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UNESCO World Heritage in Germany

Time Travel by train

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IN COLLABORATION WITH

Michael Turtle

www.timetravelturtle.com

18th June – 17th July 2014

#timetravelbytrain

#welterbegermany



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



German National Tourist Board
Theme for 2014
World Heritage in Germany
with the support of the
German Commission for UNESCO

TimeTravel by train

There are 39 World Heritage Sites in Germany and only three other countries have more. They range from ancient Roman ruins to modern housing estates. There are royal residences, grand churches and old industrial sites. Together they tell a story of a country that has made its mark on Europe over the centuries through leadership, cooperation, hard work and ingenuity.

I decided to make this trip by train because I love watching the countryside go by as I travel between the sites. It's also convenient and comfortable and takes me right to the centre of dynamic cities, into charming rural communities and through stunning landscapes. Along the journey are the constantly changing cultures, cuisines and environments of the country's different regions. One of the most enjoyable parts of this trip is being able to see the whole breadth of Germany from north to south and east to west.

Each night I stayed in one of the hostels in the German Youth Hostel network. It added another level to the experience, with many of the properties in authentic cultural or historical buildings across the country I set myself a challenge to see all of the 39 World Heritage Sites in just 30 days. Most people would probably prefer to spend longer at many of the sites to learn more about their significance and explore the region. So feel free to use this guide to visit every single one of Germany's World Heritage Sites or choose a selection to fit your interests.



For the project the GNTB has teamed up with the German Youth Hostel Association (DJH) www.youth-hostels.de and transport partner Deutsche Bahn www.bahn.com



Blogger Michael Turtle

Michael Turtle left his full time job in the Australian media industry three years ago to travel indefinitely and really experience the places he visits. He uses his journalistic background to find stories he is passionate about and share the tales of his journey on his blog, Time Travel Turtle, which was named as the Best Australian Lifestyle Blog this year. His writing goes beyond the brochure to offer a deeper look at the people, culture and history behind a destination. He is also on a mission to visit every World Heritage Site on the planet... but still has about 800 to go! You can also follow Michael on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

Discover the highlights of Germany by rail – fast and comfortably

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Tickets

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TimeTravel by Train



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Details on all the 39 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and their routes are available on our app. Download at www.germany.travel/unesco

DAY 1

18|6|2014

Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church

From the outside, the Wieskirche Pilgrimage Church feels tranquil, set in green Bavarian meadows with animals grazing around it. Inside, however, is the real significance of this site. The interior of the church is decorated in what is considered to be one of the best examples of rococo architecture in this part of Germany. Painted ceilings, statues, golden trims and intricate plasterwork fill the main section of the building. Around the altar, the colours and artwork become even more intense.

The Wieskirche was built between 1745 and 1754 after tears were apparently seen coming from a wooden statue of the Flagellated Christ and a stream of pilgrims began to travel to the site. It became one of the most important pilgrimage sites of the 18th worked with some of the best artists of the time to create an appropriate church to house the statue.

The decoration of the church pays homage to the themes of pilgrimage, suffering and salvation and, although it is a small building, it can take a long time to look properly at all of the artwork and architectural details.

Although the site is out of town, there are a number of good restaurants on the grounds which serve traditional Bavarian food at outside tables with a view of the church. It's a great place for lunch before or after a visit inside.



Quote

“At the Wieskirche there’s no admission charge and the church is open during the day every day. However, you can’t walk around or take photos if there is a service going on.”



Travel by train to Germany – offered by **DB Bahn**

Starting my German World Heritage. I got a good night’s rest on the overnight train from Florence and then the Deutsche Bahn staff delivered pastries, juice and a coffee to everyone to wake us up.

DAY 2

19|6|2014

Monastic Island of Reichenau

The monastery founded here on the island in the 8th century was one of the most important in southern Germany. There are still several important religious buildings you can visit. The island itself is large and takes several hours to walk around and see a few things. A bicycle would be the best way to explore it. Entry to the island is free and open 24 hours a day - it's just a normal community. There's accommodation or the closest main city to stay in is Konstanz.

My tip: make sure you buy some of the fresh fruit while you're there!



