

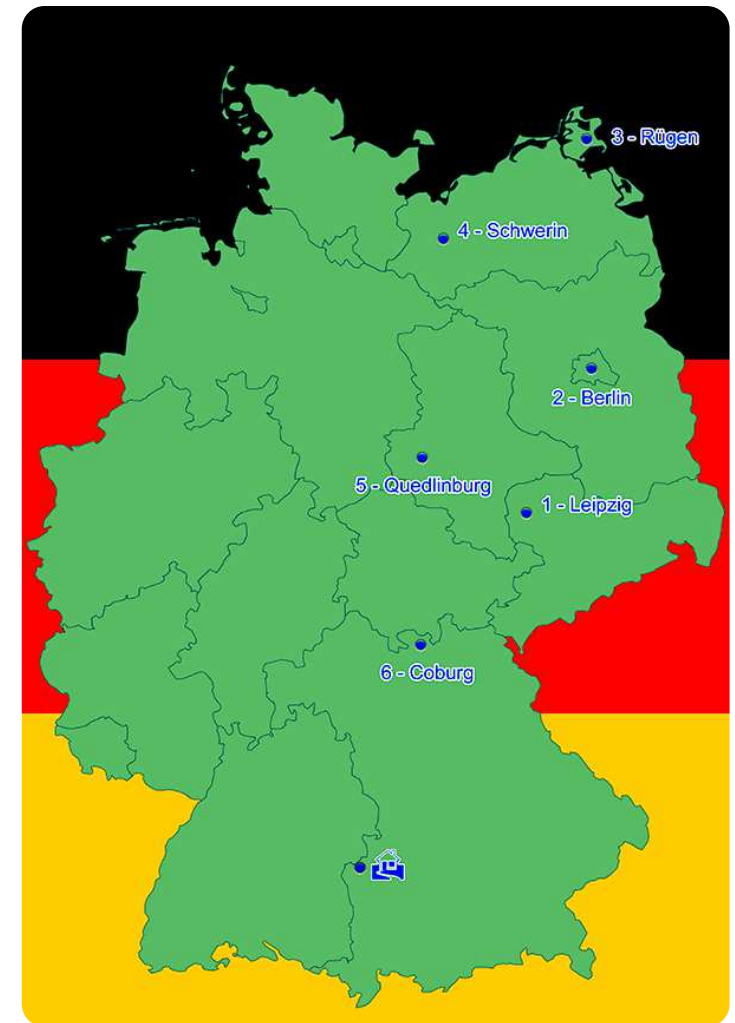
# City Countryside Sea – Germany 2022

## CITY COUNTRYSIDE SEA GERMANY 2022



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Date	Destination	Hotel	Milage day [km]	Milage total [km]
Di 16.08.	Leipzig	Motel One Leipzig-Augustusplatz	517	517
Mi 17.08.			0	517
Do 18.08.	Berlin	Holiday Inn Express Berlin - Alexanderplatz	247	764
Fr 19.08.			0	764
Sa 20.08.			0	764
So 21.08.			0	764
Mo 22.08.			0	764
Di 23.08.	Sellin	Park Hotel Sellin	390	1154
Mi 24.08.			69	1223
Do 25.08.			142	1365
Fr 26.08.			0	1365
Sa 27.08.			0	1365
So 28.08.	Schwerin	Best Western Seehotel Frankenhorst	250	1615
Mo 29.08.	Quedlinburg	Best Western Hotel Schlossmühle	340	1955
Di 30.08.			111	2066
Mi 31.08.	Coburg	ibis Styles Coburg	321	2387
Do 01.09.	Öllingen		299	2686



Summer is slowly approaching and the travel restrictions due to Corona are almost a thing of the past. Nevertheless, the search for a suitable date and destination is not easy. Freya does not like to fly and a longer dis-

tance certainly not. She would prefer to spend two weeks driving from one English garden to the next, although it is obvious to her that this is not feasible with Jürgen. He, on the other hand, is only slowly recovering from his back pro-

blems and wants to avoid long distances by car.

So we stay in Germany again. The idea is to drive at most 3-4 hours a day and to have further stops in between. Two, three longer stays at one place should al-

so be part of the trip. The result is a somewhat city-heavy roadtrip to Rügen and back.

P.S.: In German, the word game "Categories" is named City Country River

## Stage 1 - Journey to Leipzig

Last weeks it was hot. Freya wishes me-  
anly continuous rain for home - well, at  
night. But unfortunately, the weather fo-  
recast predicts significantly cooler and  
rather unsteady weather for our travel  
route as well.

It's Tuesday morning and  
we're taking it easy. With  
more than 500 kilometers,  
this will be the longest stage  
of the trip, but Jürgen has  
planned a stopover in Saal-  
feld. Here is a "Fairy Grotto"  
and it is well-visited even du-  
ring the week. Every 15 mi-  
nutes, about 50 people enter  
the former slate mine.

We use the waiting time un-  
til our tour starts, after all 1.5  
hours, for a short walk and a  
picnic with the meatballs we  
took with us.

