

# Tour de Germany



From the Rhineland wine country through to cowboy and Indian festivals, Germany has a lot to offer visitors to the country. In her regular Expatica column, Cultural Clues, Hilly van Swol-Ulbrich provides some tips to a family who are planning to visit Germany to trace their family roots.

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*The Meisels wrote,*

*We have been tracing our family roots back to Germany and now look forward to come and visit this summer. What are the "must do's" and "not to miss".*

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Dear Meisels,

Well that is putting a challenge on the table, so much to see and to do and simply not enough space in this column. I have put together an eclectic mix taking you round the country with specific highlights for the next 6 months.. how is that?

Enjoy the rich variety Germany has to offer, a country that not only knows how to work hard but compensates by playing hard.

## June

Like a fresh breeze and dream about faraway places? Go to *Kiel* to see the tall ships and windjammers during their Regatta week.

But what about the beautiful river valleys home to famous vines? *Eltville*, and *Cochem* and many other places will welcome you at their numerous wine and Sekt (German sparkling wine) festivals.

## July

Great for the young and the young at heart: *Bad Segeberg* hosts the annual open air Karl May plays with cowboys and Indians. Or looking for that special gift to bring home?

*Trier* offers regular handicrafts markets near the Porta Negra left by the Romans.

## August

A bit of culture mixed with live music and great activities? The Museum Uferfest in *Frankfurt* along the Main embankment will do just that. Marvel at how the whole village of *Furth im Walde* is involved in the Drachenstich, a re-enactment of St George slaying the dragon.

## September

No kidding but this is when the world renowned Oktoberfest in *Munich* starts and should you need something hearty after the gallons of beer why not visit *Bad Durkheim* during the sausage fair?

## **October**

Love books - will travel? Then you should not miss the *Frankfurt* Book Fair in October. After the reflection you may fancy some action, visit *Bremen* during their famous Freimarkt-fair.

## **November**

*Duesseldorf* (granted many other places too) to watch the children at night with their home-made candle-lit lamps in the St Martins parade, followed by a sumptuous goose dinner with dumplings. Why not have an early start shopping for the Christmas season in *Berlin's* KDW (Kaufhaus des Westens department store) you will need at least a week to peruse all their offers!

## **December**

*Nuremberg* home of the Lebkuchen and one of the most frequent sold sweet breads on their beautiful Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas market).

But whatever you do, be safe and do not forget to call home from time to time. Enjoy!!

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*Hilly van Swol-Ulbrich is managing partner of CONSULTus. Her website is [www.Consultus.net](http://www.Consultus.net). She reserves the right to decide which questions she considers relevant for her column. She will, however, not answer any questions dealing with tax or legal matters.*