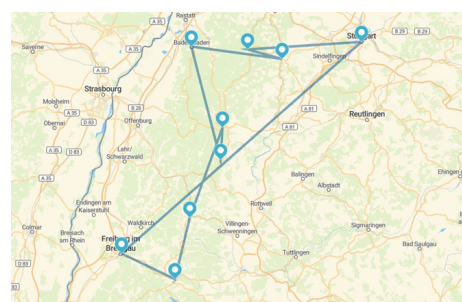




Germany, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through the Black Forest

Would you like to discover one of the great natural treasures of Germany? Come and explore the Black Forest, a mountainous area where vineyard-covered slopes stretch as far as the eye can see. An oasis of pure nature, where you can breathe in fresh air and enjoy the laid-back local way of life. Goodbye to stress! This tour is to be enjoyed leisurely, and each and every stop is to be savoured. We'll set off from Stuttgart, known as the gateway to the Black Forest and the Swabian Jura, but also as the "city of engineering", especially cars. So, if you're a bit of a petrolhead, this is definitely your place. In Alpirsbach, we'll discover one of the oldest Romanesque monasteries of the Black Forest and learn about the brewing process of Germany's national drink: beer. From here, we'll head to the town with the largest market square in the whole country, almost 5 hectares in size. This is in Freudenstadt, another great example of an "economic miracle" city that reinvented itself after the devastation of World War II. That said, the truly wonderful thing about the Black Forest is coming across picturesque villages that retain the rural charm of the area. An example is Gutach, home to the Black Forest Open Air Museum, or Triberg, famous for its beautiful waterfalls and its cuckoo clocks. The pinnacle of the area is the Titisee lake, as well as all its jaw-dropping surroundings. Make sure to spend lots of time here, wandering along the lakeside trails, sailing across its waters or enjoying a simple picnic on its shore. This tour also includes Freiburg, a scintillating town with streets full of small canals and mosaics above shop doors. It's perfect for having fun with the whole family and experiencing unique moments. Culture lovers will also have the chance to visit the birthplace of writer and Nobel Prize winner Hermann Hesse in Calw. That said, this tour won't be just about culture, as there'll be plenty of time for wellness and relaxation. We'll stop at towns renowned for the healing properties of their thermal waters, such as Bad Wildbad or the über-luxurious Baden-Baden, where Belle Époque luminaries would spend their summers. Make sure you relax for a while at some of its spectacular thermal baths or drink from what are said to be the miraculous fountains that will give you eternal youth. We would definitely do so! What about you?



NATURE

Departure date: Departures from August 2026 till July 2027

From: London

## Travel details

## ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - STUTTGART

Flight departure from the city of origin to Stuttgart and rental car pick-up. Stuttgart is known as the gateway to the Black Forest and the Swabian Jura, but also as the "city of engineering", especially of cars, as it's the location of the production plants of Mercedes-Benz and Porsche, which both have must-see museums that will delight petrolheads. The Mercedes museum showcases the first ever petrol-driven vehicle. Meanwhile, the best-preserved exhibit at the Porsche museum is the 911 GT1, the car that won at Le Mans in 1998. In Stuttgart, there are many places to stroll around and soak up the local atmosphere. Schillerplatz is the oldest square and home to the Altes Schloss, the city's oldest palace that today houses the National Museum of Württemberg, which was created to showcase the region's fascinating history. If you'd prefer a more peaceful place away from the hustle and bustle, then head to one of the many parks and gardens in Stuttgart. The largest and most emblematic is Schlossgarten. A good idea is also to pop over to Schlossplatz, the heart and soul of the city. Here you'll also find the Neues Schloss, the last Baroque palace built in Germany. But this isn't the only palace in the city. You'll also find the Altes Schloss, which houses the National Museum of Württemberg for you to discover the region's history. If you fancy a bit of shopping, there's nothing better than the areas around Königstraße and Calwerstraße, where you'll find a great variety of stores and shopping malls. Take advantage of your visit to Stuttgart to sample some Swabian specialities such as Maultaschen, a mixture of meat and spinach ravioli accompanied by a potato salad. And the best way to wash this down is with a local beer, such as the Rothaus Pils Tannenzäpfle.

Overnight stay in Stuttgart.