Download app at
www.germany.travel/unesco

Quote

“Reichenau Island is on the 'Lake Constance and the Alps' route on the cool Welterbe Germany app about German World Heritage available on iOS and android.”



DAY 3

20|6|2014

Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps

The photo in the background is from the museum at Unteruhldingen which has reconstructed the houses of ancient people from up to 7000 years ago. The Stone Age people built them like this as protection from predators and so they were convenient for fishing and trade. The actual ruins are mainly underground or underwater and so, obviously, pretty hard to see unless you're a diver or a worm.

DAY 4

21|6|2014

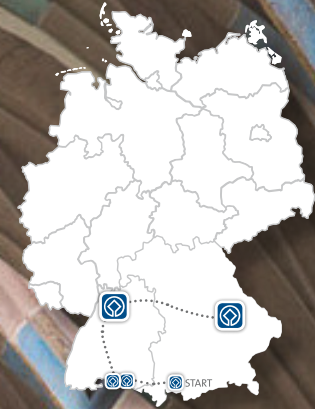
Maulbronn Monastery

Inside one of the rooms of Maulbronn Monastery Complex, my fourth Visit Germany World Heritage site of the challenge. Built over 400 years from 1147, this is the best preserved monastic complex north of the Alps. Around the monastery are the buildings that helped service the monks - stables, a granary, storehouses and even a fish farm!



Quote

“The best way to see Regensburg is to start at the old Roman bridge and work your way up past the cathedral, the old town hall, through the Haidplatz square and over to St James’s Scottish Church.”



DAY 5

22|6|2014

Stop 1

Old town of Regensburg with Stadthof

The cute little streets of Regensburg with its coloured houses and gorgeous squares. The only problem is that I could only spend a couple of hours here because I now need to move on to another site this afternoon.



DAY 5

22|6|2014

Stop 2

Magravian Opera House in Bayreuth

The Magravian Opera House in Bayreuth... well... sort of. The column you can see on the right is real and I'm standing in a real balcony but the rest is just a painting on canvas. Behind that are four floors of scaffolding covering the real interior of the opera house. The whole place is undergoing a huge four year restoration and won't be open again until 2017. It's a pity not to see the inside for myself because it's supposed to be absolutely spectacular... Although there is a decent museum with pictures and interactive displays.

Quote

"Bamberg is divided into three main sections and it's easy to walk from the train station to each of them."



DAY 6

23|6|2014

Stop 1

Old town of Bamberg

The old town hall of Bamberg – a beautiful little city built on seven hills and across a main river. It's often referred to as a 'second Rome' because of its importance in the Holy Roman Empire. It has also escaped relatively unscathed from any war.



DAY 6

23|6|2014

Stop 2

Würzburg Residenz Palace and Court Gardens

The front entrance to The Würzburg Residence, one of the finest baroque palaces in Europe. I would love to show you what it looks like inside but annoyingly there's no photography allowed. But it's stunning, with enormous halls with painted ceilings and smaller rooms decorated with tapestries, mirrors and gold. The residence is just a 15 minute walk from the DB Bahn station at Würzburg. Entry costs 7.50€ for an adult and it's open from 9 am - 6 pm this time of year. The gardens are also beautiful and they're free.

Quote

"There is a bus that goes from Eisenach train station to Wartburg Castle but if you are feeling energetic, it's a delightful uphill walk through the city and the surrounding forest."



DAY 7

24|6|2014

Stop 1

Wartburg Castle

The great fortress of Wartburg Castle has stood on the same spot for more than a thousand years, looking out over the forests around the city of Eisenach. The first construction of the castle was in 1067 but changes over the centuries have left the complex like a museum, documenting the shifting culture of the region. Important residents of the castle have included St Elisabeth of Hungary, who was known for her charitable work, and Martin Luther, who translated the New Testament of the Bible in a small room over the course of just ten weeks.



DAY 7

24|6|2014

Stop 2

Classical Weimar

It was in the small town of Weimar, in central Germany, that an artistic flowering emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Some of the country's most famous writers and scholars moved here to work together in an atmosphere of artistic inspiration. The best-known residents were Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller.

The cultural movement now known as 'Weimar Classicism' was able to develop in a large part because of the support of Duchess Anna Amalia. She acted as a patron for many of the artists and writers and encouraged them to move to Weimar. The community she fostered brought out the best in them all.

