

**Hanseatic Beer Brewing tradition from the scenic Baltic Sea coast:** For most people, German beer means Bavaria. But there is much more to discover when it comes to German beer. The German brewery boom in the 13th century started in Northern Germany at the coasts of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea – the Hanseatic League’s trade centres. Much beer was exported to Scandinavia. German Bockbier (bock beer) is originated in a North German town "Einbeck", due to the bavarian dialect the name was later transformed to "Ein Bock". One awarded brewery is the “Stralsunder Brauerei” located at the Baltic Sea coast. Founded in 1827, the brewery soon became the highly valued purveyor by appointment for the popular seaside resorts. Already back then, the growing demand required a new brewery with modern technology: The first “Linde” reffridgerating machine made a unusual high beer quality possible. In that tradition, the “Stralsunder Brauerei” still produces high quality beer – honored with many awards. In 2008, the brewery was certified by the highest federal prize of the German food industry. As always – the best way to assess the quality of a beer is to taste it yourself on-site. Classic beers such as Pils, Lager, Bock, Dark beer, Wheat beer, Porter and even organic beer is awaiting friends of a good German beer. The “Stralsunder Brauerei” is part of our “Cultural Beer Tours Germany – Go East”. These special small group tour takes you to many local microbreweries, brewpubs, beergardens and much more in Berlin and East Germany – all the way south to Saxony and Thuringia and all the way north to the Baltic Sea coast.

TGAC in cooperation with Bier-Mania! – <http://www.bier-mania.com>

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**Advent in Germany’s capital and centre for art and culture, Berlin:** Romantic small towns in the Saxon Ore Mountains or the Thuringian Forest are mostly connected to the imagination of a nostalgic pre-Christmas season. But especially the megacity of Berlin will surprise you when it turns into a magical Christmas woderland. As one of Europe’s most inspiring centres of art, crafts, architecture and culture, Berlin attracts international artists, craftsmen and musicians. And the shopping opportunities are just inexhaustible – for every

taste and interest. Berlin has about two dozen different Christmas Markets. Alongside traditional markets with carefully decorated booths, top-quality craftwork and a cozy atmosphere will put you in the Christmas spirit. One of the most beautiful Christmas Markets is – appropriately – located at one of Europe’s most beautiful squares, the Gendarmenmarkt. Between the French and the German Cathedral and next to the famous Concert Hall, the “Christmas Magic” at the Gendarmenmarkt exhibits the work of painters, photographers, designers, carpenters, as well as wood and stone sculptors. Jugglers, acrobats, fire-swallowers, dance troupes, choirs, various Berlin classical, jazz and Gospel ensembles as well as internationally renowned artists provide for a varied entertainment program on each of market's 38 days. In the comfy warmth of the Craftsmen's Tent visitors have the chance to peek over the artisans' shoulders as they work. Other than the traditional delicious seasonal specialties, the Gendarmenmarkt Christmas Magic Market has something more to offer: top chefs present treats ranging from exquisite snacks to refined fine dining menu selections. And there is always a great variety of museums, galleries, sights, restaurants, bars, historic and modern architecture, events and entertainment you can choose from. The numerous churches and other historic places in Berlin provide the ideal ambience for the traditional Christmas choir and magnificent church music and organ performances. Our exclusive German Christmas Market Tours always start in Berlin and take you on an exciting journey to East Germany during pre-Christmas season.

