



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Ep 18 – Our 5 Favorite Nürnberg Experiences

Transcript

-----

Nürnberg, or Nuremberg in English, is a city you've likely heard of, maybe because of its role in history or its famous Christmas market. But what often surprises visitors is just how much the city has to offer beyond those sites, both in the city and in the wider region.

Welcome to the Germany Travel Planning Podcast, the show that helps you plan a super fun trip to Germany. My name is Cate, and I'm your Germany destination specialist. I'm here to help you plan the trip of a lifetime.

Nürnberg, might be one of those cities you're curious about. It's actually one that our travel consult and itinerary clients ask us about all the time. And it's a city that a lot of them want to fit into their trips. But maybe you're not sure if it's worth adding to your itinerary. That's why today I'm sharing five things in Nürnberg that Aaron and I have really enjoyed on our visits. Just to give you a sense of what kind of sights and food and experiences the city has to offer so you can decide if it fits your travel style and goals.

But first, I'm going to answer some FAQs because these are questions we are asked all the time. The first question is, does Nürnberg have two names? Yes, sort of. The German name is Nürnberg, and that is different from what we call in English, which is Nuremberg, or something like that. I actually had to ask Aaron how he'd pronounce it because I learned it in German. So that's what I say by default, but I'm not a native speaker of German. So when I'm speaking English, I feel like my pronunciation is kind of somewhere between the German and the English version. So you might hear me



say Nürnberg, you might hear me say Nuremberg, or might hear me say something in between.

The second question is, where is Nuremberg located in Germany? It is north of Munich and south of Bamberg in the German state of Bavaria which is in southern Germany. And Nürnberg is actually in the Bavarian region that is called Franconia. It's actually not too far from Frankfurt and not all that far actually from Prague, Dresden, Dresden or Berlin.

The next question is, what's the best way to get to Nürnberg? You can take a train, you can go by car and there's even Flix bus service. If you're coming from Munich, it takes about two hours to reach Nürnberg by car on the Autobahn, and it's a little over an hour if you take the high-speed train up from Munich. If you take a regional train, it's about two hours, maybe just a little bit less. We've traveled to Nürnberg by car, train, high-speed train, regional train, all of those things, and all of it works really well.

The next question is, what is Nürnberg known for? So it's best known for its historical significance including Nazi Party rallies and the famous Nuremberg trials after World War II. Nuremberg is also renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture, including the impressive Nuremberg Castle, which is up on a hill and overlooks the city, and also the charming Old Town with those picturesque half-timbered houses, historic churches, market squares, fountains. I mean, it's really beautiful.

The city is also famous for its traditional Christmas market, which is one of the oldest and most renowned in Germany. And it's a really good market to visit. And there's also a children's market that's not too far away from the traditional market. You might have also heard of the Bratwurst, the sausage, that is special to the city. And also the Lebkuchen, which is a soft, round gingerbread that is famous from Nuremberg as well and it's a Christmas market staple and it is absolutely delicious.



The next question is, where should I stay in Nuremberg? So we actually have several suggestions for this. We do have a guide on our website to our recommendations, you know, where to stay in Nuremberg. And if you have our DIY Germany travel planner, you can actually take a look at our interactive planning map. And we have all of our recommended hotels for Nuremberg and other cities around Germany. But you can see them. have dots on our map specifically showing you the best places to stay in Nürnberg that are highly rated, very well located, very comfortable, and are a good price. So if you have our DIY Germany travel planner, definitely look at the map because you can see the hotels that we recommend. You can see the information, photos, location, our tips, and everything like that. But you can see exactly where they are in relation to our top sites. And that's just really, really useful.

And also, I have to say, I talk about our map a lot because it's really good. We've spent so much time making that map super, super useful. The reason why we created it is because we used to use Google Maps. And I found it so frustrating to use Google Maps because there's so much stuff on there that you just don't need. And I was using it in consults and I was so frustrated by it and I was like, we need our own map. So we figured out how to create it and it is super useful.

So if you're looking for a place to stay, I highly recommend our digital map and our DIY Germany travel planner. If you don't have that, you can always go to our website and take a look at our guide. You can start there. So I'll link those up in the show notes. You can take a look at that.