The World Heritage Site in Weimar consists of twelve separate collections of buildings that represent the people and the cultural movement of the time. The most famous of these sites is the home of Goethe. His old residence has been restored with the interior designs and artworks of his time. A modern museum has now also been built on an extension of the site.

The house of Schiller has also been restored with an added museum and also nearby is the Wittumspalais, which was the centre of cultural exchange. It was the home of the duchess and she would invite writers, artists and intellectuals to meet here for regular discussions.

Other highlights of Classical Weimar include the Historical Library, the City Palace and the Belvedere Palace and all are within walking distance of each other. Most of the buildings are designed in the Baroque style and now host exhibitions that give an excellent insight into the intellectual environment of the times.

Quote

"Make sure you check out the old university buildings here in Weimar which are part of another World Heritage Site - Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau."



DAY 8

25|6|2014

Stop 1

Luther memorials in Eisleben

A statue of Martin Luther in the museum built in the house he was born in. It's one of several parts of the town of Eisleben that has been listed as a World Heritage Site because of the influence Luther had. A few people have told me that Martin Luther "changed the world" because of his key role in the Reformation in the 16th century. Well, when you visit a museum like this, there's definitely no doubting the impact he had in Germany and broader Europe.

Stop 2

Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg

Why have I never heard of Quedlinburg before? This place is gorgeous! The whole of the old town looks like this photo - more than 1300 houses built over eight centuries in the style of the Middle Ages. The main sites in town are the central market square and the Church of St Servatius which had the tomb of the first German king. But I think just wandering the side streets is the best way to explore. It feels like a movie set and I could've taken hundreds of photos of all the buildings!



Quote

"The Luther memorials in Eisleben are just one part of the World Heritage Site – there is more to see in Wittenberg."



Youth Hostel, Quedlinburg

*Even the **Quedlinburg Youth Hostel** in Germany is part of the World Heritage Site old town! It's quite a special feeling to walk through these back streets and see everything how it was in the Middle Ages.*

DAY 9

26|6|2014

Stop 1

Bauhaus and its sites in Weimar and Dessau

If you've been wanting some modern sites from my World Heritage challenge through Germany, here's a very cool one for you. Several buildings in Weimar and Dessau have been listed because of their role in the Bauhaus movement. I love the cool and funky design which was considered groundbreaking in the early 20th century.

Stop 2

Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz

After some modernist architecture this morning, I relaxed this afternoon in the Garden Kingdom of Dessau. More specifically, I visited the gardens and castle at Wörlitz, built about 250 years ago. There is an enormous lake here and some people were out 'boating' on gondolas but I ran out of time unfortunately. What I love is that the grounds are free and open to the public and have been ever since they were created in the late 1700s! Although the gardens in the Garden Kingdom of Dessau are enormous and charming, there are lots of 'palaces' to explore as well. I went into one of them - at Wörlitz - to see how the original owners lived in the late 18th century. Well, I can tell you they certainly had an impressive art collection!



Quote

"It's easy to do both the Bauhaus and Wörlitz garden sites on the same day but you'll need more time to see the other gardens and palaces in Dessau."

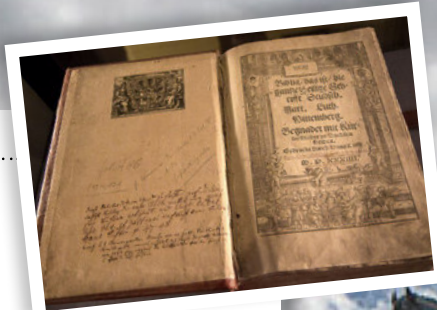


DAY 10

27|6|2014

Luther memorials in Wittenberg

The very first edition of the Bible translated into German by Martin Luther, published in the early 1500s. It's one of the things on display at the very detailed Luther Museum in the house where he lived in Wittenberg. Martin Luther is credited with creating today's German language because of this translation.



Quote

"There are five main museums on the island and each is a grand display of architecture in itself. Enormous halls, spectacular foyers, huge marble staircases."

