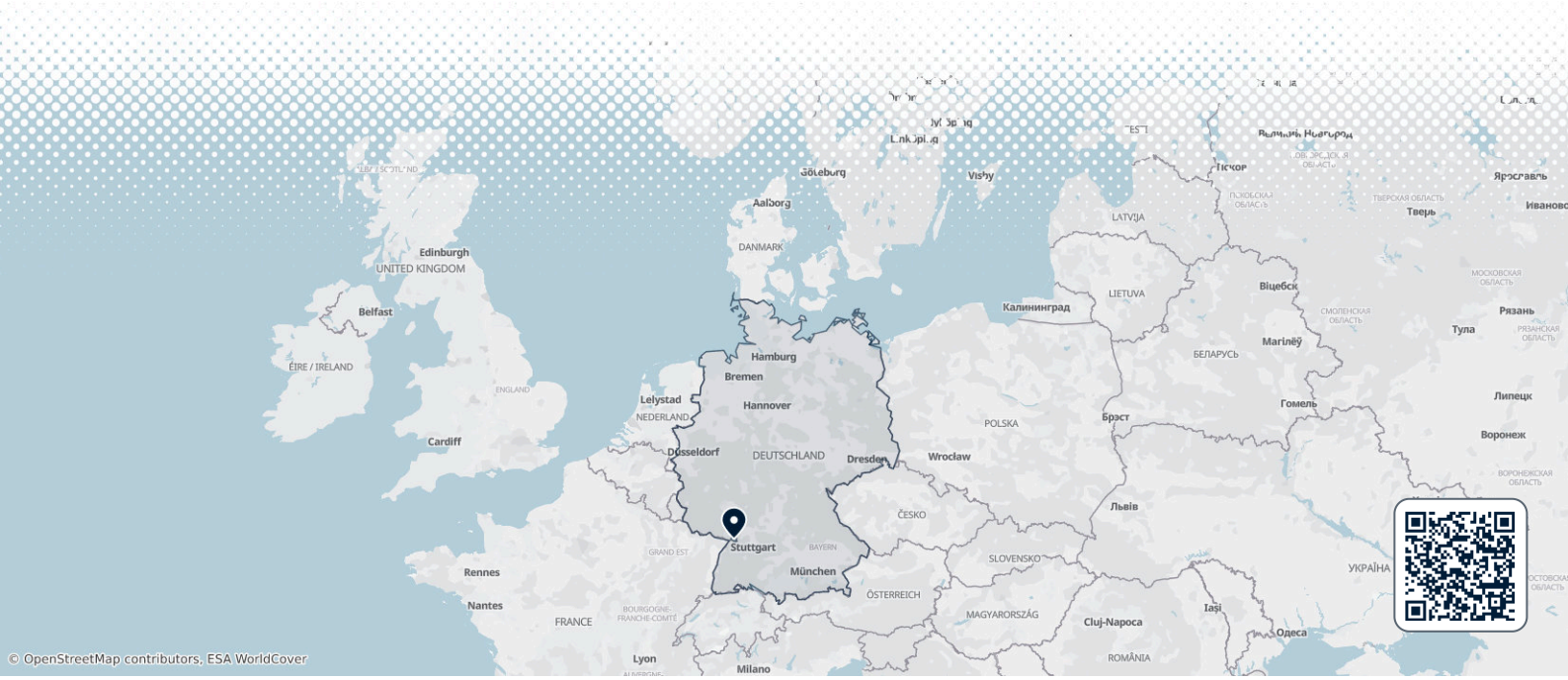


Karlsruhe

Baden-Württemberg · Germany

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Karlsruhe is a planned city in the south-west of Germany, near the Rhine and the French border. The city is green, flat and easy to get around.

It is known for its courts, its technology university and its media art. Karlsruhe suits a short stay of one to three nights. It works well as a base for Baden-Baden, Heidelberg, Strasbourg and the northern Black Forest.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times. Summer is warm and sunny, with some hot days. Winters are grey and cold, with frost on many nights.

