beer with malted barley from the Düsseldorf area.
Berliner Weisse With around 2.8% alcohol content, draught or Schankbier is mostly brewed in and around Berlin. It contains lactic acid, giving it a slightly sour taste, and a blend of malted wheat and barley. Top-fermented, it's often drunk *mit Grün* (with green or woodruff syrup), or with a dash *(mit Schuss)* of raspberry *(Himbeeren)* syrup.
Bockbier and Doppelbock These two strong beers are around 7% alcohol, but Doppelbock is slightly stronger. There's a 'Bock' for almost every occasion, such as Maibock (usually drunk in May/spring) and Weihnachtsbock (brewed for Christmas). Eisbock (ice Bock) is dark and more aromatic. Bock beers originate from Einbeck, near Hanover.
Dampfbier (steam beer) Originating from Bayreuth in Bavaria, this is top-fermented and has a fruity flavour.
Dunkles Lagerbier (dark lager) Dunkel (dark) is brewed throughout Germany, but especially in Bavaria. With a light use of hops, it's full-bodied with a strong malt aroma. Malt is dried at a high temperature, lending it a dark colour.
Export Traditionally with a higher alcohol content, to help it survive a long journey, this beer is closely associated today with Dortmund, and is often dry to slightly sweet.
Helles Lagerbier (pale lager) Helles (pale or light) refers to the colour, not the alcohol content, which is still around 4.6% to 5%. Brewing strongholds are in Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and in the Ruhr region. It has strong malt aromas and is slightly sweet.
Hofbräu This is a brewery belonging to a royal court or *Hof* – for some time in Bavaria only a few nobles enjoyed the right to brew wheat beer.
Klosterbräu This type of brewery belongs to a monastery.
Kölsch By law, this top-fermented beer can only be brewed in or around Cologne. It is about 4.8% alcohol, has a solid hop flavour and pale colour, and is served in small glasses (0.2L) called *Stangen* (literally 'sticks').
Leichtbier (light beer) These low-alcohol beers are about 2% to 3.2% alcohol.
Leipziger Gose An unusual beer, flavoured with salt and coriander, this contrives to have a stingingly refreshing taste, with some plummy overtones. Tart like Berliner Weisse, it's also often served with sweeteners, such as cherry *(Kirsch)* liqueur or the almond-flavoured *Allasch*.
Malzbier (malt beer) A sweet, aromatic, full-bodied beer, this is brewed mainly in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.
Märzen (March) Full-bodied with strong malt aromas, this is traditionally brewed in March. Today, it's associated with the Oktoberfest.
Obergäriges Bier Top-fermented beer.
Pils (pilsener) This bottom-fermented full beer, with a pronounced hop flavour and a creamy head, has an alcohol content of around 4.8% and is served throughout Germany.
Rauchbier (smoke beer) This dark beer has a fresh, spicy or 'smoky' flavour.
Schwarzbier (black beer) Slightly stronger, this dark, full beer has an alcohol content of about 4.8% to 5%. Full-bodied, it's fermented using roasted malt.

Untergäriges Bier Bottom-fermented beer.
Weizenbier or Weissbier (wheat beer) Predominating in the south, especially in Bavaria, this is around 5.4% alcohol. A Hefeweizen has a stronger shot of yeast, whereas Kristallweizen is clearer with more fizz. These wheat beers are fruity and spicy, often recalling bananas and cloves. Decline offers of a slice of lemon, as it ruins the head and – beer purists say – also the flavour.

THE INDUSTRY

German beer is brewed by more than 1200 breweries, although many traditionally family-run concerns have been swallowed up by the big-boy brewers. Bremen-based Beck's, producer of one of Germany's best-known beers since 1873, was bought out by Belgian beer giant Interbrew in 2002, while Hamburg's Holsten (founded 1879) now has its roots firmly embedded in the USA.

For more bare beer facts, statistics, tips on cooking with beer and more, surf with the German Federation of Brewers (in German) at www.brauer-bund.de.

Still, 11 German monasteries continue to produce beer. Kloster Weltenburg, near Kelheim on the Danube north of Munich, is the world's oldest monastery brewery, whose Weltenburg Barock Dunckel won a medal at the 2006 World Beer Cup in Seattle. This light, smooth beer has a malty, toasty finish.

Other connoisseurs believe the earthy Andechs Doppelbock Dunkel, produced by the Benedictines in Andechs near Munich, to be among the world's best.