Okay, so. I do have a suggestion, actually I have two suggestions for you based on where we've stayed. So the last couple of times we were in Nuremberg, we actually stayed at a hotel called the Gideon Hotel. It's in the Old Town. It's about a five minute walk from the train station and the train station is right across the street from the Old Town. So we got off our train and in just a few minutes we were like right at the hotel. So it's about another 15 minute walk from the hotel to the castle and that's right through the old town. So really, it's a great location, just really fantastic. The hotel is



simple. The rooms were simple, they're not huge, the bathroom's not huge, but you have everything you need and it was comfortable and it had air conditioning, which it's funny. We first stayed there in the winter so we didn't even think about air conditioning. Then we went back in the summer. And we were so used to a lot of the hotels we had just didn't have air conditioning. So it didn't even occur to us to even look to see if it had air conditioning. And we realized after like one or two nights that it did have air conditioning and it was much better with air conditioning. So the staff were really friendly and there's a bar and a rooftop terrace with these really great city views. And also the breakfast was excellent. We did add it on our second visit and it was so worthwhile. It was really, really, really good. So check the show notes for a link to not only our hotel guide, but also a link to that hotel.

And also, here's a side note. Depending on the time of year you're going to visit Nuremberg, you might find hotels very expensive or completely booked up. That happened to us when we visited last December because we went during Christmas market season and we could not find a place to stay in the Old Town. We just didn't book far enough in advance. So if you encounter this, here's a tip. You can stay in nearby Fürth. It's F-Ü-R-T-H. That is just outside the old town. It's not very far away. We stayed at a very comfortable and reasonably priced hotel, very modern hotel, nice big room, nice big bathroom.

And it was in Fürth and it was just, we were five minutes walking to public transit to get into Nuremberg. So that was very, very easy. You know, I mean, it was kind of a bummer that we couldn't be right in the old town because, you know, it's kind of neat to be right in the old town in Nuremberg. But we enjoyed staying in Fürth and it was very, very simple to get to local trains that just got us right to the train station very quickly. And then there was also just regular city public transit and it didn't take very long to get right into Nuremberg. And the price was actually very, very reasonable. So I will link up the hotel so you can take a look at that. And you can also take a look at our map if you have our DIY Germany travel planner and you can see where that hotel is.



The other thing that was really great was Fürth actually has its own Christmas market. So they have a traditional market and a really fun medieval Christmas market. And so we enjoyed one morning, we just stopped by there. And it was really fun because it was not crowded, it was very local. And so just a nice change from the very popular and often very crowded Christmas market in Nuremberg.

Now the next question is, how long should I spend in Nuremberg? Okay, so the first time I ever went to Nuremberg, I was a teenager in the early 90s, and my German host mom, I was living in Northern Germany with a family, and my host mom, took me to visit relatives in southern Germany. And on the way, she said, we're going to stop in Nürnberg. We're going to put our stuff in a locker, and we're going to go explore the town for a couple of hours before we continue on and go to Regensburg, which is where we were going to stay.

So that was how I learned to do these stopovers. My host mom taught me how to do this. And it was really fun. We just put our luggage in a locker, and then I think we probably had, I don't know, two or three hours. We walked around the old town probably got a little bite to eat. And I remember that experience so well. So even if you only have a couple of hours to stop, whether you're driving or taking the train, you can actually see quite a bit of the old town in Nürnberg. That's one reason why it's a really great stop. Of course, if you have more time, if you have a full day to spend in Nürnberg, you can do a day trip. If you have more time,

It's ideal if you can spend one to two full days and two to three nights. That way you have plenty of time to see all the sites. You can also get outside of the old town and see some of the sites. And then if you can, if you can add on another day, like maybe you have one or two days to see the old town, some sites outside the old town. And then if you spend another day, maybe three days, you can add on a day trip. There's really great day trip options.



You can go out into the rural area in the Franconia region and visit some villages. You can also go to Bamberg or Würzburg or Rothenburg ob der Tauber or even Munich. So I mean, there's just lots of great day trip options from Nuremberg.

Now, if you're listening to this and you're thinking, I think I want to go to Nuremberg, but I also want to go to all these other places and I can't decide, should it be a day trip? Should I spend more days there? Should I be in this city, this city, this city? I know it's hard to figure out when it's especially if it's your first time to Germany.

That's why we offer services like Zoom consults where you can get on Zoom with me and we spend 90 minutes live. I can help you create your itinerary or fine tune it. I can answer your questions and we can do it all right there. So you can ask me questions and we can work on it together using the planning resources that Aaron and I have created.

You can also book an itinerary review. And with that, you send me your itinerary and then I do a video and I will talk through every day of your itinerary and let you know, I think this may not work very well. Here's a potential solution. Here's an alternative. Here are some things maybe you haven't thought of. And we get really, really good feedback from both of those services. so, you know, check them out. I'll link them up in the show notes and you can check it out and see if that would be helpful. And if you think it is, we would love to work with you. So, you know, go ahead and reach out.

Okay, now let's get into the five things Aaron and I really enjoyed in Nürnberg. So you can decide if you'd like to add them to your itinerary.

