

travel*tips*

GNTB international press service for Destination Germany

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Modern art in Germany

For centuries, Germany has been actively involved in setting the trends in modern art. Dadaism, the 'Bridge' painters and the Blue Rider group all put their distinctive stamp on the world of painting. There have also been notable German art movements in the fields of photography, music, dance, furniture design, architecture and much, much more.

The House of Photography in Hamburg's Deichtor Halls is one of the most popular attractions for photographers from all over the world. Visitors can gain an insight into the elite world of fashion photography and view temporary exhibitions featuring originals by internationally acclaimed photographers as well as cinema posters and stills from popular films.

www.deichtorhallen.de

Installations are an integral part of the modern art scene. On the North Sea island of Föhr, 'Museum Kunst der Westküste' is currently showing the 'Touch' video installation, while at the ZKM Centre for Art and Media in Karlsruhe Mischa Kuball explores the phenomenon of light with his platon's mirror.

www.mkdw.de, www.zkm.de

Germany has a fascinating and diverse collection of museums. The Kragstuhlmuseum in the Weserbergland hills, also known as the museum of the cantilever chair (a chair without back legs), has an impressive design featuring ten red chairs on its roof. The Museum of Modern Art in Frankfurt is one of the world's most important museums of contemporary art. The Sprengel Museum in Hannover is renowned for its paintings and sculptures. The list goes on and on.

www.kunst-und-kultur.de/Museumsdatenbank

Dance and music are also important components of the German art scene. The theme for this year's Movimentos festival in Wolfsburg, Lower Saxony, is 'truth and beauty'. The event kicks off with a performance by the Movimentos Akademie at Wolfsburg Theatre on 26 April. The varied programme runs until 29 May and includes plenty of dance, dramatised readings, classical music, jazz and theatre.

www.autostadt.de

Health & Wellness in 2011: wellness at design hotels

Total relaxation in Rhineland-Palatinate

The Seehaus Forelle Haeckenhaus hotel lies on the shores of a small woodland lake in the heart of the Palatinate Forest/Northern Vosges Mountains biosphere reserve. This idyllic setting provides the perfect retreat for anyone feeling stressed; a place where you can switch off and enjoy a leisurely stroll or a spot of fishing. The hotel's 20 lovingly designed rooms create an oasis of calm where guests can escape from everyday life. The innovative hotel building has won several design awards. Rhineland-Palatinate awarded the hotel its regional prize for architecture. The building is designed to offer guests the ultimate in relaxation. Its simple elegance allows them to concentrate on what's really important – their own wellbeing. Options such as tai chi courses and fly fishing promote physical and mental relaxation. The Seehaus Forelle Haeckenhaus hotel is the ideal place for people to recharge their batteries and gather energy for everyday challenges.

Information

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A hotel by the 'rock star among designers'

Like a 'wave on the Rhine', the Kameha Grand Bonn stands harmoniously amidst the magnificent Rhineland scenery and offers impressive views of the Siebengebirge hills in North Rhine-Westphalia. This hip lifestyle hotel was designed by Marcel Wanders, the 'rock star among designers', who has created something truly remarkable with his neo-baroque interior that demonstrates a great passion for detail. Highlights include the themed suites: the Hero Suite provides all the functions and equipment of a modern office and the Fair Play Suites include table football and a Wii console, while the Diva Suites have all the home comforts a woman could desire and the Beethoven Suite comes with a grand piano. However, it's not just the hotel's design that impresses visitors. There's also a spacious spa area offering a range of massages, face masks and wellness treatments. The Kameha Spa's modern architecture features elaborate glass mosaics and exceptional design elements. The hotel also has a heated outdoor infinity pool, two saunas, two outdoor terraces, a steamroom, five treatments rooms, two rest zones and a health bar.

Information

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Purity, light and colour for design enthusiasts

Design Hotel Side is situated in the heart of Hamburg, not far from the Inner Alster lake. The first thing that strikes you is its natural stone and glass façade. The highly elegant interior is characterised by functional minimalism, the purity of the interior decor by Milan's star designer Matteo Thun, and a light installation by New York light choreographer Robert Wilson. This is complemented by the use of a variety of materials and finishes as well as the contrast between light and dark. There's no shortage of bright colours in the hotel's spa though. The technique of colour blocking has been used throughout the wellness and fitness oasis. The treatment rooms, showers, solarium, pool, aromatic steamroom, jacuzzi, Finnish saunas and gym all have their own individual colour. Each one stands for a different aspect of health and wellbeing. The pampering programme includes massages, facials, body treatments, exfoliating scrubs and much more besides.

