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The Patch SAC is Back Page 8 & 9

Staying close is
far out Page 14 & 15

**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
EDITION**

24 hours on the
Isle of Skye Page 10 & 11



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Willkommen, bienvenue, benvenuta, dobrodošli, and welcome to our summer travel-edition of the Stuttgart Citizen!

August is a special time in Germany, mostly because no one is here! While Spring and early Summer are jam packed with festivals and the party is local. In August most school-aged kids go on "Sommerferien" – summer break – and as the schools empty so do the households.

That's why this Citizen is packed with travel stories, ideas, and tips, because like the locals here in Germany you're itching for that next European vacation. This issue will take you on a whirlwind 24-hour tour of the Isle of Skye in Scotland, learn tips like: 'how not to lose your shoe three times during one hike' or how 'not to forget that the days are longer up north and that you need to plan accordingly to make it to your hotel check-in on time.' But also take in the breathtaking green hills and jagged coastline of the famous island.

Can't make it out of Germany or even Baden-Württemberg? Bardia Khajenoori, our resident travel expert has put together a guide to amazing destinations all just about an hour away, from the romantic city of Heidelberg and its famous castle ruin to the Black Forest spa town of Bad Wildbad where one can hike for miles and then soak the pain away in its famous 'thermes.'

Travel isn't all this magazine is about. We have a garrison to run and ribbons to cut! The new School Aged Center on Patch finally brings a colorful, spacious and most importantly permanent site for kids K-5. On our training area near Panzer Kaserne, the garrison and city of Böblingen jointly reopened a pair of ranges after fitting in a state-of-the-art noise mitigation system. A project that not only helps the ears but the future of the German-American relationship in Stuttgart.

We would like to thank our garrison's summer hires who have provided much needed reinforcements for the PCS season including two in our very own public affairs office, Antonia Tate and Zack Spencer. Catch some of Zack's hand drawn comics in this magazine!

Stuttgart

enjoy the summer!

P.S. Also check out the next page and catch the garrison team in a very rare group photo!

Adventures of T-Bone:
Arts and Craft Center
Graphic by Zack Spencer,
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs



Learn more at:
stuttgart.armymwr.com/programs/arts-crafts-center-patch
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U.S. Army Materiel Command
2021 David G. Harris Public Affairs Competition



U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart team poses for its first group photo since 2019 during an organizational day earlier this year. Photo by Marcus Fichtl

Cover image:

The botanical gardens in Karlsruhe, one of the highlighted destinations in this issue's regional travel feature (pg. 14-15).

Photo by Bardia Khajenoori

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At the Patch library

Graphic by Elena Medvedeva/Shutterstock.com

By Zack Spencer

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

With summer approaching fast, it is high time to start planning some trips!

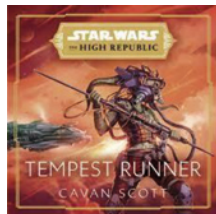
And where better to go than your own local library at Patch Barracks? Looking to try out an audiobook with a collection of Magic Tree House books for the kids, or maybe catch blockbusters past and present with Jaws, or maybe planning a trip soon?

There's a book for every major city in Europe! Check out these books, movies, audiobooks, and more all available with up to 10 items at a time per ID holder.

Star Wars The High Republic: Tempest Runner

By Cavan Scott

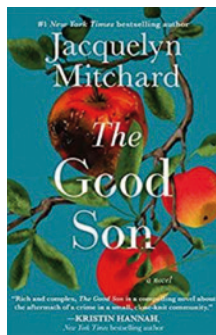
The villainous Louna Dee takes her fate into her own hands in this Star Wars audio original.



The Good Son

By Jacquelyn Mitchard

What do you do when the person you love best becomes unrecognizable to you? For Thea Demetriou, the answer is both simple and agonizing: you keep loving him somehow.



The Green Witch's Garden

By Arin Murphy-Hiscock

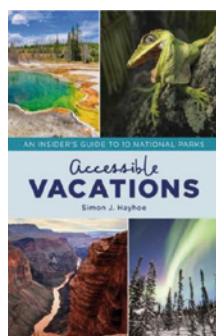
Create your own enchanting witch's garden and draw energy from the earth with this guide to cultivating your very own magical ingredients.



Accessible Vacations

By Simon Hayhoe

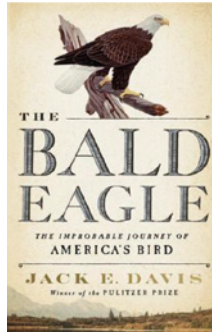
Take a tour of ten national parks in this overview of the ways in which they can be accessed by those with physical, sensory and learning limitations and their companions.



The Bald Eagle

By Jack Davis

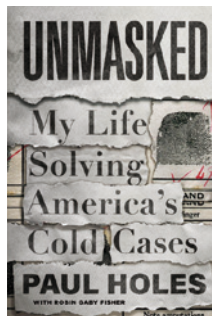
The bald eagle is regal but fearless, a bird you're not inclined to argue with. For centuries, Americans have celebrated it as "majestic" and "noble," yet savaged the living bird behind their national symbol as a malicious predator of livestock and, falsely, a snatcher of babies.



Unmasked

By Paul Holes

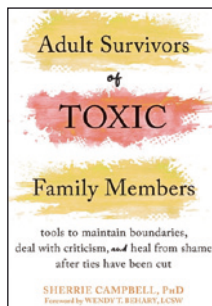
I order another bourbon, neat. This is the drink that will flip the switch. I don't even know how I got here, to this place, to this point. Something is happening to me lately. I'm drinking too much. My sheets are soaking wet when I wake up from nightmares of decaying corpses. I order another drink and swig it, trying to forget about the latest case I can't shake.



Adult Survivors of Toxic Family Members

By Sherrie Campbell

Cutting ties with a toxic family member is a crucial step away from a legacy of dysfunction and toward healing and happiness. This compassionate guide will help you embrace your decision with a sense of pride, validation, and faith in yourself; and provides powerful tools for creating boundaries, coping with judgment, and overcoming self-doubt.



Tiger King: The Official Tell-All Memoir

By Joe Exotic

Joe Exotic, star of the Netflix original documentary that "consumed the pop-cultural imagination" (The Atlantic) and united a nation in the midst of a global crisis, opens up about his outlandish journey from



Midwestern farmer to infamous Tiger King, and finally, to federal inmate.

My money My way

By Kumiko Love

The self-made budgeting expert who has helped millions of women transform their relationship with money reveals her secret to guilt-free living and financial fulfillment.



Reboots: Undead Can Dance

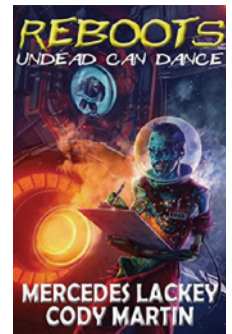
By Mercedes Lackey, Cody Martin

"Lackey (the Valdemar series) and Martin (the Secret World Chronicles series) go all in on the offbeat, crafting a universe where vampires, werewolves, and zombies are real – and also astronauts.

Normal humans ("Norms") have dealt with the problems created by ferocious undead beings by shipping them off-planet. Their ensuing spacefaring adventures are chronicled here in four parts. Part one, "Bad Moon Rising," introduces talking zombie Skinny Jim who conceals his ability to speak to avoid being exterminated after an ill-fated war launched by a zombie emperor, a conflict that led to an alliance between Norms, the Fangs, and the Furs. Part two, "Just the Right Bullets," leans heavily on Casablanca and Maltese Falcon references, introducing an ethereal parahuman PI named Boggart who quotes Rick Blaine.

Boggart recurs in the following sections as well, which continue to navigate interspecies relationships in claustrophobic extraterrestrial environments.

