



Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Ep 26 - A Mother-Daughter Trip to Remember with Anna Vogler [Trip Report]

Transcript is autogenerated

Cate (00:00)

Something I love even more than working with our Germany travel planning clients is hearing about their trips after they've returned home. Today I'm talking with Anna about her 11 day trip to Germany with her mom. Not only did they visit stunning places like the Black Forest, Mosel Valley and Heidelberg, they also traveled back to the tiny town where Anna was born while her dad was stationed in Germany. If you're new here, welcome. 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.

and I'm here to help you plan your best trip ever.

In this episode, shares what it was like to drive in Germany, sleep in a castle, revisit her childhood home, marvel at Germany's stunning architecture, and much more. Anna also shares her tips for planning your trip and enjoying your travels in Germany. So let's dive in.

Cate (01:02)

Anna, I've been so looking forward to doing this trip report with you. Welcome.

Anna Vogler (01:07)

Thank you. I'm so excited to be here.



Cate (01:10)

Let's start with your introduction. Go ahead and tell us who you are and where you're from.

Anna Vogler (01:14)

I'm Anna Vogler and I'm from Georgia.

Cate (01:17)

So why don't we walk through your trip? You can just start by telling us what time of year you went, because I believe it was a year ago that you went to Germany. So just kind of tell us what led you to Germany, who you traveled with, and then we'll just start talking through your amazing trip.

Anna Vogler (01:32)

Okay, great. So yes, I went this time last year. ~ And I believe today we were actually a year ago in Heidelberg this time last year and it was springtime. So it's not peak season over there and they were coming out of winter getting ready to celebrate Easter. So like we really had great weather. It was a little cold at first.

some rain and then beautiful afternoons. And we spent 11 days over there and towards the end of the trip it was really warm. So I thought going during spring break was a really great time to go and I went with my mom. So.

Cate (02:13)

Mm-hmm. Yeah, April, you know, April can be a really wonderful month. I've had fantastic weather in April. I've had some rain too, but it really can be a great time, especially if you want to avoid the heat of summer. Now, I remember we did a consult and you and I talked with you and your mom during that consult and you went back to Germany to sightsee but also to revisit a place where you had lived, right? Can tell us a little bit more about that?



Anna Vogler (02:20)

Mm-hmm.

Yes.

Yeah, so okay, so I am a military kid. My dad was in the military at duty and he was stationed at Hahn Air Force Base, which is west of Frankfurt. And it's just east, just to the not far from the Mosel River. And so me and my mom, it's been on my bucket list to go back to see where I was born because that was 42 years ago. And we decided

now or never and we wanted to go see where I was born, see the Air Force base, see the house that they lived in just outside of the circle of the base which was a little small town called Lotsenhausen and ~ Niedersorren and that's where that's that was our main focus of this trip

So we actually planned, okay, let's just, let's expand this little trip to this little small area. And we made it, yeah, a good long 11 day trip.

Cate (03:45)

And you flew into Frankfurt, is that correct?

Anna Vogler (03:47)

Yes, so we flew out of Atlanta, took Delta, and we flew over to Frankfurt overnight and left Atlanta probably like eight or nine o'clock that night. I can't remember and ~ had great seats by the way and I'm tall so that was a plus and we arrived in Frankfurt the next morning and we hit the ground running.

Cate (04:08)

So when you were in Germany, you rented a car to get around, right?

Anna Vogler (04:12)



Yes, okay, yes, so when I found your services and one of the things you told that you teach ~ everyone is how to rent a car, ride a train, all that stuff. Well, me and my mom, the way that we mapped our trip, we really wanted to get around on our own, so we rented a car. So I believe one of your suggestions was discovercars.com and I went through Europe Car and rented a car. So when we arrived in Frankfurt,

I had mapped out how to get from the airport. We got on a shuttle and we rode a train to the main train station there in Frankfurt. And there was a service desk in the train station and we had to go walk down the street into a parking garage and actually get the car there. So ~ what's funny is I rented a manual, but luckily they had an automatic.

which I was so grateful I ended up getting an automatic because there was a couple of hills I went and then just overall driving conditions. I was nervous. I was anxious. So it was kind of nice for me, even though I knew how to drive a stick shift. I just actually was better off driving a manual, but that was just me. We got lucky. We got a little mini Hyundai. It was a four door little car. And I will tell you this. It was about \$460 for 10 days. Yeah.

