



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Ep 25 - How We Can Help You Plan Your Dream Trip

*Transcript is autogenerated*

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Cate (00:00)

we dive in, I want to give a quick shout out to one of our listeners who left the most wonderful feedback about this

They said it's the best resource for Germany travel planning.

and that no other resource has been as instrumental in helping them make decisions about their family's upcoming trip than this podcast. And that each episode is full of practical advice and rooted in lived experience that Aaron and I have had throughout Germany.

Reading that review absolutely made my day because that's exactly why we created this podcast as well as everything else we offer on our website to help you plan your dream trip and to make it easy to plan your dream trip so that you can enjoy the best of Germany.

So thank you, thank you, thank you for that review. Like I said, it seriously made my day.

If you're enjoying our podcast too, please leave a rating and review. It helps us be found by more travelers and that helps us out tremendously.



show. If you're looking for help planning your Germany trip or if you've been thinking about working with us but you're not quite sure which option is right for you, this episode will walk you through all of the resources we offer, both free and paid.

If you're new here, this is 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.

A lot of people first find us through one of our free resources. Maybe that's a blog post or our Facebook group or this podcast. But they don't realize that we actually have a whole range of resources to help with Germany trip planning. And others find our services, but they're not sure which one is really the best fit for them. So I thought I would go through each one so you can connect with what will work best for you.

So let's start off with our free resources. First, we have our website, which is [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com). And there you'll find a lot of different starter guides for things like destinations around Germany and accommodations, tours and private guides, packing essentials. Be sure to check out our guide to the 15 things we always pack because that one is super popular.

We also have guides for how to use your phone and other tech in Germany, the Deutschland ticket, road trips, Christmas markets, because Germany has the best Christmas markets in the entire world. And we also have guides that answer lots of FAQs and are about food to eat in Germany, culture, and restaurants.

So if you're just dipping your toes into planning or if you need help with one piece of the planning puzzle, like finding a great hotel or a private guide or the best outlet adapters, you can charge your phone. Our website is the perfect place to start.

Go to [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com) to check out all of our free starter guides and recommendations. Next, we have our free Facebook group, and that's called



Germany Travel Planning, and then in parentheses, [mygermanyvacation.com](https://mygermanyvacation.com). This is where you can connect with thousands of other travelers who are also planning their own trips. It's a great place to ask questions and get a variety of opinions and experiences.

Now, if you would like to get our Germany travel tips and recommendations, resources, and discounts in your email inbox, join our Germany Insiders email list. We send out emails a couple times a week, and you can get on our email list by going to our website,

and I'll add the link to our signup form in the show notes.

And finally, we have this podcast. If you've just found us, go back and take a look at the earlier episodes. Right now, the three most popular episodes are episode number six, which is four mistakes to avoid when planning your own Germany trip, episode seven, Munich tours we can't stop talking about, and episode three, our favorite day in the Black Forest.

We have lots of helpful info here in the podcast and there's more to come. Okay, now let's take a look at our paid products and services. Our whole mission since starting My Germany Vacation has been to help travelers like you plan your dream trip to Germany.

That's why we've put so much into our free resources. And those free resources are super helpful if you're just starting out or if you need a couple of answers or are looking for inspiration for your trip. But after working with thousands of travelers, both one-on-one and in our travel community, Aaron and I started noticing a pattern.

people would try to piece together their dream trip using scattered bits of free information collected around the internet. So a YouTube video here, a TikTok reel



there, Facebook thread there, maybe even an AI generated itinerary. And instead of making progress towards their trip plans,

they still felt stuck and overwhelmed and like they were going around in circles and they just couldn't make progress on planning their trip.

Because the truth is that planning the perfect trip isn't about needing more information. mean, there's a ton of information out there. Whether it's correct information, well, that's kind of debatable sometimes.

But to plan the perfect trip, don't need more information. What you need is to be able to connect the dots so that you can make the right decisions. Because it's those decisions that create a trip that's meaningful and exciting and fun for you.

I really understand this overwhelm because I felt it myself when planning trips to countries and cities we haven't been to.

And that's why we created the DIY Germany Travel Planner, which is like a travel advisor and interactive map and cultural guide all rolled into one. It's basically like having us sit right next to you while you plan your trip. It doesn't just inspire you, because it does that, but it doesn't just

It helps you make important trip planning decisions

so that you can confidently map out your entire trip and feel prepared for departure then relax and completely enjoy your trip once you land in Germany.