The first one is a private tour with our preferred partner, Kevin. So we met Kevin in person last December. We went up to Nürnberg to go back to the Christmas market and then, and meet with Kevin.



I cannot recommend Kevin highly enough. I cannot recommend having a private guide highly enough. I mean, it's just such a wonderful experience. Having a private guide show you around a city is so worth the money because you can really maximize your time in that city. You can tell them ahead of time, here's our interests, you know, here's what we'd like to see. You can tell them we want to see the highlights. We're interested in history.

We'd love for you to point out restaurants. mean, can kind of tell them what you're really interested in. And so when we met up with Kevin, he took us around the old town and it was fascinating. I mean, Kevin knows so much about history. He's American, but he has lived in Germany for decades now. And he knows a tremendous amount about Nuremberg and the history and the buildings.

And all these little things, I mean, I'm always so amazed when we do a tour like that and there's, you know, little tiny things that maybe we've seen multiple times. And sometimes Aaron and I look at it and we're like, I wonder what that is. And we don't know. And so we learned all of those things from Kevin and we're asking him questions and it just really illuminated the city in a new way for us. And especially if you're new to a country and new to a city.

It's just such a great way to feel like you're getting so much more out of it and to go deeper and to have, you know, more of a cultural experience. So I really can't recommend it enough. What I really love about private guides like Kevin is that you get stories, you get personal stories and historical stories and insights that you won't find in a guidebook.

Private guides will help you skip the crowds. They can give you personal tips, real live tips for that day, that week. They'll uncover hidden corners of the city. So if you're traveling alone or with a partner or a small group, maybe your family, it's definitely worth the investment. And I remember when we were walking around with Kevin and he was giving us a tour of the old town. We stopped in this street and we just, know,



all three of us were just bonding over this moment of looking at these beautiful historic buildings and just saying how, how many decades we have been touring around Germany and visiting these beautiful cities and seeing these beautiful buildings and we are still not tired of them. It was just a really fun moment because I kind of geek out over all that stuff. And it was really nice to meet somebody else who feels the exact same way.

Kevin is in our Facebook group, so you can connect with him there. And then you can also go to our show notes, and I'll link up to his website so you can get in touch with him.

The second experience that we really liked was a small group tour. And it's funny because Aaron said, I found this tour that would be fun. And it's about castle fortifications and, you know, and I thought, okay, yeah, all right, we'll try it. It might be kind of fun. It was so much fun. I liked it way, way more than I thought I would. It was a small group, maybe six people, and our tour leader was German, and he was so knowledgeable and so friendly.

We spent the first part of the tour, the tour was an hour, and we spent the first part of the tour outside of the castle, and we were overlooking the fortifications. And we learned so much about how they built the fortifications and how they protected the castle and some of the political issues and challenges of building it and how much it cost. It was fascinating. And then the second part of the tour, we went under the castle. So we went in a part of the castle, secret passages and tunnels, and we saw how they defended the castle and just some other places down there. And you can't go there without the tour.

It was the middle of summer, it was very hot. So I very much appreciated that half of the tour was underground where it was a lot, lot cooler. The tour also pairs well with a private tour with Kevin. So you're not gonna feel like you're overlapping too much. You'll just get, you know, another enhanced view of the city by doing this tour. There





are a bunch of small group tours in Nuremberg, but this one we really, really enjoyed. And I very much liked that it was only an hour because I feel like we could do the tour, but we could also do a lot of other things during the day.

The third experience, actually the third and the fourth one I'm going to share with you are food related. So the third experience is to try Nürnberger Bratwurst. If you are vegetarian or vegan, you're going to want to skip this one. But if you're not and you like sausage, I highly recommend trying the special Bratwurst that you can get in Nürnberg. You can get Bratwurst all over Germany. It's very popular.

You can get it everywhere. But in Nürnberg, they actually make their own kind of Bratwurst. Everyone else in Germany, you get like one sausage and it's a larger sausage. In Nürnberg, you actually get smaller sausages. You get, you know, three sausages maybe inside a roll, a Brötchen. And if you get in a restaurant, then you can get more sausages. But they're really, really good.

And I highly recommend going to a little place called the Bratwurst-Röslein, so like the little Bratwurst house. Kevin actually recommended this to us. And I had seen this place multiple times, but I had never been there. And he said, yeah, definitely go there. It's good. The sausages are really good. So we went there for lunch, and it's a very popular place. The restaurant dates back to like 1312, I think. And it's just steps from the main square. So it's right in the old town. It is, you know, it is touristy. It's famous. A lot of people go there, but just lean into it. It's fun and it tastes good.