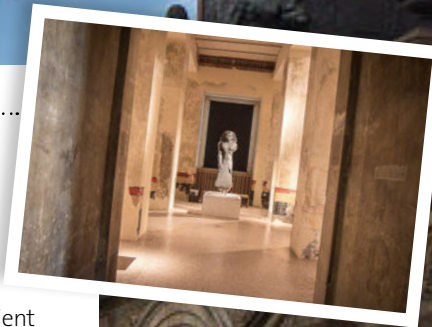


DAY 11

28|6|2014

Berlin Museum Island

A stay in Berlin gives easy access to three of Germany's World Heritage Sites and each of them is quite different from the other. Right in the heart of the city, Berlin's Museum Island offers a journey through the ancient world. The five museums on the island hold collections of art and artefacts from cultures like Ancient Egypt, the Byzantine Empire and Persia. In the impressive Pergamon Museum, large reconstructions of archaeological sites dominate entire rooms. The Old National Gallery, on the hand, has a large collection of 19th century European art. As well as the exhibitions, the architecture of the buildings themselves is well worth the visit and it's easy to spend a day or more seeing everything.



Call a Bike at Hauptbahnhof – offered by DB Bahn

It's like the system a lot of cities have where you can pick up a bike at a docking station and then drop it off at another one when you're finished. And it costs 8 cents a minute.

DAY 12

29|6|2014

Muskauer Park

It was the dream of travel writer and landscape gardener, Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau, to one day build a grand park in his homeland of Germany. In Muskauer Park, he realised his ambition.

The park is large – about 830 hectares – and was designed with traditional English landscaping at its core. However, its expansive space provided the opportunity to incorporate features from other European styles. It was laid out between 1815 and 1845 and includes a manmade canal, a glasshouse, a hillside park and small beautiful bridges.

Each section has a unique feel, from the dense forest areas in the hills to the lakeside serenity closer to the site's main building, New Palace. But the various parts of the park are connected with sweeping vistas and paths that wind through the landscaping. Changes and extensions have been made to the area since the first design but always within the original visions of Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau.

Muskauer Park straddles the border of Germany and Poland with large parts of the garden in both countries. It's a testament to cross-country cooperation that there is a smooth synergy between both sides and, if it wasn't for the river as the border, it would be hard to know where one ends and the other starts.

The park is large and it would take hours to walk through it all. Bicycle is an excellent way to explore the furthest parts or a horse-drawn carriage is a more luxurious option. It is, though, easy enough to walk to a variety of areas in a morning or afternoon.

Quote

"If you've got a spare day in Berlin then you could easily do a day trip to Muskauer Park."



DAY 13

30|6|2014

Berlin Modernism Housing Estates

Officially this site is called 'Berlin Modernism Housing Estates' and basically it's 6 different apartment complexes across the city. They were built between 1910 and 1933 and represent a time of very progressive thoughts on social housing. It is possible to take guided tours of the housing estates or visit independently.



Quote

"A quick side-trip from Berlin to the palaces and parks of Potsdam – just an hour with DB."



DAY 14

1|7|2014

Palaces and parks of Potsdam and Berlin

The Palaces and Parks of Potsdam site is about 60 minutes from central Berlin on the train. The large landscaped area uses gardens and carefully-designed parks to connect about 150 different buildings, including the famous grand Palace of Sanssouci. The palaces and the site overall were developed over a period of more than two centuries during the Prussian monarchy. Entry to the parks and gardens is free but admission tickets are needed for most of the palaces. It can easily take a day to see just the highlights of the site.



DAY 15

2|7|2014

Stop 1

Germany's Ancient Beech Forests

It's nice to get amongst some nature. It's called the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany which actually includes several places across the country. I decided to visit this one - Jasmund National Park on the island of Rugen. The beech forests are thick, but they also go to the coast where they grow on the top of chalk cliffs.

DAY 16

3|7|2014

Historic Centres of Stralsund and Wismar

This is the market square of Wismar, in the old town on the Baltic Sea. It was once a rich trading city (in medieval days) and the large grand churches in the centre attest to that! It is a World Heritage Site along with the similar old town in Stralsund.

Quote

"While you're on Rugen Island, take a ride on the old Rasender Roland steam train."



