

GERMANY

Portrait of a fascinating country

+ KUNTH +

GERMANY

AT THE HEART OF EUROPE



The great poet and illustrator Wilhelm Busch was right when he poked fun at all those who had a yearning for far-away lands. “It’s also nice elsewhere, here I am anyway”, he wrote, quite as if this book had inspired him to write in verse. Here is the perfect proof that you need not venture far to find a world of wonders, for

there are so many to be discovered in Germany. The next few pages pay homage to the overwhelming beauties extending between the Baltic Sea and the Alps, between Friesland and the Fichtelgebirge, between Lusatia and the Palatinate Forest, between Berlin’s Museum Island and Hamburg’s Inner Alster Lake.



Greetsiel is a district in the town of Krummhörn in East Friesland. And while the region may be able to boast very many beautiful villages, Greetsiel is recognizable from afar by its twin mills.



Germany is also a seafaring nation, with proud harbour towns packed with impressive ships, as for example Bremerhaven, which once was the home base of a world-class shipping company: the Norddeutscher Lloyd.



Germany is a land of knights and castles, and a particularly fine example is the Imperial Castle of Cochem, sitting enthroned high above the town of the same name.



One of the best-known sights, famous not only in Germany but in the entire world, is Neuschwanstein Castle, the most spectacular legacy of Bavaria's unhappy fairytale King Ludwig II.



If you think that Germany has no glamorous seaside towns like Nice or Cannes, like San Remo or San Sebastián, you haven't been to Sellin. The resorts on the Baltic Sea need not shy away from comparison.



When you go on a journey through Germany, whether in photographs or in reality, you will at first be amazed and soon spellbound as you become aware

of the incredible diversity that is to be discovered in this country between the coasts in the north and the mountains in the south. You need only travel for a

few dozen miles in Germany and you'll encounter a change in landscape, architecture and local dialect. There is no better remedy against boredom. And

very quickly you'll understand that to experience the whole wealth of beauty spots in Germany you'll need a lot of time.

Emperors and kings took their breaks at the seaside, and in their wake followed not only rich and beautiful commoners, but also painters, poets and most of all bon-vivants.



With this book, however, you can at least marvel and dream of Germany's grandeur and diversity. This photographic volume takes its readers on a voyage

into the country's every nook and cranny, encountering fantastic sights all along the way – wild, untouched landscapes that have resisted all human intervention;

magnificent towns and cities that have been turned into veritable treasure chests by historical events; and remote and enchanted areas, so much at peace within

themselves that you would want to make your way there straightaway. All this you will find in this book's pages: a country of marvels, like a fantastic goodie bag.

Over the course of time, Germany has undergone many metamorphoses. And its industries were similarly affected. Yet they have made the most of structural change and found new destinies.



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Today, the places where once iron and steel were made, have preserved the heritage of an industrial past, and the old plants have also been turned into venues for art and culture.



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The Roman Empire has also left its traces in Germany, and these are still visible today. Thus, for example, the city of Regensburg on the Danube was founded by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius in AD 179.



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And Regensburg has since made use of its long history and become one of Germany's most beautiful cities. Its Old Town alone guards a treasure of well over 1,000 listed buildings.



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When overseas visitors to Germany are confronted with testimonies of history like the moated castle of Irmelshausen, their spontaneous first question tends to be: Is all this for real? Assuredly it is.



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For Germans, the forest is much more than merely a large number of trees. It is a soulful place of legends and longings – like the Bavarian Forest which is one of the most impressive in the country.



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A foretaste of all the splendour of Paradise is what churches were once meant to present for the faithful. And during the baroque period, places of worship like Ebrach Abbey were particularly lavishly adorned.



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Monasteries have always been places of the faith and the spirit. This is why they were often equipped with grand libraries – one of the most amazing can be found in the Lower Bavarian Benedictine Abbey of Metten.