Dortmund is the centre of the Export industry.

Wine

Its name sullied for decades by the cloyingly sugary taste of *Liebfraumilch* white wine, German wine has been making a comeback in the 21st century. Following the 2002 marketing campaign – 'If you think you know German wine, drink again' – in the industry's biggest export market, the UK, sellers have been talking of a renaissance. And although the re-evaluation is still in its beginnings, it's not all public relations hype. Even discerning critics have been pouring praise on German winemakers, with *Decanter* magazine, for example, naming Ernst Loosen, of Weingut Dr Loosen in the Mosel region, its 'Man of the Year 2005'.

Germany is most commonly associated with white wines made from Riesling grapes. According to Tim Atkin, wine correspondent for the UK's *Observer* newspaper, wine producers in Australia, Austria and Alsace have recently done Germany a favour in using and promoting the grape. This, he says, 'has helped consumers realise that Germany makes the best Rieslings of all'. At the same time, the country itself has had 'a tremendous run of vintages since 2000', and its midrange wines have markedly improved, with brands like **Devil's Rock** (www.devils-rock.com), **Dr Loosen** (www.drloosen.com) and the **Vineyard Creatures series** (www.lingenfelder.com).

Germany's wine market, from medieval times to present, is the fascinating focus of *The Wines of Germany* by Stephen Brook. Among other things he addresses the question of why German wine has long been mocked.

Having produced wines since Roman times, Germany now has more than 100,000 hectares of vineyards, mostly on the Rhine and Moselle riverbanks. Despite the common association with Riesling grapes, particularly in its best wine regions, the less acidic Müller-Thurgau or Rivaner grape is more widespread. Meanwhile, the Gewürztraminer grape produces spicy wines with an intense bouquet. What Germans call *Grauburgunder* is known to the rest of the world as Pinot Gris.

German reds are light and lesser known. *Spätburgunder*, or Pinot Noir, is the best of the bunch and goes into some velvety, full-bodied reds with an occasional almond taste.

WINE REGIONS

There are 13 official wine-growing areas, the best being the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer region. It boasts some of the world's steepest vineyards, where the

TOP FIVE GERMAN WINE PRODUCERS

'Too many people still associate Germany with basic, sugary whites,' says Tim Atkin, wine correspondent for the UK's *Observer* newspaper. He points out there's much more to Germany, and suggests keeping a particular eye out for the following producers:

- **Fritz Haag** (☎ 06534-410; www.weingut-fritz-haag.de; Dusemonder Hof, Brauneberg, Mosel region)
- **Egon Müller Scharzhof** (www.scharzhof.de; Saar region)
- **Dönnhoff** (☎ 06755-263; www.doennhoff.com; Oberhausen, Nahe region)
- **JJ Prüm** (www.jjpruem.de; Uferallee 19, Bernkastel-Wehlen, Mosel region)
- **Wittmann** (☎ 06244-905036; www.weingutwittman.com; Mainzer Strasse 19, Westhofen bei Worms, Rheinhessen region)

predominantly Riesling grapes are still hand-picked. Slate soil on the hillsides gives the wines a flinty taste. Chalkier riverside soils are planted with the Elbing grape, an ancient Roman variety.

East of the Moselle, the Nahe region produces fragrant, fruity and full-bodied wines using Müller-Thurgau and Silvaner grapes as well as Riesling.

Riesling grapes are also the mainstay in Rheingau and Mittelrhein (Middle Rhine), two other highly respected wine-growing pockets. Rheinhessen, south of Rheingau, is responsible for *Liebfraumilch*, but also some top Rieslings.

Other wine regions include Ahr, Pfalz (both Rheinland-Palatinate), Hessische Bergstrasse (Hesse), Baden (Baden-Württemberg), Würzburg (Bavaria) and Elbtal (Saxony).

The Württemberg region, around Stuttgart, produces some of the country's best reds, while Saxony-Anhalt's Saale/Unstrut region is home to Rotkäppchen (Little Red Riding Hood) sparkling wine, a former GDR brand that's been a big hit in the new Germany.

For a comprehensive run-down of all German wine-growing regions, grape varieties, news of the hottest winemakers, and information on tours or courses, visit www.winesofgermany.co.uk (interested US citizens could also browse www.germanwineusa.org).

