

48 hours in...

FREIBURG

Nestled beside the Black Forest, Germany's sunniest city is fantastic for a weekend break

WHY FREIBURG?

The warm weather coupled with a passion for good, local food gives Freiburg an almost Mediterranean feel. In spring and summer the pretty cobbled squares come alive with people eating, drinking, shopping and playing in the Bächle – a network of narrow streams flowing through the streets. Take note, though, local legend says that unmarried visitors who step in the Bächle must return and wed a Freiburger. The city is also a perfect base for exploring the beautiful Black Forest. In fact, you can find yourself within the forest in a matter of minutes by walking up Schlossberg, a wooded hill beside the city centre.



The Bächle range from narrow gulleys to metres in width

WHAT TO SEE

The best way to find your bearings is with a guided city tour. Cittalino is a little local company offering a fun and fascinating insight. Tours usually take in the handsome old and new town halls on Rathausplatz and impressive cathedral on Münsterplatz. Don't miss the open-air farmers' market. It surrounds the cathedral every day except Sunday, but is at its liveliest on Saturdays when the fresh fruit and veg, breads, teas, spices and hot sausages fill the square with scent and colour. Do as the locals do and shop while munching on butter pretzels or a lange rote – Freiburg's famous red wurst.



Browse the wares at the farmers' market

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

For sensational scenery and a typical Black Forest setting there's nowhere better than Freiburg's local mountain – Schauinsland. It's just a short tram and bus ride from the centre to the lower station, then a 20-minute cable car trip over the fir trees to the mountaintop where there are remarkable 360-degree views across Freiburg, the Rhine Valley and the Alps. You can gain even more height by climbing the 31m viewing tower. Have a bite to eat on the sun terrace of the Bergstation cafe and restaurant – the views from here are only surpassed by the generous portions of Black Forest Gateau.



Hit the heights on the cable car

Schauinsland offers picture-perfect panoramas



TRADITIONAL TREATS

Of course, the Black Forest's most famous treat has to be the eponymous gateau. The best ones are big and boozy, with plenty of kirsch (cherry liqueur) in the cake, cream and cherry filling. You'll find versions of it in most cafes and bakeries here, but for a particularly elegant cake break it has to be Cafe Graf Anton at Colombi Hotel.



How could you resist?

Getaways

WINE TIME

Freiburg is one of Germany's major wine cities and is surrounded by fertile vineyards. You could journey westwards into the wine districts of Tuniberg and Kaiserstuhl for tours and tastings, or stay in the city and visit Alte Wache beside the Cathedral, which serves wines from a range of Baden winemakers. From May onwards the drink of choice at Alte Wache is a cooling kalte Sofie – a crushed ice wine, best enjoyed while people-watching from one of the outdoor tables.

LOCAL BREWS

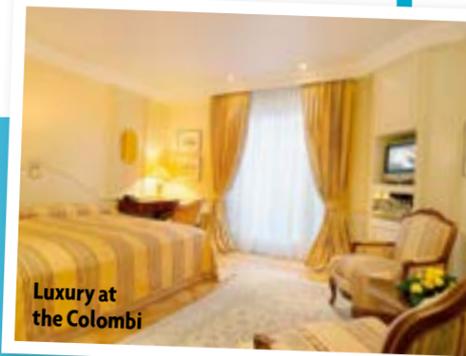
Germany is renowned for exceptional beer, and you'll find plenty in Freiburg's friendly inns, restaurants and microbreweries. Two of the best are Ganter Brauereiaussschank, which occupies an enviable



location on Münsterplatz, and Hausbrauerei Feierling, which serves some of the best beer in the city and great local food. It is particularly popular in summer, so worth booking ahead. Schlappen, a rustic inn near Martinstor, is more casual. Simply roll up and enjoy the atmosphere, good-value food and a choice of over 100 whiskies.

WHERE TO STAY

The four-star Park Hotel Post is ideally located just a five-minute walk from the station and nudging at the edges of the old town. Double rooms from £120 per night; park-hotel-post.de. Or splash out at the five-star Colombi Hotel, which is home to a Michelin-starred restaurant. Double rooms from £180 per night; colombi.de



Luxury at the Colombi

TRAVEL TIPS

- ◆ A Tageskarte (day ticket) for all the city's museums is great value at just £5.60 each. Be sure to visit Augustiner Museum, considered by some to be Freiburg's finest.
- ◆ Explore the city on foot, but wear flat, comfortable shoes as the cobbles, tramlines and Bächle in the centre are not heel-friendly.
- ◆ Browse the pretty little independent shops of Fischerau along the canal, and the boutiques of Konviktstrasse, but remember that most shops will be closed on Sunday.

BOOK IT!

EasyJet (easyjet.com) flies from Edinburgh, Manchester, Bristol, London Luton and London Gatwick to Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg airport taking between 90 minutes and two hours. Use the 'France' exit of the airport to catch the shuttle bus for a 50-minute journey into Freiburg. ◆ For more information, visit freiburg.de

Words: Wendy Johnson Photos: Alamy, iStockphoto.com, Rex, Robert Harding Prices correct at time of writing