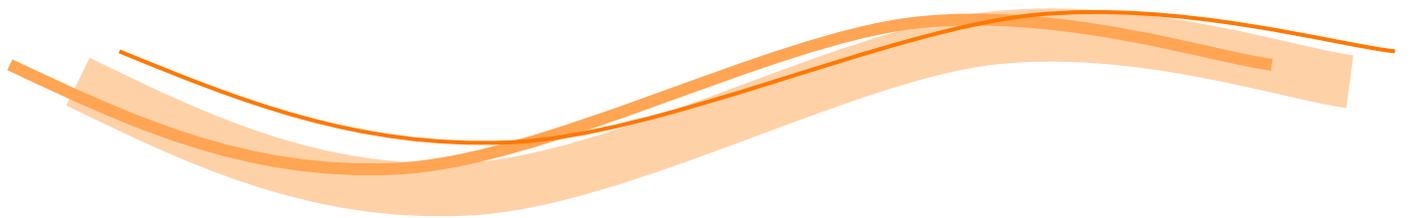




GERMANY - NORTHERN GERMANY





NORTHERN GERMANY	Discover Northern Germany and the amazing hanseatic cities of Hamburg, Bremen, Lubeck and Rostock. Immerse yourself in Germany's art, culture, sophisticated history and heritage, galleries and museums. And explore some little known island getaways off the German coast.
Location	Germany lies in the heart of Europe, bordered by Switzerland and Austria to the south; France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west; Denmark to the north; and Poland and the Czech Republic to the east. It has a coastline of 2,389 km
Geography	Germany has the second largest population in Europe (after European Russia) and is seventh largest in area. The territory of Germany covers 357,021 km ² , consisting of 349,223 km ² of land and 7,798 km ² of water. Elevation ranges from the mountains of the Alps (highest point: the Zugspitze at 2,962 metres) in the south to the shores of the North Sea (Nordsee) in the north-west and the Baltic Sea (Ostsee) in the north-east. Between lie the forested uplands of central Germany and the low-lying lands of northern Germany (lowest point: Wilstermarsch at 3 metres below sea level), traversed by some of Europe's major rivers such as the Rhine, Danube and Elbe. Because of its central location, Germany shares borders with more European countries than any other country on the continent. Its neighbours are Denmark in the north, Poland and the Czech Republic in the east, Austria and Switzerland in the south, France and Luxembourg in the south-west and Belgium and the Netherlands in the north-west.
Name	The Romans gave it the name of Germanus, meaning "neighbors," originally bestowed by the Gauls.
Population	82 million
Language	German; much English spoken
Currency	The euro (€), the new single European currency, became the official currency of Germany and 11 other participating countries on January 1, 1999. However, the euro didn't go into general circulation until early in 2002. The old currency, the German mark, disappeared into history on March 1, 2002, replaced by the euro, whose official abbreviation is "EUR." Currently 1.00 Euros = 1.50 Canadian dollars as at 20 September 2008
Tiping	If a restaurant bill says "Bedienung", that means a service charge has already been added, so just round up to the nearest euro. If not, add 10% to 15%. Round up to the nearest mark for taxis. Bellhops get 1€ (\$1.20) per bag, as does the doorman at your hotel, restaurant, or nightclub. Room-cleaning staffs get small tips in Germany, as do concierges who perform some special favors.
Government	The Federal Republic of Germany is a democracy with a liberal market economy, religious freedom and freedom of the press. It is a member of

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	<p>the European Union (EU) and of NATO.</p> <p>The Federal Republic of Germany is a federation of individual states. There are 16 "Bundesländer" which are federal states with their own government. They have their own regional constitutions which have to comply with the principles of a republican, democratic and social state governed by the rule of law as laid down in the Basic Law (Germany's federal constitution). This guarantees that all German people have the same rights, obligations and living conditions.</p>
Documentation	Your passport must be valid for at least another four months after entry into Germany or the Schengen area.
Time zone	Germany operates on Central European time (CET), which means that the country is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Health	<p>Germany should not pose any major health hazards. The heavy cuisine may give some travelers mild diarrhea, so take along some anti-diarrhea medicine and moderate your eating habits. The water is safe to drink throughout Germany.</p> <p>German medical facilities are among the best in the world. If a medical emergency arises, your hotel staff can usually put you in touch with a reliable doctor. Medical and hospital services aren't free, so be sure that you have appropriate insurance coverage before you travel.</p>
Safety tips	Normal precautions required, otherwise Germany is considered a safe destination for travellers

CLIMATE	
General climate	<p>Germany is not prey to dramatic climatic extremes, although there are regional differences. The most reliably good weather is from May to October, with high summer a good bet for mid 20°C shorts-and-t-shirt conditions, even in the north. Autumn is a good time to visit Germany. As the tourist scum disperses and the forests turn golden, it's not too stifling to be active but still warm enough to leave you thirsty for a few well-deserved steins. Winter is frosty and wet, especially in the south, with snow rarely settling for long except in the high country.</p>
Today's weather	17 degrees Centigrade and sunny in Hamburg (20 September 2008)
Best time to visit	<p>The most popular tourist months are May to October, although winter travel to Germany is becoming increasingly popular, especially to the ski areas in the Bavarian Alps. Germany's climate varies widely. In the north, winters tend to be cold and rainy; summers are most agreeable. In the south and in the Alps, it can be very cold in the winter, especially in January, and very warm in summer, but with cool, rainy days even in July and August. Spring and fall are often stretched out.</p>

PLANNING	
Flying time	Approximately 7 hours Toronto to Frankfurt from Toronto

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<p>Cities</p>	<p>The five largest cities in Germany: Berlin (capital of Germany) with 3,391,407 inhabitants Hamburg with 1,736,752 inhabitants Munich with 1,397,537 inhabitants Cologne with 975,907 inhabitants Frankfurt am Main with 657,126 inhabitants</p> <p>Hamburg has it all: a wonderful location on the Elbe and Alster rivers, lively nightlife in St. Pauli, captivating musicals, unforgettable theatre, the "Michel" and the harbour. Its magnificent promenades and shopping malls give Hamburg a cosmopolitan feel. With its many parks and gardens, Hamburg is also Germany's greenest city.</p> <p>Bremen is a city of contrasts: UNESCO world heritage town hall with Roland statue, Weser embankment, Schnoor quarter - and a centre of science for more than ninety years. Shipbuilding, aircraft construction, space stations and rocket stages have cemented Bremen's reputation as the home of high-tech industry.</p> <p>There are reminders of Lübeck's colourful past everywhere you go. The old quarter, ringed by water, is an impressive illustration of medieval brick Gothic architecture and brings 1,000 years of history to life. The entire oval old town - the setting for Thomas Mann's novel "Buddenbrooks" - is a UNESCO world heritage site.</p> <p>Rostock, the almost 800 year old Hanseatic town, has retained much of its original charm and today, together with the seaside resort of Warnemünde, has a diverse cultural scene. This vibrant and cosmopolitan university and port town has a historical centre with typical north German brick architecture and a tangible maritime atmosphere.</p>
<p>Regions</p>	<p>There are three major tourism regions in Northern Germany:</p> <p>- Hamburg The port city of Hamburg is exhilarating. The Germans often go to Frankfurt "for the banking," but to Hamburg "to have a good time." This Hanseatic City along the Elbe River has been beautifully rebuilt after the devastation caused by bombers in World War II, especially the night of July 28, 1943. A city of lakes, parks, and tree-lined canals, it is more famous for the tall tales of its red-light district. But these steamy after-dark diversions are only a small part of what Hamburg is. Restored architectural masterpieces and historic churches give this industrial city of two million prestige and allure. The world press may still call Hamburg Germany's "capital of lust" because of its sex clubs, but the city is also concerned with protecting its environment, historical</p>

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	<p>preservation, and art and intellectual pursuits. If you can, spend at least 2 days here.</p> <p>- Schleswig-Holstein This northwestern corridor of Germany, sandwiched between the North Sea and the Baltic, evokes bucolic Denmark to which it was linked before Bismarck's defeat of that Scandinavian country in 1867. Germany's northernmost province is a favorite because of its offshore vacation islands and the chance it offers to escape from the industrialization of Northern Germany into acres upon acres of rolling green fields used for agriculture. Large areas are still forested, and there is enough moorland to delight a native of Yorkshire, England. Most interesting historically is the ancient merchant city of Lübeck, former capital of the Hanseatic League and the hometown of Thomas Mann, the great German writer. Although heavily restored after World War II, Lübeck is loaded with attractions, and its Altstadt (old town) has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The province is also home to Germany's most sophisticated seaside resort and its northernmost point, the island of Sylt, famed for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, its celebrities, and its climate of iodine-rich air and lots of rain. The port city of Kiel is short on charm because it was severely bombed in World War II, but the ancient stronghold of Schleswig invites wandering, exploring, and dreaming of the golden age of the Vikings.</p> <p>- The Baltic Coast With the salt air and wind in your hair, you can head east from Schleswig-Holstein and travel all the way along the Baltic coast to the Polish border. During the Cold War, traveling this strip of coastal towns was made difficult by the East German authorities. But today, these beach towns eagerly welcome visitors from the West, finding them better tippers than they did the hordes who used to descend on the Baltic from the Eastern Bloc Communist countries. A lighter, more fun-loving spirit has come to these towns that once were dull Communist watering holes for the masses. The region hasn't entirely thrown off its dark past, but restoration is gradually creating a coastline competitive with other vacation spots in the country. There is hopeful talk of re-creating the playground this district once was for the glitterati of the early 20th century. Wismar, Schwerin, Rostock, Stralsund, and Rügen are the best and most colorful centers.</p>
<p>Boats</p>	<p>It is also possible to reach Germany by sea. A number of ferries and cruise liners ply the North and Baltic Seas. The most important North Sea ports are Bremen/Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Emden and Wilhelmshaven. The most important Baltic ports are Kiel, Rostock and Lübeck-Travemünde.</p>