By the way, the whole thing got its name  
from the neighboring "Feenweltchen"  
(Fairy World) theme park. This one costs  
separate admission, but even outside  
there are all sorts of things for the little  
fairy and the naughty elf. You can find  
sticky tattoos and climbing courses, pick  
gold out of the sand sieves and of course,

there are also photo spots where the re-  
spective child can be posed. But the  
most crowded places are the bratwurst  
stalls. There is also a small museum in  
which the air is so bad that we leave it  
quickly.

At some point, it is time to arrive at the  
meeting point for the guided tour. We



Feengrotte -  
Saalfeld an der Saale



Feengrotte - Saalfeld an der Saale

are given capes and pointed  
hats (but we quickly take those off again)  
and after the obligatory group photo,  
which we could buy later at the exit, we  
go into the mine.

The tour leads over steel stairs and  
through damp, narrow tunnels. Jürgen  
has to keep his head down. At certain  
points, we have stops for explanations or  
time for taking pictures. Especially at the  
last point, we would have liked to have a

little more time, but obviously, we had  
to hurry to get out of the cave in time.

Very occasionally, special photo tours  
are offered and for photographers, this  
is certainly the better alternative, as you  
can move freely through the mine for 2  
hours.

Saalfeld itself would have been worth a  
look, but the long waiting  
time put a  
spoke in our  
wheel. After  
all, we still ha-  
ve to go on to  
Leipzig.

## Stage 2 - Leipzig

We stay at the Motel One Augustiner-  
platz. It's on a side street of the pedestri-  
an zone and easy to reach. We don't  
even try to park the car in the hotel's  
own parking garage but drive straight in-  
to the large public one on Augustiner-  
platz. The hotel is also kind enough to



Monument to the Battle of the  
Nations - Leipzig

contribute to the parking fees if you park  
there. Our wish for a quiet room is fulfil-  
led, it faces the inner courtyard and we  
won't hear anything from the surround-  
ings.

As lunch turned out to be a bit sparse, we  
go to the Italian restaurant on the mar-  
ket square early. Afterwards we take the  
streetcar to the Monument to the Battle  
of the Nations.

We have not used the 9 Euro ticket much so far, but on this vacation, it comes in handy. In Leipzig and Berlin, the idea is to leave the car completely in the garage and go by public transport. The last time we were in Leipzig we had skipped the Monument to the Battle of the Nations and only went to the neighboring Southern Cemetery. Today we are on time for sunset and take pictures of the monument reflected in the pond in front of it.

Back at the hotel, we end the evening at the tables in front of the hotel bar.

around. Neither the sweet things nor the heartier variants are appealing to her. After all, she only drinks a coffee while Juergen is having sweet pastry. Instead, she enjoys the pomegranate seeds we took with us.

Our first destination

U-Bahn) anyhow. So we first go to the new building of the Development Bank of Saxony. The main station itself doesn't offer much photographically. Quite in contrast to the S-Bahn Station Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz to which we are now riding. Of

is our destination. We can have a look at the big hall, stairs, and the gallery. The courtrooms and the security area are off-limits. But the toilet doors alone are great. Thicker and heavier than our front door!

We also watch an interesting film about the building and the past times. Unfortunately, we can't see the ceremonial room, where the presiding judge used to celebrate his parties.

Since the new city hall is close to the streetcar stop to which we now have to go, we also go in there. But after the Federal Court House, the large reception



S-Bahn Station Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz - Leipzig



Federal Court House - Leipzig



Federal Court House - Leipzig



Federal Court House - Leipzig

The next morning we take it easy. We have not booked breakfast and therefore go to the pedestrian zone to the bakery chain "Backwerk". Freya is nagging

today is very close to the main station. We have to go there anyway, as we want to take the suburban train (called S-Bahn in Germany, while the metro is called

course, you have to like the style.

After that, the Federal Court House in the building of the former Imperial Court

hall is rather disappointing and so we quickly get out again.

Now it is about the reason why Leipzig

after only 2 years is on the agenda again: The old cotton mill. Last time we were there on a Sunday and the galleries were closed. Therefore, the start of this trip was on a Tuesday. Most galleries are open from Wednesday to Saturday. We go into a few smaller galleries, which are not really appealing to us, and into a public exhibition in one of the halls, which we like much better. Finally, we have something small to eat in the beer garden there.

Refreshed, we walk to the "Westwerk", another old industrial building nearby. The main building houses a supermarket and small stores and businesses have established themselves in the adjoining buildings. The reason we are here, however, is the graffiti.

Finally, we take the streetcar back to the main station and walk a bit through the city center. On the way, we have a delicious local beer and then we go back to the hotel. Tonight, there is no photo spot on the agenda and so we just go out for dinner at a Vietnamese restaurant.

### Stage 3 - From Leipzig to Berlin

On the way from Leipzig to Berlin Jürgen has planned one sightseeing: Ferropolis near Dessau. Here are five of the huge excavators that were previously used for open-pit mining. Unfortunately, we have not checked in advance whether there a festival takes place. And so what has to happen, happens: The whole area is closed off.