Cate (05:32)

Yeah, that's excellent. know, Aaron drives when we're in Europe and he can drive a stick shift, but lately we've been getting ~ an automatic. It's really not that much more anymore. It used to be pretty expensive, but now it's just a little bit more. And he's been finding that, especially if he drives in the winter, you know, that it's just one less thing to think about.

Anna Vogler (05:36)

Mm-hmm.

We are.



Right.

Yes, I agree wholeheartedly.

Cate (06:00)

So tell us where you went after you picked up the car and then we can talk through 11 days of your trip.

Anna Vogler (06:07)

Okay, so we went and got the rental. This was the next day because Frankfurt was a get like we took a day in Frankfurt, right? So the next day was day one when we picked up the rental from the train station. We drove west to Niedershorn, Lotsenhausen and Hahn.

we checked in a hotel. I have a really great backstory. so we stayed at a place, a hotel called My Place Hotel. This place used to be the small Christian school that my brothers went to while my dad was stationed there. And since then, 42 years later, this little school, it was like a church and a school.

It converted and I guess they went out of, you know, they closed and it converted into a hotel. The owner of this hotel is the same man who was there 42 years ago, except he was much younger and his parents went to that school and church. So he took it over and he is the owner of the hotel. He spoke with my mom. They had a great conversation. We stayed there and it was so cute. And we basically explored that little area. ~

We went to the base, we ~ we snuck around actually, but the base is very different. You can tell it's old, everything is just kind of withering away, but it's turned into an airport, so that's great. ~ And the My Place Hotel where we stayed actually hosts a lot of people, travelers who are coming in to fly in and out of that, ~ of the airport.



So we went around and we kind of, it was so nice having a car and being able to just drive and find our old house. We found our old house and I took along pictures with us of pictures mom had. So there was a picture of her with me in her lap and my dad. They were sitting in chairs in front of this house. And so when we found the house, we took a selfie of us holding the picture. So we did a picture in picture and ~ mama just

Mama went down memory lane and she was so excited. And what was so interesting was Oma which is grandmother, the old lady still lived next door and my mom remembered her. And even though she could not speak a whole lot of English, they still could communicate. And they spoke. She invited us in her house.

and her and my mom talk that she's elderly now and she couldn't remember mom very much. anyways, we just had a really nice time going down memory lane and I could, it was like all new to me, but got to see the soccer field where my brothers used to play on and the big field in the back behind the house. we, mom just went down memory lane. It was great. And then we went to,

~ Soren and there was a gift shop called Kafirs that my mom used to shop at and it is still there and we just kind of meandered around there. So we basically explored that whole area where all the things my mom remembers and then so from there the next day we stayed at this hotel like two or three nights because I know one of your suggestions was hey try not to hotel hop too much you'll get worn out.

So we took note of that. So we stayed there for like two nights and ~ a day trip. The next day we took a day trip over to Trabantrabot and I fell in love. We did lots of things that you suggested on your website and in ~ your PDF documents that you have for each little town and everything. ~ It was just absolutely beautiful.

Cate (09:29)

Mm-hmm.



Anna Vogler (09:53)

And then a big thing my mom remembers was spaghetti ice. She remembers going get Traben-Trarbach and getting spaghetti eie. So we did that, had a ball.

So we walked so much during the day at Traben-Trarbach and we had our first Bratwurst there.