DAY 17

4|7|2014

Stop 1

Hanseatic Town of Lübeck

That moment when you walk into a church and the sunlight is streaming through one of the high-up windows straight onto the pulpit. It's especially atmospheric here in St Mary's in the German city of Lübeck. The church was built in the 1200s and the nave is about 40 metres high!

Stop 2

Town hall and Roland statue in Bremen

Inside the Town Hall of Bremen. This grand room was built in the 1400s and the decorations have been added over the years (although there aren't really any modern additions). I love the ship hanging from the ceiling - there are three others too that you can't see in this photo. The other rooms in the Town Hall are also beautiful and there is so much detail to see if you look closely.

Quote

"I was really surprised by how much I enjoyed Bremen. The city has a great vibe and the bars and restaurants along the river are a lot of fun."



DAY 18

5|7|2014

Wadden Sea

It's a tricky one to get an idea of. It's the Wadden Sea - a huge expanse of water shared with the Netherlands and Denmark. But one way to see it is to walk on it... sort of. It's low tide at the moment so I walked out on the mud-flats to see the small animals that live here even when the water is out.

DAY 19

6|7|2014

Stop 1

St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Michael's Church in Hildesheim

Looking up at the ceiling of St Michael's Church in Hildesheim. The painting is from the 13th century and shows the family tree of Jesus (slightly abridged) all the way from Adam and Eve. I particularly love how the windows at the top of the church make it look like a filmstrip.



Quote

"There are lots of ways to enjoy the Wadden Sea at Norddeich – but it's especially popular with kitesurfers!"



Youth Hostel, Norddeich

*Here's a little tip for when you stay at the nice **Norddeich Youth Hostel** in Germany. There's a seafood restaurant right across the road and it's delicious! You can sit outside with a beer which is glorious.*

DAY 19
6|7|2014

Stop 2

Fagus Factory in Alfeld

Today, the Fagus Factory in Alfeld doesn't look out of place. However, when it was built in 1911, it was revolutionary. The building was one of the first in the world of the Modernist era and the large glass windows and unsupported corners were unprecedented.

Incredibly, the same company that built the Fagus Factory is still operating here today, making moulds for shoe production. Although technology has changed and the moulds are now made from plastic, not beech wood, the building has proven its longevity and has needed very few modifications over the years.

To appreciate the significant architectural details, it's important to see the building from the outside and the inside. Even though the factory is operational, there are tours through all areas including past the production lines. There is also an excellent museum over several floors of the old warehouse that tells the story of the building and the business.

The Fagus Factory is just a short ten minute walk from Alfeld train station and, in fact, arriving by train from the north gives an appropriate preview to the site. The factory is built along the railway line for the easy transportation of goods and the architects placed more emphasis on the trackside part of the building because they considered it would be seen by more people.

Quote

"The walk from the train station to the Carolingian Westwerk and Civitas Corvey is about 30 minutes but it's along a river and very pleasant."



DAY 20
7|7|2014

Carolingian Westwerk and Civitas Corvey

This is Germany's newest World Heritage Site! The Carolingian Westwerk and Civitas Corvey is an old abbey from the 9th century - and it was added just two weeks ago! It is far more impressive than I expected and the buildings are actually quite large with grand rooms with paintings and decorations. The interior of the church is stunning too - as you can see in this photo.



DAY 21

8|7|2014

Stop 1

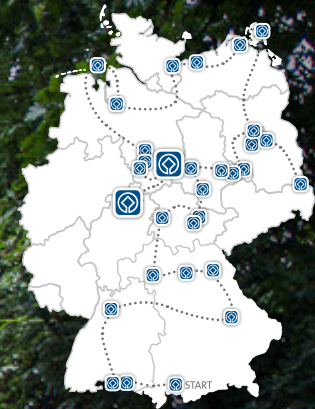
Mines of Rammelsberg, Historic Town of Goslar and Upper Harz Water Management System

I really loved this World Heritage Site - the Rammelsberg Mine in Goslar. Archaeologists believe humans first started 'mining' here about 3000 years ago but it's had proper infrastructure for about 1000 of them! It only stopped being in use in 1988. You can tour through the tunnels and past the equipment used in the last century and see some of the innovative techniques used before that. It's all pretty cool.



Quote

"You could spend all day at Wilhelmshöhe Park if you wanted. It's enormous with lots of different sections."