## ● DAY 2 · STUTTGART - BAD WILDBAD - CALW - BADEN-BADEN

Don't worry if you haven't seen all of Stuttgart, as we'll return to this vibrant city at the end of the trip. Today, we'll head off to the Black Forest. Our first stop will be Bad Wildbad, just over an hour away on the B296. This town is famous for its hot springs and for hosting the Opera Festival Rossini in Wildbad. The powers of its medicinal waters have made the "Palais Thermal" one of Europe's most renowned thermal baths for its properties, as well as its unmistakable Art Deco style. But these are not the only baths here. At Vital Therme, you'll also find various indoor and outdoor pools where you can bathe in hot water while experiencing the cold winter air. This area is ideal for everyone who enjoys outdoor living. A great place to do so is at the small but beautiful Wildsee lake. After visiting Bad Wildbad, head back on the same road and within thirty minutes you'll have arrived in Calw. This is the birthplace of the writer and Nobel laureate Hermann Hesse. But this is not the town's sole attraction. The centre is full of wooden houses and ancient fountains that evoke what life was like in more rural times. If you have time, it's also worth visiting the ruins of the Hirsau Monastery, which date back to the 11th century. Then, back on the road again to follow today's suggested route. After an hour's drive or so, you'll reach the pearl of the Black Forest: the luxurious city of Baden-Baden, which practically straddles the French border. Don't worry if you arrive late, because tomorrow you'll have the chance to explore the town at your leisure. You can have dinner around the Steigenberger Europäischer Hof and savour some of the local specialities washed down by a good beer.

Overnight stay in Baden-Baden.

### ● DAY 3 · BADEN-BADEN

Today you'll have the whole day to soak up the charisma of Baden-Baden, an elegant spa town famous for its magical waters, modernist villas and gardens which were the favourite summer haunt of Europe's Belle Époque. Kings, princesses, celebrities and millionaires... Many are those who have visited this beautiful German town. And they had a good excuse to do so, apart from enjoying its boutiques and array of leisure activities. Its mineral-rich thermal waters are world-famous and were already used in ancient times by the Romans, who took advantage of the wealth of this place perched on the slopes of the mysterious Black Forest. In fact, you can now visit the ruins of the Roman baths, including those of Caracalla - which have been turned into an amazing wellness spa - and up to twelve hot springs dotted around the city. The thermal waters come from these springs and bubble up at a temperature of between 45°C and 69°C. There are legends around these waters. It's said that if you drink the thermal water from the Fettquelle fountain, located next to Romerplatz, you'll instantly look ten years younger! So, make sure you don't leave without trying them. You can definitely smell the money in the air in Baden-Baden, but there's also plenty of space for art. There are several museums, but the Frieder Burda is a really one where you'll get to see major works of modern art by artists such as Picasso and Pollock. Afterwards, you can take a stroll along its elegant streets in search of what is said to be the most beautiful casino in the world, the luxurious Neoclassic Kurhaus building, whose interiors are inspired by the Palace of Versailles. Another must-see is the Lichtental, a beautifully detailed English garden with more than three centuries of history and home to over 300 species of trees. The city is pretty much immersed in green, thanks to its surrounding hills. One of them, the Merkur, will give you the best views of the city.

Overnight stay in Baden-Baden.

### ● DAY 4 · BADEN-BADEN - ALPIRSBACH - FREUDENSTADT AND SURROUNDINGS

Today, you'll set out on a magical trip through the High Black Forest, stopping at captivating places such as Alpirsbach and exploring charismatic valleys, forests and villages like Freudenstadt. Off we go! Leaving Baden-Baden behind, we'll drive an hour to the south to reach the town of Alpirsbach. It's famous for its Benedictine monastery located in the Kinzig valley. Dating back to the 11th century, it's one of the oldest Romanesque monuments in the Black Forest. Nearby is a brewery open to visitors, so you can learn all about the beer production process. Very close to here, just a twenty-minute drive away, is Freudenstadt, nicknamed the City of Joy of the Black Forest. You'll definitely have to see its Marktplatz. It's truly amazing. It covers almost five hectares and is crossed by two roads. It's by far the largest square in the country. You'll find gardens, historic buildings, a quirky church built at an angle and a huge range of pavement cafes. The city museum showcases local history and explains how Freudenstadt has successfully retained its beauty despite the continuous reconstructions it has undergone. Fires, plagues, bombings... The town is, therefore, a prime example of the so-called "German miracle". Later, you can head up the Kienberg Hill, where you'll be able to see authentic Black Forest vegetation. One of its most popular trails is the Roseweg, where you'll find a pathway that intersperses sculptures and roses. But if you want to photograph the very best views, it's best to climb to the Friedrichsturm tower at the top of the hill.

Overnight stay in Freudenstadt and surroundings.