It so good. ~ We wore ourselves out so we went back and the next day was a rainy day. So we took advantage of that and we went back to Traben-Trarbach and we did a ~ river, a mozal boat tour. That was nice because again, like I said, it was raining. We were kind of tired so we took advantage of just chilling, getting off our feet. And I will tell you the vineyards along the river are just insane. They are gorgeous. ~

Cate (10:47)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (10:48)

Yeah, so we did that. So definitely pack a raincoat when you go because you never know what the weather is going to be like.

Cate (10:56)

Absolutely, like any time of year, raincoat or an umbrella, it's always a good thing to have with you.

Anna Vogler (10:59)

Yeah.

Yes, yes, yes. So I fell in love with that whole area. ~ And then one day we took a day trip, I believe, to the Castle, We could not figure out, Cate, how to get to the Berg Landschut Castle, I think.



Cate (11:27)

Yes, that was a little bit tricky. Yeah. If you're in the town, they have a shuttle that you can take up there. And I think there's a way to hike, but we drove up there. It took us a couple of times to figure it out because you kind of have to, it's like not intuitive at all.

Anna Vogler (11:29)

Yes.

Okay

Yeah, yeah, okay.

Well, I'm glad you're saying that because I was like, Mom, I just cannot figure this out. And I had it on my list to go because you had it on your list. And I was like, okay, so but we we also in that that town, my mom remembers visiting. She said this looks so familiar. Well, we had a picture again, another picture that we were carrying around with us. And when we got into like the main shopping area, like

~ I mean you just knew and so I said mom this is it this is it that's the building y'all took this picture in front of so we did another picture and picture selfie and it was just it was great wonderful. ~ So moving along we went we decided that while we're in Germany we have to stay in a castle and on your interactive map you have the Schloss Liser Castle. Okay so y'all if you get the chance to go there

Cate (12:36)

Mm-hmm, yeah.

Anna Vogler (12:42)

and stay there, I think it would be like, it's dreamy. It is so dreamy. So we drove over there and again, it's along the, it's right there on the Mosul River and ~ it's this big,



beautiful castle. And I will say this, if you make reservations to stay, to eat dinner there, you might want to take something a little nice to wear. We weren't prepared for that. We were basically in travel tourist clothes, okay?

But we found, so we were hungry and we ~ were looking for dinner and we walked down the street and we found a hole-in-the-wall place that served ~ flamkuchen and fresh wine from the vineyards all around the castle. that was the best, flamkuchen. my gosh, it was amazing. And so I will say this in Germany, if you find hole-in-the-wall places that look questionable, they're probably the best ones.

So yeah, so really enjoyed the castle stay. ~ We just did one night and it was amazing. ~ Pictures don't do it justice. It was absolutely beautiful. And so then what we decided to do was we drove southeast into, we wanted to see Black Forest, because mama remembers going to Black Forest, getting a cuckoo clock and bringing one home back to the states when dad got stationed back.

So we drove four hours from the castle to, ~ is it Freiburg or Freiburg? Freiburg, okay. So we went there and we stayed in a hotel, I believe that you have ~ suggested as well. And ~ let's see, we went shopping and everything. One of my emotional moments was seeing the church.

Cate (14:17)

Freiburg, yeah.

Anna Vogler (14:39)

the cathedral. I'm drawing a blank.

Cate (14:41)

Mm-hmm.

Yes, it's the Münster, the Freiburg Münster, the cathedral.



Anna Vogler (14:49)

Yes, yes and it was insanely gorgeous, insanely huge. I have never seen anything like that in all my life and I was literally in awe and it just took my breath away and just the detail and the architecture and that's what I found everywhere in Germany was the details, the architecture, just how everything has so much character and so much detail.

Versus being over here where I feel like we're all squares and circles. But that's church like you cannot miss it if you go in there and visit. ~

Cate (15:21)

Yeah. I agree. It's,

so beautiful. And, know, I, I feel the same way about it. And I get a little emotional whenever I'm there because I was there on 9 11. And so right after like the day after, um, I walked, was walking through the old town, so I was living in Freiburg at that time. And I walked into the cathedral.

Anna Vogler (15:34)

Yeah. Hmm.

