



Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Ep 11 – Before You Plan Another Thing, Listen to This

Transcript is autogenerated

Cate (00:00)

Hey everyone, this episode is going to be a little different from the others that we've done so far for a couple of reasons. First, this week I'm heading out to the US West Coast to help my elderly parents and also working on a lot of client work right now. So I'm pretty short on time this week. And second, as I started thinking about what to talk about this week, I realized that we've done 10 episodes now of our new podcast. And I thought, you know, this is actually a good time to do a check-in.

So first, I want to thank you so much for hanging out with me and Aaron and our other guests.

We are just getting started with this podcast and we're so excited to have you on this journey with us. So far, the episode that has gotten the most downloads is episode number six, which is four mistakes to avoid when planning your trip to Germany. So if you haven't yet listened to that episode, go give it a listen after this one.

The two episodes that are close behind are episode three, our favorite day in the Black Forest. And Aaron and I had a really fun time recording that one because we got to go down memory lane. And really that day in the Black Forest is just one of our favorite days in Germany over the past two and a half years. And the other one in third place is episode seven, which is Munich tours we can't stop talking about.

And if you're going to Munich, definitely go listen to that episode because the three tours that we talk about really are excellent and will just add a whole other dimension to your trip. We've got a lot of episodes in the works and they're all geared towards



helping you plan a meaningful and unforgettable and super fun trip to Germany and surrounding countries. So I do hope you'll stay tuned for those.

It would actually mean the world to us if you would subscribe to the Germany travel planning podcast and you can do that really easily in your favorite player. So like if you listen through Apple podcast or Spotify.

You'll automatically get our weekly episodes and you won't ever miss a thing. Episodes go live each Thursday, so you'll always have something to listen to as you head into the weekend.

And if you'd like to leave a review of our podcast in the Apple Podcast Player, we would so appreciate that. Reviews help our podcasts get seen by more travelers.

All you need to do is go into your Apple Podcast player, if that's what you use, find the Germany Travel Planning Podcast, and then scroll to the bottom below the episodes, and then you can leave a rating and a review right there.

This podcast is to help you plan and prepare for your trip to Germany. But it's not the only resource that we have for you. We also have a free Germany travel planning Facebook group. And if you're not yet part of our group, I invite you to come join us.

The name of the Facebook group is Germany Travel Planning and then in parentheses, mygermanyvacation.com. So the name looks like Germany Travel Planning parentheses, mygermanyvacation.com parentheses.

I'll put a link to our Facebook group in the show notes, but you should be able to find it if you just do a search.



Our Facebook group members have said we're the absolute best community on Facebook for Germany travel planning. And that makes me so, so happy to hear. Aaron and our assistant, Camille and I,

We put hours each week into that group so that it's a kind and friendly and helpful oasis on the internet and a place where you can ask questions and get recommendations and connect with us and other travelers.

Be sure to check that out and definitely come join us if you're not already in our group. We would love to have you there.

Now the Facebook group is the only social media where we're active. We do have an Instagram account and a Facebook page, but there just aren't enough hours in the day to be all the places we want to be. So at the time I'm recording this, our Facebook group is the best place to be.

We also have our website, which is mygermanyvacation.com, and there you'll find all kinds of guides to kick off your Germany travel planning. So we've got like destination guides, accommodation guides, packing guides, like the things that we always bring when we go to Germany. You definitely want to check that out. Food guides, guides to beer, Christmas markets, and much more.

While the free resources on our website and in our Facebook group are a great starting point, sometimes you just want more guidance, more clarity and less overwhelm. And that's exactly why we created our DIY Germany Travel Planner. And this is a full digital planning toolkit packed with regional planning guides and step-by-step videos, printable cheat sheets,

A timeline of when you should be planning, which elements of your trip, and tons of insider tips you won't find on blogs or in Facebook threads or anywhere else. And



then it also includes our custom created interactive planning map And all of the points on our map.

They have our information, our tips, and our photos. So with this map, we use Google Maps to navigate when we're in Germany, but I have found it so frustrating to use when planning our own trips. And so that's why I remember telling Aaron, like, we've got to create our own map so that we can really zero in on the top sites, the top castles, the accommodation and...

You know, all those things, because it's so much easier to see those things on a map that is dedicated to just those things and just that destination than to read lists on blog posts or comments or look at Google Maps, where when you're looking at it, you're like everything is popping up. I just find that so frustrating.

Always updating and improving our planner and our map to make it even easier for you to find great places to stay and doable day trips and the best tours and guides that we've gotten to know and who we highly recommend. And we want to help you feel comfortable and confident getting off the beaten path...those become some of the most memorable experiences of your travels.

So if you've been spinning your wheels and you're trying to pull together the perfect itinerary, but you're still trying to figure out where do I go and what should I do and you have all these questions, our DIY Germany travel planner will really help

We've had so many people tell us that they went from like, where do I even start planning this trip to, have so got this and my trip is going to be so incredibly amazing.

So if you want to check that out, I'll put the link in the show notes and you can see if that will work for you.



Now since we're talking about the planner, if you want even more support, we do offer one-on-one travel planning services. We've got three options depending on where you are in your planning process. so first, if you want someone to just take the reins and map out your trip for you, check out our custom itinerary service.