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	<p>Perhaps Germany's most beautiful features are its lakes and rivers. The mighty Rhine is the country's most traveled waterway. German cruise ships also run on the Main River between Mainz and Frankfurt; on the Danube from Nürnberg to Linz (Austria), going on to Vienna and Budapest; and on the Mosel between Cochem and Trier.</p>
<p>Trains</p>	<p>Whether you travel first or second class, you'll find that the trains of GermanRail (DB Rail; tel. 0800/1507090; www.bahn.de) deserve their good reputation for comfort, cleanliness, and punctuality. All are modern and fast. A snack bar or a dining car, serving German and international cuisine as well as good wine and beer, can usually be found on all trains except locals.</p> <p>For city sightseeing, you can leave your baggage in a locker or check it at the station's baggage counter. In many cities, GermanRail provides door-to-door baggage service, allowing passengers to have luggage picked up at or delivered to their hotels. Accompanying baggage can be checked for a nominal fee. Suitcases, baby carriages, skis, bicycles, and steamer trunks are permitted as baggage. Insurance policies of various kinds, including a travel medical plan, are also available.</p> <p>About 20,000 InterCity (IC) passenger trains offer express service every hour between most large and medium-size German cities. IC trains have adjustable cushioned seats and individual reading lights, and often offer telephone and secretarial services. Bars, lounges, and dining rooms are available, too. A network of EuroCity (EC) trains connecting Germany with 13 other countries offers the same high standards of service as those of IC.</p> <p>Germany's high-speed rail network, known as InterCity Express (ICE) trains, is among the fastest in Europe, reaching speeds of 280kmph. One of these trains runs from Hamburg via Würzburg and Nürnberg to Munich; another from Frankfurt via Stuttgart to Munich; and yet another from Berlin via Frankfurt to Munich. Each train makes stops along the way. ICE significantly reduces travel time, making transits north to south across the country easily possible in the course of a single day. Some 200 east-west connections have been added to the GermanRail timetable to link the Deutsche Bundesbahn (west) and the Deutsche Reichsbahn (east). Additional connections make Leipzig and Dresden more accessible.</p>
<p>Car Rental</p>	<p>All major car rental companies are represented in the major cities and the larger airports</p>
<p>Buses</p>	<p>An excellent, efficient bus network services Germany. Many buses are operated by Bahnbus, which is owned by the railway. These are integrated to complement the rail service. Bus service in Germany is particularly convenient during slow periods of rail service, normally around midday and on Saturday and Sunday. German post offices often operate local bus services (contact local post offices for schedules and</p>

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	prices).
Passes	<p>The Hamburg City Card: gives you unlimited travel on public transportation (including the airport connection from/to airport) and free or reduced admission to various museums and other attractions. The cost is \$11.20 per day; go to: www.global-city-cards.com</p> <p>You can buy a German Rail Pass from a travel agent before you leave home. The pass allows 4 days of travel in 1 month and costs \$260 first class or \$180 second class. Additional days cost \$34 first class and \$24 second class. For Rail Europe: www.raileurope.ca</p>

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	Germany offers a range of accommodation to suit every taste and pocket, from youth hostels to castle stays, from guesthouses and inns to hotels in every category.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>Germany is ideal for family holidays - everyone feels at home here from toddlers to grandparents.</p> <p>Mudflat walks and baby seals: A bright blue sky, a gentle breeze and the murmur of the waves, where better to relax than the beach, especially when the kids are splashing about in the water or playing quietly on the sand? "Mum, dad can we look for mud worms tomorrow?" Of course they can. Or you could all take a boat trip round the harbour, visit the seal colonies or have an introductory water-skiing course and see if you're any good at it? Adventurous children can play at being pirates or earn an almost genuine sea-faring certificate. Whether you are drawn to the countless lighthouses on the North Sea coast, or to the picturesque white cliffs of the Baltic, everyone enjoys a seaside holiday. And if the weather lets you down there are historic ships, aquariums and gigantic whale skeletons just waiting to be discovered.</p> <p>Hagenbeck Zoo, Hamburg: The main attractions include one of the largest herds of Asian elephants in a European zoo, consisting of eleven animals in a natural enclosure with a bathing pool and an indoor area. Other fascinating highlights include the orang-utan house, the polar panorama for penguins, polar bears and seals, the African panorama where you can watch the antics of zebras and ostriches, and the lion's gorge. The latest attraction is the tropical aquarium which, covering 8,000 square metres and 13,000 exotic animals, is the number one of its kind in Germany and one of the largest in northern Europe. Visitors can immerse themselves in the mysterious and tranquil world of marine creatures and get up close to sharks, amphibians and reptiles such as the Nile Crocodile and Fiji Banded Iguana. The zoo is home to a total of 1,850 animals of 210 species. But Hagenbeck is much more than just a zoo. With 25 hectares of varied countryside and 7km of</p>

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	marked trails, it is a theme park offering an unforgettable experience for all tastes.
Teens	<p>At Germany's theme parks teens can have the time of their lives. They can take their pick from the best roller coaster in the world, a flying carousel with spectacular sea views or breathtaking stunt shows packed with movie-style action.</p> <p>Hansa Park: You want to take to the skies? You can, on the Torre del Mar, the world's highest flying carousel, which gives you a whole new perspective on Lübeck Bay. You'll need a head for heights as you do the horizontal loop 70 metres above the ground at a speed of around 70 km/h. And that's only one of more than 35 rides at Hansapark near Lübeck. Visitors can also enjoy fantastic entertainment - the sea lion show, for example, and performances at north Germany's biggest and most successful variety theatre. www.hansapark.de</p>
Romance	The Baltic coast has more than a hint of romance. Around 25 stately homes, grand residences, palaces, manor houses and estates sit in splendour by the sea, on hills and on the islands. Built for kings and their loved ones, they often have parks designed for leisurely strolls. Some of them are open to visitors - beautiful illustrations of the twists, turns and intrigues of the past.
Honeymoons & Weddings	Germany's romantic castles, rivers and scenery make it the ideal honeymoon destination for couples seeking a romantic break from it all. Why not become King and Queen of the castle and book into one of Germany's many castles and palaces for the night? Take a cruise along Germany's rivers and view picturesque castles perched on hilltops. Rent a car and follow Germany's Romantic Road, home to the fairytale "Disney" castle of Neuschwanstein. Or book into one of Baden-Baden's stunning hotel spas and relax with a His & Hers Massage before enjoying a night at the city's Casino. The list is endless and a honeymoon in Germany unforgettable
Seniors	The Globus tours and river cruises in Germany are a perfect way to see many of Germany's highlights in a stress-free, relaxed and convivial way – check out the details in the separate section on Globus in Destinations.