Cate (15:47)

And there were people, there were so many people and they're paying their respects and putting flowers down. And we saw that in other places in Freiburg as well. And it just really, really got to me at that moment seeing that. And I think about that every single time I go back and I walk into the cathedral and just take a moment to just feel grateful for the outpouring of support that we experienced at that time there.

Anna Vogler (15:51)

Mm-hmm.



Mm-hmm.

Right, right. I agree. It was just, that's definitely a must see. Even trying to take a picture and I was like several feet away from the church just to try to fit it all in. Cause the steeple is so insanely high and like I looked it up and I looked up like how long it took to build it. Like that's so...

Cate (16:27)

Yeah.

Anna Vogler (16:34)

unheard of these days and I just looked up facts about this how it was built, when it was built, how long it took to be built like and if you're into history definitely look it up it was it was a must see and then we got to walk we walked around and we found the the water channels. Bacla? Bac-nic-la? Okay yeah my German is terrible.

Cate (16:52)

Mm-hmm. Yeah, the Bächele,, yeah.

Anna Vogler (16:59)

So we saw that and we did the historic merchants hall.

So we stayed there the night and then the next day we took a day trip to Trieberg. Okay, Trieberg. Okay, that is where we...

Cate (17:13)

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Anna Vogler (17:19)



We went to like the waterfall tour and everything. And I will say this, this is so funny. Driving over there and being there in the waterfalls and the trees, it kind of reminded us of home a little bit, like North Georgia, like with the trees and the waterfalls, like that's how North Georgia is. And it just kind of like, it made us smile because I was like, wow, we're over here, trees are a little different, like as far as the types of trees, obviously. But yeah, that was sweet and that was fun. we,

Cate (17:37)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (17:49)

We shopped around and we actually, this is where in Black Forest area, we finally started getting into some gift shops and so I could find some things to bring back home. So was getting excited about that. And we had our, we had Black Forest cake and it was wonderful. And so then we shopped around and we went to the Cuckoo clock shops cause that was one of the things again, like mom and dad brought home.

Cate (18:04)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (18:14)

to the states, but since then it has broken. And so we were looking and shopping and I was like, we should, we almost bought one, but we didn't. And I was like, I just, don't know. She mama was like, I want one so bad, we just, we just ood and odd, but.

You know, even,

I know I've never bought one, but I still enjoy going into the clock shops. They're just fascinating to look at, and all the different kinds and different sizes and different



styles. you know, it's just, even if you don't plan on buying one, highly recommend go in and take a look at them. And they'll tell you about them in the store too.

Anna Vogler (18:37)

Wait.

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Yeah.

~

yeah, and how some of them are homemade ~ and everything and you can customize some of them. And then we went to that down the road, the largest cuckoo clock. Yeah, we did that. So that was fun. And so we, okay, so let's see. We just, we shopped around there.

Cate (19:02)

yeah. ~

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (19:15)

We ate lunch, had an amazing lunch. Everywhere we ate was amazing. We'll get into food in a minute. So then from Treberg, we went to Hattelberg. So that was about a two hour drive, not bad at all. ~ And when we pulled up and we stayed at Hotel Hollander Hoff, my mom just went nuts. She said, is this where we're staying? I said, yes. And she goes, ~

Cate (19:26)

Mm-hmm. Yep.

Anna Vogler (19:44)



this is amazing. And I said, I'm so glad you love it. And you're excited. You're literally that hotel is in front of everything and you have the best view. So if you get a chance to stay there, I recommend that and you get a view of the river, the bridge, all the activity. It was just, it was wonderful. We really enjoyed staying there. The only kind of thing about staying there is the

parking garage is a ~ couple of blocks away.

Cate (20:19)

That's pretty common, especially for older buildings that are in the Old Town in any city. Sometimes the parking is not directly connected to the hotel and it can be a couple of blocks away.

Anna Vogler (20:20)

Yeah!

Mm-hmm.