What you do is in an intake form, you'll tell us your travel dates, your interest, hotel budget, if you have any must see sites or, you know, just kind of tell us like what you're envisioning, what you would love to have for your trip. And then we will create a detailed day by day plan and we will decide how many days and nights you should spend in each place based on what kind of trip you want, your pace, you know, the information you've given us.

And what we think will actually work really, really well for your trip. And then we also give you one to four activity or site or tour suggestions, sometimes a little bit more depending on the location and things like that. But we map that out for every day.

And our goal there is to give you enough so that you can prioritize from that list, but also to have enough room to be

So we narrow things down and we also will put in some things that you might not be aware of that we think you'll be interested in, But there's still a lot of flexibility and a lot of room for spontaneity.

So all you have to do is review the itinerary and then make any tweaks you want. The document we put it in is editable and then you book and go on your trip. So it's like having your dream trip handed to you on a silver platter.

What sets this service apart is that we do the research to recommend two to three, sometimes four, really excellent hotels for each destination. Aaron does this part and he is so good at it. He has always found the perfect hotels for our own trips. And for our clients, he really does this in-depth search for the best hotels in the best



locations with the amenities that our clients are looking for. I mean, he will even look at like a map. If somebody's driving and they're parking, he'll look at where is the parking and how close is it to the hotel? Is it in the hotel? Is it near the hotel? Are there, how many one-way streets are there getting to the hotel? Because he's our driver. And so he thinks about things like that.

So he finds really amazing hotels that are a really good fit for our clients. And we do give you like two, three, sometimes four hotels so that we really narrow it down, but then you still have some choice.

So that will save you so much time because finding the right hotels can take so much time.

Especially if you don't know the city, you don't know the neighborhoods, you don't know what to look for, So that's really a standout of this service.

It's important to us that you don't just get an itinerary, but also that you're equipped to confidently tweak your plans either before you leave or when you're in Germany and while you're traveling. So that's why I also record a video and you can see your itinerary on the screen and then I also show you some other resources and I talk through your route and your day-by-day itinerary. And this way I can share a lot of tips and suggestions. I can share why, you know, we made certain decisions so that you can really confidently make a few tweaks to your itinerary if you would like to do that.

We really enjoy creating these custom itineraries for our clients. So if this sounds like something that would be helpful for you, go to our show notes or just go to our website and you'll find the information about our custom itineraries. To get started, all you need to do is just fill out a really short intake form. There's just a couple of questions. You just tell us a little bit about your trip and that way I can get you a custom quote because the price for the custom itineraries depends on...



the length of your trip and how many destinations you're thinking about going to and also how many people are traveling.

So then I'll send you a custom quote and then you can decide if you'd like to move forward with that you would like to use one of our other services.

For example, if you're more of a DIY trip planner, but you want some expert input and real-time help, our Zoom consoles are perfect for that.

So for that service, you'll hop on a Zoom call with me and we'll go over your questions, your itinerary, basically whatever you need. You've got 90 minutes for this session and we can cover whatever you would like. I'll even help you build an itinerary outline with you live. I'll share my screen so you can see the itinerary outline as we're creating it. And we also use other resources like our planning map or the Deutsche Bahn website for train tickets This is a super collaborative session. And so it's really helpful for getting unstuck or sorting through tricky details or, you know, if you would like one-on-one help with can only do a limited number of these consults each month, so I highly recommend getting on my calendar early so that you can get your preferred date and on my calendar, it's really not a problem to move the date. But since I don't have very many spots open each month, if you're thinking about the service, it is a good idea to get on my calendar.

And if you've already created your itinerary, but you would like to get a second set of eyes on it, our itinerary review option is perfect for that. how that works is you will send me your itinerary, or if it's in a Google Doc or a spreadsheet or something, you can just share it with me.

Then you'll fill out a short intake form so I know a little bit more about your trip and what you're aiming for. And then you can also ask some travel questions and then I'll record a personalized video walking through your trip plans and I'll give you



feedback. I'll suggest tweaks. I'll let you know if there's areas that I think like, I don't know if this is going to work so well. I'll offer solutions.

So that way you can fix any issues that might come up before you leave, and you can make sure that everything will go according to plan as much as possible once you're in Germany.

Now, of course, we do focus on Germany, but we can help you with other places.

So if you're going to cities or countries around Germany, we can help you with those as well.

Whether you use our free resources, our DIY Germany travel planner, or book one of our services, our goal is always to help you feel confident, excited, and ready for a trip that is 100 % you.

So we don't just tell you, well, this is how we do it, so you should do it the same way. And we also don't tell you this is the only way you can do it.

We really aim to give you enough information and context and to narrow things down enough so that you can decide, yeah, that will work for me, that will not work for me.

That way you can plan a trip that will absolutely fit what you want to get out of it.

So I'll link everything I mentioned today in the show notes And as always, feel free to drop into the Facebook group and ask questions or say hi. We love hearing from you. if you have a favorite episode or if you have suggestions for future episode topics, let us know. We would love to hear that too. OK.



I'm going to wrap this up because I have to go pack, but do stay tuned because next week's episode is all about Neuschwanstein Castle. And so if you're thinking about visiting that fairy tale castle south of Munich that everybody knows about, everybody wants to visit, if that is on your itinerary, you will definitely want to listen to that episode.

Thanks again for being here and supporting the podcast. We've got so many more great episodes coming your way.

So until next time, happy travel planning.