We created the first version of our DIY planner and map a couple of years ago, but really it's been several years in development. For many years, I was a German professor and I worked with students. taught German. I also worked with students in Germany. I prepared students and then later I prepared people who are moving to



Germany for their jobs. And so I have a lot of experience preparing people to go to Germany.

And so combining that with helping so many people over the last couple of years with planning their trips through My Germany Vacation, we decided to create this DIY planner and interactive

So every time we go back to Germany to do research trips, we update the planner and our map. And that way, when you sit down to plan your trip, you're working with the most up-to-date, tested, and trusted information possible. So our goal with the DIY Planner is to make it easy for you to see your options and then make the best decision for you. So here's how we do that.

For example, in our regional planning guides, I create videos and using our interactive planning map, I and give you an overview of the region and tell you what the region is known for, show you the different areas, talk about how long it takes to get from place to place, really good home bases, some places that are a little bit more off the beaten path.

and things that we've really enjoyed and all that kind of stuff. I do this so that I can really convey this information to you so that again you can make really good decisions

will work for you.

We also have these PDF city cheat sheets that you can download. And we show you the top things to do and experience and sometimes food or best views. And that way we can really help you narrow it down and you can take a look at that cheat sheet and then you can say, oh yeah, these are the things that I'm really interested in. Then you can go over to our interactive planning map, which has I think about a thousand points on it.



So we cover all of Germany, but you can just focus on the parts of Germany where you are going. And you can take a look at the things we have on the cheat sheets and the things I talk about in the regional guides, plus we have other things on the map. And you can zoom in and you can take a look at our recommended hotels and sites, castles, castle hotels, tours, and we also have some restaurants and food that we have really enjoyed. And when you zoom into that map, you can see where everything is located.

But those are the only things you can see on the map. Like it's so much better than a Google map because our map is really focused on just the things that are relevant

And when you click on these points, it opens up and you can see our photos. that will really give you the context of that site. So you can read our information. We have links to more information when that's relevant. We share tips. And that really will help you get a feel for, yeah, this is something we wanna see. Now this is especially helpful when you're trying to get off the beaten path.

because if you go back and listen to the episode where I talked about being a tourist, one of the things I was saying was that, you you want to get off the beaten path, but it's really iffy because you don't know for sure if that thing you're thinking about going to see is really worth your time. If you look at our planning map, you can find some things that are off the beaten path and you can take a look ahead of time to see that, yeah, this really is something that I want to see. This is worth it.

We also have a train travel and accommodation section. So ~ we give you everything you need to know that you probably don't yet know. Like we found there's a lot of things that people do not know about accommodations and train travel and driving in Germany and just transportation in general. So we give you these things. Like we've had people use the planner say it was so helpful because



We answered questions for them they didn't even know to ask and that makes me happy because that's really what we aim to do. So you'll find a lot of very helpful information in our accommodation section and then also in our transportation section that covers train travel, ~ bus travel, flying and driving in Germany.

We also have a packing and preparing section and that will get you ready for your departure. And then we also have a know before you go section. And that's where we answer FAQs that we are asked all the time. we put this section at the very beginning of the planner because it's really helpful to read through those things before you begin planning.

We have found that a lot of people don't know these things until it's kind of far through the ~ planning process or once they're already in Germany. So we want you to know these things from the very beginning. We lay everything out in modules that are easy to navigate in just five steps.

we really make it easy for you to go through the whole thing. You can go through sequentially or you can skip around and it really works either way. If you go to [mygermanyvacation.com slash planner](http://mygermanyvacation.com/slash/planner), you can watch a short video and see what's in the planner and how it's laid out. You can also read what users have said about how it's helped them plan their dream trips.

It's been used by over 600 travelers at this point.

And since it is a paid product, there are no ads and we can create everything for you. Not for Google, not for Facebook, not for YouTube, not for a podcast algorithm. We don't have to worry about anything like that, which is really, really, really nice. We just create everything to be super helpful for you.

Okay, so inside our DIY planner, you'll find our Germany Train Travel Made Easy Guide and a Christmas Market Planning Guide. But because we get so many questions



about train travel and Christmas markets, we also offer these two guides as standalone products. I'll link to both of them in the show notes, but you can also just go to our website, [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com), and you'll find them there.

Now, if you would like personalized help with your trip planning, we offer three services. The first is a complete custom itinerary. And this service has become very popular, which makes us super happy because we love creating these custom itineraries.