Right,

right, right. But it was okay. The receptionist, she was amazing. She was so sweet to us. She answered any questions I had. So in Hutterburg, we walked around. loved the cobblestone streets. then, and there was another beautiful, the church, the Church of the Holy Spirit. It was gorgeous. We walked around. seen ~ the corn markets, the Rothaus. ~

the old bridge, the, we did find the monkey. Yes, we found the monkey. And if you're listening and you don't know what we're talking about, you just kind of have to go on Cate's website and ask and research the monkey. And then ~ we, okay. okay. We did the, we did the Heidelberg Castle tour. It was a guided tour. Love that. Then we did the conic stool.



Cate (21:03)

yeah?

Yep.

Mm-hmm. Yep.

Anna Vogler (21:29)

And that was amazing. So I want to kind of talk about that for anybody who's wanting to go. So you get your ticket and you get on that little funicular. And so you got one that you get on, which is updated and new. Then you get on the next one and it's tiny and old and you're packed in there like sardines. And so I literally was thinking the whole time, Cate, like

Cate (21:35)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah, funicular.

Yeah.

Anna Vogler (21:58)

what do people do in the summertime? Because it's hot in here already and it's not hot outside. We just didn't have no airflow. And ~ that little sucker, like it was the little choo-choo that could, like it was going up that mountain. But once you get to the top, the views were insane. ~ It was worth it. We absolutely loved the fact that we did this. It was an experience all in its own. And we ate at the restaurant.

at the top.



Cate (22:29)

how is that? I've wondered, I haven't eaten there.

Anna Vogler (22:31)

Okay, the Caesar salad is like none other. We got Caesar salad and ~ it was amazing. We ate inside because it was a little warm that day. like I said, our trip in the weather, time in with the spring, it was hot and hot over. People were wearing shorts. Like it was no sweaters and everything. ~ But the...

I have notes somewhere because I took a travel journal with me and I wrote everything down, but that restaurant up at the top, I would recommend it. You can sit outside. There is outside seating. It's very popular. It was very busy that day when we went. Heidelberg definitely was more touristy. It was very busy. It was way louder than any other city we went to visit. So yeah, and like you say, it's a college town. It's probably going to be that way, but

It was it was definitely busy. It was hopping but you can take the best pictures ~ Definitely love that we Yes

Cate (23:34)

The view from up there is spectacular. Did

you go see the king seat? Because the name of the mountain or the name of the area up there is called king seat. And did you sit in the king seat?

Anna Vogler (23:46)

No, we did not make it. We did not make it. ~ I was trying not to push my mom too much because like again, now we're at the end of the trip. She did amazing and she went, she stayed all right there with me, but we did not get to go see that. It was on my list. again, like you say, I think one of the main tips like I took was write down things you want to go see.



Cate (23:55)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (24:14)

but pick your definite like top three or four because you may not be able to get to everything. And that's okay because we saw enough, but it's definitely something you know to try to go see the next time you go. Yeah. And then we did like the next day we did, we didn't get to Philosopher's Way across the river. We could see it from our hotel. We could see people walking, but.

Cate (24:17)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah, absolutely.

Anna Vogler (24:41)

We didn't get to do that, but we did the river cruise tour. And I will say how on that tour, it was short and sweet, but it was really stunning to see the houses built on the other side of the river. How beautiful they are. And the tour guide basically gave you information on those houses and who, you know, a lot of the like college professors or whatever, I think had them over there.

Cate (24:54)

yeah, yeah.

Anna Vogler (25:12)

So yeah, and then we walked around, like I said, we walked around everywhere. We had the best, we finally got to try some Italian food in Hattelberg one night. Oh, it was amazing. We had our first crepe and ice cream. yes, we soaked it all up. And I will say from Hattelberg, the next day, our last day, we drove up



Cate (25:28)

Mmm, this smells so good.

Anna Vogler (25:41)

back up to Frankfurt, so it was an hour drive. And so like I, like the way I mapped everything out, like I just tried to get it so we weren't driving too, too far and we could just, you know, get to where we want to go and kind of do some day trips. But we went back to Frankfurt and we did stay at the Hilton Garden Inn in the airport. ~ We, well, let me say this, we returned our car rental back.

