

The 125th anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York – a German-American engineering project: These days one of the most famous National Historic Markers in the U.S., the Brooklyn Bridge is celebrating its 125th anniversary. With a main span over the East River of 1,595 feet 6 inches, the Brooklyn Bridge was the largest suspension bridge in the world on completion in May 1883. The bridge was designed by German-born John Augustus Roebling. Roebling had earlier designed and constructed other suspension bridges, such the Waco Suspension Bridge in Texas, that served as the engineering prototypes for the final design. He was born in 1806 as Johann August Roebling in the German small town Muehlhausen in Thuringia (Prussia). He built a model bridge at the age of nine and later this bridge was noticed to be similar to the Brooklyn Bridge. At an age of 14 he passed the examination for the title of a “Master Builder” in the Thuringian capital Erfurt. In 1826 he graduated from the Royal Polytechnic Institute, Berlin as a Civil Engineer. In May 1831, Roebling left Germany. He wanted to build big bridges, which was difficult in Germany at the post Napoleonic Wars’ time. John and his brother Karl, along with other people who accompanied them on the trans-Atlantic journey, established a settlement in Pennsylvania, called Saxonburg. After numerous other engineering projects, in 1867 Roebling started design work on what is now called the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1869, during surveying for the East River Bridge project, Roebling's foot was badly injured by a ferry, pinning it against a pylon. Within a few weeks, he died of tetanus. His son, Washington Roebling, succeeded him, but in 1872 he was stricken with caisson disease. A very interesting, but not too well known fact is, that Washington Roebling's wife, Emily Warren Roebling, became his aide, learning engineering and communicating his wishes to the on-site assistants. When the bridge opened, she was the first person to cross it. <http://www.nycroads.com/crossings/brooklyn/>

Wine and culture in the norther-most wine growing regions worldwide – the Saale–Unstrut Wine Route: German wine does not only grow in the Rhine plain and in the southern regions. Tuscan climate with almost 1,500 sunny hours per year makes the culture of quality wines possible even in the central German state Saxony–Anhalt. For more than thousand years wine has been playing an important role in the region of the rivers Saale and Unstrut. Since 1993 Europe’s northern-most wine route stretches for about 37 miles across a landscape of considerable beauty. Shell limestone terraces, dry stone walls, winery houses and wine rows alternate with proud castles and palaces, historic towns and unique tourist attractions. One of many highlights is the almost thousand years old town Naumburg with its famous cathedral and treasures. On the outskirts of the old town Nebra, scientists made a sensational discovery: in a fosse they found the so called “sky disk of Nebra”. Dated at 1,600 years BC, this archeological treasure is the oldest concrete representaion of the cosmos in human history so far. And then there is Freyburg, the wine metropolis on the Unstrut river. For more than 150 years the cellars are producing among others the famous Rotkaeppchen–Sekt (Litte Red Riding Hood Champagne). There are regular guided tours through the historic wine cellars and to the big Cuvee–vat. Lovely wine taverns await you with culinary local specialties. Every year on the second weekend of September, Freyburg celebrates the biggest wine festival in East Germany.

http://www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/destination_germany/master_tlfstrasse-id57.htm?cc_lang=

Beer Brewing manufacture in the historic forester’s lodge Templin in Brandenburg: The “Braumanufaktur Forsthaus Templin” is located in the outskirts of Potsdam, close to Berlin. It combines so many attractive attributes, that ervery visitor is just excited and fascinated: an interesting forster’s lodge history going back to 1756, a perfect location at a scenic lake with a nice shady beergarden, an impressive tradition of – organic – beer brewing, local delicious food, numerous events and, last but not least, great fresh seasonal beer! For homebrewers and beer enthusiasts, they offer brewseminars with the local brewmaster. For everyone else, there are many historic sites to discover nearby. The original house was built by a local fustian manufacturer in 1756. During the following two centuries the building was used as a lumbering manufacture, a tavern, a forester’s lodge and a restaurant. In 2002 finally two dedicated brew