UNIQUES	
Surprising	There are over 500 galleries and 6000 museums in Germany!
History	<p>9 B.C.-A.D. 9--Romans attempt to conquer Teutonic tribes.</p> <p>486--Clovis founds Frankish kingdom, ruling from Paris.</p> <p>496--Franks converted to Christianity.</p> <p>800--Pope crowns Charlemagne in Rome.</p> <p>962--Pope crowns Otto I as Holy Roman Emperor.</p> <p>1152-90--Frederick Barbarossa's reign leads to a greater centralization of power, but his invasion of Italy is beaten back by the Lombard</p>

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	<p>League. 1158--Munich founded by Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony. 1241--Hanseatic League founded to protect the trade of such cities as Bremen, Hamburg, and Lübeck. 1432--Maximilian I, "last of the German knights," becomes Holy Roman Emperor, the beginning of the hegemony of the Hapsburgs. 1456--Johannes Gutenberg prints the first book in Europe using movable type. 1517--Martin Luther nails his "Ninety-Five Theses" to a church door in Wittenberg, beginning the Protestant Reformation in Germany. 1618-48--Thirty Years' War devastates Germany, as Protestant forces defeat Catholic Hapsburgs. 1740-86--Prussian might grows under Frederick the Great in the Age of Enlightenment. 1806--Armies of Napoleon invade Prussia, which is incorporated briefly into the French Empire. 1813--Prussians defeat Napoleon at Leipzig. 1815--At the Congress of Vienna, the German Confederation of 39 independent states is created. 1862--Otto von Bismarck (1815-98) becomes prime minister of Prussia. 1870-71--Germany invades and defeats France in the Franco-Prussian War. 1871--Wilhelm I is crowned emperor of the newly created German Empire; Bismarck becomes chancellor.</p>
<p>Hanseatic League</p>	<p>The Hanseatic League was a mercantile league of medieval German towns which played a pivotal role in the history of Northern Germany . It was amorphous in character; its origin cannot be dated exactly. Originally a Hansa was a company of merchants trading with foreign lands. After the German push eastward and the settlement of German towns in the Slavic lands of the Baltic, the merchant guilds and town associations led (13th cent.) to leagues. Most notable was the company of German merchants with headquarters at Visby; pushing east, they founded a branch at Novgorod. In London, where German merchants had traded since the 11th cent., the privileges granted to Cologne merchants were extended to other Germans, and a Hansa of German merchants was formed. A major impetus to the league's development was the lack of a powerful German national government to provide security for trade. In order to obtain mutual security, exclusive trading rights, and, wherever possible, trade monopoly, the towns drew closer together. In 1241 Lübeck and Hamburg concluded a treaty of mutual protection. Other cities joined this association, and a strong league grew up led by Lübeck. Ports and inland towns from Holland to Poland entered the league, but the north German cities remained the principal members. The league vigorously extended its operations, founding</p>

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	<p>principal foreign branches at Bruges and Bergen. The Hansa towns reached their summit in their victories over Waldemar IV of Denmark, gaining in the Treaty of Stralsund (1370) a virtual trade monopoly in Scandinavia. Their Baltic hegemony continued through numerous wars until their defeat by the Dutch in 1441. Despite its success, the league suffered from lack of organization. Although assemblies of the league met irregularly at Lübeck, many towns did not send representatives, and decisions were subject to review by the individual towns. The number of members fluctuated, probably from less than 100 to over 160. By the 16th century, internal dissension, curtailment of freedom by the German princes, growth of centralized foreign states and consequent loss of Hanseatic privileges, advances of Dutch and English shipping, and various changes in trade all operated against the league. The last diet was held in 1669, but the league was never formally dissolved. Lübeck, Hamburg, and Bremen are still known as Hanseatic cities.</p>
Books	<p>Frommer's Germany 2008 Mark Twain's A Triumph Abroad (Hippocrene Books, 1989). The American humorist's travels through Germany are comically detailed.</p>
1000 Places to see before you die	<p>In Northern Germany: Lubeck; and Sylt island</p>
Must Sees	<p>So difficult with a country as rich in must-see's as Germany...There are 32 UNESCO World Heritage Sites alone! For more information go to: http://www.cometogermany.com/ENU/culture_and_events/unesco.htm World heritage sites in northern Germany captivate visitors with religious art treasures, mining monuments and Hanseatic history. Hildesheim for example, is blessed with beautiful church buildings, while fascinating mining and industrial heritage awaits in Goslar. The Hanseatic cities of Bremen, Lübeck, Wismar and Stralsund meanwhile, make enthralling destinations with their historic old quarters, fine monuments, religious art and traditional brick buildings. You can explore the mines of Rammelsburg, which were once the largest interconnected repositories of metal ore in the world; or visit the historic center of Wismar that was an important Hanseatic trading post in the 14th and 15th centuries</p>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	<p>Most German golf courses welcome visiting players who are members of courses at home. Weekday greens fees are usually around 45€ (\$56), rising to as much as 85€ (\$106) on Saturday and Sunday. For information about the various golf courses, write to the Deutscher Golf/Verband, Victoriastrasse 16, 65011 Wiesbaden (tel. 0611/990200; www.golf.de/dgv).</p>
Fishing	<p>Wherever they go in Germany, anglers will come across plenty of places with large, varied fish stocks. All of Germany's regions have any</p>

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	<p>number of lakes, rivers, brooks and canals offering a combination of excellent water quality and large, varied fish stocks. From a little rowing boat on a lake to some serious deep-sea angling - in Germany, you can do it all. For information about the choice of rivers and lakes - and about angling regulations, which vary from region to region (close seasons, etc.) - visit www.anglerverband.com (German only) or contact the regional angling associations.</p> <p>Fishing permits: To go angling in Germany, you have to have a certificate of competence (fishing permit), though people whose permanent residence is outside Germany are exempt from this regulation. For more information, contact the fishing associations of the individual federal states. In addition to a fishing permit, you also need to have authorisation to fish in a particular stretch of water during a specific period. This can be purchased locally from the owner or leaseholder (generally an angling club). Local tourist information offices can tell you where to do this.</p>
<p>Sailing & Windsurfing</p>	<p>The North Sea and the Baltic have a whole string of places that could have been designed with sailing and windsurfing in mind. Top of the North Sea destinations - for experienced windsurfers especially - are Sylt, Amrum and St. Peter-Ording, resorts that also have plenty of après-surf. For sailors and windsurfers who prefer fewer waves, the Baltic is ideal: a true sailing paradise. Sailing on the Schlei is a real insider's tip. Kiel Bay, Lübeck Bay and the Flensburg Firth are good for combining sailing with some city sightseeing or one of many international sailing events.</p>
<p>Hiking</p>	<p>Germany is a traveler's paradise with its romantic forests, picturesque hill and mountain landscapes, and tranquilly embedded seas. From hikes along tidal shores to trips through the low mountain regions all the way to mountain-top tours, everything is possible. Along many of these routes are hotels and inns that provide specialized accommodations for hikers. Many trip-organizers offer comfortable "hiking without luggage" packages.</p> <p>The North Sea coast is lined by man-made dikes built to resist the power of the sea. Footpaths and cycle paths now run along the top of them as far as the white sandy beaches at St. Peter-Ording, the "world's biggest sandpit".</p>
<p>Cycling</p>	<p>The brochure "Discovering Germany by Bike" presents a variety of offers on the most attractive routes and regions. Sign posts, bike-friendly overnight accommodations, good bicycle travel maps and main information centers are only some of the important points covered in this catalog.</p>
<p>Diving</p>	<p>You might not think so at first, but diving in Germany can be an amazing experience.</p> <p>Wreck diving and cave diving in the Baltic are increasing in popularity</p>

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(<http://www.nordic-experience.de> , <http://www.kreidefelsen.de> /).

CULTURE	
Arts	<p>Germany's Art, Music and History With over 5,000 art and exhibit houses there is something for everyone; Berlin's Museum Island is just one outstanding spot amongst many others. You can listen to classical music in stunning locations; follow in the footsteps of Goethe in Weimar, Bach in Leipzig and Luther in Eisenach. Or, you can tour one of Germany's many scenic routes, enjoy one of the many concerts and festivals well known in Germany's culture, or visit one of the country's internationally acclaimed museums.</p> <p>Germany's Culture Get in touch with some of the great artistic thinkers and leaders in the early 20th century like Carl Spitzweg, Max Beckmann, and Franz Marc. You'll be able to learn more about different kinds of German music that can be heard at many opera houses, musical theaters, jazz clubs, and pop/rock events. And you'll get more information on the spectacular world-famous Museum Island in Berlin, which houses the Altes Museum, the first public museum in the Prussian state. Go to www.cometogermany.com</p>
Music	<p>In the field of music, Germany's influence is noted through the works of, among others, Bach, Mozart, Händel, Telemann, Schütz, Beethoven, Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Humperdinck, Nicolai, Lortzing, Brahms, Schumann, Wagner, Pachelbel, Offenbach, Furtwängler, Eisler, Reger, Strauss, Hindemith, Orff, Stockhausen, Henze and Lachenmann. Today, the musical scene in Germany is as vibrant as ever. Every major city has an opera house and an orchestra, many of them world-renowned. New composers are encouraged, and productions are often at the cutting edge.</p> <p>Hamburg State Opera: This modern opera house was built after the bombings of World War II. Its acoustics and technical facilities are among the most advanced in the world. The venue is the home of the Hamburg State Opera and also the Hamburg Ballet, directed by Californian John Neumeier.</p>
Theatre	<p>Hamburg is blessed with more than 40 theaters, but for most of these, a good knowledge of German is necessary. An exception, the English Theatre of Hamburg, Lerchenfeld 14 (tel. 040/2277089; www.englishtheatre.de ; U-Bahn: Mundsburg), is the only English-speaking theater in the northern part of Germany. Tickets are 13€ to 32€ (\$17-\$42). Performances are Monday to Saturday at 7:30pm; a matinee is presented on Tuesday and Friday at 11 am</p>
Museums	<p>From science and technology, cinematic history, photography and sculpture, to emigration and depictions of everyday life in the former GDR - the depth and breadth of the topics covered by Germany's</p>