Most of the humor works ("There's not a lot of intellectual stimulation amongst Zombies, if you don't count munching on the occasional rehydrated brain. You don't find us sitting around discussing Kierkegaard") and the fast pace keeps the pages turning. The light approach, signaling that the authors aren't taking this genre mash-up too seriously, helps suspend disbelief. It's unfettered oddball entertainment."



Descriptions from IMDB and Goodreads

Images courtesy of the US Army MWR Libraries
Descriptions courtesy of Goodreads and IMDB

Chaplain's Corner: Transitions

By CH (LTC) Wyne Hutchings

USAG Stuttgart Community Chaplain

If you are reading this article in the midst of a Permanent Change of Station, you may not be enjoying military life much about now. Change is a part of life, but sometimes that truth is not pleasant to experience. The brilliant comedic actor Tony Shalhoub portrayed Detective Adrian Monk on the TV series Monk. The character was notoriously change-averse. Here're two of his quotes on the subject: "There's an old saying, 'Don't change anything ever.'" and "I don't mind change. I just don't like to be there when it happens." It's safe to say Adrian Monk would not have enjoyed military life. Change is often a good thing, but it is nearly never an easy thing.

The last 9 months or so have been full of transitions for my family and me. My wife Catherine and I arrived for our first European assignment back in late November. In doing so, we left our two adult children in the States, along with my aging Mother-in-law. Our relationships with them had to transition. We arrived in a country where we literally couldn't read most of the road signs and found ourselves regretting not having paid more attention when the metric system was taught. No matter how friendly the locals were, and we've found them to be very friendly, being in a place where we didn't speak the language left us feeling off balance. Professionally, I was still a Chaplain, but I had to discover what it meant to fill the role of Garrison Community Chaplain and learn to work with a new team of religious support professionals.

What are your transition stories? How many times have you moved? How many places have you lived? How many jobs have you had? Is transition something you enjoy, something you survive, or is it something in between?

Transitions start at home. Over the course of my 33 years of marriage, Catherine and I have moved to 19 different homes when you include our new apartment on Patch Barracks. All were homes, but not all were houses. Some were duplexes, some were apartments, and one was really more of a closet with a door that locked from the outside. I ought to be

pretty good at home transitions by now. It doesn't necessarily feel that way in the middle of it though.

Job transitions are stressful. In those same 33 years of marriage, I've worked at 19 different jobs. Nine of those jobs came before joining the Army, including 10 years as a local church pastor divided among three United Methodist Churches in southern Georgia. The other 6 pre-Army jobs included various positions before accepting my calling into Christian ministry, from fast food to public relations. My Army career has seen 10 jobs, including my present position: three times a Battalion Chaplain, twice a Brigade Chaplain, once a Chaplain Resource Manager, once a Captain's Career Course student, once a Family Life Chaplain School and grad school student, once a Family Life Chaplain, and now a Community Chaplain. Again, after moving through all those job transitions, it would seem I'd have it down. Not so. Still, I've learned there are some anchors to cling to during the storms of transition.

For me, my faith is my foundation. I don't always understand what God is up to, and sometimes I flat don't like it, but, as a follower of Christ, I've learned to trust God has my back. There are many opportunities to build upon your own faith foundation here in Stuttgart. Many faith groups have representative communities here. Check with the Religious Support Office to find out how to connect with one of these groups and continue your faith journey. What aspects of your faith help you adjust in transition?

Family is another anchor in transition storms. My wife is an amazing partner. I am blessed at this time of my life not to walk through transition alone, even though our household size is smaller now with our children out on their own. I am thankful to report my children, my sisters, and my in-laws are all supportive from afar. Whether your current family size is big or small, you have a teammate or teammates in the transition. If you are single, family from afar can be a resource until you find your "Stuttgart



family members." Who in your family is a source of strength and stability?

Friends steady us through transition as well. It is truly a blessing to have so many communication options to stay in touch these days, from phone calls to texts to Twitter to Facebook. Are you staying connected to friends so you can continue to help them in transitions even as they help you? Are you making new friends here to help you in transitions while you're here and in the future?

I didn't plan to use alliteration, but faith, family, and friends just fell into place. There are other helps to moving through transition, but I will stop with those three since I seek to be brief. Not everyone can depend on these particular categories. Family, for instance, is in many ways out of our control and not always, sadly, a positive. Still, I hope you'll seek to deepen your faith and to stay linked with the family and friends who are encouragers to you and to whom you can be an encourager. I am already finding those types of friends here in Stuttgart.

In God's Grace

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By **Bardia Khajenoori**
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

A passport is one of the ultimate symbols of travel possibilities, and there are a few things that personnel stationed abroad should know about them to make the most of their tour and stay on the right side of the law.

Types of Passports

One of the most important things to be aware of is the difference between a 'tourist' passport and an official or no-fee passport.

"Anyone going on leisure travel outside of Germany must have a tourist passport in hand, and cannot travel with an official passport for leisure," said Aurora Tovar, supervisor of the USAG Stuttgart Passport and SOFA Office. "If someone has both, they must travel with both and present the official passport when entering or leaving the country of assignment and the tourist passport at leisure destinations." Border police may consider using the wrong passport to

be a misrepresentation of your purpose for traveling.

An update to the Department of Defense Foreign Clearance Guide took effect in 2021 which made official travel with a special issuance passport (SIP) mandatory for all DoD civilians and DoD-sponsored family members. A temporary exception to policy allowing use of a regular passport is scheduled to end on September 30, 2022, and the Passport/SOFA Office continues to process SIP applications daily. Customers can make appointments through the garrison mobile app and Stuttgart Citizen website or contact the office if they have questions about the requirement.

SOFA Status

"A Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) card or stamp essentially serves as your visa, allowing you to legally live in Germany in support of the U.S. government and clarifying that you're not a tourist," Tovar said. "It's important for those who are assigned here to obtain SOFA identification, which is either a stamp in an official or no-fee passport or a card in the tourist passport of anyone who doesn't have or isn't eligible for a special issuance passport."

Travel in the Schengen Area

Twenty-six European countries are part of the Schengen Area, established by an agreement to abolish regular passport checks at internal borders of its member states. This 'border-free zone' makes travel between them more akin to a domestic flight or drive across a U.S. state border rather than an international one, but it doesn't change anything about the documents you need to carry – regardless of the mode of transport.

"Anytime you're crossing a border, you must travel with your passport(s)," Tovar said.

Temporary border controls can and have been employed more frequently due to the European refugee crisis and COVID-19, among other reasons. In some countries, police have the right to stop and request identification from individuals even without suspicion of wrongdoing, and only consider national IDs (such as a passport, for U.S. Citizens) to be valid. A military ID or driver's license is not a substitute, and penalties for being caught without a passport outside your country of assignment can include fines and detainment.

Renewing your Passport

DoD-affiliated personnel must apply for passports through their on-post passport offices, rather than directly through an embassy or consulate.

"You can renew your tourist passport one year prior to the expiration date, and we advise everyone to do it as soon as possible so you never run into the issue of traveling on a passport that has less than three or six months of validity," Tovar said, as many countries do not allow entry to individuals whose passports expire within this timeframe. Present turnaround time is approximately six to eight weeks for special issuance passports and four to six weeks for tourist passports.

Lost or Stolen Passports

If you find your passport lost or stolen while traveling abroad, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate in that country.

Should the same situation occur while in or near Stuttgart, even when travel is planned for the near future, regulations require DoD-affiliated personnel to contact their installation's Passport Office to apply for a replacement or coordinate an emergency passport appointment. "Please don't just drive up to the Frankfurt consulate to request an emergency passport if you are DoD-affiliated, because they will turn you around and tell you to come back to our office," Tovar said.

Know what you'll need to provide by using checklists

"The biggest thing I would say is to make sure you have all the paperwork you need, like birth certificates and marriage licenses, on hand," said James Lee, a contractor who has used the Passport Office for a variety of services over the past three years. "There are checklists [on the garrison website/mobile app] and on the wall just outside here, so you can grab one even if they're closed. They're very helpful."