No problem, the village of Oranienbaum, where we just drove through, also looked quite nice. We park the car opposite the castle. You can only get in with a guided

tour, but we take a look at the garden and the orangery. Later in old town, we take a look at a round church. Interesting architecture, but not very photogenic. There is even a tourist information office and Freya gets some brochures about the surrounding gardens and parks. Oranienbaum is part of the Dessau-Wörlitz Garden Realm, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.

Now Freya has tasted blood and forces Jürgen to drive to the park in Wörlitz. This is an English landscape garden and not at all to Jürgen's taste. There is a castle that is being renovated and can be visited only with a guided tour anyway, an artificial

ruin, and a larger lake that we walk around. The fact that the weather isn't exactly great doesn't help either. Freya is annoyed that Jürgen is not enthusiastic, but that's the way it is.

At least we want to have lunch here. The restaurant Grüner Baum has a nice garden, but the food on offer is too hefty for the temperature and humidity. So we go to the beer garden next to the parking lot and have a small bite to eat there.



Westwerk - Leipzig



Westwerk - Leipzig



Westwerk - Leipzig

### Stage 4 - Berlin

Meanwhile, it is about time that we move toward Berlin. The traffic is already increasing quite a bit. Freya is now glad again that Jürgen is there and she does not have to drive. Calmly and safely he drives us both to the parking garage near Alexanderplatz. The Holiday Inn Express is located opposite the Old Town House and close to the River Spree. As with the Motel One Leipzig, we were told that the parking garage is small and usually fully booked. So now we have to walk a bit from the Alexa shopping center.

But that is soon done and after a short break, we leave again and make it with the first raindrops to a pizzeria near the Red City Hall (Rotes Rathaus). Hardly we

have finished eating, the rain is also gone and we take the metro to the station Bundestag. Via the Spreebogenpark we want to go to the House of the Cultures of the World and then to the Brandenburg Gate.

In the Spreebogenpark we get into a conversation with a man who walks his super nice dog there. He is quite annoyed by the development of the

city and warns us of the increasing crime in one or the other part of the city. In the



District Court Central - Berlin

proximity of the House of the Cultures, a peace camp has spread out, that protests against the war in Ukraine. Interestingly, it is not mentioned anywhere that this is an attack by the Russians.

We walk around the House of Cultures, but it is still too early for interesting pictures and we don't want to wait. So we continue to the Brandenburg Gate. Here it is, as usual, very busy. Jürgen takes a picture of the Quadriga with the telephoto lens and even though it's not that late, we take the metro back to the hotel and call it a night.

The next morning the weather is still so-so. A little cooler than yesterday, but still cloudy and with high humidity. Neither of us

to take pictures with a cell phone.

Via the Alexanderplatz with the World Time Clock, we now go in the direction of Rosenthaler Straße. Already on the way, we pass suburban train bridges with graffiti. Our destination is one of the courtyards on Rosenthaler Street, the "Haus Schwarzenberg Street Art Alley". Quite small and definitely no longer an insider tip. It is interesting how the various layers of stickers overlap. We also paid a visit to the courtyard next door, the Rosenhof.

Shortly before reaching the Berlin Cathedral, we almost failed, together with an Italian family, to open a public toilet. Finally, it was possible by using a credit card.



Haus Schwarzenberg street art alley - Berlin

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Haus Schwarzenberg street art alley - Berlin

slept that great, but after breakfast, we head out full speed. Our first destination is just around the corner, the District Court Central (Amtsgericht Mitte). This has a very nice entrance hall. Unfortunately, you are only allowed



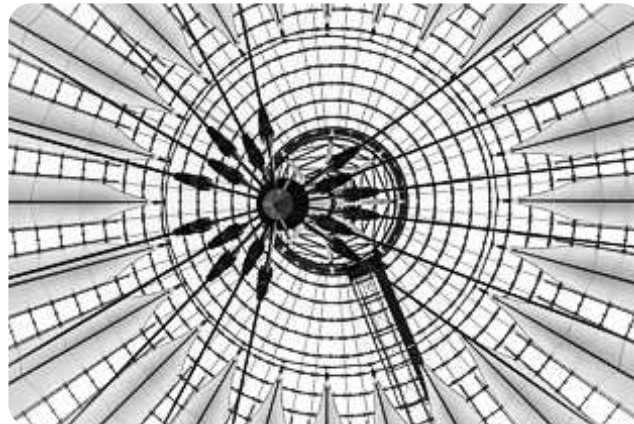
Haus Schwarzenberg street art alley - Berlin

Then off to the Berlin Cathedral. Jürgen wants the panoramic view, while Freya stays seated and wants to enjoy the atmosphere. Climbing the stairs is only worth it to a certain extent. You can not see into the interior of the church and the view over the city is impressive, but with the gray-in-gray of the weather today it's not really photogenic. But at least the interior itself makes up for the 7 Euro entrance fee. Finally, we enjoy a coffee in the Dom Cafe and watch the sparrows.



