



GERMANY MOTORHOME ITINERARY



A two-week motorhome road trip through Germany, taking in the Mosel Valley, Black Forest, Lake Constance, Bavarian Alps and Romantic Road. This easy-to-follow itinerary includes daily routes, driving distances and times, places to visit, recommended campsites and stellplätze, plus our first-hand tips along the way.

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Welcome to Your Germany Motorhome Itinerary

Germany is a fantastic country to explore by motorhome. Excellent roads, a huge network of stellplätze and some seriously good driving routes make it easy to travel, while the landscape changes constantly as you head from the river valleys of western Germany towards the Black Forest and Bavarian Alps.

We've travelled through Germany many times over the years and also lived there for five years, so it's a country we know well. This itinerary brings together some of our favourite places and drives in one two-week road trip.

Starting and finishing in Calais, the route uses Bruges as an easy first stop before heading into Germany at Trier. From there, you'll follow the Mosel Valley, explore Heidelberg and drive through the Black Forest before continuing south to Lake Constance.

The second half of the trip takes you into Bavaria for Neuschwanstein Castle, the Zugspitze and Eibsee before turning north along the Romantic Road through Augsburg, Dinkelsbühl and Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Cologne and Ypres complete the journey back towards Calais.

The complete route covers around 2,459km with approximately 35 hours of driving. We've included several two-night stops, giving you time to explore rather than simply moving on every day.

Germany Motorhome Route at a Glance

Distance: 2,459km

Driving time: Around 35 hours

Duration: 14 days

Start and finish: Calais

Route: Calais → Bruges → Trier → Mosel Valley → Heidelberg → Black Forest → Lindau and Lake Constance → Neuschwanstein → Zugspitze and Eibsee → Garmisch-Partenkirchen → Augsburg → Dinkelsbühl → Rothenburg ob der Tauber → Cologne → Ypres → Calais

This itinerary is designed for two weeks, but it's easy to adapt. If you have longer, we'd add extra nights in the Mosel Valley, Black Forest and Bavarian Alps, and spend more time around Lake Constance.

If you have less time, don't try to squeeze the entire route into ten days. The Black Forest, Lake Constance and Bavaria work particularly well together, or you could concentrate on the Mosel Valley, Heidelberg and the Romantic Road.



Interactive Germany Motorhome Route Map

We've created an interactive map showing the complete route, overnight stops and the main places to visit along the way.

Use it alongside this guide to plan each day, or adapt the route to suit your own trip. You don't need to follow it exactly as we did. Skip somewhere that doesn't appeal, stay an extra night when you find somewhere you love or add your own detours along the way.

All our recommended overnight stops and parking places are included on the map.

Open the interactive map: <https://thegapdecaders.com/germany-map/>

Day 1: Calais to Bruges

Distance: 113km

Driving time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Once you've arrived in Calais, it's an easy drive north through France and across the border into Belgium for your first overnight stop in Bruges.

Bruges is compact and easy to explore on foot, making it a great place to start the trip after your Channel crossing. Head into the historic centre for the Markt and Burg squares, then wander the cobbled streets and canals that make Bruges one of Belgium's most distinctive cities.

If you have time, hire a bike or explore on foot beyond the busiest streets. And, of course, there are plenty of opportunities to try Belgian waffles, chocolate and frites along the way.

Insider Tip: Head out to Kruisvest Park on the eastern side of the city, where a series of historic windmills stand beside the canal. It's an easy cycle from the centre and a quieter side of Bruges that many visitors miss.

Where to Stay in Bruges

Camping Memling is around 3km from the historic centre of Bruges, making it a convenient base for your first night. It's roughly ten minutes by bike or around 40 minutes on foot into the centre.

Park4Night: [Camping Memling #18926](#)

Coordinates: N 51°12'25.974" E 3°15'46.2096"

Day 2: Bruges to Trier



Distance: 355km

Driving time: 4 hours

Today is a longer drive southeast through Belgium, skirting Brussels and Luxembourg before crossing into Germany and reaching Trier on the Mosel.

Trier is considered Germany's oldest city and its Roman past is still very visible. Start at the enormous Porta Nigra, the best-preserved Roman city gate north of the Alps, before exploring the Hauptmarkt and Trier Cathedral.

You're also now in one of Germany's major wine regions, so this is a good place to try a glass of local Mosel Riesling.