While you may need to provide original documents, they are generally not required to be sent with the application, and the office will make certified copies. An application for a first-ever passport is an exception. "We do take the original birth certificate or original naturalization certificate in that case, but the original(s) will come back with the passport," Tovar said.

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The Patch SAC is Back

Story and photos by
Marcus Fichtl

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Flanked on either side by school-aged children wielding bubble guns, the leadership of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart finally cut the ribbon on the new Patch Barracks School Aged Center, July 14.

The foamy send-up for the new two story building was a culmination of nearly eight years of hard work dating back to 2014 when the funding for the project was first approved. Nomadic in its past decade's life on Patch, the facility which serves 70 kids aged K-5 during the summer and swells to over 100 during the school year, had finally found a home.

The SAC's director, Aimee Pang, said that what's really separated this building from their prior temporary home is the space. While the state-of-the-art computer labs and test kitchens are nice, it's the kid's ability to choose where they want to go that makes the new SAC building special.

"We operate on a concept of supervised freedom," she said. What that means, according to Pang, is instead of the kids moving with a teacher from one activity to the next, they get to choose their activity with teachers strategically pre-positioned across the building.



The expanded arts and crafts room is one of the highlights of the new SAC building.



SAC kids play an intense game of chess.



Kids use SAC materials to make the perfect "fort."

She said when a kid no longer wants to continue an activity, they can sign out and move to a new one rather than waiting for their whole pod to finish. Pang said this provides the kids "choice" and teaches them "accountability."

Separated into two floors, the bottom for kindergartners through 3rd grade, and the second floor for 4th graders to 5th grade plus (they have to wait until their first day of middle school before they can move on to The Hub—the post's teenage center), the SAC provides room after room of activities; the computer lab will have kids making their very own movies, while an arts and crafts center allows for the kids to express their inner Picasso. The new building even comes with a kid-sized foosball table for the younger, shorter members of the SAC.

"In the old building many of the younger kids were used to playing on equipment for older kids and weren't really able to take advantage of it, but

with new equipment like this foosball table, they're really getting into it."

The older-kid, upstairs section, while mostly identical to bottom — the foosball table here is normal sized — has one difference, a space for dance and theater theater with a mural painted by a local high schooler dominating the stage.

Outside, the SAC comes with a playground and plenty of open space with a basketball court planned for the near future. This outdoor play area, Pang said is one of the facility's biggest improvements.

"Before, if we wanted to go outside, we would have to go to Husky Field and use the community playground, which always created challenges, especially during COVID," she said.

From reading clubs to STEM clubs and everything in between, Pang said she's hopeful for the Patch SAC's future. "We're just really excited to give our kids the ability to make choices again!"



Graphics by AnWhite/Shutterstock.com

The Children's Mural

A mural adorns the stage of the second floor theater in the new Patch SAC building. On one end are Piranha Plants from Nintendo's "Super Mario Bros." and on the other are scenes of music being played. The entire mural represents the artistic expressions of a local high schooler.

Ella Garza, a rising senior at Stuttgart High School, has been visiting the building since May, dedicating hours — and sometimes entire days — to designing and painting the massive piece of art.

Her muses were the fellow military kids she's grown up with.

"I wanted to connect with every kind of kid, so I added things like scenes from video games, music and sports," Garza said. "And of course I made it as colorful as possible, so kids keep looking at it."

Garza said she's amazed at the opportunity to leave her mark in Stuttgart.

"I'm proud to have had the opportunity to share my art, and I hope kids enjoy it for years to come!"



Garrison leadership cuts the ribbon to the new SAC building on Patch, July 14.

For information on eligibility and how you can enroll your kids into one of the garrison's School Age Centers, contact CYS at +49 (0)9641-70-596-7480/7488.



Ella Garza, local high schooler, poses in front of a mural she painted for the SAC.



The SAC playground allows kids to stay at the facility rather than having to travel to community playgrounds across post.

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From the top of the Quiraing, a hiker can see the rest of the Trotternish Ridgeline.

24 hours on the Isle of Skye

When walking Neist Point Lighthouse, watch out for the sheep who easily outnumber the hikers.



Story and photos by Marcus Fichtl
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

It may have been one of the most beautiful drives in my life, the setting sun doused the ridgelines of the Scottish Highlands in beautiful ambers and reds. Colors, all reflected softly onto the lochs – the Gaelic lakes nestled within the glacially formed glens of Scotland. But I was barely paying attention, I was too busy navigating my go-kartesque Audi A1 rental through winding country roads. A doubly maddening ordeal, because first, how is 60-70 MPH safe on a road where you're turning every hundred meters, second, because I needed Autobahn speeds to make it to my hotel check in on time.

I had just spent the past day on the Isle of Skye, and with the long summer days, I had lost all concept of time and decided "I'll do one more hike, and I'll choose the one farthest across the Island." I got back into my car, noticed the clock said 8 p.m., the hotel check in said "until midnight," and Google maps expected a 3:48 hour drive (at max speed, no stops). So I did what all men of the modern era do on every road trip, I challenged my GPS to a race.



Rain and sun drench the streets of Edinburgh simultaneously. The Scottish capital is the springboard for most into the northern highlands.

Isle of Skye

The Isle of Skye is the wing-shaped island to the Northwest of the British mainland. Inhabited since at least the neolithic age. Most of its relevant history is from the clannish period where castles from Clan MacDonald and Clan MacLeod still dot the Island. 639 sq mi in size with 50 miles of heavily indented coastline that couple with its mountain ranges give the island its breathtaking vistas. And with that, here are the top hikes you can knock out in just 24 hours.

Old Man of Storr

The quintessential hike and viewpoint of maybe not just the Isle of Skye, but all of the Scottish Highlands. About a three-mile hike, depending on how off the beaten path you explore. Give yourself about 2 hours to hike the moderately strenuous route to admire the Old Man, the giant pinnacle rock that dominates the rocky outcropping on the hike. The parking lot fills up fast so come early or come late and comes easily accessible from the main road on the island just north of Portree.

The Fairy Pools

Much like the Old Man of Storr this is the other incredibly popular hike on the Isle of Skye. If you like waterfalls and small pools this hike is for you. An easy 1.5 mile round trip. No more than 40 minutes is needed, but you if you dare to brave the cold give yourself a half-hour to do some wild-swimming. Located toward the Southwest of the Island, much like the Old Man of Storr, come early or late as the parking lot fills up.

The Quiraing

Just north of the Old Mann of Storr is The Quiraing. The northern summit of the Trotternish Ridge, a four-mile, moderately strenuous loop that provides a snapshot of the best the Isle of Skye has to offer. From rocky outcrops, rolling green hills and beautiful view of the surrounding sea, it was my favorite hike of the whole trip. The hill, however, is a massive water sponge, and I lost my shoe and socks, not once, not twice, but three times in the mud! Give yourself 3-4 hours for the hike, and I suggest starting the loop on the right side, especially if it has rained recently - better to be wet at the end than the beginning. Parking is no problem, but the drive

to the site may be a bit difficult as it narrows to one lane requiring cars to pull off to pass.

Neist Point Lighthouse

On the far West side of the Island is the Neist Point Lighthouse, like the Fairy Pools this is a pretty short and easy, two-mile out and back hike. Give yourself 1.5 hours to explore the old lighthouse and coastline. On the hike watch out for the sheep who freely roam the grounds, and check out the old cable system that used to provide supplies to the lighthouse. There's no issue with parking though you may have to add a hike to your hike. However, much like the drive to The Quiraing, there's a lot of one road lanes that require pulling when another car is coming. Don't make this the last stop before heading back for the night, especially if the drive is four hours away!

