



Germany Travel Planning Podcast

Ep 33 – Fall Weather in Germany: What to Expect and What to Pack

Transcript is autogenerated

Cate (00:00)

One of the questions I'm asked all the time in one-on-one consults is about the weather in Germany and what to pack. Since Erin and I are on a research trip in Germany and neighboring countries right now, we decided to do a field report to tell you exactly what kind of weather we've been experiencing this fall in Germany so that you can better prepare for your own fall Germany trip. This is the Germany Travel Planning Podcast.

the show that helps you plan a super fun trip to Germany and neighboring countries. My name is Kate and I'm your Germany destination expert. I'm here to help you plan the trip of a lifetime. Today, Aaron's joining me to talk about what we've been encountering weather-wise while we've been in Germany. Hey, Aaron. Hi, everyone. It's been a while since we've done an episode together, so I'm really excited to have you on today. Yeah, good to be here again.

So I thought we would just start from the day we arrived in Germany, which was a little over a month ago, and just go through what kind of weather we experienced, temperatures we've encountered. We can talk about how similar or different it's been to other years we've been in Germany in the fall. And then we'll also share what we've been wearing and then a few tips at the end. How does that sound? Yeah, sounds good. All right. So we left North Carolina, where we live in the States. We left on

on September 24th. And I remember the day we left, it was still very, very warm in North Carolina. And we were still wearing summer clothes and we paused right



outside the airport just before we went in, just to have that one last moment of hot weather, sun, felt like summer. Remember that? And then from then on, we knew it was going to be a very different type of weather. So when we arrived in Frankfurt on September 25th, it was raining.

It was overcast and raining. Yeah. And as we were landing, like we couldn't see anything because it was just all clouds. And then when we got on the train, it was just rain the entire way to Stuttgart. And it was a little bit chilly. We were prepared. We, you know, we we dressed for it to be a little bit colder, but it was still a little bit of a shock to go from such warm, sunny weather.

to, and I think it was like probably in the eighties, almost the nineties when we North Carolina. And then when we arrived in Germany, it was like 50s. Yeah. So, and that's Fahrenheit. ~ and then that first, so like we were really prepared for it to be cold and rainy. You know, I always feel like preparing for the worst case scenario in Germany is a good idea because then you're pleasantly surprised if it's not rainy.

~ So do remember what it was like when we were in Shtrika the first couple of days? We were there for about four days. So it was cool, I think almost the whole entire time. ~ We had mostly cloudy days. Yeah, the sun broke through a little bit, but again, mostly. Yeah, and I remember that we were we were wearing long pants and I was wearing tights underneath my skirt or dress.

And we have waterproof shoes. have like, you're wearing Hoka's and I'm wearing Nike's right now. And we have waterproof shoes, which we really like wearing no matter what time of year it is. Yeah, almost all the shoes I bring are, you know, Gore-Tex. So whether that's a walking shoe, hiking shoe, running shoe, as long as it has Gore-Tex that keeps you dry and you can keep going in whatever weather. Yeah. And we found that to be super, super helpful.



summer, fall, winter, spring, no matter what time of year. We also brought, we'd have a raincoat, a rain jacket, a lightweight rain jacket, and then we have an umbrella. And that's actually worked really well too, ~ because it's just been sort of drizzly here and there. Yeah, right. The rainproof shell is like my top layer. Again, I usually pack something very light, breathable, preferably with zippers.

~ that's, know, lightweight, but waterproof and that has a hood, right? So you can pull over and stay dry. Yeah. And I feel like having each of us having one of those and then having the umbrella sometimes, you know, we use our rain jackets. Sometimes we just use the umbrella, but you know, that's been really helpful as well. So I remember when we were in Stuttgart, ~ it end of September and it was getting dark between seven and eight.

And so we were out pretty late. You we were out. Well, I don't know, seven to eight o'clock. It's not super late. But like we were out sightseeing and doing things out in the city up until eight o'clock and then even after that, after it was dark. But it didn't feel like it was getting light or getting dark too early. You know, it felt like we had still pretty long days and.