Where to Stay in Trier

Reisemobilpark Treviris is a dedicated motorhome stellplatz beside the Mosel and around a ten-minute walk from Trier's old town, making it a convenient base for exploring the city.

Park4Night: [Reisemobilpark Treviris #9716](#)

Coordinates: N 49°44'25.8036" E 6°37'30.18"

Day 3: Trier to Heidelberg via the Mosel Valley

Distance: 306km

Driving time: 4 hours 20 minutes

Today's route follows the Mosel Valley before turning south towards Heidelberg.

Take routes 53 and 49 along the river, where vineyards climb the steep valley sides and small wine villages sit beside the water. Stop in Cochem, one of the prettiest towns on the Mosel, where the hilltop Reichsburg Castle overlooks the river.

From Cochem, continue to Heidelberg. Its old town stretches beneath the ruins of Heidelberg Castle, with the pedestrianised Hauptstrasse running through its heart.

Insider Tip: Take Heidelberg's funicular railway up the hillside rather than walking. The railway links the old town with the castle and continues higher up the Königstuhl, so you can combine your castle visit with some fantastic views over Heidelberg.

Where to Stay in Heidelberg



Wohnmobilstellplatz Heidelberg is a dedicated motorhome stellplatz with around 50 pitches, electricity and motorhome services. Public transport makes it easy to get into the historic centre.

Park4Night: [Wohnmobilstellplatz Heidelberg #189158](#)

Coordinates: N 49°23'29.0724" E 8°40'15.8088"

Days 4–5: Heidelberg and the Black Forest

Distance: Around 200km on Day 4, plus local exploring

Driving time: Around 3 hours on Day 4

Leave Heidelberg and head south towards Baden-Baden, the elegant spa town on the northern edge of the Black Forest.

If you fancy experiencing its famous thermal waters, Friedrichsbad offers traditional Roman-Irish bathing, while the more modern Caracalla Spa has large thermal pools and a separate sauna area.

From Baden-Baden, pick up the B500 Schwarzwaldhochstraße towards Freudenstadt. This stretch of road runs for around 60km through the northern Black Forest, with viewpoints and places to stop along the way, including Mummelsee.

Insider Tip: Don't let your satnav send you along the fastest route from Baden-Baden. Follow the B500, signposted Schwarzwaldhochstraße towards Freudenstadt. The drive is part of the experience.

Exploring the Black Forest

Use Day 5 to explore rather than moving on to another campsite.

Freiburg im Breisgau has an attractive old town centred around its Münster and the tiny Bächle water channels that run beside many of its streets.

Elsewhere, Hornberg, Gutach and Triberg give you a taste of the traditional Black Forest. The Black Forest Open-Air Museum at Vogtsbauernhof near Gutach is particularly good for understanding how people once lived and worked here.

Triberg is known for its waterfalls, cuckoo clocks and Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte, or Black Forest gateau.

For something completely different, have a go on a Sommerrodelbahn, one of the Black Forest's summer toboggan runs. You ride individually in a small sled down a twisting track, controlling your own speed as you go. They're ridiculously good fun and very German!

Where to Stay in the Black Forest



Stay for two nights at Ferienparadies Schwarzwälder Hof, giving you a base for exploring the region without having to move on to another campsite the following day.

Park4Night: [Ferienparadies Schwarzwälder Hof #87164](#)

Coordinates: N 48°18'0.2952" E 7°56'37.1328"

Days 6–7: Black Forest to Lindau and Lake Constance

Distance: Around 190km

Driving time: Around 2 hours 30 minutes

Leave the Black Forest and travel southeast towards Lake Constance, or Bodensee, which sits between Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Your base for the next two nights is Lindau, whose old town occupies an island connected to the mainland by a causeway and railway.

Once you're settled, head into town and explore the harbour, guarded by its six-metre Bavarian lion and lighthouse. Maximilianstraße runs through the centre of the old town, where you'll find colourful buildings, cafés and the beautifully decorated Altes Rathaus.

Exploring Lindau and Lake Constance

You have the whole of Day 7 to enjoy Lindau and the lake without another travelling day.

Climb the Neuer Leuchtturm for views across the lake towards the Alps, explore the old town and waterfront, or simply find somewhere beside the harbour and watch the boats come and go.