WINE GLOSSARY

Auslese A 'selected harvest', this is usually intense and sweet.
Beerenauslese (BA) Grapes are picked overripe, and it's usually a dessert wine.
Deutscher Landwein (country wine) Landwein is usually dry or semi-dry.
Deutscher Tafelwein (table wine) This is the lowest category of wine, and is of mostly poor to average quality.
Eiswein Grapes are picked and pressed while frozen and it's very sweet; a dessert wine.
QbA (Qualitätswein bestimmter Anbaugebiete) The lowest category of quality wine.
QmP (Qualitätswein mit Prädikat) 'Quality wine of distinction'.
Qualitätswein Wine from one of the 13 defined wine-growing regions, which has to pass a tasting test.
Sekt Sparkling wine.
Spätauslese Literally 'selected late-harvest', this type of wine has concentrated flavours, but is not necessarily sweet.
Trockenbeerenauslese (TBA) The grapes are so overripe they are shrivelled (intensely sweet) and resemble raisins.

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

Dining out in Germany these days is little different from visiting a restaurant in the rest of the western world. Sure, you can try for a little authentic local cuisine in an atmospheric town-hall basement restaurant *(Ratskeller)*, although you might often find that your fellow diners aren't locals, but other tourists looking for the same thing. It's much better to ask your hotel for a recommendation. German-only menus *(Speisekarte)* displayed outside an establishment are a good sign; the waiter will almost invariably be able to translate for you.

Diners seeking somewhere less formal can opt for a *Gaststätte*, a relaxed and often more 'local' place to eat with a large menu, daily specials and a beer garden out the back. Equally inviting are small bistros calling themselves *Weinkeller* or *Bierkeller* (cellars serving wine or beer), which cook up light meals as well as serving glasses of wine or beer. Most cafés and bars serve coffee and light snacks as well as alcohol.

For information on the customary business hours which restaurants and other eateries keep, see p740.

Quick Eats

A *Stehcafé* is a stand-up café where sweet cravers can indulge in coffee and cakes at speed and on the cheap. Stand-up food stalls (*Schnellimbiss*, or simply *Imbiss*) around town make handy speed-feed stops for savoury fodder. In Berlin and other cities, some stalls cook up quick Greek, Italian, Middle Eastern and Chinese bites.

Germany's Turkish population invented the modern doner *(Döner)* kebab, adding salad and sauces to slices of roasted beef, chicken or lamb sandwiched inside pitta bread. Most kebab joints also do veggie versions.

In the north, herring and other fish snacks abound. The Nordsee chain is found countrywide (as well as in Switzerland), while the similar – but slightly more upmarket – Gosch (see p701) is more of a quintessential German experience.

Bavarian beer gardens typically serve light snacks such as fresh warm pretzels *(Brez'n)*, Bavarian-style meatloaf *(Leberkäs)* and radishes *(Radi)* to their beer-swilling clientele.

You don't need your Michelin or Gault Millau guides to check out Germany's best restaurants, the country has its own ratings and guides, including *Der Feinschmecker* (www.feinschmecker.de), Aral's *Schlemmer Atlas* (www.schlemmer-atlas.de) and *Marcellino's Restaurant Report* (www.marcellinos.de)

VEGETARIANS & VEGANS

While vegetarians will have few tummy grumbles in Berlin and other major cities, the pickings in provincial Germany might be slimmer. Vegetables

GERMANY'S TOP EATS

Germany's 'best', in the conventional sense, they might not be, but we've followed our stomachs to nose out – several hundred meals later – the following tasty cross-section of tastebud ticklers:

- Auberge Moar-Alm (p324) – Franco-German cuisine in the crisp Alpine air north of Bad Tölz.
- Das Weisse Haus (p672) – Partake in prime-time dining in a fisherman's cottage in Hamburg.
- Die Quadriga (p132) – Toast your gourmet meal with one of Germany's 850 best wines at this Michelin-starred favourite.
- Hotel am Schloss restaurant (p426) – This Tübingen institution is renowned for making some of Baden-Württemberg's finest *Maultaschen* (German ravioli).
- Le Canard Nouveau (p672) – Exquisite innovation and one of Hamburg's best riverside seats.
- Margaux (p131) – First-class produce is deployed in skilful avant-garde spins on the classics at this Berlin dining shrine, honoured with a Michelin star.
- Strandhalle (p731) – Fine unfussy dining in a memorably decorated room with views of Binz's sandy shores.
- Don Camillo (p257) – Romantic atmosphere, bold culinary tones and some exciting wines in Erfurt's Andreasviertel.
- Tiger-Restaurant (p522) – Culinary guru Martin Göschel's stellar menus in the restaurant of Frankfurt's acclaimed Tigerpalast cabaret venue.

cooked with meat are often considered meat-free, while many so-called vegetarian places serve fish or chicken.