[http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Christmas\\_Markets.html](http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Christmas_Markets.html)

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**Bauhaus artist Marianne Brandt – exhibitions in Chemnitz and Berlin:** Born in 1893 in the German city Chemnitz, the artist Marianne Brandt was one of the most innovative metal designers of the 1920s and 1930s in Germany. From 1923 until 1929, she took courses at the Bauhaus School for art, architecture and design and learned from Josef Albers, Laslo Moholy-Nagy, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. After finishing her education, Marianne Brandt took charge of the Bauhaus metal workshop. She created outstanding early Bauhaus designs – among them teapots and other household objects considered pioneers of modern industrialist design. Her metal lamps became world-famous. Brandt created her distinct ceiling light at her time at the Bauhaus in Dessau. Following the Bauhaus philosophy of interdisciplinary education and work, she

was a painter, photographer, sculptor and designer. Marianne Brandt was also successful in business and negotiated some of the most important Bauhaus contracts for collaborations with industry. These contracts were a rare example of a Bauhaus workshop helping to fund the school. After leaving the Bauhaus for Berlin in 1929, Brandt worked for Walter Gropius in his Berlin studio. The Industry Museum in Chemnitz (Saxony) shows a collection of Brandt's work as well as designs in the line of her succession. The triumphant creations of the annual international „Marianne Brandt Contest“ are also presented at the modern museum in Chemnitz – young designers, photographers, students and college graduates deal with the theme „The Poetry of Functionality“. The permanent exhibition at the Bauhaus Archive in Berlin also shows works by Marianne Brandt. After several months of renovations, the archive opens its doors again on October 4th, 2009. With CULTOURINARIA, we offer special Bauhaus study tours to the original Bauhaus sites in Germany and to other centres of modern German art, architecture and design.

[http://www.cultourinaria.com/Bauhaus\\_Tours.html](http://www.cultourinaria.com/Bauhaus_Tours.html)

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**Versatile culinary delights made from German apples:** August and September are the traditional months to harvest apples in Germany. Allegedly the wild apple tree is originated in Asia and came via trade routes to Europe. Already in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, apples were first cultivated. Although the variety of apples minimized over the years of modern agriculture, these days more and more savorers rediscover the quality and great taste of old traditional sorts. Apples can be stored for consumption throughout wintertime, but there are other ways of creating durable and delicious food product made from apples: juice, cider and liqueur. Apple juice is the second most popular juice in Germany. Apple wine – or cider – is the national beverage of the German state Hesse. Especially in late September and early October you come across local apple wine festivals, markets and tastings all over Germany. It is the very best way to savor a sparkling refreshing cider – directly at the apple winery where it was made and ideally sitting outside while enjoying the last warm days. You will be surprised about the great variety of colors and tastes depending on the apple sorts, the soil, the location, the weather, the fermenting process – every region has its own unique specialty. In Germany, fruit schnaps (liqueur) “Obstler” is mostly made from apples, pears, peaches, cherries and plums. The secret is the careful distillation process – no surprise that the best Obstler is produced

by small traditional family-run distilleries where quality is more important than quantity. The secret of a special apple liqueur “Calvados style” is the maturing in old wooden barrels. And the best of it – fruit schnaps is the perfect souvenir to bring home from a culinary trip to Germany.

<http://www.cultourinaria.com>

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**Local Tourist Information Offices – an information source of value for independent travelers:** It’s impossible – and not even necessary – to know everything about a travel destination before you get there. In Germany, you can take advantage of a network of local tourist information offices which provide current and helpful information as well as brochures, maps and souvenirs. Usually the tourist information office is centrally located – either near the main train station or near the central square / town hall – or both. The staff will search for an accommodation if you need one and book it right away in your behalf. Of course they know about the things to see and to do and can make suggestions – also in english. You get valuable information about public transportation, museums, opening hours, sightseeing tours, scheduled guided walking tours, day excursions and events. It’s always worth to ask about special offers for tourists – many cities sell “tourist cards” which you can use for all public transportation and which grant you discounts or free admissions. Especially a “tourist ticket” makes your stay in big cities like Berlin and Leipzig much easier and relaxing – no hassle with ticket vendors, money change etc.. We also cooperate with local tourist information offices when we plan and organize trips for independent travelers and small groups. How do you like the idea, that an envelope with brochures, maps and tips is already awaiting you when you check in at the hotel – material we order from the tourism information and they send it to your accommodation...

[http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Individual\\_Traveler\\_Info.html](http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/Individual_Traveler_Info.html)

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