That's it for the Isle of Skye! There's much more to do in the Isle of Skye, including taking strolls along the coastline or visiting the fishing village of Portree. But if you have only 24 hours, this small guide should be more than enough for a springboard into your own adventure on the island. And yes, I did make it back to the hotel in time.

TIPS

When to visit:

Thanks to the Gulf Stream bringing warm water from the Gulf of Mexico, the U.K., including the Scottish north, has mild weather all year. Daytime averages during the winter are in the 40s and in the 50s during the Summer. March - July is the relative dry season for the island.

Where to stay:

Much of the accommodation on Skye are smaller (air and otherwise) B&B type establishments with limited space during the summer high season, so book well ahead. There's more space on the mainland and traditional hotels can be found roughly 2.5 hours away at Inverness. There are also camp grounds and wild camping is legal in Scotland, additionally RVs are very popular choice with visitors.

What to bring:

Warm, layered, hiking clothes, long pants, shoes that can handle water/mud and extra pairs of socks. With a lot of water across the island many visitors say that mosquitos and can be a nuisance so bring bug spray.

Where to eat/drink:

Many of the hiking spots had food trucks selling snacks, coffee and tea. The picturesque fishing village of Portree is your best bet for food. Three distilleries can be found on the island, one in Portree, Talisker in the middle and Torabhaig in the south. Another can be found on a short ferry hop to the Isle of Rasaay,

How to get around:

Car will be by far your best bet to navigate the island. However there is a bus route as well and many highland tours via van or bus are conducted from Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The train will only get you to the island, not around it.

If making your way to the Isle of Skye from Inverness, a stop at Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness is a must.

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It takes a village

By Marcus Fichtl
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Sergeant Imani Robinson was on her daily patrol when a thunderstorm began drenching Stuttgart. Out of the corner of her eye she spotted a pregnant mother and her five young kids, including a pair of newborn twins, desperately trying to get out of the rain. Robinson pulled up, rushed out of her car and quickly shuttled the family to their apartment.

It was a work of community policing that earned her a post on the 554th Military Police Company's Facebook page, calling her the "Hero of the Week," and possessing "the character traits it takes to put



Sergeant Imani Robinson, military policewoman, 554th MP Company, receives a hug from Hailey Horn, July 15. Horn first met Robinson weeks earlier when the MP gave her a tour of her patrol vehicle. Photo by Marcus Fichtl

The Horn family receives a tour from Stuttgart Military Policewoman Sgt. Imani Robinson.

Photo by Jessica Horn



her community's needs above her own." The 554th is the unit that supplies the garrison with its military police force.

The post also highlighted a second event, where Robinson, again on patrol found a family and instead of staying aloof in her vehicle, went out and invited the family to an impromptu tour of her MP car.

"We were outside on Memorial Day and [Robinson] drove by," said Jessica Horn, a resident of Patch Barracks. "Normally when our kids see the MPs, the MPs do a little smile-wave and stay in their car. But [Robinson] got out of her car and said 'Hey guys, you want to check out my car.'"

Horn said that small moment meant the world to her kids and to her. She posted a photo of her kids going through Robinson's patrol vehicle on Facebook.

But to Robinson, her actions are just the job, or at least what the job should be.

Growing up in some of the tougher parts of Boston, Robinson said many people see police as

someone out to "get them" or "hurt them," not as a member of the community. But Robinson wanted to change that perception, so just over three years ago she raised her right arm and enlisted as a 31B Army Military Police.

That negative perception is already changing in Stuttgart. Horn, who's become quick friends with Robinson since their fateful meeting, said she's seen the impact already in her kids.

"Some people judge all police officers from what they see in the media, said Horn. "As a parent, officers like Robinson give me relief that there are truly good police officers out there."

Robinson said that any free time she has on patrol she's getting out of her car and interacting with the community she polices and most importantly believes in – and seems to believe in her back.

"I think that's the best way to serve people," Robinson said. "If they know who you are, they'll know that they can depend on you."

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1 Wiblingen Abbey (Ulm)

A former Benedictine monastery in Wiblingen, now a district of Ulm, is home to a stunning Baroque library.

2 Ulm: A view from the 469-foot-high observation deck of Ulm's Minster, with Ulm's postmodern city library in the bottom left and the Danube River forming the border with Bavaria.



Staying close is far out

3 Karlsruhe

The Karlsruhe Palace, built between 1715 and 1718, hosts the Baden State Museum. Thirty-two streets radiate from the palace grounds.

4 Bad Wildbad

A gentle slope carries visitors to the top of the treetop walk. A slide serves as the quick way back down.



Story and photos by Bardia Khajenoori

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The general chaos surrounding air travel in summer 2022, combined with the availability of a deeply discounted, all-inclusive nationwide ticket for local and regional public transportation, makes it a perfect time to stay closer to home and enjoy a weekend or day trip.

Many towns and cities worth visiting can be reached from Stuttgart main station in less than two hours and with one or no changes; a few are highlighted here, along with typical travel time. Itineraries will vary in terms of travel time and required changes.

The 9-Euro-Ticket and Baden-Württemberg (day) Ticket cover travel on local and regional trains, which include Regiobahn (RB), Regional Express (RE), Interregio-Express (IRE), and now Metropolexpress (MEX). The type of train determines how many stops it makes along its route, so it's important to review possible options and choose the best available option. Faster trains (ICE and IC) are available along some routes for a much higher price. Otherwise, the difference in travel time between an IRE and MEX between Stuttgart and Ulm, for example, can be around 40 minutes. Construction work may also cause adjustments. Use the Deutsche Bahn app (DB Navigator) or website (bahn.com) to find the latest timetables and updates.

HEIDELBERG

Often considered one of Germany's most romantic cities, Heidelberg has a historic and sophisticated vibe, with its sizable hilltop Renaissance-era castle ruins overlooking Gothic church and old town along the banks of the Neckar River. A funicular railway links the old town, with its cobblestone streets and tree-lined plazas, to the castle, and eventually the top of the Königstuhl hill. Heidelberg is home to one of the world's oldest universities, and a path on the opposite side of the river from the city center is known as the Philosopher's Walk (Philosophenweg) in recognition of the generations of thinkers and scholars it's inspired with its peace, tranquility, and stunning panoramic views.

Just outside of Heidelberg, Schwetzingen Palace is worth a stop for its vast and elegant gardens, consisting of both English and French styles, along with 100 sculptures and reportedly the largest collection of cherry trees outside Japan.



1h20m-2h, one change

KARLSRUHE

The city of Karlsruhe is the largest in the region of Baden, and life there centers on its 300-year-old Karlsruhe Palace...literally. The baroque palace now home to the Baden State Museum lies in the middle of a fan-shaped city plan which is said to have inspired Thomas Jefferson to share a sketch

of its layout with Pierre L'Enfant as a model for Washington, D.C.

Other museums in town worth visiting include the ZKM (Zentrum für Kunst und Medien), showcasing contemporary mixed media art and culture in a former ammunition factory, and the Natural History Museum. The neoclassical building of the Kunsthalle closed in late 2021 for extensive renovation work, but highlights of its collection – ranging from Rembrandt and Cézanne to postmodern works – will be housed at the ZKM building from October 2022.

Direct paths from the train station to the market square and city center take you past the comparatively small but attractive and well-organized zoological gardens. Botanical gardens located next to the palace, feature several large greenhouses with numerous exotic plants.



55 minutes, no changes

ULM

The Ulm Minster towers over the city's main square, and climbing the 768 steps to the top of the world's tallest church building may sound like a daunting prospect. However, those who make it are rewarded with magnificent views of Ulm and the surrounding region, including the Danube River which separates the city from Bavaria and the town of Neu-Ulm.