Thank God we got it all back in one piece. I was nervous Nellie the whole trip, but it was perfect and didn't have no issues. ~ And then we just took an Uber over to the airport ~ hotel. So we stayed in the Hilton garden and I do recommend that because it was so easy for us to just get up the next morning and walk through the airport, get food and coffee and get to our gate where we needed to be so we could just fly out. Like we really exhausted.

Cate (26:35)

I second that.

Anna Vogler (26:36)

We were exhausted, so honestly, like that was the smartest move to make.

Cate (26:42)

We did the same thing last summer and it was the best. mean, it costs a little bit more to stay at the airport as compared to staying somewhere else, but it was so worth it. Yeah, we got the best sleep the night before our flight ever. I mean, I just, didn't worry about getting up the next morning. We slept in. was.

Anna Vogler (26:44)



Mm-hmm.

Right.

this.

Mm-hmm

Mm-hmm.

Right, right. Yes, I agree. So it was 11 days of amazingness and I think I have 700-something photos on my phone.

Cate (27:13)

I can imagine. can imagine.

Well, it sounds like your trip. I mean, I remember I remember seeing your trip reports in the Facebook group and everyone loved it. Everyone was looking forward to them every day because we've so enjoyed seeing your photos and reading, you know, what you were doing and what you're experiencing. It was like we all got to travel along with you. It was really fun. But it really seemed like, you know, you you had such a meaningful experience going with your mom and

Anna Vogler (27:33)

Yes.

Cate (27:40)

~ you know, seeing where you had lived and you know, all of that stuff, which is just so, so fantastic. But then you also got to see some other areas that you were you were excited about and just had a wonderful trip. So yeah, it's so great to hear that.



Anna Vogler (27:58)

Yes, it was absolutely magical. It was a trip of lifetime, something I will forever cherish ~ and so grateful I could do this with my mom again. And this time, I'm old enough to remember and for her, it was nothing but reminiscing and everything. you know, I will say this, like everything my mom has described about Germany over the years, right?

Cate (28:13)

Yeah.

Anna Vogler (28:27)

had finally come to life for me. Everything she told me about, from the flowers, the food, the culture, like the windows, now I understand the lace curtains. ~ The flowers in every store, I said, this makes sense now. The clean streets and the manicured yards and just, I could go on, but it was just.

That's what was amazing. Like everything my mom told me just came to life. yeah, we just, we both were giddy. We both left with our hearts absolutely overflowing with happiness.

Cate (29:07)

~ I love hearing that.

You know, I work with, we work a lot of clients who have lived in Germany and are going back either to revisit where they lived or to show their friends or relatives. And I've done the same thing. I mean, I did a road trip around Germany with Aaron in 2019 and we, ~ we went back to visit some of the places that I had lived that I hadn't been to in a long time and that he hadn't seen. And that actually led to us starting our business. And, but it's just such a meaningful experience.

Anna Vogler (29:33)

Yes.



Cate (29:37)

it's just, so beautiful and meaningful and it's something that stays with you for so long. So I love that you got to experience that.

Anna Vogler (29:45)

Yes, absolutely.

Cate (29:48)

Was there anything that surprised you along the way on your trip?

Anna Vogler (29:51)

~ yes, I have a couple of things. ~ How expensive breakfast is, but I gotta eat. ~ Having to pay for water, that was different. Locks on the garbage cans. ~ All the bikes and scooters that you can rent from the street. I saw a lot of that in Frankfurt. I thought that was wild.

Cate (29:58)

Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

Mmm, yeah.

Anna Vogler (30:13)

~ And how the police do not want their picture taken I got in trouble when I tried to take a selfie in Heidelberg and he shouted at me. I was really embarrassed So if you see police just don't bother them and just look the other way I'm really loved and surprised at the amount of bicyclists riding to the grocery store with a basket with a little attached ~ thing for their baby or their kid like



Cate (30:29)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (30:43)

I came home wanting a bicycle to go to the grocery store. Dogs were everywhere. ~ The random walkways through the fields where people walk. It was like here in Georgia, you just have a big ag field. But imagine that with some random walk path, concrete walk path going through it. But my mom said, that's what she remembers, was people went out on Saturdays and Sundays to walk. Even the elderly.

