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# Traditions beyond the cuckoo

“Silva nigra, black forest” was what the Romans called the low-mountain landscape with its dark forests and wild gorges. So that’s how the Black Forest got its name. And even the Romans preferred to stay on the edges of this “dark” mountain range.

Today, an extensive network of bus and train lines provides hikers with environmentally friendly transportation to the most scenic viewpoints, villages, hiking trails and farms in this unique natural landscape. Getting around is a breeze and there’s no cost if you have the KONUS Guest Card.

Hochfirst, view of the Titisee lake  
© GNTB/Klaus Hansen

## A bathing experience fit for a king in Bad Wildbad. Traditions preserved at the Vogtsbauernhof farmhouse.

In days gone by, kings and princes dreamed of eternal youth in Bad Wildbad’s thermal springs. These days, visitors to the Vital-Therme spa still swear by the healing effect of these thermal waters. A visit to the “Palais Thermal” bathing and sauna paradise feels like stepping into a different age. The experience continues in the Moorish hall, with its marble columns, Art Nouveau glazing and ornaments. And don’t forget to sample the delicious coffee and cakes.



Traditional dress with the Black Forest Bollenhut hat  
© Tourismus Marketing Baden-Württemberg GmbH/Duepper

## The “Wildline” pedestrian bridge in Bad Wildbad spans a distance of 380 metres, suspended at heights of up to 60 metres and offering views down over 300 metres. It is a pure adrenaline experience!

The Vogtsbauernhof Open Air Museum is more than just a museum. It even has its own train station – Gutach/Freilichtmuseum. Seven fully preserved Black Forest farmhouses from five centuries give you the chance to explore and get involved. And sometimes to simply watch and marvel, when on certain days a seamstress threads each individual bead for the traditional “Schäppel”, a colourful headdress found only in the Black Forest, in the front parlour of the Vogtsbauernhof.

## Around Titisee lake on the “Zäpfle-Bähnle” train or untouched nature on foot.

Enjoy a leisurely ride on the “Zäpfle-Bähnle” train from Titisee lake to the Fürsathhöhe or hike to the Hausberg and enjoy the breathtaking view of forests and lakes from the observation tower. Whatever you choose to do, there is a lot to take in and admire. By water and on the numerous

hiking trails around the lake, ranging from easy to the challenging Höhenklimaweg Hinterzarten/Große Seerunde high climate trail, covering a distance of almost twelve kilometres. The Neustädter Heimatstuben Regional Museum offers insights into Black Forest traditions, documenting popular art and customs.

Boasting green meadows and shady woodlands, the Wiesental valley in the far south west of Germany is the perfect destination for tranquility and moments of pure joy. The Zell im Wiesental train station is an ideal starting point for hikes. It is close to the start of trails including the leisurely “Wiesentäler Alemannenweg”, featuring works by local dialect poets, as well as the eleven kilometre route to the Hohe Möhr mountain, which offers a spectacular panoramic view. Eleven long-distance hiking trails and countless day tours lead through this exceptionally scenic region.



Hiking in the Black Forest near Baiersbronn  
© GNTB/Günter Standl

## Destination nature

Visitors can travel to the Black Forest by train from the mainline stations of Pforzheim, Karlsruhe, Baden-Baden, Offenburg and Freiburg (Breisgau). Guests at around 11,000 places to stay in the Black Forest can get their hands on a KONUS Guest Card free of charge. This card entitles the holder to free travel by bus and train throughout the entire Black Forest, including to all the destinations mentioned in the text, and more.

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