## ● DAY 5 · FREUDENSTADT - GUTACH - TRIBERG - TITISEE - FREIBURG

Have a hearty breakfast today as there's a packed day ahead. This will be another magical trip, snaking through the Lower Black Forest and its characteristic landscape of rolling mountains and verdant forests. An hour's drive down the B294 will take you to Gutach, our first stop today. This town is home to the Black Forest Open Air Museum. You'll also be able to stroll around typical regional houses, farms with animals, and a host of exhibitions that explain the local way of life and the customs of the region's farmers. Like Gutach, Triberg is another rural village in the Black Forest and a must-visit for anyone passing through the area. It's famous for its cuckoo clocks, which are on sale in all possible shapes and sizes. Even just popping into the shops to see them is worth it. This is also where you'll see two of the world's largest cuckoo clocks. One is the Weltgrößte Kuckucksuhr, which dates from the 1980s. And the other, found in the outlying Eble Uhren-Park, has an official entry in the Guinness Book of Records. This park also commands spectacular views of the Gutach River Falls, which plunge down from a height of over 160 metres over seven different cascades. These are the most popular and romantic waterfalls in Germany. A pleasant walk through its lush forest will give you a unique perspective while breathing in fantastically fresh air. The main attraction of the town of Triberg, crossed the River Gutarch, are the waterfalls of up to 163 metres high and seven different cascades, the most famous in Germany and some of the highest in Europe. And they are simply stunning and truly romantic, so a stroll through the verdant forest to reach them is a must-do. However, you'll have to pay the entrance fee to the park where they are located. One final tip before leaving this town. Triberg boasts the original recipe of the Black Forest gateau, which dates back to 1915, so it's the best place to try it out. Now, we'll head to another stunning natural feature: Titisee, one of the most important glacier lakes in southern Germany. We'll arrive by taking the B500 from Triberg and driving for around fifty minutes.

From Titisee, you can admire an impressive massif blanketed with fir forests. This popular two-kilometre-long lake offers a landscape that varies depending on the time of year you visit. In winter, it turns to ice and you can even walk on it. However, if you go in warmer months, you can sign up to a relaxing boat ride to explore its waters while surrounded by lush German nature. (Note: Activity not included). Make sure you saunter along its shore and enjoy a picnic with your travel companions. There are plenty of shops where you can buy something to eat or even some local souvenirs. Today is obviously the perfect day to try some Black Forest ham, which is smoked for at least three months. Around the lake, you can also take various hiking and Nordic walking trails. And if you're with your family, there's an indoor complex with saunas, water slides and cascades, so the kids will definitely be well entertained.

Enjoy the drive, as the landscape between the forests is well worth immortalising. You'll probably want to stay in the area all day, but you'll have to head back to your car because there are another forty minutes by road to our final destination of Freiburg.

Overnight stay in Freiburg.

## ● DAY 6 · FREIBURG

Today, you'll have the whole day at your leisure to explore this pocket-sized city nestled at the foot of the Black Forest vineyards and woodland.

Its majestic 11th-century cathedral is a must-see. It's said that on clear days you can see right over to the French Vosges Mountains from its 74-metre spire, the most beautiful of Christendom according to the locals.

The small waterways that run through the old town also give a quaint feel to the city, while at the entrance of many shops you'll find tiles on the ground saying what is sold at each one. Stroll around looking for the most original ones. Kids are sure to have a great time with this game! As you get to know Freiburg, you'll discover that it's a fairy-tale town come true. Its history starts at the medieval entrance gates, known as Martinstor and Schwabentor. They are still intact today and you'll see a large mural of St. George on the second one.

If you want to see the city from a different point of view, take the funicular that connects the historic quarter with the lower part of Freiburg. An aerial view that will leave you speechless.

Overnight stay in Freiburg.

## ● DAY 7 · FREIBURG - STUTTGART

By your second day in Freiburg, you'll have discovered another of its curiosities, as the inhabitants of the west bank of the river speak French, while those on the east bank speak German. Maybe that's why they call it the "Free City".

Curiosities aside, today you can take advantage to visit the Augustiner Museum. It's housed within a monastery and showcases works of art ranging from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century. If you have time, pop to the Historisches Kaufhaus. It's a former merchants' hall dating from the 16th century. On the façade, you can see different figures and shields that symbolise the city's loyalty to the House of Habsburg. But there is still a long way to go today. You'll need more than two hours for the drive from Freiburg to Stuttgart. From the road, you'll clearly see how this German city is surrounded by green areas, vineyards, dense forests and mountains. Depending on the time you arrive, you can finish off what you didn't do at the beginning of the trip. If you want to see one of the best sweeping views of the city before going to bed, then head to the Television Tower, where there are several observation decks at a height of 150 metres and a panoramic cafe. For dinner, we recommend trying the city's signature dish, the Gaisburger Marsch, a stew with beef, potatoes and noodles.

Overnight stay in Stuttgart.

## ● DAY 8 · STUTTGART - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- |                                           |                                        |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ✓ Return flight.                          | ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Stuttgart. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Stuttgart. |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Baden Baden.  | ✓ Selected meal plan in Baden Baden.   |                                    |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Freudenstadt. | ✓ Selected meal plan in Freudenstadt.  |                                    |
| ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Freiburg.     | ✓ Selected meal plan in Freiburg.      | ✓ Rent-a-car.                      |
| ✓ Insolvency protection.                  |                                        |                                    |

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.

## Destinations Visited



Stuttgart



Bad Wildbad



Calw



Baden Baden



Alpirsbach



Freudenstadt



Triberg Am Schwarzwald



Titisee



Freiburg



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.