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# Get active in Germany!



Discovery. Experience. Movement: RUHR.2010 – European Capital of Culture

## Destination Germany. Great deals. Easy booking.

Germany's diverse landscape and vibrant cities make it the perfect destination for active travelers, and many of its most alluring attractions, including local restaurants, charming inns, national parks, and museums offer outstanding value for low prices. Visit [cometogermany.com/saving\\_money](http://www.cometogermany.com/saving_money) to find out how you can get your fill of German culture and food for \$100 a day or less.

In the surroundings of Germany's vibrant cities there are over 100 parks and most offer free admission. The Bavarian Alps in the south of Germany are the perfect setting for Alpine skiing, snowboarding and ice hockey in the winter, and canoeing, paragliding, mountain biking, climbing, hiking and golf during the rest of the year—the choice is yours. And from September 19th to October 4th the famous Oktoberfest in Munich is not to be missed. Every year, more than six million visitors come to enjoy traditional music, food, and above all, beer.

From the capital of beer, move on to the European Capital of Culture in 2010: formerly marked by heavy industry, the metropolitan Ruhr area around Essen in the west of Germany will showcase its newly developed cultural richness with year-round festivities and exhibitions. North Duisburg's Landscape Park, originally a steel works, now offers high-wire climbing, free climbing, and even the largest diving center in Europe. After dark the light installations by British artist Jonathan Park convert the impressive industrial scenery into a world-class artistic spectacle. The Zeche Zollverein mining complex in Essen was once the largest and most efficient colliery in the world. Preserved today as a stunning example of Bauhaus architecture, it is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and the region's major event center.

Just like the Ruhr area in the west, more and more of Germany's industrial landscapes are being transformed into breathtaking recreation areas. South of Leipzig, the reutilization and flooding of former coal mines creates "Neuseenland" (New Sea Land) where, besides the cultivation of new woods, 18 lakes with a total area of about 28 square miles are nascent to become one of the most unique water landscapes in Europe. Discover wellness and active opportunities like rafting, canoeing, surfing, and sailing in this one-of-a-kind environment, just two hours from Berlin.

With more than 50 islands and 1,400 miles of coastline along the North and Baltic Sea, Germany is a true paradise for water enthusiasts. Dramatic cliffs, gently shelving beaches of fine sand, picturesque seaside resorts and fishing towns attract locals and visitors alike. For an unusual experience, drive an hour to the northwest of Hamburg and you'll find the Wadden Sea mudflats, a unique strip of coastal wetland that has just been declared a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in June 2009. Special walking tours, sailing, and even seal-watching are among visitor's favorites.

**Come get active in Germany! For more travel ideas, visit [cometogermany.com/active\\_vacations](http://www.cometogermany.com/active_vacations), the official website of the German National Tourist Office.**

Clockwise from Top:  
A runner in mid-leap on the Rothaarsteig trail; A cliffhanger at Bad Schandau/Saxon Switzerland; For an unusual experience, take a walk on the mudflats on the coast of the North Sea, near Dangast; Klettersteig climbing in the Bavarian Alps

Clockwise from Top: DZT/Björn Hänsler, bopicture; Tourismusverband Sächsische Schweiz; Topel Kommunikation GmbH/Dirk Topel; DZT/Björn Hänsler, bopicture



**Destination Germany. Excellent value and extremely affordable.** In 2010, the Ruhr will become the first metropolitan region to hold the title of European Capital of Culture. Five of its cities are opening their doors to the world: Duisburg, where Sir Norman Foster has transformed the river port into a buzzing cultural district. Oberhausen, whose finger-on-the-pulse entertainment includes sensational exhibitions in the gasometer and superior shopping at CentrO. Essen, the flagship city for RUHR.2010 – energy companies, the arts and UNESCO World Heritage at the Zollverein Coalmine. Bochum, the region's theater capital, with post-industrial landscapes and cultural attractions. Dortmund, whose golden "U" is a landmark for art, creativity and the new media in the 21st century. [www.cometogermany.com/specialoffers](http://www.cometogermany.com/specialoffers)

The German National Tourist Board is an official partner of RUHR.2010

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