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	<p>prestigious museums is astounding. Thrilling worlds of discovery are revealed in its many interactive museums. Joining in and trying things out is all part of the fun.</p> <p>Schleswig Haithabu Viking Museum: Opened in 1985, the Haithabu Viking Museum is situated on a historical site at the shores of Haddeby Noor (lagoon) near Schleswig. It is a window on an ancient town, dedicated to the archaeology and history of this important Viking settlement. In Viking times, Haithabu (Hedeby) was one of the major settlements in northern Europe. The most important long-distance trade routes converged here. Furniture, household items and tools used in those times are on display in 70 historical buildings, farmsteads and mills, and animals like those kept by the Vikings live in the beautiful surrounding countryside with its meadows, fields and ponds. Horses and sheep roam freely across the site, and they enjoy being stroked. The museum focuses on crafts, trade and on the development of the towns of Haithabu and Schleswig.</p> <p>International Maritime Museum, Hamburg: The Institute for Shipping and Marine History is situated atop the steep banks of the River Elbe, looking out onto the ships entering and leaving the harbour. Since 2007, Peter Tamm's extensive collection - the largest private collection of shipping and marine history in the world - is presented here on Hamburg's Elbchaussee. Many shipping companies can find models of their own ships here. In addition to models made of ivory, amber and silver, there is a collection of bone ships unique in both quantity and quality; some of the most exquisite rarities in model ship construction. A large selection of weapons illustrates the developments in this area. The oldest items include a 3,000-year-old bronze sword from Persia, swords from Roman and Viking times, and there is also information about the history of hand guns between the 16th century and today. A large collection of uniforms of great historical significance, the majority of which date back to the time of imperial Germany, reveals what was worn by members of the naval forces all over the world. Other sections of the collection feature flags, medals and decorations, autographs, certificates, ships' logs, postcards, menus, bequests from seafarers, nautical equipment, souvenirs of all kinds, more than one million photos and over 2,000 films from the beginnings of film-making right up to today.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>In northern Germany, the brightest time of year arrives when the dark winter evenings draw in at the end of November. Christmas markets light up the maritime surroundings of the ports, promenades, historical vaulted cellars and Hanseatic town squares. Father Christmas arrives by boat in the harbours, sometimes with friends from nearby countries in tow: Lucia, the Swedish Queen of Lights, Sinterklaas from the Netherlands, Father Frost and festive Finnish stallholders with their</p>

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	<p>yuletide specialities. An experience you won't want to miss is the bizarre sight of 40 chocolate Santas from all over the world. Or for something really unusual, warm your hands with a steaming mug of glühwein while sitting in a beach chair! Then round it all off with a glass of punch from Circus Roncalli or at the Polar Dome. Experience the magic of Christmas in the north of Germany.</p>
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ATTRACTIONS	
Beaches	<p>The rugged North Sea, the gentler Baltic, life at an island pace, bracing air, more than 1,000 kilometres of beach and plenty of sun. Add to that, a never-ending choice of sports, spectacular events and nightlife into the early hours...</p> <p>The North Friesian islands are the most north-westerly holiday destination in Germany, consisting of the three sunny islands of Amrum (with the widest sandy beach in Europe), Föhr (with a particularly mild climate due to the Gulf Stream) and Sylt (Germany's largest island), plus the unique, tiny Hallig islands.</p>
Wildlife	<p>The National Parks are great places to view wildlife. In the Bavarian Forest National Park for instance, the region's wildlife has to contend with a rather harsh climate with continental overtones, long, snowy winters and substantial differences in altitude (600 metres to 1,453 metres). In addition to the eagle owl, Ural owl and raven, which have been successfully reintroduced, the indigenous species include otters, capercaillies, hazel grouse, pygmy owls and three-toed woodpeckers.</p>
Parks	<p>Hamburg's parks are well known in Europe:</p> <p>Alsterpark lies on the northwest banks of Alster Lake, spread across 72 well-manicured hectares. Beautiful shade trees and cultivated gardens greet you at every turn. From many places, you'll also have a panoramic view of the Hamburg skyline.</p> <p>The Hirschpark (S-Bahn: Blankensee) is Hamburg's deer park. Its main entrance is at Mühlenberg. The park is landscaped and has a game enclosure. You can visit the Hirschparkhaus for an old-fashioned tea with pastries.</p> <p>Stadtpark (U-Bahn: Borgweg, in Winterhude), spread across some 182 hectares (450 acres) north of the center, has some 30km (20 miles) of footpaths and numerous recreational facilities. These include a planetarium, sunbathing areas (Hamburgers often prefer their sun sans attire), and open-air pools. Music concerts are often staged here during summer.</p>
Gardens	<p>Wallringpark (U-Bahn: Stephansplatz) is a quartet of beautifully maintained parks and gardens in Hamburg, including the flower garden Planten und Blumen, the Alter Botanischer Garten, and the Grosse and Kleine (big and little) Wallanlagen parks, with many recreational facilities. A miniature railway connects all four. The entire complex is a</p>

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	<p>popular leisure park, with a roller-skating rink, playgrounds, greenhouses filled with tropical plants, restaurants, and an ice-skating rink in winter. A particular highlight is the illuminated-fountain concert, with classical or pop music, at the onset of darkness - June to August 10pm, earlier as the summer wanes. The largest Japanese garden in Europe is in Planten und Blomen. Here, rock gardens, flowering plants, miniature trees, and winding pathways attract garden enthusiasts.</p>
Castles	<p>The castles and palaces which Germany has to offer you are all original. There are not just a handful of well-preserved ones, but several hundred from all epochs and of every genre. Each has its own long and thrilling history, which is being kept alive within its walls.</p> <p>Gifhorn Castle Schlossplatz 1D-38518 Gifhorn (Lower Saxony) Tel:+49(0) 5371/ 82483 Built in Renaissance style between 1525 and 1582 this palace was the seat of the Guelph Duke Franz of Brunswick and Lüneburg from 1539 to 1549 and was thereafter used by the dukes of Celle mainly as a hunting-lodge. Today the palace is the political and cultural centre of the local district. In addition to the district administrative offices it also houses the Historical Museum with its interesting collections relating to regional history.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>There are so many things that make a shopping tour around cities like Hamburg particularly special: German "originals", for example, such as BOSS, Meissen porcelain, Faber-Castell and Adidas. Traditional products such as Nuremberg gingerbread and the excellent German wines are also well worth seeking out.</p> <p>Mönckebergstrasse (U-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof), a street connecting the main station with the Rathaus, is the city's traditional shopping district. Here you'll find big department stores such as Karstadt, Mönckebergstrasse 16 (tel. 040/30940), part of a chain that carries many of the same brands and items as the other leading department stores, all competitively priced.</p>
Markets	<p>The Hamburg Fischmarkt (fish market), between Hexenberg and Grosse Elbstrasse (U-Bahn: Landungsbrücken), is held every Sunday from 5am in summer or 7am otherwise. Flowers, fruit, vegetables, plants, and pets are also for sale at this traditional market, in existence since 1703.</p>
Nightlife	<p>Club Grosse Freiheit, Hamburg: This club, now world-famous, is where the Beatles performed in their earliest days. Today, it's a free-for-all venue whose acts change almost nightly and whose guests in the recent past have included Prince and Willie Nelson. Even the civic and municipal authorities of Hamburg view it as one of their preeminent cultural treasures. For recorded information about upcoming acts, call</p>

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	<p>tel. 040/31777811. The Cotton Club: The legendary Cotton Club is the oldest (some 36 years) and best established of the Hamburg jazz clubs. Jazz and Dixieland bands come here from throughout Europe and the United States. Open Friday and Saturday 8pm to 1am and Monday to Thursday 8pm to midnight; September to April, it's also open Sunday.</p>
<p>CUISINE</p>	<p>Out of over 1200 breweries, from the North Sea to the Alps, flow 5000 different kinds of beer on tap. A meal is also as versatile as the beer in Germany. Whether fresh fish from the traditional Hamburg fish market, or potatoes, the apples of the earth - which have been served either as salt potatoes, stewed potatoes or as potato-cakes since the 18th century - nothing more could be missing from a menu. However, what would Germany be without sausage - with plenty of mustard - prepared plain-boiled, boiled with spices, raw or as bratwurst? For breakfast or at snack time, one of 300 healthy kinds of bread and fine pastries, made famous by German bakers, await you. You can also drink natural mineral water again and again. It bubbles here from 550 sources. The true connoisseur praises the German wine, some dry and some sweeter, but always smooth and filigree like nowhere else in the world.</p>
<p>Food</p>	<p>Hamburg life is married to the sea, and that includes the cuisine: lobster from Helgoland; shrimp from Büsum; turbot, plaice, and sole from the North Sea; and huge quantities of fresh oysters. Of course, there's also the traditional meat dish, Stubenküchen (hamburger steak), and the favorite sailor's dish, Labskaus, made with beer, onions, cured meat, potatoes, herring, and pickles. Aalsuppe (eel soup) is the best known of all Hamburg's typical dishes. Niederegger Marzipan Salon/Museum, Lubeck Since 1999, Lübeck's premier producer of marzipan offers visitors a small marzipan museum in addition to its well-established café. In this marzipan paradise you can learn all about the legend of how marzipan was invented and the history of the House of Niederegger. The Marzipan Museum's most impressive exhibits are twelve life-size marzipan figures, representations of famous Lübeck residents, from Hans Jakob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen to Thomas Mann and Wolfgang Joop. Guided tours available. www.niederegger.de/en</p>
<p>Wine</p>	<p>German wine does not grow next to olive trees and cork-oaks. It grows on the same degree of latitude as Newfoundland. The difference is that it is nursed by the warm climate of the Gulf Stream. This results in wines with fruity acidity and a wide range of wonderful scents. These are already two of the 13 German wine growing regions of Rheinhessen, Palatinate, Baden, Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, Württemberg, Franconia, Nahe, Rheingau, Mittelrhein, Ahr, Hessische Bergstraße,</p>