Berlin Cathedral - Berlin

into the German Cathedral. Neither had an ecclesiastical use. The name should only reflect the splendor that was given



Potsdamer Platz - Berlin

history of German democracy. This is spread over the different floors and even though we spend quite some time here,



Mall of Berlin - Berlin

Slowly we get hungry and believe that we should be able to find something to our taste near the Mall of Berlin. On the way we pass Quartier 206, another mall. Unfortunately, they don't want you to photograph the beautiful Art Deco interior. Probably the topic has settled anyway soon. Except for a few security people, no one was interested in the stores. Shortly before we reach the Mall of Berlin, we are successful. Here are some Asian restaurants and in the smaller one we find a place in the



Berlin Cathedral - Berlin



French Cathedral - Berlin



German Cathedral - Berlin

We continue walking to the Gendarmenmarkt where we have a short look into the French Cathedral and a longer one

to the buildings. In the German Cathedral, you can find a (free) permanent exhibition about the

we would need many hours if we wanted to look at all the exhibits and texts intensively.

"front yard". The setting is nice and the food tastes so good that we definitely want to come back again.

On the way to the Potsdamer Platz we stop at the Mall of Berlin, which has decorated the square between the two main buildings with many colorful umbrellas swaying in the wind.

We only stay a short time at the Potsdamer Platz and then walk back to the Leipziger Platz. There we take the metro and go back to the hotel. Now it's time for a break. Well, and that lasted until the next morning. Both of us were somehow not really adventurous anymore.

Also today there is no reason to get up early. It is cooler and it drizzles, but for our today's destinations that is irrelevant.

By suburban train and metro, we go to the Classic Remise Berlin. Beautiful, old, polished cars are standing there. Yes,

not only Jürgen is delighted.

After that, the Teufelsberg in Grunewald is on the agenda. Here, where in former times the Russians were bugged, now the orderly decay takes place. After the end of the cold war, the Americans had no more use for the site, and various plans to reuse it failed for different reasons. The decay began and the sprayers found an ideal area for them to let off steam.

At a certain point, there was some trouble and in the meantime, a new operating company has been found. Visitors can enter from 11 a.m. to sundown and the entrance fee is 8 Euros. But if you like graffiti, it's definitely worth it.

At the beginning of the site, there is a small exhibition on the Cold War. Quite nicely done, but not the reason why we

are here. The site is huge, about 6.5 soccer fields in size. There are a lot of buildings, which are painted from the outside. Many of them can be entered. The main building has several floors that can be reached by outside stairs. Inside are artificial walls to have more space for graffiti. On the roof, the large radomes are decaying.

By the way, in the meantime, it is not allowed to spray around arbitrarily. The artists are selected and assigned to appropriate spaces. So there is always something new to see, but the new or particularly good artworks are not immediately defaced again.

We completely forget the time and thus miss our next item on the agenda - the guided tour at Radio Berlin. Never mind.

We walk through the forest back in the direction of Wilhelm Leuschner-Platz, reach a street, and orient ourselves as suddenly a car stops. The driver thought we were police officers controlling the speed and we must have given him quite a scare. Well, so much for the gray-green clothing. Don't policemen wear blue by now?

We would actually like to eat a snack now, but we can't find anything that suits us. At Wilhelm Leuschner-Platz it starts to rain and we finally decide on a pub with a few tables under a canopy. Finally, it stops raining and we get to the metro station on dry feet and return to the hotel.

The next morning, we want to go to the East Side Gallery at the old Berlin Wall, to the RAW area and also Freya wanted a



Chevrolet Corvette - Classic Remise - Berlin



Peugeot DMA - Classic Remise - Berlin



Classic Remise - Berlin



boat trip. Actually, we have planned the boat trip as the final, but when we pass the pier, it is just another 30 minutes until departure. The weather is again poor,

but it is not really supposed to get better. The boat is fully booked, but because of the great demand they are starting another boat and that leaves a quarter of an hour later.

The so-called bridge trip is well three hours long and leads not like most other tours only the Spree up and down, but al-



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin

eateries and stalls - quite nice.

At the East Side Gallery we are a bit disappointed. We have seen better graffiti in recent days, but in more than 30

so through the Landwehrkanal. In total it stretches over 23 km, through 3 watergates, and under more than 60 bridges. We pass Kreuzberg, Friedrichshain, Charlottenburg and Mitte. We hear interesting things and regret that the new Berlin architecture is so boring. Compared to other big cities, a little bit of

courage wouldn't be so bad here.

After the tour, we quickly bring our jackets back to the hotel and then walk along Holzmarktstrasse and Mühlenstrasse in the direction of the Wall Museum. On the way, we pass the Holzwerkstatt, an area with small alternative

years, the art has of course also evolved. At the Mercedes Square in front of the Mercedes-Benz Arena, we drink something and watch guests and staff. Via Warschauer Straße we walk then to the RAW area. There is a flea market today and so it's very busy. We photograph a bit and then go back by suburban train.