If you would love to skip the overwhelm of research and planning, but you don't want to do a group tour and you don't want to buy an inflexible package trip,

our complete custom itinerary service.

Here's how it works. fill out an intake form and you'll give us information about your trip, And then we create a day-by-day plan for you.

And that includes personalized hotel recommendations for each destination. Aaron does a very detailed custom search and he will hand pick two to four recommendations per destination that fit your budget and your preferences. And I mean, he does very detailed searches. He looks at things like,

what is the parking situation like, and he'll look at Google Street View to see what it looks like to walk up to the hotel and he finds the best places.

And then I will give you tailored information on transportation. So sometimes people will say, I don't know if I should drive or if I should take the train. And once I create your itinerary, then I will make a recommendation. Definitely drive or definitely take the train or here's where I recommend this train, here's where I recommend driving.





and so if driving is the best choice for your itinerary, ~ I will show you the routes that I recommend.

trains are a better choice, then I will go in and tell you exactly which train I recommend taking and exactly which tickets I recommend for your trip.

And then for each day, I also give you a list of suggested daily sites, tours, activities, experiences, etc.

So with your overall itinerary, our goal is to give you a structure, but also to keep it flexible.

And that's why I also record a video talking through your entire itinerary.

day by day. And that way, I can give you a lot more tips and suggestions. I can show you things on the map. I can give you some ideas for how you can adjust your

just make it exactly what you would like it to be.

I really want to make it easy for you to fine tune your itinerary and then book everything yourself. and our clients have said that these videos have been absolutely super helpful.

in helping them be able to make those final decisions about the hotel and transportation and what they want to do each day.

Now we also give you booking links

you can also choose to book through your preferred platforms. So that's another perk of this service is that you can choose where and how you want to book everything for your trip.



The other perk is that you get complimentary access to our complete DIY Germany travel planner. So you can use that to prepare for departure and you can also look at the planning map as you're finalizing your itinerary.

like to enjoy your dream trip without the stress of planning it yourself, we'd love to create a complete custom itinerary for you. You can go to the show notes for the link to that service.

or you can go to our website and see all the information and next steps.

If a complete custom itinerary isn't quite right, but you would like personalized help creating or refining your trip,

our Germany Travel Consult Service. This is a 90-minute meeting with me and Zoom. And during this time, I can help you either create a custom itinerary outline,

Or you can bring your itinerary to me and I can help you fine tune it.

We can look at the resources that we have created like our planning map and I can help you figure out which regions of Germany you most want to focus on.

and what you would like to do and see and pacing of your trip and basically anything that you want to do during this consult, we can do.

Now you might be wondering, do I really need 90 minutes? And I can confidently say yes. We really cannot do this in less than 90 minutes.

So you can come to me with just some ideas about where you might like to go. And in 90 minutes, we can actually get your entire route mapped out.



And I will ~ map it out in a document that we have to Google Doc. And so I'll map that out. I'll add some notes and resources and links and some suggestions. And then I will send that to you after your

So you can continue to use that to flesh out your whole itinerary and trip plan. Plus, you get ~ access to our DIY Germany travel planner.

before and after your consult. So you can use that to fill in all of the details of your trip.

And last but not least, we have our itinerary review service. If you've already mapped out your Germany trip and would like expert feedback on your travel plans so that you can book your trip with confidence, an itinerary review is the perfect fit.

this service works. You send me your itinerary and then I have you fill out a short intake form so I know a little bit about the context of your trip.

And then I record a video where I go through your entire itinerary and ~ I give you feedback on it. So I will pinpoint the places where I think that you could run into some problems.

I'll identify what those problems are and then I give you solutions for that problem. So I like to talk through, you know, here's why this probably won't work. ~ You know, here's how, here are some ideas for how you could fix it or here's how you could do something differently. And then also tell you this part will work really well. If I think of other tips or sites, tours, anything like that, I will share that with you because I just really want your trip to be the best it can possibly be.

We get such good feedback on this service and I absolutely love doing itinerary reviews. I would love to review your itinerary. So if you're interested in this, go to our website and you'll find the information for how to book your review.



So no matter where you are in your planning, whether you're just getting started, if you're halfway through and feeling overwhelmed, or if you're nearly finished and you would like peace of mind that everything that you've planned out really will work on the ground as you're hoping, we've got resources and services to help you feel organized and confident and ready for your Germany trip so that when you get there, you can relax and enjoy the best of Germany and just enjoy every minute of your trip.

We would love to work with you,

Cate (18:07)

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