Information

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20354 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 (0)40 309 990
Email: info@side-hamburg.de
www.side-hamburg.de

A rural idyll in the heart of Berlin

The Mandala Suites hotel offers guests a wonderful atmosphere with plenty of style and personality down to the smallest detail. The hotel is situated on Friedrichstrasse in the heart of Berlin's historic centre – and yet offers all the peace and calm of a rural idyll. Impressive architectural features include attractive corner suites, interesting spatial details and high-quality facilities.

The rooftop spa at the Mandala Suites has a range of wellness and spa packages as well as a fitness lounge with state-of-the-art gym equipment. As guests soak up the peace and quiet here, they can also enjoy incredible views of the buildings in Berlin's Mitte and Potsdamer Platz districts.

Information

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Tel.: +49 (0)30 202 920
Email: suites@themandala.de
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www.themandala.de

A world of wellbeing on Rügen Island

The artepuri® hotel meerSinn in Binz on the Baltic island of Rügen is an elegant design hotel built primarily using wood, steel and glass. Its inviting terrace is particularly appealing to those looking to get away from it all. The turnable wicker beach chairs with white canopies are a great place to while away the hours after a long walk along the beach. The 400m² spa area is a pampering haven that offers beauty treatments using high-quality natural cosmetics.

Information

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125th anniversary of the automobile: events from April to June

A 'birthday' convoy of classic cars in Stuttgart

In Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, the weekend of 7-8 May kicks off the celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of the motor car. The highpoint is the 'birthday convoy' on the Sunday, during which 125 classic Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Audi models (representing 125 years of the car) will be driven to Schlossplatz square to illustrate automotive history. Various types of vehicle, old and new models, and even prototypes for future cars will be presented on a stage and the public will be invited to inspect them close up. On the Saturday, 125 privately owned vehicles will be on display as part of the search for 'Stuttgart's Super Car', with winners selected by a panel of VIP judges. Rounding off the event is an exhibition on the future of the automobile on Schlossplatz square, which will be attended by representatives from Baden-Württemberg's carmakers as well as the industry's technology leaders. Another highlight is the "S-City Mobil" open-air car show featuring around 20 manufacturers and over 170 new vehicles.

Information

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Anniversary at Berlin's Museum of Technology

Since its invention 125 years ago, the motor car has changed the world significantly. So much so, that a world without mobility is hardly conceivable today. To mark the anniversary, the German Museum of Technology in Berlin will host a permanent exhibition on the theme of (auto)mobility from 13 May. Covering an area of 1,400 square metres, the 'Mensch in Fahrt' (People in Motion) exhibition is set in the new museum district on the former site of the Anhalter goods railway station. It features a number of innovative and exceptional exhibits such as carriages, bicycles, motorbikes and a total of 30 cars. Highlights include the Colani GT design car from 1964, the luxurious Mercedes 'Nürnberg' and the VW Beetle from 1951, which is still popular today. Electric vehicles are another interesting theme of the exhibition, pointing towards the fact that the traditional combustion engine is set to be replaced by new technologies in the future.

Information

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www.sdtb.de

BodenseeMobil – Lake Constance in motion

Lake Constance is a region in motion. Classic cars, boats and even Zeppelins have been driven and steered here over the course of the motor car's 125-year history. Through a wide range of events, the 'Lake Constance in motion – On land, on water and in the air' project aims to show visitors how important various means of transport were and still are for the region. The Automobile Summer 2011 kicks off with the 'International tourism at Lake Constance' exhibition. This is part of the 'Klassikwelt Bodensee' vintage vehicle show and the expo on sustainable mobility, The Electric Avenue. There will be plenty of classic cars to admire at both exhibitions in Friedrichshafen. Visitors will also have the opportunity to demonstrate their driving skills on the test track. Throughout the year, the 'Lake Constance in motion' project offers a number of other events such as classic car rallies and Zeppelin 'flightseeing' tours. As Lake Constance is a popular destination with tourists all year round, the project will also continue into next year.