The fishermen's and tanners' quarters are a few minutes' walk south, with small walkways guiding



5 Heidelberg
The 'Philosopher's Walk' shows all the city's best sides.

6 Tübingen
Stumbling onto a local market or special event is far from uncommon.

7 Bad Wildbad
Not all of the town's sights are on top of the hill. The Enz River flows through its charming center.

8 Tübingen
Traditional 'punt' boats offer everything from quick sightseeing to a unique option for a romantic dinner.



9 Bad Wildbad
The sprawling 'Adventure Forest' is popular with kids and adults alike.

pedestrians over and along canals between centuries-old half-timbered houses. On the riverbank lies a promenade with green space and a dock for boat rides (pre-registration required). Wiblingen Abbey lies outside the city proper, not in walking distance, but the former monastery is home to one of the most beautiful libraries you'll ever see.

Albert Einstein was born here in 1879, but while a monument exists on Bahnhofstrasse at the former site of his family home, the structure itself was destroyed by bombing raids during World War II. Keep an eye out for sparrow sculptures situated throughout the city which pay homage to a fabled symbol of Ulm.

1 hour, no changes

BAD WILDBAD

Bad Wildbad is a small spa town in the northern Black Forest, situated in the Enz River valley. Its ornate bathhouse buildings, some of which have been converted for other uses, offer splendid architectural diversity. Sommerberg, a 2,400 foot tall hill, is the main draw for anyone looking for outdoor attractions. A modern funicular railway brings visitors up from the town center to the 131 foot high, three-quarter mile long treetop walk (Bauwimpelpfad); 1,247 foot long "Wildline" scenic suspension bridge; and 146 miles of hiking and biking trails.

A large adventure playground deep in the forest,

adjacent to the treetop walk and requiring a ticket, is a unique experience that's popular with children and families.

1h15m - 1h45m, one change

TÜBINGEN

The closest city in this list to Stuttgart, Tübingen is famous not only for a picturesque old town, but also for its historic and well-renowned university, which operates two museums inside the 1000-year-old Hohentübingen Castle. As the name suggests in German (Höhe or Höhen refer to height or altitude, the journey to the castle is an upward trek, but a pleasant view and numerous small cafés and shops greet the student and weary tourist alike on the way there.

Its most classic vantage point is that of the multicolored houses along the Neckar River as seen from Eberhard's Bridge. Opposite the houses, on the other side of the river and accessible with steps down from the bridge, is the Neckarinsel, a nearly kilometer-long island of green space with a pathway canopied by large plane trees.

A trip down the Neckar on a traditional "Stoherkahn" – piloted using a long wooden pole – shouldn't be missed; they launch not far from the bridge.

45 minutes, no changes from Stuttgart HBF;
25 minutes from Herrenberg (rail replacement bus may apply and take 35-40 minutes)

OTHER SPOTS

Rottweil is the oldest city in Baden-Württemberg and namesake of the Rottweiler breed of dog. While its medieval center is one main attraction, another one is decidedly more modern: the 807 foot tall test tower of the ThyssenKrupp elevator company. The sleek, silver tower, visible from Autobahn 81 when traveling south of Stuttgart, contains twelve elevator shafts and offers ascents to Germany's highest observation deck three days a week and on holidays.

1h15-1h30m, no changes

Heilbronn

Experimenta, in Heilbronn, is Germany's largest science center and can be a day trip destination in itself, with 275 interactive stations across a 270,000 square foot facility. It promises to excite and engage people of all ages, whether 3-years-old or 103. Content is offered in German and English.

45 minutes, no changes

Schwäbisch Gmünd

Schwäbisch Gmünd is the largest town of the Rems river valley and another good stop for anyone who appreciates a well-preserved old town. Numerous architectural styles from more than 800 years of history are found around the market square and beyond.

35 minutes, no changes

Flyin' Fine!

Airplane Travel Tips for your Youngster

By Lisa Helenius
contributing writer

We all have to get on an airplane at some point. With a little one in tow (or two or three or more!), 30,000 feet can seem 30,000 times more challenging. With these tips, it doesn't have to be!

1) WORK, WORK, WORK.

When your child is walking through the airport, give him "heavy jobs" and let him MOVE. Examples of heavy jobs include pulling his own little suitcase and/or backpack, helping to pull your suitcase, pushing the luggage cart, pushing a sibling in the stroller, etc.

2) MOVE, MOVE, MOVE.

Before you get on that plane, have your child move a TON. If the airport has a kids' area, let her play there. If not, walk / run around. Climb up and over chairs (who cares if people give you the stink eye?). Have her try walking backwards for an extra motor challenge. Hang her upside down. Spin her around. Get creative!

3) SEAT TENT.

Yes, make your child's airplane seat into a tent. Use that ever-so-comfortable airplane blanket and rig it up, so that your kid has a little "hiding place." Remember how fun this was when you were little?

4) BRING NOVEL TOYS AND BOOKS FOR YOUR CHILD TO PLAY WITH ON THE PLANE.

Toys she has never seen before. This will keep her busier longer.

5) BRING A FEW COMFORT ITEMS.

A favorite stuffed animal. A favorite book. A pacifier.

6) MOUTH TOOLS.

Yes, bring something for your kid to do with his mouth. Gum is an airplane go-to. The oral-motor system is very calming to one's brain, so get creative. Crazy straws, a vibrating baby teether, a camelback style water bottle for biting, super chewy snacks (raisins, beef jerky, twizzlers, etc.). All can be very calming.

7) TAKE BREAKS!

Walk up and down the aisles every so often. That's still allowed on an airplane... isn't it?

8) VISUAL TIMER.

Use a timer to let your child know when a movement break is coming. This sense of predictability can be very reassuring to a cooped up kid! We recommend downloading the Time Timer Visual Timer App ahead of time.

9) MOVE IN YOUR SEAT!

How do you even do that? Have your child push his flat palms against your flat palms. Thumb wrestle. Arm wrestle. Take a pillow and "squish" your kid.

10) NOISE CANCELLING HEADPHONES.

They're so much more calming than the cheapo ones you get for free. And... to the grown-ups in the mix... keep breathing! You got this!

Photo by Maria Shytova/Shutterstock.com

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USAG Stuttgart celebrates completion of noise-reduction project



German and American partners pose for a photo in front of the newly completed noise abatement project at Panzer Kaserne in Böblingen, July 22.

Story and photos by John H. Campbell

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

The next time special forces operators fire their weapons at two training ranges in the Böblingen area near Stuttgart, residents living half a kilometer away should hear less noise, if they hear any at all.

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart leaders joined officials from the City of Böblingen July 22 to cut the ribbon for the two ranges at Panzer Kaserne. The event signified the completion of construction of features in the walls designed to redirect the noise upward in a manner that results in less sound reaching nearby residential areas.

"Noise has been an issue in this area for decades," said Col. Matt Ziglar, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander. "We are pleased with the progress we have made to modify these ranges in a manner that reduces the impacts from noise for important activities that keep our special forces operators ready to respond."

Multiple representatives for the neighboring German city of Böblingen took part in the event. Böblingen Lord Mayor Stefan Belz says one of the big challenges was coordinating actions between the agencies involved.

"We have two legal authorities of two states, the German system and the American system, which made it quite difficult to bring all of this together," said Belz.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw construction work at the range. Crews installed segments of specially designed wood on the existing concrete walls. The angles of the wood baffling absorb some of the noise and direct remaining sound waves upward into the atmosphere above the training site.

"We had experts from Mercedes that were hired for this project who assisted with the design," said Mario Fuquene, construction engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District. "The prior configuration had similar wood finish but with the new and taller wood baffle design the majority of sound will go up into the air instead of bouncing back toward the residential areas."

For Böblingen Technical Mayor Christine Kraayvanger, the completion of construction marked a major milestone for a project to which she has devoted significant time since she started working for the city more than a decade ago.

"I have been working on this project since the first day I went to Böblingen to help optimize the infrastructure in our town," said Kraayvanger. "It has been hard work, but I think the best part is unifying the different positions as we tried to find solutions," she said.



