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Beautiful places near me

The landscapes of Germany are at once charming, bewitching, and staggeringly pretty: alpine peaks, mysterious forests, white Rococo churches, villages lined with timbered houses, and castles that seem almost too majestic to be real. From the mountains to the cities, and everywhere in between, here are some of the most beautiful sites in Germany.By Caitlin Morton and Katherine LaGraveSeptember 15, 2017Hidden in Kromlau's Rhododendron Park, Rakotzbrücke is a 19th-century bridge that creates a perfect stone circle when reflected in the waters below it. Rakotzbrücke is often referred to as "Devil's Bridge," since the structure seems so impossible that it must have been built by, well, the Devil.This former Benedictine abbey, founded in 1093, is best known for its exquisite Rococo library, with statues, columns, and sweeping ceiling fresco.In the Berchtesgaden Alps near the Austrian border (about 18 miles south of Salzburg), Königssee is an alpine lake with crystal-clear water, quiet boat rides, and charming St. Bartholomä church with its (very German) adjacent beer garden.Rothenburg ob der Tauber, well-known for its preserved medieval old town, draws millions of tourists each year with its made-for-Instagram multicolored facades.More than 600 feet above the Elbe River, the Bastei Bridge is one of the most famous (and most scenic) features in Saxon Switzerland National Park.Built in 1886, Neuschwanstein is one of the most popular castles in all of Europe—and not just because it served as inspiration for Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland. The majestic structure has a clifftop location and ornate rooms that attract 1.4 million visitors every year.Zugspitze is the highest peak in Germany, with an altitude of over 9,700 feet. Cable cars will take you to the summit, where you can enjoy restaurants, a beer garden, and some of the best views of the Alps.With its bright colors and exuberant frescoes, the UNESCO-listed Church of Wies is a masterpiece of Rococo architecture—with the added bonus of a scenic Alpine setting.This skinny island seven miles out into the North Sea is like a whole other country, with rolling heathered dunes, unique bio-diversity, beach saunas, and the surrounding Wadden Sea.Germany's largest Gothic church took more than seven centuries to construct, and it's hard to argue the remarkable behemoth wasn't worth the time and effort. The cathedral's major attractions are its dual spires, stained glass murals, and Shrine of the Three Kings, which is said to hold the remains of the Three Wise Men.With a length of 1,180 feet and height of 330 feet, this bridge is not exactly for the weak of heart. But its stunning Hunsrück setting might inspire you to face your fears.The former royal palace of the Bavarian monarchs has served as a museum since 1920, showcasing art collections, exquisite decorations and furnishings, and lavish playgrounds of the royals (like the Cuvillies Theatre, pictured).Germany's largest island, Rügen has Baltic beaches, chalk-white cliffs, and a number of luxurious seaside resorts.Having been featured in Hollywood films The Reader, Inglourious Basterds, The Grand Budapest Hotel, and more, this small city—the most easterly town in Germany—is well known for its beauty.Harz National Park is located within Germany's most northern mountain range, and is one of the country's most popular areas for outdoor activities like walking and skiing.This picturesque town in northern Bavaria is known for its architecture (a large part of it has been designated a World Heritage site since 1993) and its Romanesque Bamberg Cathedral, which dates back to the 11th century.With an elevation of 5,949 feet, Schrecksee is Germany's highest alpine lake. Hiking up here will take about seven to eight hours, but the views are worth it. (Austria, whose border is some 1,000 feet away, is visible.)An ensemble of five museums, Museum Island is actually on another island, Spree, in the Mitte district. Built between 1824 and 1930, it became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999.Talk about being Instagram famous. This hairpin, 180-degree bend of the river Saar is one of the most famous sights in the German state of Saarland.Once the festival arena of the Dresden Court, the Baroque Zwinger Palace today houses an Old Masters gallery, the Dresden porcelain collection, and the Royal Cabinet of Mathematical and Physical Instruments.Along the 121-mile German section of the Mosel River, visitors will find medieval villages, steep, terraced vineyards, and traditional German taverns.Meaning "blue pot," Blautopf is a spring that feeds into the River Blau. Pretty as it is, it's just for looking: Swimming and diving here are restricted to all but a few organizations.This Bavarian village in the Püttlach valley is postcard-perfect, so much so that it's previously been featured on Germany postage stamps.At 2,305 feet long with walls that rise to 263 feet at their highest, this gorge—about an hour south of Munich—is one of the country's most popular hiking spots. Skip to main contentThink of this as your starting point to the most epic cross-country trip ever.May 9, 2018If you've ever done a road trip across the U.S., you've probably stepped away thinking: How can one country look like that? No state is the same, and each has its stars, the kind of sights that make you catch your breath and nearly veer off the