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin



on the Teufelsberg - Berlin



RAW area - Berlin



RAW area - Berlin



RAW area - Berlin

Jürgen has really chosen a good place to spend the night. We are very central and get easily to all the places that we are interested in.

At half past seven we leave again. We drive to Leipziger Platz and walk from there to the Asian restaurant where we had lunch two days ago. Also today the food is good, but when we were there at noon it tasted better.

From here to the Brandenburg Gate it is not so far and so we walk. We arrive just in time for the blue hour. Of course, it's super crowded again. Jürgen sets up his tripod and takes long exposures. In the meantime, Freya

is asked by a couple to take cell phone photos.

Afterwards we walk to the Bundestag, but when Jürgen wants to go with her into the dark streets to the House of Cultures, Freya goes on strike. So he only takes pictures of the Paul-Löbe-Haus.

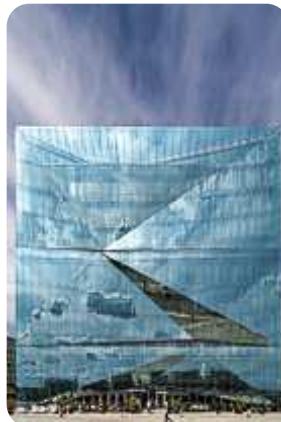
After breakfast, we walk toward the Museum Island. We just passed the Humboldt Forum, when Jürgen says he is not feeling well. He would go back to the hotel. Freya follows. If he still feels like lying in two hours, she can still go off on her own. After a cup of tea in the hotel, Jürgen falls asleep pretty quickly, wakes up again after half an hour, and after anot-

her 30 minutes we are on the road together again.

We take the subway to the main station, where we have a bite to eat nearby. Afterwards we go to the Futurium, where we spend a long time. But this is really interesting and much more optimistic than

the Klimahaus in Bremerhaven.

At the Italian restaurant near the Red City Hall (Rotes Rathaus) we have a drink and later dinner. Jürgen still wants to make some night photos, but somehow the energy is gone and so we stay with an evening walk.



The Cube - Berlin



Brandenburg Gate - Berlin

## Stage 5 - Rügen

Since we didn't sleep well last night, we lie down again after breakfast. But just as we are dozing off a fire alarm starts. So we quickly take our backpacks, leave our luggage and go outside. Fortunately, it is a false alarm. Someone made too much smoke in the kitchen. Now that we are awake we want to leave. With the suitcases, we walk to the parking garage Alexa and drive out of town.

The way to Rügen is not too far, but Jürgen has a nice idea for a side trip: Plauen am See. This is the western end of the Mecklenburg Lake District, where Freya always wanted to go. We take a look at the nice little town. Old half-timbered houses, beautiful old church in brick Gothic. At the idyllic river arm, we first have

a fish sandwich and then ice cream. We walk to the jetty and lighthouse. Then we move on.

We arrive in Sellin on the island of Rügen shortly before 5 pm. At

check-in, we get enough info for a three-week vacation. We buy two bottles of water at the supermarket next door, Jürgen washes his shirt, and then we want to have dinner early.

We are hungry and so we end up in the restaurant "zum Smutje", where already



Plau am See

fish stall than a restaurant. When paying, we learn that only cash is excepted here. Freya slips out that they are really lucky that we have just drawn money. Somehow the waitress gets the wrong idea and reacts slightly stroppey. "After all, it wouldn't be a legally obligatory to allow cashless payment." She's

the Aperol is a bit thin. Freya eats a Schnitzel with Ragout Fin and Jürgen decides for Zander. Not really bad, but not good either - all in all more of a fried

right, but the tone in which she means it is strange. We pay and give the place a wide berth in the future.

Sunset is approaching and we make our way to the pier. The mixed weather means that we have a nice cloudy sky even if it is not enough for a classic sunset. Jürgen starts on the beach with the beach chairs in the foreground. As it gets darker and the lights are turned on, we go up to the bridge to photograph the restaurant itself. Most of the visitors are probably at dinner at the moment and those that are still there are moving around and not standing on the railing. Although you still have to have some patience, with long exposures they are no longer visible in the finished picture.

Finally, we drink two black beers at a nice



Sellin Pier



Sellin Pier



Sellin Pier

Italian restaurant and notice that the cocktails at the neighboring table also look quite good.

The next day Freya wants to go to the sea, but only



Dwarf beech in the witch forest in Semper forest park - nar Lietzow

after noon because in the morning it is a bit too fresh for her. So we drive together to Lietzow to have a look at the Hexenwald. In the village, we find a parking lot at the train station and walk from there into the forest.

The witch forest in the forest park Semper is a relatively small area within the forest park. It consists of cripple beech trees, which in summer form a canopy that reaches down to the ground. In the beginning, you can hear quite a bit of traffic, but then it slowly becomes quieter. If we had been here in early summer, we could have admired the blooming rhododendron. But so we continue walking on the well-maintained hiking trails. The witch forest is signposted and easy to find.