Army officials expect this wood-baffle system, which covers existing concrete walls at two ranges near Böblingen, to reduce noise impacts for nearby residents. Members of the U.S. Army and German government celebrated completion of construction of this system during an event held July 22 at Panzer Kaserne.

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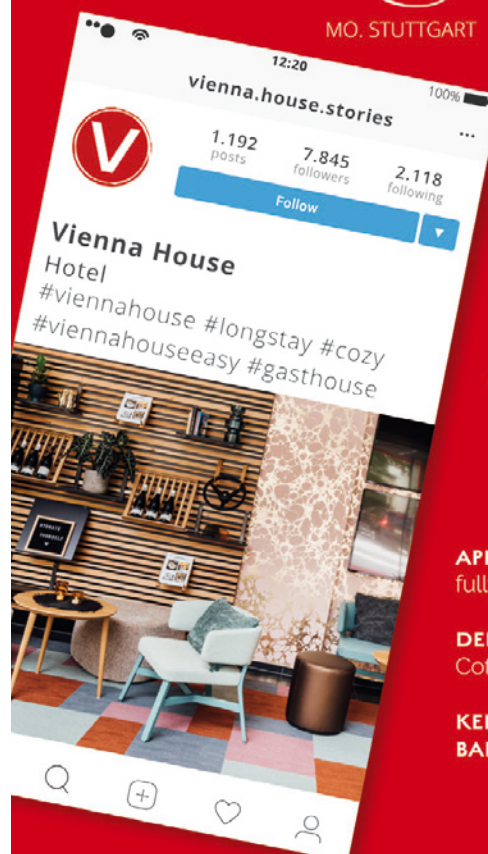
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WEIMAR – CULTURAL CAPITAL OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Let Weimar's rich cultural and literary history enchant you during a cozy weekend away.

Story and photos by Leonie Milde

Contributing writer

Here's the thing: I love historical figures. There's just something about learning what inspired humans to become who they did that fascinates me. I also love museums, poetry and endless walks in parks, which may just be the reason Weimar is one of my favorite cities in the whole world. Good news: you do not need to be excessively interested in any of that to enjoy the spirit of this good old German small town.

Having seen and loved it in every season, I now feel qualified to become your personal tour guide for such an extraordinarily peaceful city, haunted by the sweet ghosts of artistic masterminds that shaped the era now known as 'Weimarer Klassik' (Weimar Classicism, 1772 – 1805). Whether you're looking to find out more about Germany's history or simply need a day off the noise and stress of your daily life, this is the place to go.

History

In 1758, Anna Amalia became duchess of Weimar and the town began its transformation to becoming the cultural capital of Germany. As one of the only female rulers of her time, she wanted the city's education to focus on music and arts, which quickly drew in poets, painters and thinkers from all over the continent. To this day you can clearly see what her priorities were and it almost feels like a journey to simpler times.

Colorful houses line the streets, the clicking of horseshoes dominate cobblestone squares and a blooming park embraces the entire city center.

Goethe in Weimar

Germany's favorite poet, author and playwright, Goethe, was born in Frankfurt in 1749 and died in Weimar in 1832. On a special invitation by Anna Amalia's son, Carl August, Goethe came to town, moved to what is now known as his Gartenhaus (garden house) in the heart of the Park an der Ilm and soon fell in love with the city's charm. His beloved Ginkgo tree, which has inspired many poems, is still standing today. Despite many travels to Italy, he always returned to Weimar, where he eventually moved to what is now known as his Wohnhaus (living house).

He is buried next to his friend, fellow writer Schiller, whose house was located only a few yards from Goethe's townhouse and serves as a museum as well, in the 'Fürstengruft', only a short walk from the city center.

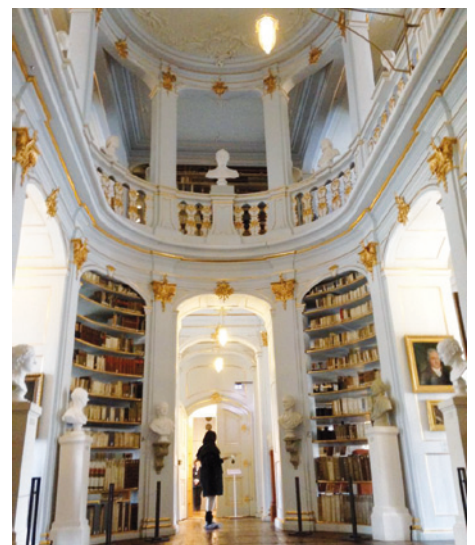
Attractions

If you're travelling with children, you can't miss the multi-media show of the town's history at the **Weimarhaus**. The tour takes you through a series of rooms, guiding you through time from the first settlers to Napoleon's arrival at the castle all the way to a mini show of Goethe's most famous work, Faust. Narration is available in English- check their website in advance.

The **Anna Amalia library** is simply beautiful. So even if you're not interested in the literature itself, a wall of old books never fails to astound. Only a limited amount of visitors are allowed to go in per day so make sure to schedule it early in the day and buy your ticket in advance.

Discover the city from an entirely new perspective: via **horse-drawn carriage**. Depending on the length of your tour, it will take you to its most important sights and the majestic Park an der Ilm. While we remain glad that we don't have to travel by coach these days, it's a surprisingly soothing way to get around and gain a general idea of where everything is located. Many coachmen and women are bilingual to answer any questions you might have.

No matter what your plans are or how long you're in town for, you have to stop by the **Goethehaus**. It's a magical combination of pompous furniture, bright accessories and anecdotes from the writer's long life with just the right amount of books: innumerable. It serves as the home to the Goethe Nationalmuseum and houses many sculptures, paintings and belongings that he collected throughout his life. Every room is painted in a different color; its meanings



Anna Amalia Bibliothek



Photo by christianthiel.net / Shutterstock.com

are explained in an English audio guide. The beautiful garden can only be visited during the summer months but you can catch a glimpse through the windows facing it. Just make sure not to pose too closely to his personal carriage because the alarm will go off. Trust me on this one.

Other visitable houses include the aforementioned **Schillerhaus**. It may look less spectacular at first due to the writer's lack of fame in his lifetime, but still gives excellent insight into 18th century life.

The **Bauhaus Museum** is an architectural museum on Theaterplatz, established in 1995, which exhibits over 250 works by Bauhaus School teachers and students (1919-1933). Bauhaus style is famous for its modernist, independent designs.

Goethe's garden house, a miniature version of his actual house, if you will, (his first residence there) has a number of original notes on display. Even if you don't want to go inside, a (free) stroll through his colorful garden will warm your heart and soul any time of the year.

To read the full article, please visit <https://militaryingermany.com/weimar-cultural-capital>



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From the historian — A brief history of USEUCOM

By Bill Butler

EUCOM Historian

In June 1950, the surprise attack on South Korea by Communist forces jolted America and its allies into action. Behind the scenes, American President Harry Truman asked retired Gen. Dwight Eisenhower to return to active duty to serve as the first Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) for the recently formed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). While the U.S. fought in Korea, it simultaneously sent massive reinforcements to Europe to support NATO in its mission of deterring the Soviet Union and its proxies. To oversee these troops and provide unified control of all U.S. forces in theater, the Joint Staff advocated for the creation of a new joint command. Eisenhower's successor as SACEUR, Gen. Matthew Ridgway, agreed to assume the dual-hatted role as the U.S. Commander-in-Chief Europe (CINCEUR), which paved the way for USEUCOM's formal establishment on 1 August 1952.

Throughout the Cold War, USEUCOM remained clearly focused on deterrence, but supported other key operations. Responses to natural disasters in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East were a regular feature of its endeavors. The command and its components conducted major show-of-force and peacekeeping operations in these regions as well. During this period, USEUCOM oversaw a robust program of military assistance for NATO countries and other partners. The later Cold War years saw the command deal with the rising threat of terrorism and keeping a watchful eye on persistent unrest in the Middle East. In 1983, USEUCOM



General Christopher G. Cavoli, EUCOM's current commanding general.