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	<p>Saale-Unstrut and Saxony: Mosel, Saar and Ruwer in the west with tangy Riesling and Müller-Thurgau, the Elbe in the east with Rivaner and delicately fruity Weißburgunder and Grauburgunder. You will find a true paradise for the wine connoisseur when you travel the Rhine route from Lake Constance in the south to north of Bonn. People drink solid Gutedel, powerful Rulander, which today is called Grauer Burgunder and in the sunny Kaiserstuhl region fruity Weißherbst (rosé wine). The fertile Rhineland-Palatinate tempts not only with Rivaner, but also with full-flavoured Morio, Muskat, Kerner and Scheurebe. Rheinhessen's Silvaner offers more than just Liebfraumilch - the white wines range from mild to spicy and elegant. These can also be found in the neighbouring Nahe region. Additionally red wine is cultivated between Landau and Mainz. Mainly smooth Portugieser but powerful Dornfelder as well. The volcanic and slate soil of the northern part of the Ahr region mainly yields the fruity Spätburgunder. Overall, general three quarters of the German wines are white wines.</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>So many to choose from! Here's a few suggestions for that special meal in the Hamburg area:</p> <p>Fischereihafen Restaurant, Altona, near Hamburg (tel. 040/381816): Patrons from Tina Turner to Helmut Kohl have pronounced the food here delightful. From a window seat, you can overlook the boats that might have hauled in your sole, eel, turbot, herring, or flounder from the seas that day.</p> <p>Landhaus Scherrer, Altona: Once a brewery, the Landhaus is now a citadel of gastronomy on the Elbe at Altona. It has gained a reputation for impeccable service and imaginatively prepared cuisine. The chef's superbly precise, inventive cookery combines northern German and international flavors with often stunning results. A special dish for two is crispy whole north German duck with seasoned vegetables and au gratin potatoes. An unusual variation might be roast goose with rhubarb in cassis sauce. Dessert might be praline cream or one of 30 types of pastry loading down the sweets trolley. Because of its location in a country house surrounded by trees, this place is also popular for wedding receptions.</p> <p>Ratsweinkeller Hamburg: The city takes pride in the distinguished Ratsweinkeller Hamburg, in business since 1896. The overall theme is suggested at the entrance, where you'll find a stone statue of Bacchus. The main dining hall has high vaulted ceilings, wood-paneled columns, and large stained-glass windows. The wallet-friendly, large portions make appetizers unnecessary. One excellent dish is the halibut steak in curry sauce. The fresh sole bonne femme is heavenly and served in large portions; the Hamburg crab soup is the best in the city. At the quarter-hour, the chime of the great-grandfather clock resounds</p>

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MORE INFO	
Brochures	1-877-315-6237 for German National Tourist Office brochures See your Travel Agent for Globus Tours and River Cruises in Germany
Websites	www.CometoGermany.com www.globusfamily.ca For Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten http://www.fairmont.com/hamburg For Air Canada www.aircanada.com 1-888-247-2262 For Lufthansa www.lufthansa.com 1-800-56 FLY LH(1-800-563-5954) For Rail Europe www.raileurope.ca

HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	<p>Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Address: Neuer Jungfernstieg 9-14, Hamburg, Germany D-20354 Website: http://www.fairmont.com/hamburg</p> <p>Prominently located on the western side of the Inner Alster Lake shore in Germany, The Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten lies in the heart of the prime retail and commercial district. Founded in 1897, the Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten has welcomed its guests from all over the world for more than 110 years. Ceaseless concern to offer each guest the greatest possible comfort has led to it being consistently ranked among the top hotels in the world. Few other hotels in Germany or elsewhere can match its rich blend of individuality, tradition and distinction. The public areas of the Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten are furnished with a collection of exquisite 16th- and 17th-century Flemish Gobelin tapestries, baroque cupboards and Renaissance chests. This luxurious Hamburg Hotel offers a veritable treasure trove of history, luxury and elegance in one. In addition to impeccable service and luxurious accommodation, you will find some of the best restaurants in Hamburg such as the Haerlin Restaurant, which serves classical and modern cuisine. The Lounge, at the heart of the hotel, creates a unique atmosphere of elegance and coziness. I recommend afternoon tea in front of the fire while listening to live piano music.</p>
Accommodation	The philosophy of Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten is determined by its inimitable ambience, which has evolved over more than a 100 years, deliberately avoiding uniformity and monotonous functionality. All 156 rooms and suites have their own individual touch. This uniqueness is experienced with a breathtaking view over Germany's Inner Alster Lake, which can be enjoyed from many rooms.
Dining	At Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten in Hamburg, guests can choose from an array of distinctive restaurants and bars, ranging from classic

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	<p>French or Euro-Asian cuisine to the famous Bar Indochine, where you can enjoy exclusive cocktails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Haerlin Restaurant is one of the leading Gourmet restaurants in Germany with 17 points Gault Millau and one Michelin star. - Jahreszeiten Grill is restored in the beautiful, eclectic art deco style of the 1920's and offers the experience of traditional Hanseatic dining. - Jahreszeiten Bar is located just next to the hotel's entrance and this cosy elegant two-storey Jahreszeiten Bar is the ideal place to meet friends and colleagues. - The Jahreszeiten Terrace offers outdoor seating for 80 guests. When temperatures are cooler, external radiators provide pleasant warmth and a cosy place to sit and enjoy first class food and excellent service. - Doc Cheng's serves European-Asian fusion cuisine in a mélange of Far Eastern and Western 1920s-style decor. Exciting, young and dynamic - that's the Euro-Asian Restaurant Doc Cheng's, which has been decorated with 14 Gault Millau Points. - Bar Indochine is integrated into Doc Cheng's Restaurant. The decor recalls Shanghai from the 1920s and serves fancy cocktails and tasty Asian liquors. - Café Condi is decorated in Biedermeier style and is popular for its rich Jahreszeiten Breakfast, typical coffee house specialities as well as the light lunch fare. - Jahreszeiten Deli is a step towards a new coffee-shop culture. - The Wohnhalle is the heart of the Fairmont Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten and inspires a turn-of the century country house atmosphere.
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AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNER	Air Canada
Flight details	Air Canada offers more non stop flights from Canada to Germany than any other airline with service to Frankfurt from Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, and from Toronto to Munich. Air Canada also provides codeshare service between Vancouver – Frankfurt with Star Alliance partner Lufthansa. Learn more at www.aircanada.com or by phoning 1-888-247-2262.

CURRENT DEALS	Toronto to Dusseldorf one way is currently available with Air Canada until Sept 23rd 2008 at just \$277 taxes excluded
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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	Frankfurt; Berlin; Dresden; Black Forest; Cologne; Trier; Hamburg; Rhine Valley; Munster; Munich; Munster; Heidelberg
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<p>GLOBUS TOURS</p>	<p>For 80 years, the Globus family of brands has been providing a variety of products that address the needs of today's diverse traveler. Whether it's a fully escorted, premium, independent, or river cruise vacation, with Globus family of brands you will get unmatched value and world-class customer service with every journey.</p> <p>Today, the Globus family of companies consists of more than 30 tourism and aviation businesses, serviced by a group of more than 5,000 professionals worldwide. Combined, Globus and Cosmos carry about 500,000 passengers a year making the company the leading operator of guided vacations worldwide.</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>More than 70 years ago, Antonio Mantegazza bought a rowboat to transport commercial goods across Lake Lugano in Switzerland. Who would have known that rowboat would launch the world's leading guided travel company?</p> <p>Antonio's frequent trips across the scenic lake led him to consider opportunities in a different market: tourism. His entrepreneurial instinct pushed him to gradually acquire some motor coaches to transport tourists around the Lake Lugano area.</p> <p>In 1928, Antonio opened a company specializing in motor coach touring called Globus Viaggi. The company began with a fleet of 12 coaches which operated local excursions for European tourists in Switzerland. By 1950, Globus Viaggi had grown to a fleet of 33 coaches and featured overnight excursions to Rome, Venice, the Dolomites and the French Riviera.</p> <p>2008 is the 80th Anniversary of Globus and to celebrate there is a special Platinum collection of Tours. Check out the details, plus all the special offers at www.globusfamily.ca.</p>
<p>Why Globus?</p>	<p>With Globus, you'll always visit the key sights - the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and the Forum in Rome, the Prado Museum in Madrid, Michelangelos's David in the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, and many others. You'll enjoy many more inclusions like cruises, high-speed trains, local guides, and in Italy's main cities, headsets for clear commentary. They offer twice the number of included features as many competitors, without any additional cost to you. Look for the complete list of their special included features on each tour page in their brochure. Globus not only brings you experience that others simply don't offer, they also ensure that you end up with more time to enjoy the rest of your destination. Most competitors require you to take extra optional excursions to see these important sights, costing you additional time and money. And if you don't join their excursion, you'll spend most of your time waiting in line. But with Globus, these sights are already included, freeing up the remainder of your time for exactly what you'd like to see.</p>