Germans eat between 200 and 300 tonnes of Döner kebabs a day. In one year, they might spend €1.5 billion on this takeaway snack, more than they spend at McDonald's and Burger King combined.

But all is not lost in this carnivorous land. Most city-based Thai, Vietnamese and other Asian eateries cook up dishes suitable for vegetarians. A couple of regional dishes also do not – miraculously – contain meat, including *Leipziger Allerlei*, a vegetarian option in Saxony. Vegetarians in Frankfurt can feast on *Grüne Sosse* – a tasty green sauce eaten as a main dish on top of boiled potatoes or hard-boiled eggs. Fresh basil, chives, cress, dill, sorrel, parsley and tarragon (estragon) are among the wealth of herbs to be found in this green, cream-based sauce – a seasonal dish available early spring to early autumn.

Vegetable- or cheese-stuffed strudel *(Gemüsestrudel* or *Topfenstrudel),* potato pancakes *(Kartoffelpuffer)* and potato and semolina dumplings *(Erdäpfelknödel)* are more widespread veg-inspired offerings.

Vegans should plan on sticking to vegetarian Asian cuisine. Most German vegetarian dishes come with cream or cheese; even salads sometimes come with mayonnaise- or yoghurt-based dressings.

EATING WITH KIDS

Dining with kids is by no means a whining affair in Germany. High chairs are a permanent fixture in restaurants – upmarket and budget alike – and, if you're lucky, the waiter will come clad with damp cloth at the end of your meal to wipe sticky little fingers clean. Most *Gaststätte* and less formal restaurants offer a small choice of *Kindermenü* (children's menu) and dishes for children *(Kinderteller* or *Für unsere kleinen Gäste)*, and those that don't will almost certainly try to meet any special small-appetite requirements. Eating establishments are not equipped with nappy-changing facilities, but some fast-food and quick-eat places have a fold-down changing table in the women's loo.

The New German Cookbook: More than 230 Contemporary and Traditional Recipes by Lamar Elmore, Jean Anderson and Hedy Wuerz, and *The German Cookbook: a Complete Guide to Mastering Authentic German Cooking* by Mimi Sheraton are two handy little recipe numbers to have on your kitchen shelf.

Supermarkets sell a vast range of ready-made baby food and toddler meals – predominantly organic – as well as formula milk, organic fruit juices and teas.

HABITS & CUSTOMS

Germans eat three meals a day – breakfast *(Frühstück)*, lunch *(Mittagessen)* and dinner *(Abendessen)*.

Breakfast at home is served on a wooden board (rather than a plate). Great animal-shaped boards, complete with a hollowed-out eye to prop up a hard-boiled egg, can often be found at markets. Yoghurt, *Quark*, muesli, cereal, fruit salad and other typical breakfast staples feature in hotel buffets.

Traditionally, lunch would be the main meal of the day. In the domestic arena, modern working practices have changed this considerably, although many restaurants still tout lunchtime dishes or a fixed lunch menu *(Gedeck* or *Tagesmenü)*.

Cooking the German Way by Helga Parnell is one of the simpler German cookbooks on the market, ideal for those seeking a basic culinary background of the region. It includes a history as well as recipes for basic German dishes.

Dinner is dished up at home around 7pm, and in restaurants between about 6pm and 11pm. Both meals are relaxed, and require few airs and graces beyond the obligatory *'Guten Appetit'* (meaning 'good appetite'), exchanged between diners before eating. German workers lunching at shared tables sometimes still exchange a courteous *'Mahlzeit'* (literally 'mealtime') before tucking in.

Tipping is quite an individual matter. Many locals, particularly older Germans, will tip absolutely nothing. Some round up the bill, while others tip between 10% and 15%. Do whatever you're comfortable with, given the service and setting – and remembering that Germans are still living through slightly testing economic times.

EAT YOUR WORDS

Pronunciation guidelines are included in the Language chapter (p774).