Luckily, no one is there right now and Jürgen can shoot some pictures for a pa-

norama. Unfortunately, it does not take long and a family with children appears, who thinks they have to use the trees as a jungle gym 😊

We take

another walk through the forest to the steep bank. From there we walk past the former water tower in the shape of a castle ruin back to the car.

In the meantime it is noon and it has started to cloud over. So Freya decides that today is no beach day after all. After a short break, we walk through the forest to Binz. In the meantime, the weather has changed for the better but Freya doesn't like to permanently change her plans back and forth. The trail through the forest is going up and down a little bit. There are more cyclists than hikers on the way, but it is still quite pleasant to walk. We take a look at the former rescue tower on the beach, which is now used by the marriage registration office, and continue to the pier. To Binz, it is just under 8 km, but maybe

we walked a bit more. So as we arrived there a break is due.

Afterwards we look for the bus stop to go back by local transport. The bus comes, mask

on and Freya does not find her 9-Euro ticket. The bus driver pushes, Freya should get off and wait for the next bus. She doesn't, pays 3.40 Euros, and then finds the ticket on the way to Jürgen. We have to change buses on the way and the already well-filled bus is packed.

For dinner, we walk only a few steps to the Italian around the corner. The service is nice, but the food is not so good. Jürgens pizza almost burnt and Freyas noodles okay. After Leipzig and Berlin, the food here on Rügen is so far rather a disappointment.

Speaking of food: The hotel here is not really to be recommended, but the breakfast is really good and diversified. Different cold cuts, cheese, but also pork meat with onions, cereals, fruits, eggs,



former rescue tower - Binz

and so on.

Today we go to the north. We skip the beacon Cape Arkona because of tourist rip-off, but we want to go to the Fairy Tale Forest, a

beautiful beech forest. We are not the only ones who go for a walk there. We encounter a guided group of horseback riders no less than three times.

Relatively nearby are some groins, which do not lead parallel into the sea as usual, but are cross-shaped. Of course, we have to go there too. While Jürgen is taking pictures, Freya is watching the beach visitors who are looking for amber at 12:30 noon. During her treatment at a health resort in Bad Doberan, she once heard that only the early bird finds the worm, or rather the amber.

On the way back we pass a pretty church and have a look at it and the churchyard. Unfortunately, there is no more room in the nice restaurant across the street.

In a brochure, we saw photos of replicas

from the Bluetooth treasure and the museum is within walking distance of the hotel. So we buy some sweet pieces in a pastry shop and eat them in the hotel room. Afterwards we walk to the museum in the Seestraße.

The man who is supervising the museum is a passionate hobby archaeologist. We chat and learn that as a hobby archaeologist, you only have a very short time window to explore. Only after plowing and before sowing one can go with detectors to the fields.

The silver treasure of Bluetooth was found in 2018 during such an operation. First, there were only 1, 2 silver coins, but the next day they found so much that it became clear that there is more and they notified the National Office. It took almost a week until the "emergency excavation" took place, during which all those involved had to maintain the strictest silence, even within the families.

Replicas of the original treasure can be seen on the ground floor of the small museum. On the second floor, you can find stones and ammonites, and some household goods. All in all a nice, small museum, which one would not expect in

such a small village.

After that, we walk to the harbor. Our guest card includes a ride on a boat from here and since we might want to do that



Fairy Tale Forest -  
Altenkirchen-Schwarbe



cross-shaped groins - near Dranske



Fairy Tale Forest -  
Altenkirchen-Schwarbe

tomorrow if the weather is right, we want to check it out. Dinner is at the Italian restaurant on the way to the pier where we had a beer the day before yesterday. And finally, there is nothing to complain about.

After a delicious breakfast, we go to the beach. It is cloudy and foggy - a bit like autumn.

First, we walk a bit on the

ridgeway through pine and beech forest, but we want to go to the sandy beach and that's what we do now. Jürgen has rolled up his pants, Freya too, but in no time we are both quite wet.



in Sellin

as far as Göhren, always with our feet in the water. Once there, we both eat a tarte flambée, briefly visit the medieval market that is taking place here at the moment and take a look at the well-attended miniature golf course. There are two different theme areas, everything is nicely decorated and well-maintained. Neither of us has ever seen such a beautiful miniature golf park. Nevertheless, we

do not feel like playing.

We walk back along the promenade and take a shortcut through the forest at the end, which is not a shortcut after all.

Then quickly to the supermarket, nearby to buy a few small souvenirs.

But then off to the room and under the shower. Everywhere is sticky sand. After a short break, we walk in the direction of the pier and eat plenty of delicious food at the Mexican restaurant.

The next morning we enjoy breakfast and then go back to the room. It has rained during the night and the weather is not really better now. So we lie down a bit and read or play on the tablet.