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	<p>European River Cruises River Cruises are an increasingly way to explore castles, cathedrals and villages. Travel hassle-free aboard Europe's most modern fleet of luxury river cruise ships with Globus' Avalon brand. This is a great way to see some of the best sights that Germany has to offer in a luxurious and relaxing way.</p>
<p>Hotels with Globus</p>	<p>Globus understand the importance of hotel quality to your vacation. That's why, unlike most competitors, Globus hotels are First Class and above. And they stand behind their ratings, as confirmed by the hotel & travel Index or national tourist board. For reference they have included hotel rating totals for each vacation in their brochure. The hotels selected are chosen not only for the superior quality but also for their convenient location, and their volume buying power worldwide means unparalleled value for you. For example, all hotels listed on the Monograms Independent Vacations and Leisurestyle vacations are located in the heart of your destination, so you're close to what you want to see. On the Castle villa stays they have special accommodations that are destinations in their own right. You'll be treated like royalty at unbeatable value.</p>
<p>Tour Directors</p>	<p>One of the greatest advantages of travelling with Globus is your Tour Director. Never underestimate the importance of experience. On average, each of their several hundred European Tour Directors has completed more than fourteen seasons on the road, successfully conducting an average of nearly 140 vacations. Globus Tour Directors are experts who have honed the art of taking you inside a destination, so you can rest assured that you're seeing the sights like a local. When you're been travelling as long as they have, you have operations down to an art form. They have spent more than 75 years refining itineraries and procedures and their Swiss Heritage ensures that your trip is trouble free to the last detail. With over 30 offices around the world, they have support when and where you need it, under any circumstances.</p>
<p>Globus Value</p>	<p>Globus includes all the main features of a destination without extra cost. Their volume buying power saves you money. In fact, a whole day of touring with Globus generally costs what you'd pay for just a hotel alone if you plan the trip on your own. Yet they also provide a Tour director, a great variety of transportation, many meals, a rich sightseeing program and much more. Here's a few more value-added items:</p> <p>Free airport transfers: book your scheduled transatlantic flight with Globus and benefit from free transfers</p> <p>Low Air-fares: compare their competitive air-inclusive prices, and business class is also available.</p>

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	<p>Discounts abound: group reduction, child reduction, triple room reduction, multiple tour reduction.</p> <p>Globus has fifty hosts in London alone to assist you at the airports and hotels</p> <p>Professional Tour director while touring, cruise director on River Cruises, local hosts for Monograms</p> <p>Hotels listed on tour page. Twin-bedded rooms with private bath and shower, hotel taxes service charges, and tips for baggage handling</p> <p>Private Deluxe motor coach with air-conditioning, extra leg room, and emergency washroom while touring</p> <p>All tours London- Paris/Brussels & Paris/Brussels-London travel are on the Eurostar</p> <p>Globus travel bag and travel documents; Monograms wallet and travel documents</p> <p>Headsets included for sightseeing with local guide in Rome, Florence, Venice and Pompeii</p>
<p>Journeys Club</p>	<p>Journeys Club is an exclusive fellowship created for past Globus passengers. It invites you to share your passion for travel with a group of like-minded, experienced Globus globetrotters. Benefits include: Exclusive journeys with upgrades, extras amenities and welcome gifts Member-only discounts, Insider information regarding new, upcoming Globus vacations, Quarterly newsletters and E-mail updates with Journeys Club information and promotions, Journeys Club travel merchandise and Travel & destination tips and articles</p>
<p>Children</p>	<p>An adult must accompany travelers who are less than 18 years old on the tour departure date; the child receives a 10% discount on the land tour price. Children under the age of 8 on escorted tours, because they are considered too young to enjoy these vacations.</p>
<p>German Highlights Tour</p>	<p>12 days including Air from \$2989 in 2008</p> <p>For those who want to see the highlight cities of Germany, this 12-day vacation is a perfect fit. A Rhine cruise, a visit of Cologne's Gothic Cathedral, and a picture stop at Checkpoint Charlie in the once divided metropolis of Berlin are included in your engaging itinerary. After visiting Leipzig you can walk the medieval streets of charming Nuremberg. Fortified Rothenburg, along the Romantic Road, should not be missed, and then you can tackle a stein of beer at the Hofbräuhaus in Munich or</p>

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	<p>in the mountain resort of Garmisch in the Bavarian Alps. Other included highlights are King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle, the Passion Play town of Oberammergau, Heidelberg Castle and an overnight stay in the Black Forest.</p>
<p>The Best of Germany</p>	<p>15 days including Air from \$3639 in 2008 This 15-day trip is for those who wish to see more of this fascinating country. You'll enjoy overnight stays in Frankfurt, Cologne, Hamburg (with an included harbor cruise), Berlin, Dresden, Erfurt, Würzburg, Munich, and the Black Forest. All two-night stays have guided sightseeing included, and local guides will accompany you in Weimar and in the Wartburg and Heidelberg Castles. In Dresden The Rhine Valley (with a scenic cruise), the Romantic Road, Bavarian Alps and Black Forest guarantee a great variety of magnificent scenery, and included stops in Remagen, Bremen, Celle, Leipzig, Weimar, Rothenburg, Nuremberg, and Heidelberg show you the most of the real Germany.</p>
<p>Other Vacations in Germany from the Globus Family of Brands</p>	<p>Avalon 2009 Germany River Cruises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River cruises offered from as short as 7 days to as long as 21 days and include: Romantic Rhine, The Legendary Danube, Blue Danube Discovery, Central European Experience, European Splendor, Windmills Vineyards & Paris, The Rhine & The Moselle, Magnificent Europe, Jewels of Central Europe, Grand Black Sea Cruise, North Sea – Black Sea Cruise, Christmastime on the Danube (featuring the Rhine, Main, Neckar, Moselle & Saar Rivers, & Main Danube Canal). - New for 2009 – Christmas in the Heart of Germany includes a 5 day cruise on the Main River onboard the new 2009 Affinity ship - Additionally, there are 9 Globus European Panoramas (general tours of Europe, multi-country) which feature stops and overnights in Germany. <p>Cosmos 2009 Germany Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New 9 days Historic Eastern Germany by Rail – Berlin/Berlin, Dresden & Leipzig - 10 days Prague, Vienna, & Budapest with Munich & Nuremberg - 13 days – Highlights of Germany - Frankfurt/ Frankfurt - 12 days – Alpine Adventure & Glacier Express – featuring Munich, Linderhof Castle - 14 days – Bohemian Rhapsody – including Munich & Nuremberg - New 9 days - Grand Tour of Austria featuring Munich - 16 days – Central Europe featuring Frankfurt, Berlin & Munich <p>There are also 13 Cosmos European tours with stops in Germany, these are multi-country tours from 11 to 30 days. Cosmos 2010 Oberammergau Tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17 days Bohemian Rhapsody & 11 days Grand Tour of Austria

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 days European Jewels - 11 days Six Countries - 15 days From St. Paul's To St Peter's - 12 days Grand Tour of Switzerland - 13 days Highlights of Germany - 14 days Alpine Adventure - 17 days – Central Europe
<p>The Globus Brand</p>	<p>The Globus brand provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Selection, More Included Features, More Leisure Time, More Superior Hotels - More once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, such as the Passion Play in 2010 in conjunction with a Globus & Cosmos tour - More Experience – their story began over 80 years ago and ever since they've been refining their itineraries and procedures to ensure that clients get the most out of their vacation. - Many Globus vacations include a welcome dinner to introduce one to the cuisine of the region being visited. - More Great Ways to Travel - to give you even more vacation options, many Globus & Monograms Independent Vacations are combinable with River Cruises or with Monograms (on selected departures) - No other Tour Operator offers as many means of included transportation as Globus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All high-speed trains in Europe - Vignette vacations feature at least one train as a mode of transportation from city to city, so getting there is part of the adventure - The newest fleet of deluxe river cruise ships on the main European rivers, the Nile, and Portugal's Douro River - Sea cruises in the Mediterranean and the northern seas (including Hurtigruten cruises) - Globus offers many vacations for the wine connoisseur - In Oporto enjoy a wine tasting in a Port wine cellar, or at Tuscany's Verrazzano Castle, learn about the fine art of making Chianti. <p>More Choice Vacations to fit your style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family Vacations, European Panorama, Vignettes, Regional Discoveries, Platinum Collection, Cruise & Tour, River Cruises, Monograms Independent Vacations - New for 2009 are Vignettes: designed for a new generation of touring, these exciting vacations deliver a comprehensive overview of your destination—with more time in each city, centrally located hotels, and at least one train as a mode of transportation <p>Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Best Tour Operator to Europe” Travel Weekly's Reader's Choice