I remember that even though it was cloudy, it didn't really rain. After that very first day when we arrived, arrival day, it was rainy the whole day. But after that, it was just cloudy. then, yeah, like you said, the sun would break through. ~ packing layers is the most important thing because we were actually, before we started recording, were talking about what we're wearing. We basically just wear the same things over and over. It's just we have layers. And so we just take

We just put the layers on or we take them off. Yeah, we've sort of been perfecting our wardrobe over the years. And yeah, layers remain a key part of that. Yeah. Yeah. So like we would put on, we definitely been wearing pants or tights underneath my skirts or dresses. We haven't really been wearing shorts. We probably could have worn



shorts on a few days, but when we arrived, everybody else was wearing winter clothes.

So it would have felt kind of weird to wear shorts when everyone else was wearing like sweaters and, long coats and rain gear and things like that. But, um, so we've been wearing pants and tights, and then we have t-shirts and I have not been wearing my long sleeve shirts or the pullover sweaters that I bought, that I brought with me, but I do have a merino wool hoodie and I've been putting that on every once in a while when it's a little bit cool. Yeah.

And I've had good luck with sort of the same pattern over and over again, which is a lightweight wool t-shirt. You know, these t-shirts vary in thickness, but start with a wool t-shirt because, you know, they're soft or light, pretty odor resistant. And then layer that with a hoodie or a pullover or like a quarter zip pullover or something like that. And usually that's enough. And if it's going to rain, ~ use a rainproof shell.

It's a little bit cooler. I have a lightweight puffer jacket that I can take. It's, it's crunches up really small. It's very light, but it really does the trick. So that sort of combination of three, two, three, sometimes four layers, um, pretty much covers me for any, any type of weather. Yeah. And basically the same for me. Uh, I also have a lightweight puffer jacket, which in North Carolina is my winter jacket, but anywhere else, it's like a light weight.

~ fall jacket. And that's been really great. Sometimes I just wear a t-shirt and then I wear the puffer jacket over it. And then I bring my rain jacket just in case. we, had a car for a month. So sometimes I would just throw in my, ~ hoodie and my puffer jacket and my rain jacket and the umbrella. And then I would just, when we would get out of the car, I would just take what seemed appropriate for that, that moment. ~ and then for in a few days where we have



Taking everything off. We just wear the t-shirts because it's actually been pretty warm and sunny. Yep. Yeah, so let's go through the places that we've been over the last month and we'll just talk through a little bit like what the weather was like and Yeah, let's just do that now. Okay, so we were in Stuttgart for about four days sunset was around between seven and eight and it was ~ I'd say it was

when we first arrived, upper 40s to maybe low 60s. Yeah, it's probably a good range, ~ which in Celsius is like, I don't know, eight degrees Celsius to maybe 18 degrees Celsius. ~ Then we went to the Black Forest, and this is where we had a car. ~

We experienced various types of weather the week we were in the Black Forest. Yeah, I mean, it's a beautiful green lush area. So you can expect some rain. of year. Yeah, but it's also a sunny area too, in terms of Germany overall. So it's really, really pretty. But it will likely rain. It rained when we were there. And it was green and lush and smelled like evergreens. Yeah.

I feel like we had all types of weather. didn't have any snow, but I felt like we had every other type of weather. were there for, I think, seven or 10 days. And so we had a few days that were just cloudy, and we would just wear a t-shirt and a little puffer jacket. Then we had one day, where actually it's about 24 hours, where there was just a downpour, but it was a really big storm that came in, and that was just kind of a one-off thing.

That day we just stayed in the whole day because it was just raining and it was Sunday, so everything was closed anyway. We did have a little bit of drizzle and we also had some beautiful sunny days. So really it was very, you know, total variation. ~ But except for that one day where it was a downpour, we really went out and did whatever we wanted to do. Weather didn't stop us at all. After that, we drove to Freiburg.



in the southern, like just on the southern border of the Black Forest. And there we had really nice weather. We were really lucky. Yeah. was beautiful those days. Yeah. Sunny. It was basically not cloudy until the very end. The clouds kind of rolled in at the very end of our two days there. But it was sunny. It was warm. It was beautiful. Just perfect fall weather. It was absolutely gorgeous. Oh, and

the leaves were just starting to turn when we arrived at the end of September. When we were in Stuttgart, we actually were, so we stayed in Ludwigsburg, and we wanted to go to the palace and the, go back to the palace and go to the pumpkin festival. So when we were out there, we were noticing that some of the trees were starting to turn, you know, nice yellow leaves and what the sun shining through is absolutely beautiful. And over the last month, we've just seen more and more and more fall color.