Around noon, however, we are tempted to go outside. We go for another walk on the beach. This time, however, only to Baabe. Today there are more waves than yesterday, but we pay a little more attention - and we don't get as wet as yesterday. In Baabe we eat delicious ice cream, walk down the main street and then up again, and then it starts to rain again. Anyway, we want to go back. The

rain quickly turns into drizzle. Today we don't try to shortcut, but walk up to the pier. Before we go up to the bridge, Freya sits down to remove the sand from her feet and legs. Great, the bench was wet and so is she now!

For dinner, we go again to the street to the pier, this time to the "Old Post Office". Here you can sit outside under large umbrellas and so the next rain shower does not bother us much. Here, too, the food tastes good and so we are finally happy with the cuisine on Rügen.

### Stage 6 - Former Hansa towns

A last time the great breakfast buffet in the hotel and then we drive off, this time via Puttgarden and not via Bergen. Nice landscape, even if Rügen is so big that

at the Hansa towns up here.

First, we stop in Stralsund and park a little outside the city center. Since we don't want to walk along the main roads, we walk in a parallel street. So we come to a

us down a bit more is a city run near the harbor. So we often end up at a barrier and eventually give up.

Our next destination is Wismar. Also here we enjoy the atmosphere. Wismar is only slightly smaller than Stralsund but somehow cozier. Perhaps this is also related to the fact that Stralsund is the gateway to Rügen and therefore attracts more day tourists.

From our parking lot, we walk crisscross through the old town and finally end up at the harbor, where even a larger cruise ship is anchored. Somehow we didn't notice the crowds of people



in Stralsund



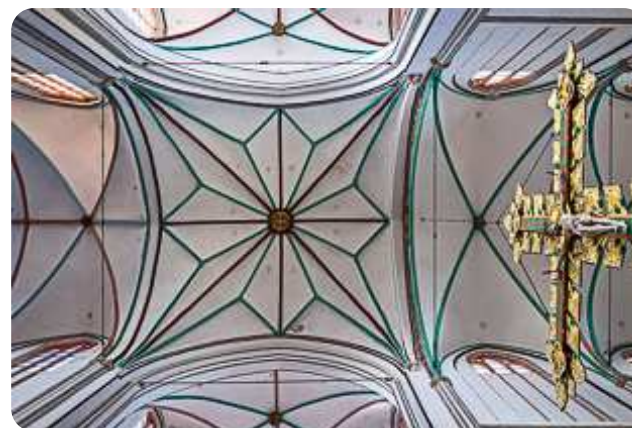
in Wismar



Castle Schwerin

somehow no island feeling comes up.

The day's destination is Schwerin and if we would drive directly there, it would take us 2.5 hours. But we want to take a look



Schwerin Cathedral

lake with a beautiful view of the old city center and soon reach the historic center. The churches are only viewed from the outside, it is church service time. What slows



jellyfish - in Wismar

that usually pour through the city from such a ship. Here at the old harbor are also a few old sailboats at anchor. Whether for sailing or only for receptions and parties is not quite clear. The only thing you don't want to do here

is falling into the water because it is anything but clear. Only jellyfish feel comfortable in it.

Our hotel in Schwerin is a bit outside and since we don't want to leave again later, we go to the city center first.

We park at the periphery of the center and walk through the pedestrian zone in the direction of the castle. Since it is Sunday, there is

little going on in the pedestrian zone, but even more at the castle. In the castle, the State Parliament is housed and we could have visited a part that is prepared as a

museum. But somehow we're not in the mood for it. Instead, we go to the Protestant cathedral. This is quite nice, although a bit plain. By the way, this is not due to the GDR, but to a renovation in 1815.

But now we want to go to the hotel. This is located away from the city on a lake and really nice. The rooms are distribu-

ted over many small individual buildings scattered in the park. Here we could imagine staying longer than one night. The menu contains only a few dishes, but they taste all the better for it.



in Wernigerode



in Quedlinburg



in Quedlinburg

## Stage 7 - Around Quedlinburg

As good as dinner was, breakfast is lousy. They try to prepare as much as possible. But when it stays there for a long time, the eggs get cold, the pancakes tough, and the rest doesn't get any better. If the coffee is thin and at the next table there is a discussion about whether one could get the scrambled eggs fresh, then

"service" clearly has been misunderstood.

Today we are heading a little bit further toward home. First on the highway and then across the countryside. Our first destination is Halberstadt. We want to see the cathedral and the cathedral's treasures. But what did we forget? It is Monday and everything is closed. Never

mind, we walk a little bit through the city center with the old half-timbered houses. Here many things have not been fully restored yet, which gives the one or the other street a morbid charm.

Before we go to Quedlinburg, we first go to Wernigerode, where there are more half-timbered houses to see. Due to the proximity to the Brocken, Wernigerode

is much better developed for tourism and the available money can also be seen at the houses. We walk a good hour through the narrow streets. Here one could have spent

much more time, but the parking time we paid runs out and we do not want to walk back again.

So now we're off to Quedlinburg, where we plan to stay for two nights at the Hotel Schloßmühle. The hotel, also a Best Western, is great. Because Jürgen often stays in a Best Western, we get an upgrade and stay in a Junior Suite.