Information

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www.bodensee.eu

The Vogelsberg hills – a mecca for rally fans

The Vogelsberg hills in Hessen are the home of motorsport. Back in the 1950s, world championship motorbike races held at the legendary Schottenring circuit would attract up to 250,000 spectators. Later, motor car races were also held here, such as the International ADAC 'Bergpreis Schottenring' hillclimb.

There is also a long tradition of rallies in the region. In the 1970 and 1980s, the Hessen Rallies and the Schottenring were among the biggest rally events in Germany. One of the absolute highlights takes place on 15 and 16 April 2011: the ADAC Hessen Rally Vogelsberg 2011, the second race of the 2011 German Rally Championship. Covering approx. 530km, the route zig-zags its way around the Vogelsberg hills. The main venue is the town of Schlitz.

Information

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www.rallye-vogelsberg.de

Classic cars in Radebeul

Visitors will get to see some very special classic cars on 24 April, when the East German Classic Car Association presents 20 privately owned vintage vehicles in Radebeul, Saxony. Among the vehicles on display on the village green in Altkötzschenbroda will be old GDR favourites such as the Wartburg, the Trabant and the Russian Lada. What's interesting about these vehicles is that they are all from private collections and are still being driven today. And the roads around Radebeul certainly provide the ideal venue for this. The Saxon Wine Route runs through gently rolling vineyard slopes down to the Elbe riverbank meadows.

Information

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www.ifa-freunde-sachsen.de

200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt

Liszt exhibition at Wartburg Castle

Franz Liszt and Grand Duke Carl Alexander of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach formed a close friendship. That is why Liszt had such a personal interest in Wartburg Castle and followed its restoration avidly. At the request of the Grand Duke, his portrait was incorporated into Moritz von Schwind's 'Singers' Contest'. After all, Schwind's famous frescoes in the Elisabeth Gallery had inspired Liszt's oratorio, 'The legend of Saint Elizabeth'. This was an expression of the patriotic and religious sentiments felt by the composer, who felt a special attachment to the saint. Performed under the baton of Liszt himself, the work was the glittering highlight of the celebrations marking the 800th anniversary of Wartburg Castle. To mark the 200th anniversary of Liszt's birth, the composer's hitherto largely unknown relationship with the famous building is being documented in a special exhibition by the Wartburg Castle Foundation from 5 May to 31 October.

Information

Wartburg-Stiftung
Auf der Wartburg
99817 Eisenach
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Email: info@wartburg.de
www.wartburg.de

Music and architecture under one roof

Even though their lives and reputations were clearly very different, an exhibition in Sondershausen from 19 June to 23 October mentions the names of two outstanding contemporaries in one breath: Franz Liszt and Carl Scheppig. A citizen of the world, Liszt was a famous musician who only stayed in Sondershausen every now and then. The architect Scheppig, on the other hand, was virtually unknown outside of Sondershausen and rarely left its environs. With the Lohhalle, a music pavilion for the Royal Court Orchestra in Sondershausen, Scheppig created a breathtaking venue for Liszt to perform in. Yet the two figures had more in common than just this: they represented a spirit of innovation, had significant Italian experiences and were celebrated in Sondershausen. Evidence of the excellent reputation they both enjoyed can be seen in the exhibition. Exhibits include scores by the new wave of German musicians that were performed in Sondershausen, concert programmes, reviews, drawings and architectural designs by Scheppig.

Information

Galerie im Schloss
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Email: schloss@sondershausen.de
www.sondershausen.de
www.thueringen-tourismus.de

Gala recital for the new Franz Liszt memorial organ

As a high-profile member of a small Catholic parish in the town of Weimar in Thuringia, Franz Liszt was extremely interested in having a new church built. A Europe-wide campaign for donations was set up to make this possible. Liszt contributed financially to the campaign, but did not live to see the consecration of the Sacred Heart Church (Herz-Jesu-Kirche) in 1891. The church was built in the style of the Italianate Renaissance and its cupola and belfry were modelled on Florence Cathedral. The church is now home to the Franz Liszt memorial organ with a mechanical key action and electric stop action. This new organ will be performed on in public for the first time by an internationally acclaimed organist and improviser. Principal organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Olivier Latry will give a gala organ recital at 7pm on 7 May, the evening before the 'organ consecration', rounded off in style by a gala dinner at the Grand Hotel Russischer Hof.