Now you might have to wait a little bit. It does get busy. When we were there during Christmas market season, we timed it just right and we only had to wait a few minutes to get in to get a table. When we left, the line to get a table was much longer, but they do have outdoor seating. They have indoor seating. And then when we were there in December, I'm not sure if this is actually a permanent thing or not but they did have a little stand where you could get sausages to go. But if you can go in the restaurant, I highly recommend it. The restaurant is kind of small inside and it's very



cozy. And there's lots of tables around. Don't be surprised if you're sitting very close to other people. I think we shared a table with like two other couples. And in the middle of the restaurant, it's actually not too far away from where we were sitting, they're actually grilling the sausages and making other types of food.

It was actually really quick. Once we sat down, the waitress came over and got our order, took our order very quickly. And then our food arrived very quickly as well. So, you know, it didn't take very long once we were inside. The sausages were absolutely delicious. They roast them over an open beach wood fire and it just gives the sausages a really distinctive flavor. So we got, I mean, there's a lot of things on the menu you can choose from, but we got more the traditional plate of the Nürnberger Bratwurst. And then I think we probably got, I don't know, four or five, six little sausages. And then you can get a side. I had potato salad and Aaron had sauerkraut, I think. But there's a bunch of other things you can get and they have a variety of drinks. You know, beer, soda, all sorts of things. So I definitely recommend it. It's a really fun kind of rustic, cozy place. And if you like sausages and you want some traditional food, I think you'll really enjoy it.

So the next experience that is food related is a little bit sweeter. This one I highly recommend any time of year, but it's most popular at Christmas. And it's to try Lebkuchen, which is a traditional German gingerbread. This German gingerbread, Lebkuchen, it's round, it's kind of soft, and you can get it plain, you can get it glazed. sometimes with chocolate, there's almonds on it. And it is really, really delicious. So this is actually a Christmas treat. And it originated in Nürnberg. I believe it was monks that started it, I think, if I'm remembering correctly. But anyway, you'll find Lebkuchen all over Germany. But it stems from Nürnberg. And so you'll find it at the stands at the Christmas markets.

If you're not there during Christmas, there's a store you can go to called Wicklein and I will put a link to it in the show notes so that you can go see what, you know, see how it's spelled and what it looks like. And if you have our DIY Germany travel planner, look



on the map because we have it there so you can see exactly where it is. And the same thing with the restaurant that I mentioned just a little bit ago. So go to that store. Even if it's during Christmas market season, I definitely recommend going to the store because you can get fresh Lebkuchen there, but you can also get it packaged. And so we go in there and we'll usually get like a package that has three different kinds, plain, glazed and chocolate. And then we also get a package of apple Lebkuchen. And my God, that is so good. We get this whenever we go to Christmas, we go in there and we say, okay, we're just gonna go get those two packages and we're going to enjoy a little bit each night. We're gonna make it last.

And then we go home to our hotel or wherever we're staying. We open it up, we eat one, and then we say, no, we're going to eat this all tonight. It's dinner because it's so delicious. you can't just say no and only eat one. You can also get really beautifully packaged tins of Lebkuchen. So if you're thinking about bringing gifts home or if you just want a reminder of your trip to enjoy later, I would definitely go there and you can pick up something really wonderful.

And last but certainly not least, is the Palace of Justice. This is where the Nuremberg Trials were held after World War II. It's a little bit outside of the Old Town, but you can easily take public transit out there. And it was really a wonderful place to visit. I highly, highly, highly recommend it. They have an exhibition that takes you through all of the history and really looks at the legal and moral questions that the world faced after World War II and talked about you know, the challenges of pursuing justice.

It was extremely moving and just absolutely worthwhile going out there. I really can't recommend it enough. And not only can you go through all of the exhibition and everything, you can actually go into the courtroom where they held the trials and they have a multimedia presentation that gives you more information and actually shows you kind of where people were sitting and have a little bit more of an immersive experience.



So there you have it, five of our favorite sites and experiences in Nuremberg. This episode will get you started with planning your visit to Nuremberg, but we do have hotel guides and tour guides and also our DIY Germany travel planner to help you go deeper. So check the show notes for links to everything you need to plan the perfect stay in Nuremberg.

Before you go, two quick things. If you found our podcast helpful, please leave a five-star rating and even better, a review. It helps more travelers like you find our show, and that means we can keep making episodes that help you plan a smoother and smarter trip to Germany.

And if you're just starting to plan your Germany trip and you want to skip the overwhelm and the rookie mistakes, check out our DIY Germany travel planner. Think of it as your travel savvy best friend who's handing you everything you need to know to plan your perfect trip to Germany. You'll find a link to our DIY Germany travel planner, as well as our custom itinerary, travel consult, and itinerary review service in the show notes and at [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com).

Thanks so much for listening to the Germany travel planning podcast and until next week, happy travel planning.