

Black Forest Rail Discovery

Tour Style: Rail Adventures

Destination: Germany

Trip code: BSLEL

1 & 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Black Forest's fairytale landscape enchants with wooded hills, wildflower meadows, and medieval towns and cities that look lifted straight from the pages of a storybook. Be wowed by the brightly painted houses and cobblestone squares of eco-friendly Freiburg, and marvel at the mighty cascades of one of Germany's biggest waterfalls, the Triberg. But it's not just the sights you'll see that are special, equally rewarding is how you get there. Soak up spectacular views as we hop between high peaks using the handy cable car network, glide across Titisee Lake by boat, and experience a ride on the seriously scenic Höllental railway.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return rail travel from London to Hinterzarten
- Fully escorted travel from London with an HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Half-board accommodation
- Excursions led by a local HF Holidays leader
- Guided tour of Freiburg and the library of St Peter's Abbey
- Return cable car journeys
- Guided tour of the Black Forest Museum
- Boat ride on Titisee

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring the picture-postcard city of Freiburg
- Admiring the cascading Triberg Waterfalls
- A guided tour of St Peter's Abbey library
- Riding Germany's longest cable car, the Schauinslandbahn
- Soaking up the views on the Feldberg cable car
- Travelling by boat over the crystal-clear waters of Titisee

ITINERARY

Day 1: LONDON TO HINTERZARTEN BY TRAIN

Meet with your fellow travellers and HF Holidays Tour Manager at London St Pancras International railway station where we'll check in for our Eurostar train to Paris. Your HF Holidays Tour Manager will be on hand throughout the journey. Once we reach Paris, there's a short walk to Gare de l'Est (about 800 metres) where we'll catch the high-speed TGV train to Karlsruhe in Germany. We'll change trains to Freiburg and change again for a train to Hinterzarten, our final destination in the heart of the Black Forest. Our hotel is just across from the train station. Enjoy a welcome drink before dinner.

Day 2: FREIBURG

We'll travel to Freiburg by train to discover this postcard-pretty medieval city on a guided walking tour. Find out about the city's history as we make our way through the old town, visiting the Freiburg Minster and Munsterplatz (main square). The afternoon's yours to explore as you wish – grab a bite to eat from one of the many pavement-side cafés and soak up this enchanting fairytale-like city.

Day 3: ST PETER

We'll use public transport to travel to St Peter, travelling first to Kirchzarten by train then on to St Peter by bus. This small, charming village has one major draw, its historic 11th-century abbey. There's a guided tour of the library before some free time for lunch. In the afternoon, we'll have the chance to walk the pilgrim's route to Maria Lindenberg church (2.8km). If you don't fancy the walk, you can head back to Hinterzarten with your HF Holidays Tour Manager while the local leader guides the walk.

Day 4: SCHAUINSLAND

Today we'll take the train to Freiburg, on part of the Höllentalbahn ("Hell Valley Railway") which passes through the dramatic Dreisam River valley. Once we arrive, we'll catch the tram and bus to Schauinslandbahn Valley station where a cable car (the longest in Germany) will take you to the summit. At the top, there's plenty to admire, from viewpoints and hiking trails to a tower with wow-worthy views. Afterwards, we'll travel back to Hinterzarten.

Day 5: FREE DAY

Enjoy Hinterzarten and the surrounding area on your free day. You'll be given a card that entitles you to free public transport so you can easily explore the Black Forest.

You could take a short train ride to Schluchsee to walk along the lake to Aha or walk in the Ravenna Gorge. See more of what's on the Höllentalbahn to the east of Hinterzarten, visit the Black Forest Ski Museum, or even travel further afield to the spa town of Baden Baden.

Day 6: TRIBERG

An hour's private transfer will take us to Triberg where we'll begin our day at the cascading Triberg Waterfalls. Then, we'll delve into history and culture at the Black Forest Museum, after which you'll have the choice of a walk around the falls or free time. The afternoon's yours to sightsee as you wish. Make sure you check out the local crafts – cuckoo clocks are the town's speciality.

Day 7: FELDBERG

A train and bus will take us to Feldberg, the highest peak in the Black Forest, where a cable car will lift us straight up to the summit. As you climb, panoramic views over dense forest, charming villages, and rolling hills will grab your attention. You can then walk back down (1.5km) or take the cable car.

Afterwards, we'll board a local bus to Titisee for a relaxing boat trip across the lake before exploring the village.

Day 8: DEPARTURE DAY

After breakfast, we'll board the train to Freiburg, changing again at Karlsruhe for the TGV back to Paris. From here there's a short walk to Gare du Nord (about 800 metres) where we'll get the Eurostar to St Pancras International.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Schwarzwaldhof, Hinterzarten - Black Forest

This small, family-run hotel in the centre of Hinterzarten has 26 bedrooms, each with an en-suite, TV, hairdryer, and safe. There's even a sauna and steam bath you can use, plus an impressive wine cellar. Its location opposite the train station is ideal for exploring more of the Black Forest.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Hotel Schwarzwaldhof
Freiburger Strasse 2
79856 Hinterzarten
Germany

Tel: 0049 (0)7652 12030

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Rail)

Book your holiday 'with rail' and travel on Eurostar and onward trains with the group.

Notes For Rail Travellers

Rail travel will be from St Pancras International Station, London and onward to Hinterzarten via Paris, Karlsruhe

and Freiburg.

Your group meeting point at St Pancras will be the Sir John Betjeman statue on the upper level of the station 2 hours before departure time. Here you will join the rest of your group and meet your HF Tour Manager who will guide you throughout your journey. You will then make your way to the ticket gate as a group.

A suitcase with wheels is strongly recommended as you will be responsible for carrying and lifting your luggage on all parts of the journey. All luggage will be scanned at the departure gate and needs to be clearly labelled. You will need to be responsible for your luggage and belongings at all stages of your journey so it's advisable to have it within eyesight when travelling on the trains and be extra vigilant when moving through busy railway stations. Please refer to the website below for the latest information on luggage requirements for your journey and trip information: <https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en>

Joining Instructions (Without Rail)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without rail', allowing you the freedom to book your own travel. If you choose this option, you will meet your Tour Manager and fellow travellers at the hotel on arrival day at 19.30 where we will meet together for a welcome drink before dinner.

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat

- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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