DAY 21

8|7|2014

Stop 2

Wilhelmshöhe Park

Another amazing German World Heritage Site that I had never heard of but have been blown away by! Unfortunately the weather is not great but that just adds a bit of atmosphere to the Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe here in the city of Kassel. It's Europe's largest hillside park and was first landscaped in the late 1600s. There's a palace in the middle and all sorts of other buildings, lakes, waterfalls and forests throughout it.

DAY 22

9|7|2014

Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes

This one is called 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' and is made up of the old borderline of the Romans. The site's actually shared with the UK, which has Hadrian's Wall as its part. Here in Germany, the best place to visit is Saalburg (just outside Frankfurt). There is a fully reconstructed Roman fort, which is supposed to be the highlight. Personally, though, I enjoyed walking through the surrounding forest and finding little bits of ruins hidden amongst the trees - like in this photo.



Quote

"The museum at the Messel Pit Fossil Site takes a modern twist on an ancient site and is well worth a look."



DAY 23

10|7|2014

Stop 1

Messel Pit Fossil Site

This is one of the fossils found at the Messel Pit, not too far from Frankfurt. The oil shale here was formed 47 million years ago. In it are all sorts of amazingly well preserved fossils of animals like fish, birds, apes, and marsupials.



DAY 23

10|7|2014

Stop 2

Lorsch Abbey

Unfortunately the abbey was closed for restoration when I visited – although I did know that, so it wasn't a surprise. This is all I could see of the famous Kings Hall of the Abbey of Lorsch but apparently the site is quite impressive inside. I'm ticking it off the list officially but will have to come back sometime. It reopens later in July.



Quote

"Lorsch Abbey reopened on July 21, 2014 after a three year restoration project."



DAY 23

10|7|2014

Stop 3

Speyer Cathedral

Speyer Cathedral is the largest Romanesque church in the world and has been one of the most important in Europe for almost a thousand years. The first construction of the building was in 1030 and a subsequent renovation in 1077 made it the first and largest consistently vaulted church in Europe. Architecturally, it broke new ground as the first structure to have a gallery encircling the whole building and an innovative system of arcades. The design of Speyer Cathedral influenced the construction of churches across the continent for centuries.



Youth Hostel, Speyer

*The fanciest breakfast of all the Youth Hostels I've stayed at this month. At the **Speyer Youth Hostel**, you get a reserved table (with a flower!) and a hot pot of coffee waiting for you! Excellent variety of food too.*

DAY 24

11|7|2014

Völklingen Ironworks

Walking through the Völklingen Ironworks feels like being lost in the middle of a metal jungle. Pipes, tracks, and silos all merge together to create an enormous patchwork of industry in which the visitors seem so insignificant in size. The ironworks first started operation in 1883 and was a critical part of the industrial landscape in Germany during the 20th century. At its peak, more than 17,000 people worked here. When the complex finally closed in 1986 it was protected as a national monument and in 1994 it was the first industrial site in any country to be listed as a World Heritage Site.

The Völklingen Ironworks is large with a series of different sections to explore. From the sintering shed, through the burden shed and up to the coking plant, there are more than 6 kilometres of pathways for visitors to follow that take at least two hours to walk through properly. One of the highlights of the paths is the opportunity to take detours and discover different parts of the various sections. Although some areas are off limits for safety reasons, there's a large degree of flexibility in where you can explore independently. Climbing up to the top platform and looking out across the site is a must.

The original industrial feel of the ironworks has been well preserved and it's not hard to imagine how the site would have felt when it was at the height of its operation. The metal maze seems intimidating at first but everything has its place and is connected to each other in a logical way. The huge complex also hosts constantly changing art and history exhibitions in a few of its sections. Some of the exhibitions are included in the general admission, while larger special events are held in the enormous Blower Shed for an additional charge.

Quote

"In 1994 it was the first industrial site in any country to be listed as a World Heritage Site."



Mobile App – offered by DB Bahn

The easiest way to come to Völklingen Ironworks - use GPS to get directions to the closest station, it tells you what platform trains are leaving from, gives you updates on any delays, lets you search weeks ahead, and much more.