We are already a little tired, but that doesn't count when we're on vacation. So we bring our stuff to the room, Jürgen parks the car and we walk off.

Since the hotel is located directly below castle hill, we want to go there first. Well, the castle or the monastery is under renovation, but the collegiate church at the top and the cathedral's treasures can be visited.

So we climb the steep stairs to the top, only to find that also here it is closed on Mondays. But at least we have a great view of the landscape from here.

The old town is virtually a medieval museum with narrow streets, cobblestone



Bode falls - near Braunlage



Bode falls - near Braunlage

squares, and many half-timbered houses. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994 and is one of the largest area monuments in Germany.

At the Ruinencafe we sit down and order two black beers. After about 10 minutes the waitress comes and tells us that the

black beer is out. So we decide to go for the Zwickel beer that is offered. After about 15 minutes we ask and yes, they are on it. We have to ask twice more and Freya says if it doesn't come now, we'll leave. Well, at some point there are two glasses in front of us and Freya just asks whether the glasses are also available in

full? No matter, that is drunk now.

In the meantime, we have decided to have dinner at the Greek restaurant and walk to the restaurant Helena. We sit down, are served quickly, get two beers and an ouzo on the house. Then we wait for the food, wait and wait and then, Freya calls for the waitress. She says "coming in two minutes". Well, after 4 minutes

the starter salad comes, then again nothing for a long time. At a certain point, Freya wants to pay for the two beers and leave. There comes the food. After almost an hour of waiting, we are not really hungry anymore. Our glasses are also empty but we are not asked if we still want something. Somehow we take it



Halberstadt Cathedral



Halberstadt Cathedral



Halberstadt Cathedral



Halberstadt Cathedral



personally now. To the bill, there are two more complementary Ouzo, but that doesn't help anymore.

In contrast to what we have read, the city is actually not so full. What are the restaurants going to do when all the Chinese tourist groups arrive again?

We walk back to the hotel where Jürgen fetches his tripod. Freya mumbles to herself and follows her husband. When he wants to stop somewhere, she waves him off. You really don't have to reinforce a bad mood with alcohol.

When we go to the breakfast room the next morning, it drizzles, but after breakfast, it is only hazy. That fits well because we want to go to the forest. On the way, we see places named Elend (Misery) and Sorge (Worry) and a lot of damaged forests. We stop briefly at the Königshütter waterfall, which is almost directly beside the road, and then drive to the Bode waterfalls. Freya collects the bark of bark beetle as a printing block, Jürgen takes pictures of the lively creek.

After our walk, we go again to Halberstadt to have a look at the cathedral and

the cathedral's treasures. This is more a Freya event - but so be it. The cathedral itself is again worth seeing for both of us and e.g. much more interesting than the one in Schwerin.

In the evening we walk again through

Quedlinburg. We have chosen for dinner the Cafe Roland and yes, beer comes quickly and the food after a normal waiting time. It also tastes good. There you go.

## Stage 8 - Way back with a short stop in Coburg

Today's stopover in Coburg was actually only made to avoid the last stage becoming too long. Since Jürgen's back is no longer a problem, we briefly consider canceling the overnight stay, but finally, decide against it.

We start fairly early and drive, so to speak, across the Harz Mountains. Tractors pull dust clouds behind them and we see again a lot of damaged forest. But the landscape is nice.

Before we drive to the hotel, Jürgen still wants to go to a "photo location". Here are many detours and we do not

find the place where to start. So we decide to skip it and go to the Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers.

The basilica in rococo style was built according to the plans of Balthasar Neumann and attracts half a million visitors every year. There is not that much going on today - we are lucky.

At first, it seems that photography is prohibited, but that refers only to flash. Inside, there are signs that just call for respect when taking photos.



Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Bad Staffelstein



Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Bad Staffelstein



Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Bad Staffelstein



Basilica of the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Bad Staffelstein

Since we are here in Franconia we want to eat a Rostbratwurst, but find no booth. In the restaurant above the basilica, you can get Weißwurst, but we don't want that. For the hotel, we are also still too early and so we drive to Lichtenfels. Twice advertising for a bratwurst on the street - but they are closed. Jürgen suggests that we drink coffee and eat cake instead, but Freya doesn't want that. Then rather nothing. Finally, we go to a butcher's shop.

Afterwards we travel to Coburg and our hotel. It is close to the city center and we can reach the city via a footbridge. Attractions or not, the motivation for sight-seeing is gone and the camera stays in the backpack. We find a nice beer garden and chill for a while.

When we are ready for dinner, Jürgen asks if Freya could imagine going to a Greek again. Yes, there is actually no reason why we shouldn't - except that he is closed. Finally, we end up at Hanskascher Burger. The burgers are not 08-15, really tasty, and also the cocktails are delicious. A great end to the vacation.

The next morning we take the highway to Nuremberg and from there on country roads back home. This way we avoid the currently annoying road works on

the A7, but in terms of driving time it's only a semi-good idea. Anyhow, at 13:30 we are at home.