Cate (31:12)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (31:12)

people were out there walking. I was impressed. ~ I would say another thing that surprised me was I didn't see any thermostats in the rooms. So I was wondering how people go over there in the summertime and deal with the heat. I didn't see thermostats.

Cate (31:31)

Yeah, so you can

turn the heat on and off at the radiator, you know, that's on the wall, usually by a window, and you can turn that on and off. Usually they turn that off, and then they open the windows. And some hotels will have air conditioning, but that's not a given. And even if there is air conditioning, it's not always as strong or as cold as in the US. And oftentimes you can't make it colder, like you can't... ~

Anna Vogler (31:36)

Yeah.



That was nice.

Right

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

More.

Cate (31:59)

You can't adjust that yourself. But a lot of times you just open the windows and then it's okay if there's no heat wave.

Anna Vogler (32:07)

Yeah, true, true. Okay, I was worried about that because I was like, Mom, I don't see, I don't know if I would survive over here. But I will say this too, like the other thing that surprised us was the amount of multivitamin water that's served. I actually missed that. And the amount of coffee and espresso over there and there's no flavored creamers. So it's all regular cream. That was surprising to me.

Cate (32:14)

You

Anna Vogler (32:32)

~ And then the desserts, they're not overly sweet like they are here, but they were perfect. So Yeah

Cate (32:38)

Yeah, I agree. I agree. Yeah.

So let's talk a little bit about ~ planning and, ~ and in tips that you have. So if you want to talk a little bit about, you know, resources that you found helpful in your planning,



and then any tips that you have for either planning a trip or, or somebody who's going to be visiting Germany.

Anna Vogler (33:01)

Okay, so, okay, if you're planning to visit Germany and you don't know where to start, I will say Cate's website and Facebook group. When I started this, when I made the decision with my mom, hey, we need to do this, ~ let's go, I tried to travel planner, but it didn't work out because it wasn't, I knew in my heart ~ the itinerary or this piece of paper I got back wasn't fitting for me.

And I knew then I needed to plan this trip and customize it for me and my mom. That's what I knew I needed. And I Googled like travel planning Germany and Cate came up. Cate, your website came up and I think your Facebook group page came up. yeah. Yeah. And so I found it. And so I started like, wait a minute, like, let me look at this. Okay. You know, your website was simple.

Cate (33:48)

that's good. I'm glad to hear it came up when you Googled that.

Anna Vogler (33:59)

it was not overly complicated and sometimes when you're, I'm an over thinker and I will get overwhelmed and so I was able to navigate through it and I found like you had this travel bundle package that you offer and I started digging in that and then I went to the Facebook group and I kept seeing it in the Facebook group but then I kind of was looking into it and I think I seen a

screen capture or something and when I saw the spreadsheet workbook that you have and you had it all organized with your what you should be doing from six months to three months to one month to two weeks out I knew right then and there that this was for me like that's how my brain operates and you had different



worksheets for like what to pack and the packing section was broken out into like apparel

versus technology versus, you know, toll of trees. Like it was all broken out and organized and that's how I operate. So this totally clicked for me. And then I said, I need that spreadsheet. And then you had an interactive map as well. And so that is how I found the castle to stay in. And I was able to navigate and book like.

plan the route to take to start in Frankfurt. Let's route around and then end up in Frankfurt. And so once once I'd used your Facebook group and ~ the website, the spreadsheet, the map, I started planning it all out. I interacted with other people in the Facebook group and I loved how you can go on a on a Facebook group. You can do a search. A lot of people don't know this. So when I had questions about say driving or

you know, license or food or this hotel or Frankfurt or Black Forest, you can just type that in and it'll pull up the results and see what other people have commented. Euros, for example, that's a big one. You know, and I would just see what other people asked and commented. So once I had all that done, I decided to, I wanted to make sure I was on the right path. I felt like I was, but I wanted to make sure so we scheduled

Cate (36:00)

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (36:16)

one-on-one call to go over what I had planned.