DAY 25

12|7|2014

Roman monuments, the Cathedral and Church of Our Lady in Trier

Funnily enough, although the city looks beautiful and charming, most of the buildings aren't included in the UNESCO listing. It's the old Roman sites from almost 2000 years ago that make up the heritage site. This photo is of the old Roman city gate - probably the most famous landmark in Trier.



Quote

"Day 26 of the challenge was my only day off. It was nice to have a bit of a rest and just move between sites ready for the final leg."



DAY 27

14|7|2014

Upper Middle Rhine Valley

An island in the stream. Today has all been about exploring the Rhine River and Valley in the west of Germany. I started in Bacharach, jumped on a KD cruise down to St Goar and then back on another KD boat to Boppard.



Youth Hostel, Bacharach

*Can you see the castle at the top? That's the **Bacharach Youth Hostel** where I stayed last night. Incredible views out across the Rhine River and Valley!!*

DAY 28

15|7|2014

Stop 1

Cologne Cathedral

Even from a couple of kilometres away, the spires of Cologne Cathedral dominate the horizon. It's really impossible to capture the scale of the cathedral. It's one of the most impressive religious buildings you will ever see and is spectacular from every angle. When construction was finished in 1880, it was the tallest building in the world!



Quote

"Climb up the huge set of stairs to the top of the spire of Cologne Cathedral for an amazing view across the city!"



DAY 28

15|7|2014

Stop 2

Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust in Brühl

The Castle of Augustusburg in the small city of Brühl, just near Cologne. It was the residence of the prince-archbishops of Cologne and was built in the 18th century. I love this view from the garden but the rooms inside are incredible too. So many little details that you could spend hours in some of those rooms and still not appreciate everything. It's famous particularly for the Rococo architecture.

DAY 29

16|7|2014

Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen

This is the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex at Essen. The whole site is made up of 65 buildings spread across about 100 hectares. The site is particularly significant because the industrial buildings above ground are aesthetically-pleasing with a careful design and layout. They hide the dirt and mess in the actual mines below the surface.

Quote

"Aachen Cathedral was the very first German site added to the World Heritage List in 1978."

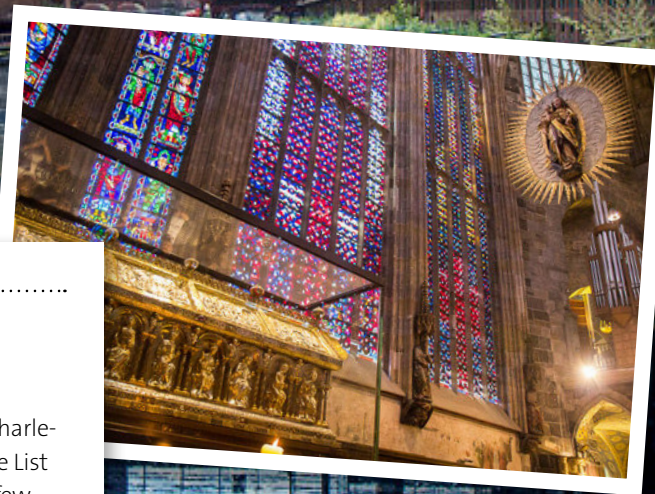


DAY 30

17|7|2014

Aachen Cathedral

Inside the beautiful Aachen Cathedral - standing behind the tomb of Charlemagne. This was the very first German site added to the World Heritage List in 1978. Since then, 38 more have been added - the most recent just a few weeks ago: Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey.



Challenge accomplished!!!

Wow, what a ride this has been. All of Germany's 39 World Heritage Sites in just 30 days by train. It's been really tiring at times but so fascinating and a whirlwind of history and culture.

*Firstly, a massive thanks to **DB Bahn** for all their support, assistance and wonderful trains that amazingly almost always ran on time! Another huge thanks to the **German National Tourist Board (GNTB)** for all their help to make this challenge possible in such a beautiful country. A big thank you too to **German Youth Hostel Association (DJH)** who provided me*

with convenient and comfortable accommodation the whole time. And a special big thank you to everyone who followed along, commented on my photos, sent me messages with recommendations and enjoyed the virtual journey with me. I'd love to hear your thoughts - if you had any favourite sites, for instance. What a ride!!!



Details on all the 39 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and their routes are available on our app. Download at www.germany.travel/unesco



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