And when we were in Freiburg with the sun shining and the leaves starting to turn, was, ~ it was just delightful. I mean, it was just ideal weather. was comfortable temperature and sunny, beautiful. Yeah, that was great. Great for hiking, walking through the town. Yeah, was really nice. Yeah, that was perfect. So after Freiburg, we drove to Füssen and we were there for about four days.

And I remember we had some nice weather. Like we had a couple of days that were pretty good. The day we went to the castle, ~ actually, I remember now we checked the weather and we were ordering our, what we were planning on doing based on the weather. So the day we had, no, the day before we went to the castle, we actually drove a couple hours south, ~ into Austria.

And when we left, it was cloudy and it looked like it was just going to be cloudy and maybe rainy. It didn't look that great. So we drove into Austria and up through the mountains. And we went to a couple of ski towns to check them out. And the weather actually turned out to be beautiful, clear skies, amazing views. had this amazing view of Zugspitze from the Austrian side. I mean, it was



Awesome. my god. It was gorgeous and remember how few people were around Yes, like no one was around and so we got to enjoy these beautiful mountains and the views and the drive like we had it all to ourselves It was awesome So the next day the weather report said that it was going to be cloudy until about 11 a.m And so that day we decided okay, we are gonna go into Fusin Then we're gonna go back to the castle because we wanted to go up to Mary's Bridge and get some

some photos and some video. And we thought, this will be perfect. We're going to have this beautiful day for the castle. And so we went into Fusen and then we're waiting. like, okay, it's 11. Yeah. Anytime now. Anytime. Yes, the clouds will go away. Then we would check the weather report and then suddenly it said, no, it's 12 o'clock. So, okay, okay. All right. 12 o'clock. We'll wait. So then it was one o'clock. Then it was two o'clock and we just decided to go to the castle.

one point the weather app was telling us it was beautiful sunny day. ~ And it was not at couldn't have been no wrong. No, the weather app said it was like, if you looked at the weather app, you would think that it was this amazingly gorgeous clear day. But everywhere we looked, it was just total clouds. Yeah, was disappointing. Yes. So finally, by about 3 o'clock, I think we were like, yeah, I don't think it's going to clear up. It was chilly.

I remember I zipped up my coat that day. We were a little bit cold. It was completely cloudy. And by about three o'clock, we're like, all right, this is the weather we're getting where it's not going to blow over. And it didn't. It did not blow over. It was cloudy the entire day. It was a little bit disappointing, but it was still gorgeous. I mean, with the fall color, because was even like the trees were even there was even more fall color at that time.

Being at Neuschwanstein, it was still really pretty. Yeah. And going on the bridge, it's still a stunning place. Yeah. And again, we did have fall colors everywhere. It was



overcast, the colors and the backdrop still are just incredibly impressive whenever you go. Yeah. Yeah. So then the next day, we actually, we drove from Füssen to a little tiny town near Mittenwald.

And that day it like the clouds lifted that we had the weather we were supposed to have the day before we had that on the day we left. literally as we're driving out of town, that is when all the clouds went away and it just became gorgeous. So we were just a little bit off. So then we spent, I don't know, like 10 days in a little town near Mittenwald. And during that time,

you know, so it was getting, that was in October, like mid starting to be like mid to late October. And, ~ think had pretty good weather there actually. Yeah. Any problems? didn't have any rain, I don't think. And if we did, it was just a little bit at night or it was just a few sprinkles. I really don't remember having any rain there. It was, it happened early in the morning. Yeah. And we had, there were the couple of days that was a little bit cloudy.

But I remember when we went to Mittenwald a couple of days and you went up to the, you took the cable car up to the top of the mountain and it was, that was beautiful. Yeah. I could see for miles forever. Yeah. And then in Mittenwald, we also went up the smaller mountain. We took the chairlift up and then we rode the mountain carts down and that was beautiful blue sky. I actually took my jacket off cause it was getting a little bit warm. Colors are great that day. it was gorgeous. And then

People were sitting out at cafes and walking around eating outdoors. I mean, it was just ideal. And then I remember another day we stopped by Zuchwitzek, so we wanted to do a little bit more research and looking around at some specific things there. And ~ that was also really nice. We ended up spending more time there than we had planned because it was just so beautiful. Yeah, the sky was blue.