In summer, you can swim, kayak or paddleboard on Lake Constance, and regular boats connect towns around the lake.

If you're carrying bikes, the Bodensee-Radweg passes through Lindau. The complete Lake Constance Cycle Path is around 260km long, but you can easily ride a shorter section.

Where to Stay in Lindau

Stay for two nights at Park Camping Lindau am See, on the shore of Lake Constance. The campsite has direct lake access and public transport nearby for getting into Lindau. If you have bikes, it's around 4.5km into town along the cycle route.

Park4Night: [Park Camping Lindau am See #39090](#)

Coordinates: N 47°32'16.08" E 9°43'52.32"



Days 8–9: Lindau to Neuschwanstein, Zugspitze and Eibsee

Distance: Around 170km on Day 8

Driving time: Around 2 hours 30 minutes

Leave Lindau and head east towards Füssen and one of Germany's most famous landmarks, Neuschwanstein Castle.

King Ludwig II began building Neuschwanstein in 1869, creating the extraordinary hilltop castle that now attracts visitors from all over the world.

If you want to see inside, book a timed ticket in advance. Either way, walk up to Marienbrücke for the classic view of the castle against the Bavarian Alps.

Insider Tip: If you're not particularly interested in seeing the interior, skip the castle tour. Spend your time walking around the grounds and up to Marienbrücke instead. Arriving earlier in the day will also help you avoid some of the crowds.

From Neuschwanstein, continue south towards Ehrwald, just across the Austrian border.

Take the 179 from Füssen towards Reutte and Ehrwald and set your satnav to avoid Austrian motorways. You can reach the campsite on this route without using Austrian motorways or roads requiring a motorway vignette.

This is particularly useful if you're travelling in a motorhome over 3,500kg, as Austria's motorway toll system for heavier vehicles is different from the vignette used by lighter vehicles.

Exploring the Zugspitze and Eibsee

Day 9 is for Germany's highest mountain, the 2,962m Zugspitze.

One way to make the journey is to take the cogwheel train towards the Zugspitzplatt, continue to the summit by cable car and then descend towards Eibsee.

From the top, you'll get a spectacular 360-degree panorama across the surrounding Alps when the weather is clear.

Back at Eibsee, spend some time beside the lake. You can walk or cycle around it, swim in summer, hire a kayak or paddleboard, or simply find somewhere for a picnic with the mountains above you.

Where to Stay near the Zugspitze



Stay for two nights at Zugspitz Resort in Ehrwald, just across the Austrian border and well placed for exploring the Zugspitze and surrounding area.

Park4Night: [Zugspitz Resort #85676](#)

Coordinates: N 47°25'36.2136" E 10°56'29.8608"

Day 10: Zugspitze to Dinkelsbühl via Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Augsburg

Distance: 254km

Driving time: 3 hours

Head first towards Garmisch-Partenkirchen, surrounded by the Bavarian Alps. The town is known for its traditional painted houses and makes a good stop for a wander and a proper German Kaffee und Kuchen.

Insider Tip: If you stop for coffee and cake at a traditional bakery, you may need to choose your cake at the counter first. You'll be given a ticket or number to take to your table, which you then hand to the waiter when you order your drinks.

From Garmisch, head north and pick up part of Germany's Romantic Road, or Romantische Straße, which links historic towns and villages as it travels through Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.

Stop in Augsburg, where highlights include the Renaissance Rathaus and Golden Hall, Augsburg Cathedral and the Fuggerei, the remarkable social housing complex founded by Jakob Fugger in 1521.

Continue to Dinkelsbühl for the night. Surrounded by medieval walls and towers, its old town is packed with colourful historic houses and overlooked by St George's Minster.

Where to Stay in Dinkelsbühl

Wohnmobilstellplatz P5 Larrieder Straße is a dedicated motorhome stellplatz around a ten-minute walk from Dinkelsbühl's old town, with electricity and motorhome services.

Park4Night: [Wohnmobilstellplatz P5 Larrieder Straße #132452](#)

Coordinates: N 49°4'28.7904" E 10°19'18.48"

Day 11: Dinkelsbühl to Rothenburg ob der Tauber



Distance: 45km

Driving time: 45 minutes

It's a very short drive today, so there's no need to rush.

Continue north towards Rothenburg ob der Tauber, using the B25 and keeping your satnav away from the motorway if you want to enjoy the smaller towns, villages and countryside along the way.