General Matthew B. Ridgway, EUCOM's first commanding general.

formally transferred its responsibilities for that part of the world to a newly formed U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). The two headquarters worked closely from that point forward to conduct operations and activities of interest across both theaters.

Great change came to Europe as the Soviet Union and its influence began to unravel.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and Germany's reunification in 1990 clearly signified the end of the Cold War. The most immediate effect

on USEUCOM was the subsequent draw-down of its forces. In the midst of these reductions, emerging crises demanded significant responses. This was especially true in the troubled Balkans region, where both USEUCOM and NATO undertook a

series of humanitarian and peacekeeping operations throughout the 1990s. At the same time, USEUCOM reached out to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. Continuing engagement and humanitarian operations in Africa were also a hallmark of this novel "expeditionary era."

The beginning of the 21st century brought new challenges. In the wake of the September 11 attacks, NATO invoked Article V for the first time and deployed early warning aircraft to help monitor the skies over North America. On the European continent, USEUCOM and its components provided robust and enduring support to USCENTCOM for its operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The command also worked closely with NATO and other European partners to thwart violent extremist activities across

the region. Because of its long-term involvement in Africa, USEUCOM was instrumental in the standup of U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) in 2008.

Over the last two decades, USEUCOM continued evolve its partnership activities and renewed its dedication to the collective defense of Europe. From 1999 onwards, NATO admitted new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Incorporating those militaries into the alliance structure and mission remains a major focus for USEUCOM as well. Ever-increasing Russian aggression since 2014 sparked a reappraisal of how the command was postured. The rebuilding of a credible deterrence force and assuring allies became the command's primary objective. All the while, it continued to ably respond to emergent crises. This was most recently demonstrated during the Coronavirus 2019 pandemic, the large Afghan refugee operation in 2021, and the NATO response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

For 70 years, USEUCOM, as the senior U.S. military command and close partner of NATO, has helped keep the peace in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. As they look to the future, the current service members working in the command today will continue to meet new challenges with the same resolve, commitment, and dedication of those who came before them.



This site in Camp-de-Lodges near Paris, served as EUCOM Headquarters from 1954-1967.



A 1976 picture of the current EUCOM headquarters building on Patch Barracks.

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2022 Swabian-American Biergarten

By Angela Frasier

Family and MWR Marketing

The smell of freshly baked pretzels and roasting chicken, along with sounds of singing and laughter, will soon fill the air at the second annual Swabian-American Biergarten on Panzer Kaserne.

Attendees will once again have the opportunity to don their best lederhosen and dirndl, raise a stein, and try their hand at traditional games, but this year – the activities have tripled. New this year – over a dozen outdoor activities and attractions, including strength hammer games, nail game, jug push, basketball, cornhole, log roll, old school swings, trampolines, playground, obstacle course, bouncy houses, riding bulls, carousel ride, ninja warrior jump, and more.

The event will be held Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, on Panzer Kaserne. USAG Stuttgart community members and their sponsored guests are encouraged to break away from the hustle and bustle of life, and take time to celebrate traditions and friendship and make new memories with family and friends.

“Our community asked for a larger event footprint, more activities for all ages, and additional food options – and you’re going to see all of that and more at this year’s event,” said Erika Sanchez, Special Events Coordinator for MWR (Directorate of Family & Morale, Welfare & Recreation). “This larger footprint provides us the opportunity for additional outdoor activities for families, additional outdoor seating at fest sets, and more food vendors, and food trucks. We are excited to bring in so much and we believe it will offer something for everyone to enjoy.”



General Admission

General admission includes one individual wristband to access the event, and unlimited activities! \$15 per guest (ages 5+; kids 4 and under are free).

PLEASE NOTE: all kid activities end at 7 p.m. All sales end one hour prior to closing.

Buy your wristbands and drink tokens starting September 1 at Patch Arts & Crafts Center, Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center, or Kelley/Robinson Barracks Fitness Centers.

Table Reservations

A table includes 8 wristbands for access to the event, activities outside of the tent, a reserved table for 8 inside of the tent (choose one session below), and view of the stage entertainment! \$200 for eight (8) guests.

(PLEASE NOTE: at 7 p.m., the tent is 18+ only, and most kid activities outside of the tent will close. See website for complete details.)

Friday, Sept. 16th

Session 1: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Session 2: 7-11 p.m. (18+)

Saturday, Sept. 17th

Session 1: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Session 2: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Reserve your table Aug. 8-31 at Patch Arts & Crafts Center, or online at: webtrac.mwr.army.mil.

General Admission Event Hours

Friday, Sept. 16th

3:30-11 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17th

11 a.m.-11 p.m.

11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Table reservations are available for 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 3:30-6:30 p.m., or 7-11 p.m. (Event is 18+ after 7 p.m.). General admission wristbands provide access to all activities and open seating outside of the tent area (\$15).





Dirndl & Lederhosen Sales

If you're ready for a new dirndl, lederhosen or new accessory, be sure to stop by the sales areas available to you below:

September 12-15:
at Prost on Post
(located inside the Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center, Panzer Kaserne)

September 16-17:
at the Swabian-American Biergarten (wristband required to access them inside the event grounds)

Parking & Accommodations:

Attendees are encouraged to take advantage of the duty bus (see schedule online at stuttgart.armymwr.com) taxi, public transportation, establish a designated driver for your party, or take advantage of an overnight stay at Panzer Hotel for an easy walk home.

For complete event information:

Visit STUTT.GART.ARMYMWR.COM or follow Stuttgart Family & MWR on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for the most up-to-date information and promotional opportunities to win prizes.



Be The Next Swabian-American Biergarten King & Queen

Submit a photo of yourself dressed up in your best dirndl or lederhosen at Stuttgart Family & MWR's facebook page now through August 19th and receive the most "likes" to win. Both first and second place winners will receive general admission wristbands and a table inside the tent to share at the event for the Friday, Sept. 16, 3:30-6:30 p.m. session. During that time, winners will also make an appearance on stage for the keg-tapping and the stein-holding competition, and will have the opportunity to go live on the air with AFN! Must be DOD ID cardholder. See complete rules and details at stuttgart.armymwr.com.

Monica Hansen

Attorney at Law



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REMAINING VIGILANT AGA

Story by William J. Christina

USAG Stuttgart, Antiterrorism Officer

August is Antiterrorism Awareness Month. Now, more than ever, your vigilance and assistance are required to protect us and our mission.

Antiterrorism is "the defense measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts." It integrates risk management, planning, training, education, random antiterrorism measures and other tenets into a holistic security program to protect against acts of terrorism.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and civil unrest affecting people worldwide, we must remember that terrorism, criminal activity and public disruption continues to be a threat. When provided with informative data, we work with the Garrison Public Affairs Office (PAO) team, and will

release the latest updates on protests, demonstrations and other pertinent information occurring in the Stuttgart area, with tips on how to stay safe.

You, the people within our community, can help us to mitigate or eliminate these threats. You are the best protection that we have... you are the eyes and ears of our community. We need your constant vigilance, monitoring the daily activities and identifying those suspicious ones, in where we live and work.

What might be suspicious? It could be a person, or persons sitting in a running vehicle displaying an "out of area" license plate. They might be observing your activities to gather intelligence, or it may be strangers loitering in the vicinity of the facility's access control point (ACP) that may be acting peculiarly. Some may actually be sketching or photographing a facility.