water was turquoise. Yeah, so it was a really enjoyable day. You could see most of the Sucsvice, but there was this cloud that was just obscuring a little bit of it and just refused to move. But but otherwise, I mean, we just we walked around part of the lake to the bridge area, and people were just really enjoying it. There weren't many people there. Unfortunately, the beer garden was closed. I'm bummed about that. I really wanted to go sit at the beer garden. But we just

You know, it's just like that, that ideal fall day where it was a comfortable temperature, the light coming down through the trees and reflecting off the lake. And yeah, that's going to be a memory that I'm going to have for, a long time. Yeah. It was really nice. And you know, that was a pretty sunny day. Uh, I'm thinking about other days that were a mix of cloud and sun. And if you like to take photos, definitely take advantage of that, that time of the day when the sun does come.

pouring through the leaves. Because sometimes, some days it won't last so long. So definitely take advantage of any time you get when the sun pops out. yeah. Take as many photos as you can. Yeah, absolutely. So after our time in the Mittenwald-Garmisch area, we drove to Austria and we stayed in a little tiny village near Zell am See.

And we went to Bechtusgaden and then we went to several different places around Celamze. And we had some variation. We were there about a week, I think. And we had a lot of variation in weather that week.

Yeah. ~ it was getting cooler. was definitely getting cooler. It was getting shorter. Days were definitely getting shorter. It was getting dark by about, I'd say six, six 15. And then while we were there, we actually had the time change. So we fell back and then it, then it was like dark by about five o'clock. Yeah. And the time change happens like a week earlier, a before the U S yeah. Yeah.



We had another storm there. That was the other place where we ended up just staying in one day because it was just pouring down rain. ~ there really wasn't, mean, it was so, everything you do there is outdoors. Pretty much everything is about the nature and ~ exploring outdoors, hiking, going up to the ice cave, going to, there's a couple of castles and things you can go to.

But we did spend one day inside because we were tired. We had work to do and it was just pouring down rain. ~ we did have some sun. We had some, the day we went to the ice cave. That was a nice day. Yeah, that was a great day. And so that was interesting. Went to the, ice cave near Vepin and you, ~ you walk up 20 minutes up the hill, you take a cable car and then you walk another 20 minutes up to the ice cave.

We had beautiful clear weather when we walked up there and you could see for miles. I mean, it was just, it was gorgeous and it was warm and it was ideal. We went through the ice cave. came back out and it was totally cloudy. Yep. was cloudy the rest of the day. We started as early as we did. Me too. Definitely. And then I actually saw some photos, ~ somewhere online that other people had just been there.

I'm not sure if it was like right after or right before. Yeah, it was in that week. I think it might have been like maybe a couple days later when it was raining for us. They experienced snow and I saw their pictures and right where we had been walking where it was absolutely gorgeous. There was snow. So I that would have been a very different experience. Their pictures are really pretty. Yeah. Yeah. That would have been a really interesting experience. And it was right before they closed the cave.

The cave, the last day you can go is October 31st. ~ Probably because it starts to snow. ~ We also went to Fortress in Vef and that day was rainy. And I remember, you know, mean, it's like above the town. It's not super high, but you know, we were able to still have a nice view of the town and the mountains. But the weather changed like every 20 minutes, the sun would come out.



And then it would start raining again, and then the sun would come out and then it would rain again. And as we were doing this tour through the fortress, you know, we would come to a part where we'd be outside and it'd be beautiful. And everyone's taking photos. And you can see the peaks of the mountains nearby. yeah, it's great. then like 10 minutes later, we'd be at another part of the fortress. Like we went up to the bell tower and then it was pouring down rain. Or clouded over. And we couldn't see anything. So it was kind of interesting.

in that area, how quickly the weather changed just throughout the day. And sometimes like where we drove home through tell I'm saying it was raining as we're like, let's just skip said today, we'll come back another day. 10 minutes later, we're back in our village and the rain stopped the clouds lifted and it was absolutely beautiful. So quite variable, very, very, very variable. So then we returned our car.