Rothenburg is one of Germany's best-preserved medieval towns. Walk the old city walls, explore the cobbled streets and make your way to the Marktplatz and Rathaus.

You'll almost certainly come across Plönlein too, the much-photographed yellow half-timbered house where two streets divide beneath towers in the old town.

Insider Tip: Rothenburg can be incredibly busy with day-trippers and coach tours. Stay overnight and explore again in the late afternoon and evening, when many of the tour groups have left. The streets become noticeably quieter and it's a completely different place.

Where to Stay in Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Stay at Camping Tauberromantik, around a 20-minute walk from Rothenburg's historic centre.

Park4Night: [Camping Tauberromantik #151583](#)

Coordinates: N 49°23'15.5364" E 10°10'4.674"

Day 12: Rothenburg ob der Tauber to Cologne

Distance: 360km

Driving time: 3 hours 45 minutes

Get an early start because you've got a fairly long drive north to Cologne and you'll want as much time as possible in the city when you arrive.

Cologne Cathedral dominates the city centre and its enormous twin towers are visible from across the Rhine. The cathedral is free to enter, although there's a separate charge if you want to climb the tower.

If you have time for a museum, the Museum Ludwig beside the cathedral has an excellent modern art collection. Alternatively, head to the Chocolate Museum on the riverfront.

Wander through Cologne's Altstadt before crossing the Rhine on the Hohenzollern Bridge. On the opposite bank, the Rheinboulevard gives you a great view back towards the cathedral and old town.



For an even higher viewpoint, head up the KölnTriangle observation deck on the Deutz side of the river.

Insider Tip: If you've still got some energy left in the evening, head to Cologne's Belgian Quarter. It's one of the city's best areas for bars and restaurants and a good place to experience Cologne away from the main tourist sights.

Where to Stay in Cologne

Stay at Reisemobilhafen Köln, a dedicated motorhome stellplatz beside the Rhine and around 3km from the centre. You can reach the city by bike or public transport.

Park4Night: [Reisemobilhafen Köln #3570](#)

Coordinates: N 50°57'44.6724" E 6°59'9.9456"

Day 13: Cologne to Ypres

Distance: 420km

Driving time: 4 hours 20 minutes

Today you leave Germany and head west through Belgium towards Ypres for the final night of the trip.

Ypres is forever associated with the First World War and the battles fought around the Ypres Salient. Memorials, cemeteries and museums throughout the surrounding countryside tell the stories of those who fought and died here.

In the centre, the magnificent Cloth Hall dominates the Grote Markt. Almost completely destroyed during the war, it was painstakingly rebuilt and today houses the In Flanders Fields Museum.

From the Grote Markt, walk to the Menin Gate, which bears the names of more than 54,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known grave.

Insider Tip: Make sure you're at the Menin Gate before 8pm for the Last Post Ceremony. This moving ceremony has taken place here every evening since 1928, apart from during the German occupation in the Second World War.

Where to Stay in Ypres

Stay at Urban Gardens Ieper, formerly Camping Jeugdstadion, close to the centre of Ypres. It's within easy walking distance of both the Grote Markt and Menin Gate.



Park4Night: [Urban Gardens | Camping Jeugdstadion #486610](#)

Coordinates: N 50°50'48.9336" E 2°53'51.342"

Day 14: Ypres to Calais

Distance: 95km

Driving time: 1 hour 20 minutes

It's a short final drive today, leaving Ypres and crossing back into France for Calais.

With less than 100km to cover, you can take the morning slowly if your Channel crossing isn't until later in the day. Have breakfast in Ypres, pick up any last Belgian chocolate or beer and then make your way towards the coast.

Allow plenty of time for check-in at the ferry terminal or LeShuttle, particularly during busy holiday periods. If you have a later crossing, you can also use the extra time to stock up at one of the large supermarkets around Calais before heading home.

And that's it. After around 2,500km on the road, you've travelled from the Mosel vineyards to the Black Forest, Lake Constance and the Bavarian Alps, followed part of the Romantic Road and explored some of Germany's most beautiful historic towns before finishing in Cologne and Ypres.

More From The Gap Decaders

We've been travelling through Europe by motorhome and overland vehicle since 2018, covering more than 130,000 miles along the way.

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Happy travels!

Phil and Izzy
The Gap Decaders