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	<p>Awards – (2004, 2005, 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Best Tour Operator to Europe” TravelAge West magazine (2007) - “Top Tour Operator to Europe” Recommend magazine (1999-2007) <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discounts available for group travel, young travelers, and triple rooms. - 50 Hosts in London alone to assist you at airports and hotels. - Professional Tour Directors, Cruise Directors, local hosts, and local guides. - Twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charges, and tips for baggage handling. - Private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning, extra leg room, and emergency washroom while touring. - Travel by Eurostar train for all trips London-Paris/Brussels and Paris/Brussels- London (portage included). - Convenient Globus travel bag and travel documents; Monograms wallet and travel documents. - Headsets included for sightseeing with local guide in Rome, Florence, Venice, and Pompeii. - Low fares. - Discount for young travelers: 10% off land arrangements - Pay less for your second and subsequent vacations: \$70 off subsequent Globus vacations
<p>The Cosmos Brand</p>	<p>Cosmos tours features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For more than four decades Cosmos has offered savvy, value-minded travelers the most affordable travel packages to the world’s most fascinating places - places like the snow-capped peaks of Switzerland, sunny Spain, the ancient splendor of Greece and Egypt, festive France, and the beautiful British Isles. - For as little as \$75 per day, you can enjoy the benefits of escorted travel, a greater choice of activities, plenty of free time to explore your destination the way you want, and longer stays in key cities so that you can truly immerse yourself in the local culture. So you could be on your way to the vacation experience of a lifetime. <p>Cosmos Travel Styles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Discoveries: focus on one country or region in depth. - Panoramas: the best way to get an overview of the Old World. - Escapes: Cosmos offers vacations that let you explore a destination in a week or less. You can have a comprehensive travel experience plus free time to relax <p>Stretch Your Vacation Dollar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value-packed vacations at down to earth prices

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They make it easy for singles to travel - they accept reservations on a “guaranteed share” basis - Discount for young travelers: 10% off land arrangements - Pay less for your second and subsequent vacations: \$50 off subsequent Cosmos vacations <p>Fascinating Sightseeing & Plenty of Leisure Time Discover the best ways to see Europe – train rides, cable car ascents, Aegean cruise ships, scenic day ferries, walking tours with local guides, private first class motor-coaches.</p> <p>Cosmos Vacations offer flexibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joining late and leaving early options with various reductions - A professional team takes care of you in London - Extra nights - Many meals are included in the vacation price - Cosmos takes care of your hotels, which are superior tour class & tourist- class, however we also feature some first-class hotels. - In 2010 Cosmos Tours feature the Oberammergau Passion Play as an inclusion
<p>The Avalon Brand</p>	<p>Avalon Waterway feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part of the Globus family of brands, Avalon is backed by 80-plus years of travel expertise, more than 200 professional support staff members in Europe, and 37 offices worldwide, an ongoing collaboration to ensure guest satisfaction that continually raises the bar when it comes to small-ship cruising. - Offering the newest, quietest, and most spacious ships, state-of-the-art resort-style amenities, and incomparable service by English-speaking crews, Avalon lets you discover Europe, Egypt, China, and the Galápagos Islands in a world-class way. - Deluxe cruise in an outside stateroom with hotel style beds - Services of a professional Cruise Director - Onboard lectures, activities & nightly piano music (Europe) - Sightseeing with local guides - Headsets for all guided shore excursions in Europe & Egypt - Inside visits, including admission charges where applicable - Dedicated website www.avalonwaterways.ca <p>Travel in Style on the Youngest Fleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With Avalon Waterways you will sail with the newest ships on the European Waterways, an impressive fleet that averages just two years in age, in fact each year Avalon adds more award winning vessels – 2009 sees the launching of Avalon Affinity and Avalon Creativity - Also enjoy modern, luxury cruising onboard the Victoria Anna and

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Victoria Jenna in China, the Royal Lotus in Egypt, and the La Pinta and Santa Cruz in the Galápagos Islands

- These ships all feature elegant interiors with abundant glass, polished metal, and vibrant colors, modern designs with contemporary appointments, state-of-the-art technology, personalized service, fine dining, remarkable amenities, and spacious outside staterooms.
- Avalon has a 96% traveler satisfaction rating.

Avalon Ships & Launch Dates:

- Offering the most modern cruising on Europe's legendary rivers are the Avalon Affinity (2009), Avalon Creativity (2009), Avalon Scenery (2008), Avalon Imagery (2007), Avalon Tranquility (2007), Avalon Tapestry (2006), Avalon Poetry (2005), and Avalon Artistry (2004).
- "Ship Pax Award for Outstanding Cruise Concept" (2007) Recognized for the innovative Silent Drive System (SDS) ship design, the Avalon Tranquility, Avalon Imagery and Avalon Tapestry were the 2007 recipients of the prestigious ShipPax Award for Outstanding Cruise Concept. This ground breaking design separates the vessel's passenger and propulsion sections, reducing noise and vibrations and delivering a smoother cruise experience.

Classic Style, Modern Luxury:

- As experts in travel, Avalon continues to raise the bar when it comes to small-ship cruising. Their fleet of contemporary designed vessels provide the luxury and amenities you desire most in a warmly welcoming and comfortable environment. Whether you're seeking quiet spaces for relaxing, lively common areas for meeting new friends, or a combination of both, Avalon Waterways' well-appointed ships will meet your needs.

Ship features & amenities include:

- Elegant polished metal & glass throughout
- Revolutionary engineering
- Non smoking interiors
- Internet access
- Fine dining
- Wine included with dinner
- Spacious Sky Decks for sunning
- Spacious Sky Decks for sunning
- Panoramic picture windows for landscape viewing
- The largest staterooms on the European waterways today (172 sq.ft.)
- the majority of staterooms have floor-to ceiling-sliding glass doors with French balconies
- Hair Salon
- Fitness Center
- 6-person whirlpool (select vessels)
- Lounge & Bar
- Complimentary coffee & tea available throughout the day
- Elevator (select vessels)

Features exclusive to Avalon's European vessel staterooms:

- Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors in most staterooms
- French balconies in most staterooms
- Flat screen satellite TV & radio
- Private bathroom with shower

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	<p>Comfortable, hotel-style beds - European-style duvets Egyptian super-combed cotton linens - Large closets- Mini bar, hairdryer & safe - Individual climate control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outstanding Service & Exceptional Cuisine - The very best land programs – the best local guides - Theme Cruises – 2009 Festive France theme on Flavors of Burgundy & Provence, Music Theme Cruise on the Magnificent Europe, Wine Theme Cruises on Flavors of Burgundy & Provence, The Legendary Danube, The Blue Danube Discovery - Cruising on the great rivers of Europe – Rhine, Main, Moselle, Rhone & Danube Rivers - Egypt Nile River Cruises, China’s Yangtze River Cruises, Galapagos Islands Cruises
<p>Monograms</p>	<p>Monograms is a new way to travel independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monograms is independent travel without the hassles that typically come with “ordinary” independent travel. With Monograms you never have to worry about whether or not your hotel will have your reservation, how to get from here to there, or where to go once you get to your destination. - Monograms is ideal for vacationers who want the freedom of independent travel but who prefer the convenience of a package that takes care of all the details, such as reserving hotels, air arrangements, airport transfers, and even guidance at your destination. - Unlike ordinary independent travel where all the details are left for you to plan, Monograms packages remove the logistical guesswork. They pre-select hotels for you in the heart of your destination and provide you with the services of a local host or service on call. - In Europe, South America, Asia, and the South Pacific their local hosts provide area expertise and insider information, and are available to help answer questions, arrange excursions and city sightseeing, give directions, and direct you to the activities that interest you most for a truly personal, one-of-a-kind vacation. - In North America, Monograms provide you with Service On Call, a toll-free helpline to assist with anything you need throughout your journey—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. - Hotels: Monograms’ carefully selected hotels provide the comfort and convenient locations you desire. - Choose from two different levels of hotel packages: Standard or Premium. Then, once you’ve selected your package, it will be the same throughout your entire trip, regardless of which city you are in. - Packages: Just as the world is wonderfully diverse, so too are Monograms vacations and the memories they create. They offer single- and multi-city packages around the world, including Europe, North America, South America, Australia & New Zealand, and Asia. Their

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single-city stays are perfect for a short getaway and our multi-city stays are prepackaged in the combinations that are right for you