Information

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www.herzjesu-weimar.de

Homage to the piano virtuosos

"Liszt was a pop star of his time", said the composer's great great-granddaughter Nike Wagner about her famous ancestor. During his lifetime, Franz Liszt really was a cosmopolitan European who helped to restore Weimar to its former glory in the post-Goethe period. He lived and worked in this renowned centre of culture for three decades and wrote his most important works there. Reason enough for Thuringia to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Liszt with a year of exhibitions and concerts.

One of these is the exhibition entitled 'The artist as god'. It will be shown from 9 April to 9 July at the New Museum in Weimar in Thuringia, housed in the neo-Renaissance building that was once home to the Grand-Ducal Museum in the centre of town. The first of a series of exhibitions organised by the Weimar Classics Foundation, it examines a trend in the fine arts that reached its climax during the Liszt era.

The New Museum in Weimar was the first museum of contemporary art to open in eastern Germany after reunification. Acclaimed artists such as Daniel Buren and Sol LeWitt helped design the interior. Since 2004 the museum has shown works donated from the Paul Maenz collection and works of contemporary art, along with a number of special exhibitions. These generally feature works from Classicism through to the present day. Other attractions at the New Museum in Weimar include the monumental sculpture 'Goethe and Psyche' by Carl Steinhäuser and the installation entitled 'The Room' by Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist in the foyer.

Information

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www.klassik-stiftung.de
www.weimar.de

Modern art in Germany

From cotton to art in Leipzig

You'll find studios, galleries and workshops all under one roof at the Spinnerei in Leipzig in the state of Saxony. This former factory complex, continental Europe's biggest cotton mill in the early 20th century, was converted into one of Europe's most exciting production and exhibition sites for contemporary art and culture at the turn of the 21st century. The first artists set up shop at the Spinnerei back in the early 1990s, bringing the experiment to life with great daring and interest. Painters, photographers, sculptors, media artists and conceptualists can work undisturbed in their studios, while visitors wander the gallery spaces browsing the works, many of which are for sale. Three times a year, there are tours of the Spinnerei galleries at the weekends with new exhibitions and events. However, visitors can visit the galleries, HALL 14, workshops, shops and the various companies and creative professionals throughout the year as well.

Information

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E-Mail: mail@spinnerei.de
E-Mail: bs@spinnerei.de
www.spinnerei.de

Art to discover, acquire and enjoy

The 45th Art Cologne kicks off on 12 April in the North Rhine-Westphalian city of Cologne. Up to 200 international galleries will present works from the classical modernists through to post-war and contemporary artists until 17 April, covering the entire spectrum of 20th and 21st century art. Few other art fairs offer such a high-quality, comprehensive and fascinating overview of the avant garde. The striking works of art are not only on display for people to admire, they are also available for sale. Art lovers will find a wide selection covering every genre and price range. With unusual presentation formats such as Open Space, talent-nurturing programmes, New Positions for artists and New Contemporaries for galleries, as well as special exhibitions and award ceremonies, a visit to Art Cologne promises to be a truly memorable creative experience.

Information

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www.artcologne.de

An art extravaganza in Berlin

Set up seven years ago as a private initiative by Berlin's galleries, the Gallery Weekend is now one of the leading German fairs for contemporary art. Every year it attracts collectors, curators and culture vultures from all over the world to the buzzing German capital. This year 44 galleries will open the doors to their exhibitions on 29 April. Works by an incredible array of artists will be on display until 1 May. This year's event features a number of interesting new venues such as ArratiaBeer, BQ, Tanya Leighton, Lüttgenmeijer, PSM, Arndt, Moeller Fine Art and Kunsthandel Wolfgang Werner. These complement the existing group of young galleries, which includes Ben Kaufmann, Galerie Kamm, Koch Oberhuber Wolff, Galerie Micky Schubert, Sommer & Kohl, Sassa Trülzsch and Zak Branicka. Many other galleries and institutions throughout Berlin also use the weekend to open their new exhibitions.

Information

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www.gallery-weekend-berlin.de

A Midsummer Night's Dream in Hamburg

John Neumeier is the director and chief choreographer of the Hamburg Ballet. His artistic goal is to find contemporary, dramatic and symphonic forms of ballet and to present them in the context of classical ballet traditions. Neumeier has been responsible for several new versions of some of history's famous narrative and fairytale ballets in which he has created his very own storytelling structure. Neumeier's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', in particular, is regarded as one of his true gems. His choreographed work now returns to the Hamburg State Opera in this adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy. The Hamburg Ballet will perform the piece with two new ensembles from February to July.