Useful Phrases

Can you recommend ...?

Können Sie ... empfehlen?	*keu*·nen zee ... emp·*fay*·len
a restaurant	
ein Restaurant	ain res·to·*rang*
a bar/pub	
eine Kneipe	ai·ne *knai*·pe

Where would you go for ...?

Wo kann man hingehen, um ...?	vaw kan man *hin*·gay·en um ...?
local specialities	
örtliche Spezialitäten zu essen	*eut*·li·khe shpe·tsya·li·*tay*·ten tsoo e·sen
a cheap meal	
günstig zu essen	*gewn*·stikh tsoo *e*·sen
a celebration	
etwas zu feiern	*et*·vas tsoo *fai*·ern

I'd like to reserve a table for ...

Ich möchte einen Tisch für ... reservieren.	ikh *meukh*·te *ai*·nen tish fewr ... re·zer·*vee*·ren
(two) people	
(zwei) Personen	(tsvai) per·*zaw*·nen
(eight) o'clock	
(acht) Uhr	(akt) oor

DOS & DON'TS

One early 20th-century German book of manners that we have seen exhorts dinner guests not to use their knives to carve their initials into the table of their hosts! Things have, fortunately, moved on somewhat since those days. With good manners now an automatic reflex, there's little need to panic at the dinner table, although the following tips might be helpful for first-time visitors to Germany.

- Do bring a small gift – a bottle of wine or flowers – if you've been invited to a meal.
- Do inform your hosts beforehand of any dietary needs.
- Do say *'Guten Appetit'* (good appetite) before starting to eat, and *'Prost!'* when drinking a toast.
- Do offer to help wash-up afterwards, particularly as locals tend to be quite punctilious about housework.
- Do specify if you don't want your restaurant dishes slathered in mayonnaise, *Quark* or dressing. Germans are unbelievably generous in this department.
- Do pay your bill at the table and give any tip directly to the server. Say either the amount you want to pay, or *'Stimmt so'* if you don't want change.
- Don't expect to get a glass of tap water at a restaurant or café; it's an unusual request that probably won't be understood or honoured.
- Don't get impatient or testy when waiting in a café, where many customers come to linger. If you're in a hurry, go to a *Stehcafé*.
- Don't assume you can pay by credit card when eating out. Very few restaurants accept cards, and then only at the top end of the market. Take enough cash instead.

I'm starving!
Ich bin am Verhungern! ikh bin am fer·*hung*·ern
Are you still serving food?
Gibt es noch etwas zu essen? gipt es nokh *et*·vas tsoo *e*·sen?

Do you have ...?
Haben Sie ...? *ha*·ben zee ...?
a menu in English
eine englische Speisekarte *ai*·ne *eng*·li·she *shpai*·ze·kar·te
kosher food
koscheres Essen *kaw*·she·res *e*·sen
vegetarian food
vegetarisches Essen ve·ge·*ta*·ri·shes *e*·sen

What would you recommend?
Was empfehlen Sie? vas emp·*fay*·len zee?
What's in that dish?
Was ist in diesem Gericht? vas ist in *dee*·zem ge·*rikht*
Is it cooked in meat stock?
Ist es in Fleischbrühe? ist es in flaish·*brew*·e?
Does it take long to prepare?
Dauert das lange? *dow*·ert das *lang*·e
I'd like a local speciality.
Ich möchte etwas typisches aus der Region. ikh *meukh*·te *et*·vas *tew*·pi·shes ows dair re·*gyawn*
That was delicious!
Das hat hervorragend geschmeckt!/ das hat her·*fawr*·raa·gent ge·*shmekt*/
Das war sehr lecker! das var zair *le*·ker
My compliments to the chef!
Mein Kompliment an den Koch! main kom·pli·*ment* an dayn kokh

I'd like ..., please.
Ich möchte ..., bitte. ikh *meukh*·te ... *bi*·te
a cup of tea/coffee
eine Tasse Tee/Kaffee *ai*·ne *ta*·se tay/*ka* fay
with (milk)
... mit (Milch) ... mit (milkh)

The bill, please.
Die Rechnung, bitte/Zahlen, bitte. dee *rekh*·nung *bi*·te/*tsaa*·len *bi*·te
(less formal)