Photo by DaddySmile Studio/Shutterstock.com

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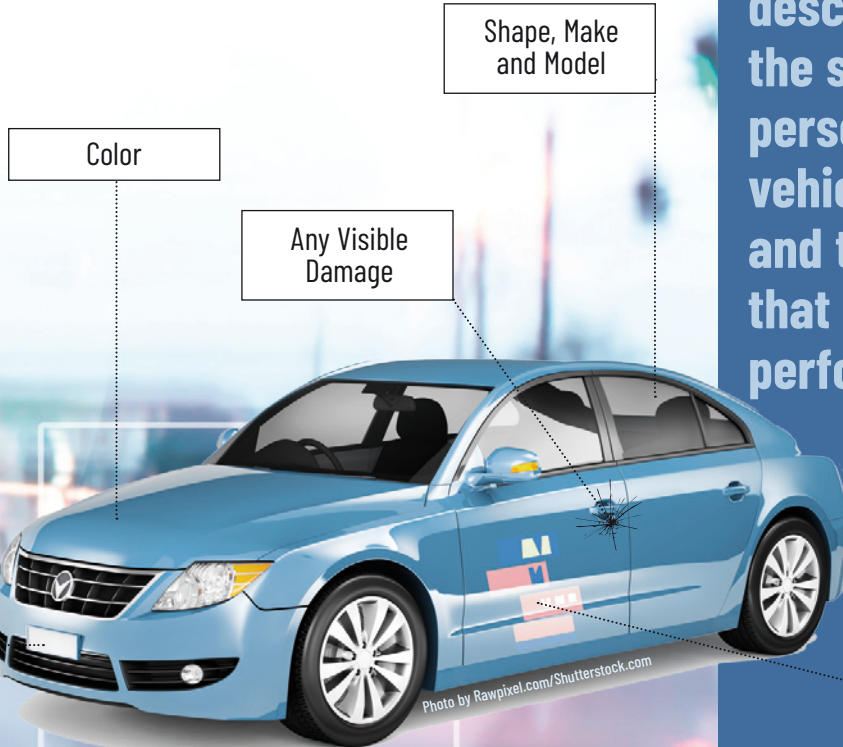


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AINST TERRORISM

Always pay attention to your surroundings... we call it "situational awareness." If you observe something suspicious or questionable, report it. If you have the Garrison app, look under the emergency button to find ways to report, to include iReport and the Military Police. You can reach the MP desk at +49 (0) 7031-15-3102 and Army Counterintelligence (ACI) at +49 (0) 162-296-7230.



And when reporting... try to remember the descriptions of the suspicious person(s), the vehicle(s) involved and the activity that they were they performing.

Thanks For Your Help!!

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Starting in February, TKS will celebrate 30 years of service to the U.S. military community in Europe for the whole year. Since 1992, TKS has proudly connected service members with custom-tailored telecommunication solutions.

This year also marks TKS's 10th anniversary as an elite USO Worldwide Strategic Partner, donating over \$500,000 annually in support of their cooperative mission in improving the lives of service members and their families while stationed overseas.

As part of its anniversary celebration, TKS will host a number of free giveaways, sales promotions, and special local events throughout the year. Connect with TKS on Facebook or at a local TKS shop for information on all of their upcoming promotions and special offers. TKS shops are conveniently located throughout Germany in an Exchange facility near you.

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Last Month for the 9 Euro Ticket



This U-Bahn train is in Stuttgart, but a 9-Euro-Ticket is valid across the country.

Story and photos by Bardia Khajenoori
USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs

Germany launched a significantly discounted flat-rate public transit ticket — known as the “9-Euro-Ticket” — in June as a temporary relief measure against high gas and energy prices. Barring an extension of the program, August will be your last chance to travel inexpensively on the ticket.

Below are some answers to common questions about the offer:

➡Where can I get a “9-Euro-Ticket?”

Tickets are on sale through two local public transit apps (SSB Move and VVS Mobil), and are also available for purchase through station ticket machines, the DB Navigator app, DB Travel Centers, SSB Customer Centers, and from regional bus companies. The tickets are not available for sale from SSB buses in Stuttgart.

➡What kinds of public transportation can I use?

All forms of local and regional public transit, including buses, S-Bahn, U-Bahn, and non-long distance trains (with prefixes RB, RE, IRE, and MEX). This also includes options in Stuttgart such as the ‘Zacke’ (rack railway) and Seilbahn (historic cable car), both of which are operated by the SSB, and ferries operated by the public transit company in cities such as Berlin and Hamburg.

“9-Euro-Tickets” are not valid for travel on long distance trains (with prefixes ICE, IC, EC, or the

Flixbus) or long distance buses (such as Flixbus).

One exception is trains running on the Stuttgart-Singen-Konstanz route, which also stop in Böblingen and Sindelfingen. Trains on this route labeled IC are also labeled with an RE designation and are valid for use with tickets for local and regional transit.

➡When and where is it valid?

The “9-Euro-Ticket” is only valid for one calendar month at a time. That means if you bought the “9-Euro-Ticket” for June or July, you’ll also need to buy it separately for August.

The ticket is valid for local transit throughout Germany, regardless of where it is purchased.

➡Who can buy the “9-Euro-Ticket?”

Anyone can, residents or visitors alike.

➡Do children require a ticket?

Children under 6 always travel for free in Deutsche Bahn trains and within the VVS service area (Stuttgart area public transit), so they don’t need a ticket.

Children aged 6-14 do not travel for free, so they will need their own regular ticket or “9-Euro-Ticket.”

➡Is the “9-Euro-Ticket” valid for bikes?

If you are traveling during a time when a bike ticket is required (6-9 a.m. on weekdays for the Stuttgart S-Bahn, except for holidays), you will still need to buy one. The “9-Euro-Ticket” does not include bike carriage.

➡Is the “9-Euro-Ticket” valid for first class?

No, it is only valid for second class travel.

➡How can I make sure my ticket is valid for the connections I want to use?

The official DB Navigator app has an option to route your journey only through regional transit to ensure that you only use services that are included.

First, from the “Planner” screen, tap the space between the date and time selection and the red “search” bar. Then, tap “options.” Next, tap “means of transport.” All available modes of transportation are selected by default. To show only regional and local transit, simply tap the button labeled “Regional transport only.” This should uncheck the top three boxes reflecting long distance trains. Tap the checkmark at the top right of the screen to confirm.

The same option exists on the DB website — in the “timetable & booking” search, tap the grey box to the right of the destination station to expand the options and check the box labeled “local transport only.”

Due to a bug in the DB ticketing system, ensure the search is for only one passenger. You can then confirm that the route you wish to take is valid with the “9-Euro-Ticket” if the price shown by the app/website for the entire journey is €9.

Note that these instructions are for routing purposes only. The app/website may offer you an option to buy a ticket for the connection you’re viewing, but this is not necessary if you already have a valid “9-Euro-Ticket”.

Seat reservations are generally not possible on local and regional transit. If the connection you are shown offers the ability to reserve seats, it is likely not valid for use with your “9-Euro-Ticket”.

➡Do I have to cancel the “9-Euro-Ticket,” or does it end automatically?

It ends automatically at the end of the calendar month. There is no commitment or need to cancel anything.

➡If I have already have a VVS TicketPlus which allows someone to ride with me for free at certain times, can they ride with me for free around the country?

No. The entitlement to bring a companion for free only applies within the VVS service area.



The S-Bahn, seen here in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, is one of several modes of transit usable with the 9-Euro-Ticket.

The Big Question: What are your summer travel plans?

Photo by Brastock/Shutterstock.com



Angelica Medina

“I went to the States this summer.”

Herbie Watt

“I wanna see more landmarks before the summer is over.”

Andrew Sherrill

“Going to France and Switzerland.”

Jennifer McQueen

“I’ll be going to France.”

Jhanica De Castro

“Went camping.”

Andrew

“I’m going nowhere this summer. Hanging out here and working.”

Kamarija

“I’ll be heading to Egypt soon.”

Warren

“I’ll be going to Prague.”

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