Information

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www.hamburgballett.de

Kunst im Tunnel

On display at the Kunst im Tunnel art gallery in Düsseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia until 3 April, 'Der Menschen Klee' is the German take on 'the Human Clay'. It presents selected works, which are almost like a dialogue between artists – but in pictures relating to different ideas about art and teaching. The unusual pieces can be viewed in this stunning rendezvous for contemporary art, which consists of a gallery space situated between two road tunnels. The entrance area is a glass-fronted pavilion facing out onto the Rhine.

Information

KIT - Kunst im Tunnel
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www.kunst-im-tunnel.de

News and dates

Wine and walking weekend across Germany

Scheduled for 16 and 17 April this year, Germany's third wine and walking weekend offers more than 100 themed activities – including wine tasting with llamas! Throughout the country, keen walkers will set off across meadows and fields, stopping only to sample the wine. Many of the walks are accompanied by expert guides and lead to Roman forts and through herb gardens along Germany's wine routes. Walkers can also expect some culinary delights along the way. In addition to wine tasting, the choice ranges from hearty regional fare to five-course gourmet meals. A number of the trails also take walkers through wine-growing villages and wineries to traditional wine festivals. Not to be missed: along the narrow River Ahr in Rhineland-Palatinate, groups can even be led along by llamas!

Information

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A celebration of Reiser's comics

Laughing in the face of adversity could be the motto of the 'Vive Reiser' exhibition at Frankfurt's Caricatura Museum. French artist Jean-Marc Reiser produced irreverent and obscene drawings that flew in the face of political correctness. The heroes of his comics are completely normal people, lazy and often even undressed. Up until 2004, exhibitors were still issuing warnings to viewers that they might be offended. But it is precisely because of this 'no compromise' approach that the artist attracted so many admirers. The issues and drawings alike are as relevant today as they were during Reiser's lifetime. The exhibition runs until 26 June and demonstrates why Reiser's works are still provoking heated debate almost 30 years after his death.

Information

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Email: caricatura.museum@stadtfrankfurt.de
www.caricatura-museum.de

Future cars at Stuttgart's Mercedes-Benz Museum

What does the future hold for the motor car? How can we make driving fun but also environmentally friendly? The Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart puts the spotlight on various ideas in its newly redesigned Legend 6 exhibition room under the title 'New start – the Road to Emission-free Mobility'. 125 years after the birth of the motor car in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Legend 6 offers an insight into the future of the automobile by presenting a range of different drive systems. You'll find optimised combustion engines alongside electric drives, hybrid systems and fuel cells. The story of Mercedes-Benz is told in seven Legend rooms and five Collection rooms. With a total of 160 vehicles on display, it's an absolute paradise for car enthusiasts from all over the world.

Information

Mercedes-Benz Museum
Mercedesstrasse 100
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www.mercedes-benz-classic.com

Until 15 May

Blinky Palermo was one of the most mysterious German artists of the 1960s and 1970s. An exhibition at the LWL regional museum in Münster focuses in particular on Palermo's paintings.

Information

www.lwl.org

15 March to 28 March

Murder and mayhem at Stuttgart's whodunnit nights. A total of 40 events ranging from thrilling readings to plays draw visitors to unusual venues around the city in Baden-Württemberg.

Information

www.stuttgarter-kriminaechte.de

5 March to 7 August

Fashion is art and art is fashion. Wolfsburg Art Museum presents the exhibition entitled 'Between Skin and Clothing' which turns fashion shows into unique art installations.

Information

www.kunstmuseum-wolfsburg.de

16 to 25 April

The festival at Unter den Linden State Opera House in Berlin is a high point in the music calendar. This year's event centres around premieres of Berg's 'Wozzeck' and Wagner's 'Valkyrie'.

Information

www.staatsoper-berlin.org

6 March to 26 June

Rarely shown sculptures feature alongside experimental photography in 'The Fate of Sculpture', an exhibition of works by August Gaul at the Georg Schäfer Museum in Schweinfurt.

Information

www.museumgeorgschaefler.de

17 April to 28 August

Minimal art is the focus at the Kurhaus Museum in Cleves with an exhibition of works by Carl Andre. It spans the development of his sculptures from the 1960s through to the present day.

Information

www.museumkurhaus.de