And when you said, all this is doable, you gave me a couple of tips. And that was the confidence I needed to know that, OK, we can do this and we're going to fly to Germany. And I've never done anything this big before. So it was just, I highly



recommend it if somebody needs to know where to start because you break it all down.

Cate (36:32)

Mm-hmm.

Well, it's so great to hear. I mean, I love hearing all this because this is exactly what we're hoping for, what we're intending. And we really want to make it easy. know, I loved working with you and your mom during the consult. You know, I absolutely love helping people plan unique trips. And so it was really, really fun to talk through where you wanted to go and what you wanted to do. And then, ~ you know, make sure everything was working right.

Anna Vogler (36:48)

you

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Cate (37:14)

with your itinerary and your plan to make sure that that definitely would work. And it sounds like your trip was a success and so much fun.

Anna Vogler (37:22)

It was, it was amazing. ~ And I will say this for first time visitors to Germany, the first day is the roughest, but push through the lack of sleep and the jet lag and the language barrier. I personally was exhausted the first two days because I had a lot on my mind and I was playing, you know, the hostess and I was also trying to make sure we were okay and protect my mom and



I was exhausted, after like two days, I got excited. Once I started seeing stuff and everything I planned, because I printed out stuff, I printed out my itinerary from the spreadsheet, like I got excited. And so I would just say, drink your coffee and keep going. If you decide to drive and you have anxiety, don't worry about it too. And if you miss a turn, it's okay. Just use your GPS and take a breath. Take it one street at a time.

and I promise you that you can do it because if I can you can and last I would say wear comfy shoes.

Cate (38:25)

I agree with all of that. Those are fantastic tips. One last question before we wrap up. If you were to go back to Germany, where would you like to go next?

Anna Vogler (38:28)

Yes.

~ my gosh, that's on my mind. ~ I could honestly, I could do my whole route all over again, but I would love to try Cologne, Cologne? And or the romantic road area like Bavaria. I would like to definitely try like another area. And my mom even said this time, try to go where we could take a train.

Cate (38:46)

Mm-hmm.

Mm-hmm.

Anna Vogler (39:02)

and where we could just, you know, not do a car this time. But I'm like, man, it was so nice to have a car. We were on our own speed and everything. But I would definitely try another area. You've posted, you have talked about a lot of great other areas that I would absolutely love to visit.



Cate (39:12)

Mm-hmm.

Well, you could definitely do a train up to Cologne and then from Cologne somewhere else. And then once you get down to Southern Bavaria, you could rent a car. Like if you go down to Garmisch, Füssen, Bechtusgaden, area, a car can be really nice to have down there in the Alpine area. But it's really easy to combine doing the train for part of it and the car for part

Anna Vogler (39:25)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

Yeah, yeah, so I would definitely, definitely do another area. I think, I don't think there's one bad place we could, you know, go.

Cate (39:52)

No, I definitely not.

I mean, you can pretty much go anywhere in Germany and find something really interesting because there's so many different parts of Germany that that look different and are distinct and have different food and different ~ types of buildings and architecture. Like you can then there's so much to explore. mean, I've been going there for so many years and I still haven't seen everything. And I mean, it's all interesting. Right.

Anna Vogler (40:16)

Yeah.



Yes, breathtaking, beautiful and you just won't be disappointed.

Cate (40:29)

so let's do a quick wrap up. And let me let me just think here.

Anna Vogler (40:31)

Okay.

Cate (40:38)

Well, Anna, thank you so much for sharing your trip with us today.

Anna Vogler (40:42)

Well thank you so much Cate, I really appreciate it. This has been amazing and hopefully it will help the next person that has to go to Germany.

Cate (40:52)

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