highway. Alaska's glaciers. Arizona's canyons. Arkansas's Ozarks. And that's only the As... What about the the coasts, from Big Sur to Kauai? Or the Kansas prairie? The geography of America is as diverse as it is photogenic; and if you're from here, it kind of makes you proud, knowing this is home. Picking just 50 places isn't easy, but we polled our Facebook followers, did some digging, and came up with this list of the must-see, must-visit spots in each state. Of course, it only begins to scrape the surface of what this country has to offer—so consider it your starting point, and start exploring. This site is not available in your country Getty There are so many amazing places around the globe to see, we couldn't possibly include them all in just one list. But, these breathtaking destinations are definitely worth bumping to the top of your travel bucket list - whether you're looking to relax on a beach, get off the grid or explore a city. From: Harper's Bazaar Advertisement - Continue Reading Below Oia, Santorini, Greece All of the Greek islands are undeniably beautiful, but head to the hillside town of Oia for some of the best views of the bright blue Aegean Sea. Japan, During Cherry Blossom Season While Japan is beautiful year-round, the few weeks each spring when cherry trees across the country explode with blossoms is a particularly pretty time to visit. Marrakesh, Morocco Located at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, Marrakesh has changed little since the Middle Ages. You could spend days here wandering around maze-like alleyways discovering the city's colorful souks, palaces and gardens. Bora Bora, French Polynesia With turquoise lagoons, coral reefs and overwater bungalows, this small island in the South Pacific is basically heaven on Earth. Tamil Nadu, India Most travelers head to North India for its Mughal palaces and forts, but the Southern state of Tamil Nadu is where most of the country's major Hindu temples are found, including the brightly-colored Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple seen here and the Meenakshi Temple Complex, which is so large it's considered a mini-city. Torres del Paine National Park, Chile If you're looking to get off the grid, head to Chile's Patagonia region for some of the most beautiful mountain views you'll ever see. Forbidden City, Beijing, China Located in the center of Beijing, the Forbidden City was the imperial palace of China's emperors for five centuries and is one of the most beautifully preserved examples of ancient Chinese architecture. Amalfi Coast, Italy There are so many beautiful places in Italy it's hard to pick just one—but the Amalfi Coast's idyllic hillside towns, like Positano, bump it to the top of our must-see list. Krabi, Thailand Located on southern Thailand's west coast, this province's coastline is dotted with limestone cliffs and hundreds of islands just offshore in the Andaman Sea, making it one of the world's most popular beach vacation destinations. Fiordland National Park, New Zealand Each year starting in the end of November and peaking in early December, fields of bright purple Russell Lupins bloom across New Zealand's South Island. One of the most beautiful spots to go Lupin-spotting is in Fiordland National Park, home to the equally gorgeous Milford Sound. Bagan, Myanmar This ancient city in central Myanmar is made up of thousands (yes, thousands) of Buddhist temples and pagodas. One of the prettiest views is from above — we recommend going for a hot air balloon ride at sunrise. Havasu Falls, Arizona Before you can swim in these beautiful blue-green waters located near Grand Canyon National Park, you have to hike ten miles to get there. Trust us, it's totally worth the trek. Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE With 82 domes and enough room to accommodate 40,000 worshippers, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is not only one of the largest mosques in the world but also one of the most beautiful with a marble courtyard featuring mosaics of flowers native to the Middle East. Lisbon, Portugal Situated on a series of hills over the Tagus River, Portugal's scenic capital is brimming with magnificent views, pastel-colored buildings and charming yellow streetcars. Fernando de Noronha, Brazil While the rest of the world descends upon Rio for the Olympics, head to this remote volcanic archipelago (located about 200 miles off Brazil's coast) that is famous for pristine white-sand beaches and crystal-clear waters filled with sea turtles and dolphins. St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow, Russia Legend has it that after St. Basil's Cathedral was completed in the 16th century, Ivan the Terrible had the architect blinded to prevent him from creating anything as stunning ever again. Cape Town, South Africa It might take nearly a full day of travel to reach Cape Town, but the city's sweeping vistas from Table Mountain and miles of beaches are totally worth the long haul. Blue Lagoon, Iceland Located southwest of Reykjavik, Iceland's famous Blue Lagoon gets its trademark color from the silica-rich waters that feed it. And it isn't just pretty—the geothermal water is great for your skin too. Sossusvlei, Namibia Located in Namibia's coastal desert, the remote Sossusvlei region is home to the world's tallest sand dunes including one that is nearly a quarter-mile high. Paris, France It's hard not to fall in love with a city like Paris. Every arrondissement is full of postcard-worthy architecture, idyllic city parks seem to outnumber the people...and the food! Even that's beautiful—macarons, anyone? Hawa Mahal, Jaipur, India While Jaipur is known as the "Pink City" for the trademark color of its buildings, Hawa Mahal, which translates to Palace of the Winds, is one of the most beautiful examples of the city's rosy-hued architecture. New York City, New York We couldn't help adding our hometown to this list. While New York is undeniably noisy and crowded, don't knock it until you've watched the sunset over the Manhattan skyline—which is just plain beautiful. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Getty The Golden State stretches 840 miles long, boasting a truly diverse range of geography. Whether you want to hit the beach, the desert, the mountains, or even an urban city, you can find it all among these most-gorgeous-of-all destinations. Who's down for a road trip?! 1 of 15 Lake Tahoe 2 of 15 Napa Valley The rolling hills in California's wine region includes more than 400 wineries and is best viewed by hot air balloon. After your ride, explore downtown Napa, which is filled with acclaimed restaurants and late-1800s and early-1900s architecture. For the ultimate luxury experience, book a stay at Meadowood. The 250-acre private estate features on-site hiking trails, tennis, a world-class spa, a three-Michelin star restaurant, and even a croquet lawn. BOOK NOW Meadowood Napa Valley 3 of 15 Santa Barbara Mediterranean-style oceanfront villas line the coast of this town, which has three major beaches and countless hiking trails. After a day outside, explore the famous State Street in the heart of downtown, which has 300 shops and the vibe of an open-air European market. BOOK NOW The Biltmore 4 of 15 The Cypress "Tree Tunnel" Between the Pacific Ocean and Tomales Bay is this beautiful road called the "tree tunnel," thanks to branches that interlock together at the top. This spot is a local favorite as it's rather secluded (which is good news for your "gram!).BOOK NOW Rancho Caymus Inn 5 of 15 Griffith Park Even though the Griffith Observatory has an impressive planetarium inside, it's the park outside—which covers 4,107 acres and offers prime views of the Hollywood sign and downtown Los Angeles—that will truly take your breath away. No wonder this location had a starring role in La La Land. BOOK NOW Hotel Bel Air 6 of 15 The "Glass Beach" This beach isn't covered in white sand, but instead round pieces of glass, which are the result of years of waves pounding on a former garbagecliffs at the most northern spot of the beach.BOOK NOW Surf & Sand Lodge 7 of 15 Death Valley National Park Despite its bleak name (given by gold prospectors struggling to cross it in 1849), this national park is the largest south of Alaska and contains the lowest elevation point in North America, at 282 feet below sea level. Zabriskie Point is the most popular place to view the wonder from a distance.BOOK NOW The Ranch at Death Valley 8 of 15 Big Sur The Pacific Coast Highway provides some of the most scenic views of the jagged cliffs and stunning ocean along this 90-mile stretch of land. Many people take in these sights by road trip, stopping the see the purple sand at Pfeiffer Beach and staying in a yurt along the way. BOOK NOW Ventana Big Sur 9 of 15 Bowling Ball Beach The spherical shape of the rocks on this beach, which is part of Schooner Gulch State Beach near Mendocino, is the result of millions of years of concretion and erosion. Each one is roughly four to five feet in diameter and are best admired at low tide. BOOK NOW Honor Mansion 10 of 15 Yosemite National Park This park in the Sierra Nevada mountains is famous for its ginormous sequoia trees and five waterfalls that are over 1,000 feet tall. While visiting, you can pick between the 13 campgrounds in the park or, if that's not your style, stay at the appropriately-named Majestic Yosemite Hotel.BOOK NOW Majestic Yosemite Hotel 11 of 15 Mossbrae Falls This spring-fed waterfall in northern California near Dunsmuir flows into the Sacramento River. But it's the moss-covered canyon walls that makes this 50-foot-tall and 175-foot-wide stunner memorable. Arnold Schwarzenegger even took George W. Bush to see these falls years ago.BOOK NOW Dunsmuir Inn & Suites Hotel 12 of 15 Carlsbad Ranch The ranunculus fields in Carlsbad feature a whopping 50 acres of vibrant flowers and are at their peak bloom from early March through early May. We recommend having lunch at one of the picnic tables sprinkled around the fields after strolling through the rows.BOOK NOW Park Hyatt Aviara 13 of 15 Joshua Tree National Park This rugged California park is famous for its Joshua trees, which legend says were named by Mormon travelers in honor of the biblical figure. Rock climbers come from all over the world to tackle this terrain, but the panorama from the 5,185-foot-high Keys View is just as memorable.BOOK NOW Desert Riviera Hotel 14 of 15 Golden Gate Bridge This best way to see this suspension bridge in all its glory is by renting a bike near Fisherman's Wharf, then trekking across it on two wheels. We recommend taking a pit stop in the little town of Sausalito for lunch next to the water afterward, then taking the ferry back.BOOK NOW Cavallo Point 15 of 15 Shell Beach This stretch of sand tucked halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco is located in the town of Pismo BeachHotel Cheval

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