masters purchased the property and established a brewpub and microbrewery. Their tasty unfiltered seasonal beers are brewed according to regional traditional recipes, using historic German brew knowledge and technology. The “Braumanufaktur” is the only brewery in the states Berlin and Brandenburg, which is brewing an organic beer Pilsener style. The “Potsdamer Stange” is refreshing wheat beer and a local specialty. They also brew a light and dark Bock beer, Lager and Weizenbier. But the unique in-house brand is the “Werdersches”, named after the region – an amber-colored, palatable, malt-accentuated traditional beer. The “making of” will be revealed in special brewseminars. Or just enjoy the unique taste of those freshly brewed beers at lunch or dinner with local reasonable priced culinary specialties. It’s only a stone’s throw – or a ride on a ferry – away from the palaces, gardens, parks and many other historic sights in Potsdam. Right in the neighborhood you will find Albert Einstein’s summer house in the scenic village Caputh. According to Einstein, Caputh was a place where “one could be lazy (sei ein gutes faules Tier) and not give a damn about the world (pfeif auf die Welt)”.
<http://www.braumanufaktur.de/> (only in German available)
http://www.thegermanamericanconnection.com/German_Beer_Crawl

The “Night of the Nymphets” in the fairy-tale castle and park Moritzburg in Saxony: At the last weekend of August and at the first weekend in September, 2008 the fairy-tale castle Moritzburg will be celebrating a feast for the senses at the historic scenery of the royal hunting lodge for the Kings of Saxony. The baroque castle is located on an artificial island surrounded by a scenic lake and park. In the 16th century, Duke Moritz of Saxony let build the hunting lodge in the middle of a forest rich of wildlife. In the 18th century, King August the Strong remodeled the lodge into a magnificent castle. He used the Moritzburg castle for his hunting expeditions and as a setting for royal amusements. The castle chapel built in the second half of the 17th century is considered to be one of the most impressive buildings of the Early Baroque in Saxony. In the tradition of royal festivities, every year the romantic “Nights of the Nymphets” is celebrated in late summer. This musical spectacle tells ancient local fairy tales, accentuated by fascinating light effects, spheric sounds, classy horse training shows, artistic interludes and many other surprising effects. The show will be completed by culinary delights and dancing in

the castle chambers. But of course, the castle Moritzburg is open to the public almost all year long – offering guided group tours and/or audio guides (in german and english available) for individual travelers.
<http://www.moritzburger-schlossnacht.de/>

Public Holidays in Germany: Germany has many public holidays. Some of them are federal holidays, others vary from state to state. Since most attractions, shops, museums, galleries, grocery stores and sometimes even restaurants are closed then, it's best to check dates before you make any individual travel plans. The most important holidays with the most restricted opening hours are the two Christmas holidays (Dec 25th/26th), New Years Day (Jan 1st), Good Friday, Easter Monday, Labor day (May 1st), Pentecost, Corpus Christi and Day of German Unity (Oct 3rd). For a more comprehensive list see the link below. Although not officially holidays, on Christmas evening (Dec 24th) and New Years evening (Dec 31st) opening hours – especially in bars and restaurants – are very limited. In addition to the holidays, many museums and other tourist attractions close on Mondays. Especially opening hours of outdoor destinations such as parks, gardens, castles, fortresses, amusement parks, markets and exhibitions are subject to seasonal changes – one more reason to check dates in advance to avoid bad surprises. On the other side, Germany has plenty of colorful and lively local events to offer: Christmas markets, Easter feasts, historic and traditional town festivities, farmers markets, open-air concerts and theatre in scenic settings of castles, monasteries, royal gardens etc., harvest celebration events, culinary events and much more. Therefore check the local event calendars or contact your specialized travel agent – it's definitely worth to become part of authentic local events and experience the true lively culture, history, tradition and cuisine of the various but unique regions!

<http://www.qppstudio.net/publicolidays2008/germany.htm>

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