And we took the train to Hashtag in Austria and we were there for a few days the time had already changed So it was definitely getting dark I mean it was dark like five ish. Yeah, right and and by this point, know, we know to get up early To make the most of the daylight hours. Yeah, so if you're traveling this time of year plan on you know Ending your day earlier and getting up earlier ~ because again you can make

use of those daylight hours. Plus, if you get up early, you're going to meet the crowds. The crowds are much less, know, far fewer people in the off season, definitely. But if you can get up earlier, again, there's even fewer people out and about. That's one reason why I really like traveling in the fall. The downside is that you never quite know what weather you're going to get. You know, we could have had two weeks of cloudy weather. We could have had some, you know,

more rain, but you can also have absolutely stunning weather. And I feel like the weather that we've experienced over the last month has been pretty typical of other times I've been in Germany during the fall. Yeah. And then Hallstatt in particular, if



you get up early, you beat some of the day crowds. Yes. People often come arrive on the train and come over on the ferry or on a bus. And they just visiting for the day. Yeah. We were there for a couple of nights.

Which is I think this is a better way to go. Mm-hmm. Yeah another benefit of Getting up early as you beat the crowds. Yeah. Yeah, and well, it was funny when we went to Hustad the day that we took the train We returned our car In Freilassing and then we took the train to Hustad. So we were just traveling the whole day It was pouring down rain that whole entire day was rainy. We took the ferry over to Hustad. It was rainy

~ We couldn't even take any photos or videos because the glass was just covered in the boat. You know, the glass on the boat was just covered in rain. And we got there, dropped our stuff off at our apartment. We walked around and it was just raining. And I thought, well, you know what? This could be our entire visit to Hallstatt. It might just be raining. So we planned out the next day. If it's raining all day, you know, we figured out how we would, what we would do. And we woke up the next morning and it wasn't raining.

It was cloudy, but it wasn't raining. And then the sun started peeking through the clouds and it just kept getting nicer. Like the day kept getting nicer. And it was such a nice surprise because I been prepared. I prepared myself for it to just be raining and cloudy the entire day. And we ended up having really good weather. Right. And then town and the surrounding mountains. It's just such an experience. I mean, wow, what a place.

No wonder it's so famous. absolutely. So yeah, I feel like, we've had overall, feel like we've had pretty good weather. You know, I mean, it's I've been pretty happy with it. So we'll see how things go. It's now November. We're recording this in early November. And we'll see how things go in November and December. In previous years, we've had



~ still pretty good weather in November and December. We have more rain and there's more clouds, but, you know, and especially in December, I feel like, ~ we've had, ~ a lot of good Christmas market weather. So I'm curious to see what it is this year. We're actually going to do another one of these episodes later in December after we've experienced, ~ this year's November and December weather. So we'll come back and we'll tell you what that's been like.

But before we wrap up, let's just kind of review the tips that we shared. One is pack layers so that you can easily adjust to the temperatures. I think that is super, super important. Yep. Check the forecast in the morning and adjust three, two, three layers, whatever you need. Yep. And bring a day back. One of the reasons I have a purse that's a little bit on the larger side

is because I like to bring, I like to have a place where I can throw an extra shirt or my hoodie or a lightweight scarf or something like that. I like to be able to stow that if I need to. And Aaron has a backpack for the same reason. You like 23 liter waterproof backpack, you know, if we visit the grocery or you throw something in there or take off one jacket or something. Also download a couple of weather apps so that you can check both of them.

And you know, they're not always correct. Yeah, you can check two of them. might both be wrong. Another tip is to bring an umbrella or a rain jacket, waterproof shoes if you have them. Those are just make the rainy days just a lot more bearable and a lot better. Get an early start, as Aaron said. And the biggest one is just enjoy your time no matter what the weather is. Because

You know, some days it's a bummer. Like we've been in places and the weather has just not been what we were hoping for. It is a huge bummer. ~ we've had rain in the summer, you know, we were in Bectisgaden for a week, time in the summer. And I think 75, 80 % of that time it was cloudy and rainy. We couldn't see hardly anything. So, you you just never know what the weather is going to be like, and you just have to



decide you're going to make the best of it and have a really good time no matter what the weather.

All right. Well, we hope you found this helpful and stay tuned for our winter weather field report that will be coming out later this year in December. Okay. So sounds good. Until next time. Okay. Bye everyone. Bye.

Cate (28:24)

Before you go, two quick things. First, if you found our podcast helpful, please leave a five-star rating and even better, a review. That helps more travelers find our podcast and that means we can keep creating episodes to help you plan an unforgettable trip to Germany and surrounding countries. And second, if you're just starting to plan your trip...

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