Food Glossary

STARTERS

Bauernsuppe	*bow*·ern·zu·pe	cabbage and sausage 'Farmer's soup'
Fleischbrühe	*flaish*·brew·e	bouillon
Frühlingssuppe/ Gemüsesuppe	*frü*·lingks·zu·pe/ ge·*moo*·ze·zu·pe	vegetable soup
Graupensuppe	*grow*·pen·zu·pe	barley soup
Kieler Sprotten	*kee*·ler *shpro*·ten	small smoked herring
Kohlroulade	*kawl*·ru·laa·de	minced meat stuffed cabbage leaves
Vorspeisen	*fawr*·shpai·zen	starters

MAIN COURSES

Brathuhn	*braat*·hoon	roast chicken
Eintopf	*ain*·topf	one-pot meat and veg stew
Hackbraten	*hak*·braa·ten	meatloaf
Hauptgerichte	*howpt*·ge·rikh·te	main courses
Holsteiner Schnitzel	*hol*·shtai·ner *shni*·tsel	veal with fried egg, served with seafood
Rheinischer Sauerbraten	*rai*·ni·sher *zow*·er·braa·ten	marinated meat, slightly sour and roasted
Schweinshaxen	*shvains*·hak·sen	crispy Bavarian pork leg with potato dumplings

DESSERTS & CAKES

Aachener Printen	*aa*·khe·ner *prin*·ten	cakes with chocolate, nuts, fruit peel, honey and spices
Apfelstrudel	*ap*·fel·shtroo·del	apple strudel
Eis	ais	ice cream
Cremespeise	*kraym*·shpai·ze	mousse
Eierkuchen	*ai*·er·koo·khen	pancake
Frankfurter Kranz	*frank*·fur·ter krants	sponge cake with rum, butter cream and cherries
Gebäck	ge·*bek*	pastries
Kompott	kom·*pot*	stewed fruit
Kuchen	*koo*·khen	cake
Nachspeisen	*naakh*·shpai·zen	desserts
Obatzter	*aw*·bats·ter	Bavarian soft cheese mousse
Obstsalat	*awpst*·za·laat	fruit salad
Torte	*tor*·te	layer cake

BASICS

Brot	brawt	bread
Brötchen	*breut*·khen	bread roll
Butter	*bu*·ter	butter
Ei(er)	*ai*(·er)	egg(s)
Käse	*kay*·ze	cheese
Milch	milkh	milk
Nudeln	*noo*·deln	noodles
Pfeffer	*pfe*·fer	pepper
Reis	rais	rice
Salz	zalts	salt
Senf	zenf	mustard
Zucker	*tsu*·ker	sugar

FISH

Aal	aal	eel
Dorsch	dorsh	cod
Fisch	fish	fish
Forelle	fo·*re*·le	trout
Garnele	gar·*nay*·le	prawn
Hering	*hay*·ring	herring
Karpfen	*karp*·fen	carp
Lachs	laks	salmon

MEAT

Ente	*en*·te	duck
Fasan	fa·*zaan*	pheasant
Filet	fi·*lay*	fillet, tenderloin
Fleisch	flaish	meat
Gans	gans	goose
Geflügel	ge·*flew*·gel	poultry

Hackfleisch	*hak*·flaish	chopped or minced meat
Hähnchen or Huhn	*hayn*·khen or hoon	chicken
Kalbfleisch	*kalp*·flaish	veal
Lammfleisch	*lam*·flaish	lamb
Rindfleisch	*rint*·flaish	beef
Schinken	*shing*·ken	ham
Schweinefleisch	*shvai*·ne·flaish	pork
Wild	vilt	game

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Apfel	*ap*·fel	apple
Apfelsine	ap·fel·*zee*·ne	orange
Artischocke	*ar·ti·sho*·ke	artichoke
Bohnen	*baw*·nen	beans
Gurke	*gur*·ke	cucumber, gherkins
Kartoffel	kar·*to*·fel	potato
Knoblauch	*knawp*·lowkh	garlic
Kohl	*kawl*	*cabbage*
Rotkohl	*rawt*·kawl	red cabbage

DRINKS

Apfelwein	ap·fel·*vaine*	apple cider
Bier	beer	beer
Glühwein	*glew* vaine	mulled wine
Kaffee	*ka*·fay	coffee
Saft	zaft	juice
Wasser	*va*·ser	water
Weisswein/Rotwein	*vais* vaine/*rawt*·vaine	white/red wine