- Flexibility: Monograms vacations deliver ultimate flexibility, so you can travel when you want and at your own pace. Vacation packages vary in length and offer frequent departures, in some cases daily departures, to fit your busy schedule.
- You'll also benefit from plenty of free time so you can experience each destination in your own way.
- Dedicated website: www.monogramstravel.ca

Monograms Europe Vacations include

- Services of a Local Host • City map (s) - • Centrally located hotels • Transportation between cities • Guided sightseeing • Ability to add flights to your package • Breakfast daily • Airport transfers when you purchase air from them
- Add more vacation to your vacation: to give you even more options, several Monograms vacations are combinable with another Monograms vacation or a river cruise with the sister company, Avalon Waterways.
- North America Monograms: Single City & Multi-City Getaways offering single- and multi-city packages in North America's most popular cities. The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Transportation between cities (Multi-City Getaways) • Conveniently located hotels • Ability to add flights to your package • Sightseeing • Airport transfers when you purchase air • City guide(s) & Map(s)
- Rail Getaways: enjoy time exploring popular cities in Western Canada then sit back, relax, and take in the beautiful scenery. The following are included: • Service On Call helpline • Rail transportation between cities • Conveniently located hotels • Ability to add flights to your package • Sightseeing • Airport transfers when you purchase air
- Hawaii Island Getaways: relax and experience Hawaii's most popular sights and hidden treasures at your own pace. The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Rental car (if needed) • Conveniently located hotels • Hawaii map • Sightseeing • Ability to add flights to your package
- On The Road Driving Vacations: experience the spectacular landscapes that connect North America's most popular destinations. The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Detailed driving directions, mileage, and maps • Conveniently located hotels • Information about attractions • Rental Car (if needed) • Ability to add flights to your package

Your Monograms South America, China & Asia, and South Pacific vacation include • Services of a Local Host, • City maps, • Centrally located hotels, • Transportation between cities, • Guided sightseeing, • Ability to add flights to your package, • Breakfast daily, • Airport transfers when you purchase flights

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Three Different Ways of Touring Germany with the Globus Family of Brands

1. Monograms

Land Package Munich & Berlin – 2009 – 8 Days Vacation Overview: Enjoy a week in Germany's most popular cities. Enjoy centrally-located hotels, the services of a Local Host, and half-day guided sightseeing in both cities. Transportation from Munich to Berlin is by train (first-class). In Munich, visit Marienplatz with its Old and New City Hall and gothic Frauenkirche. You have plenty of time afterwards to visit famous Hofbräuhaus or to explore Munich's many attractions and restaurants. In Berlin, enjoy vistas of the restored Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie, Kaiser Wilhelm's Memorial Church, and monumental Brandenburg Gate. You have time to further explore the capital of once-divided Germany on your own.

Overnights: 3 nights in Munich and 3 nights in Berlin

Accommodations & Meals:

Buffet breakfast daily and Superior hotels

Munich: Platzl - set in the heart of Munich's historical Old Town, this hotel offers the perfect blend of maximum comfort with traditional Bavarian charm. The 167 air-conditioned guestrooms are equipped with all modern amenities, including safe and mini bar. The hotel's restaurant, which is housed in restored medieval vaults, and the traditional tavern-style inn both serve authentic regional cuisine. Other recreational facilities include a sauna, steam bath, and fitness room.

Berlin: Concorde Berlin - this sleek modern hotel is in the heart of the city, just off the famous Kurfürstendamm, Berlin's most fashionable street. The Concorde Berlin has a distinct flair of savoir-vivre, from the 303 spacious guestrooms—all equipped with air-conditioning, safe, and mini bar—to the brasserie-style restaurant that offers outside terrace dining during the summer. There is also a stylish bar and a wellness area featuring sauna, plunge pool, and gym.

Included features:

Local Host service in each city; city maps; half-day morning sightseeing in Munich & Berlin, transportation by first class train Munich to Berlin

Per Day Cost: – Peak Season - \$316.00 per person

2. Avalon

2009 ROMANTIC RHINE – 9 Days Vacation Overview:

One of Europe's most legendary rivers awaits on this fascinating journey. Enjoy guided sightseeing in Strasbourg, Koblenz, and Cologne, as well as a full-day excursion to majestic Heidelberg and a canal cruise in picturesque Amsterdam. Sail through the dramatic Rhine Gorge, take pictures of the famous Lorelei rock, and sample the area's famous Riesling wines in the quaint wine village of Rudesheim.

Ship Information – Avalon Affinity, Avalon Creativity, Avalon Tapestry
Cruise Overnights on ship – 7 nights

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Cities Visited – Amsterdam, Cologne, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Heidelberg, Starsbourg, Breisach, Basel
Superb dining with all meals on board daily featuring full breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including a welcome reception, welcome dinner, and Captain's dinner; quality wines from Europe's most famous wine regions with every dinner; one sitting with open seating arrangements
Included features:
Deluxe 7-night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel in an outside stateroom with hotel-style beds
AMSTERDAM: Welcome reception; canal cruise
COLOGNE: Guided sightseeing
COBLENZ: Guided sightseeing
RÜDESHEIM: "Winzerexpress" mini train; visit Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum
HEIDELBERG: Guided visit of the castle
STRASBOURG: Guided sightseeing, visit La Petite France district and the Gothic cathedral
BREISACH: Excursion to the Black Forest
Per Day Cost: \$345.00 per person (Peak Season)

3. Globus Tour

German Highlights – 12 Days Vacation Overview:
For those who want to see the highlight cities of Germany, this 12-day vacation is a perfect fit. Start and finish in Frankfurt and enjoy overnight stays in Cologne, the once divided metropolis of Berlin, in Nuremberg, Munich, in the Passion Play town of Oberammergau, and in the Black Forest. Highlights are an included Rhine cruise, a first-class train ride on the fast Eurocity train from Cologne to Berlin, a visit to Leipzig and Bach's Thomaskirche, a stop in romantic Rothenburg, a woodcarving demonstration in the Black Forest, and a visit to Heidelberg Castle. Of course a visit to King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle has been included as well.
Overnights: 2 nights Frankfurt, 1 night Cologne, 2 nights Berlin, 1 night Nuremberg, 1 night Munich, 2 nights Oberammergau, 1 night Black Forest
Meals: 10 buffet breakfasts; 8 three-course dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners in Frankfurt
Hotels:
FRANKFURT Sheraton Congress, COLOGNE Renaissance, BERLIN Mövenpick, NUREMBERG NH Nürnberg-City, MUNICH Clarion Ambiance Rivoli or Holiday Inn City North, OBERAMMERGAU Böld, BLACK FOREST Carlton at Donaueschingen
Included features:
FRANKFURT: Welcome and farewell dinners

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	<p>RHINE CRUISE REMAGEN: Picture stop COLOGNE: Visit the cathedral COLOGNE-BERLIN: By Eurocity Train (first-class) BERLIN: Guided sightseeing, visit Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church LEIPZIG: Orientation including Bach's Thomaskirche NUREMBERG: Orientation incl the Old Town and St.Sebald Church ROTHENBURG: Orientation MUNICH: Guided sightseeing, visit Marienplatz OBERAMMERGAU: Excursion to Neuschwanstein including a guided visit of King Ludwig's Castle LINDAU: Lunch stop BIRNAU: Visit the baroque church BLACK FOREST: Woodcarving demonstration HEIDELBERG: Orientation of the Old Town, visit the castle Per Day Cost: \$212.00 per person</p>
<p>Globus Special Deals</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive \$125 per person off the Cruise only price of any 2009 Globus or Avalon River cruise 2. Receive \$300 per person off the Air Inclusive price of any 2009 Globus or Avalon River Cruise. Book & Deposit from 14May08 to 30Sep08. 3. Receive \$100 per person off on the air-inclusive price on 2009 Globus and Monograms Italy vacations. Book & deposit from September 17 to October 17, 2008 For travel Dec 31, 2009 4. Receive \$200 off per person on the Air Inclusive price on all 2009 Globus and Monograms Hawaii & South Pacific vacations. Book & Deposit from August 13, 2008 – September 30,2008. For travel through December 31, 2009. 5. Receive \$500 off per person on the Air Inclusive price on the 2009 "Treasures of Japan and China" vacation. Book & Deposit from August 13, 2008 – September 30, 2008. For travel through December 31, 2009. 6. Receive \$200 off per person on the Air Inclusive price on all 2009 Globus, Monograms or Avalon South American vacations. Book & Deposit from August 13, 2008 – October 31, 2008. For travel through December 31, 2009. 7. Receive \$75 off per person on the land portion of any 2009 Globus, Cosmos, Monograms and Avalon bookings of 5, 6 and 7 passengers. Book & Deposit between Jun04-Dec31, 2008. Any 2009 Departure, commencing before Dec31, 2009. 8. Receive \$100 per person on the air inclusive price of 2009 Globus Portugal Cruise. Book & Deposit from July 22, 2008 to October 07, 2008 For travel through October 31, 2009.

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