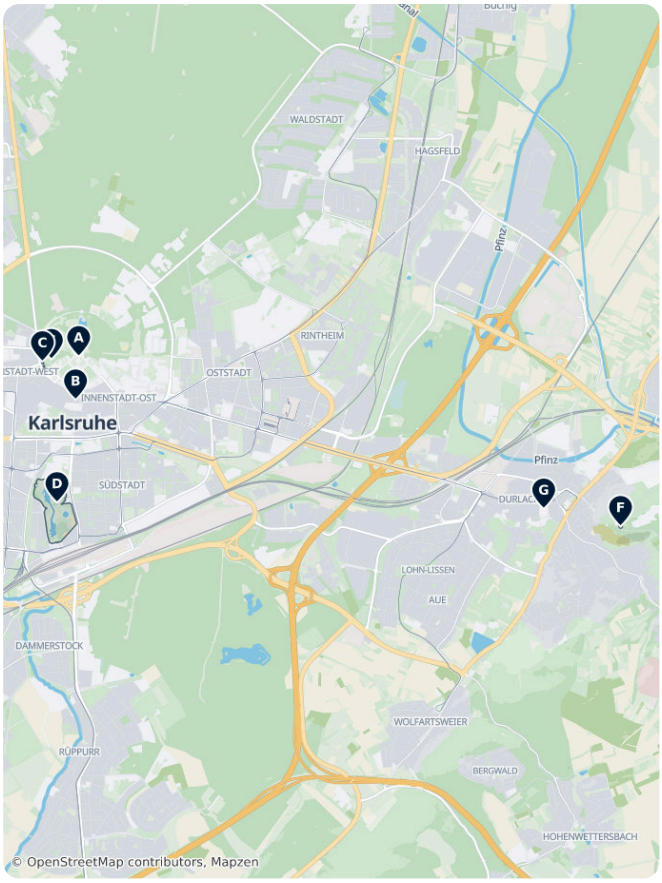
Das Fest is a large open-air music festival in July. Book rooms early for that weekend.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 0°	-1° / -9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 2°	-1° / -8°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 19° Feels like 7°	2° / -4°	Dry air
April	Great Great for cycling	16° / 25° Feels like 13°	5° / -1°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	14° / 9°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 35°	15° / 11°	14 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 35°	15° / 11°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	11° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for cycling	10° / 16° Feels like 6°	3° / -3°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like 1°	0° / -8°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Schloss Karlsruhe stands at the centre of the fan-shaped plan. The Badisches Landesmuseum is inside.
- B Pyramide is a stone pyramid on the Marktplatz. It marks the grave of the city's founder and is the city's emblem.
- C Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe is a major art museum with European painting. It is a short walk from the palace.
- ZKM, the Centre for Art and Media, is in a former weapons factory. It shows media art and technology. It is a good choice on a rainy day.
- D Zoologischer Stadtgarten is a city garden with a zoo, opened in 1865. It has a Japanese garden.
- E Botanischer Garten is the city's botanical garden, next to the palace.
- F Turmberg is a wooded hill in the Durlach district, with views over the Rhine plain. The Turmbergbahn funicular runs up the hill, or you can climb the steps.
- G Karlsburg is a palace in Durlach.

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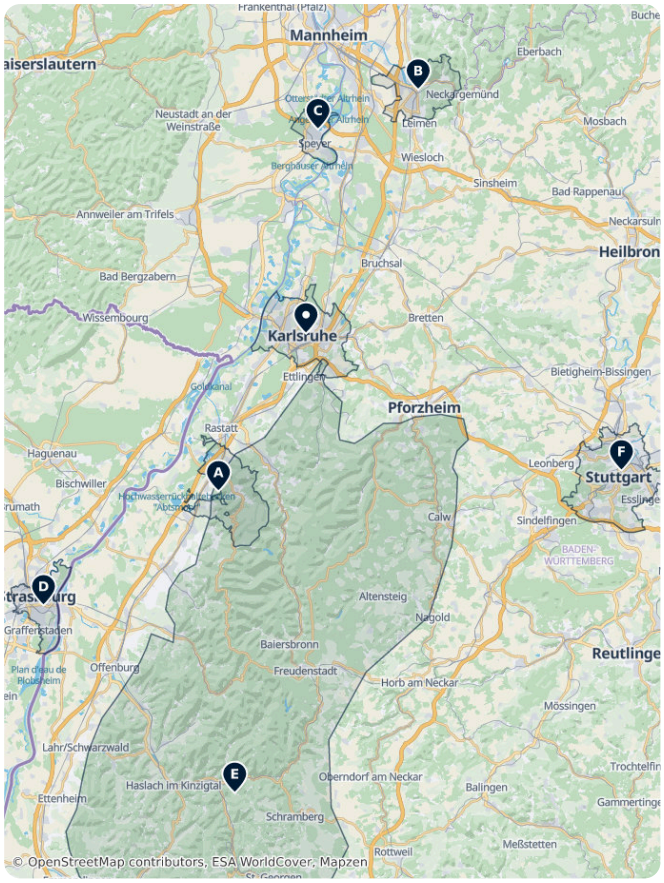
What to experience

- Ride the Turmbergbahn funicular up the Turmberg in Durlach. It has run since 1888.
- Ride a tram-train out of the city into the countryside. The same vehicle runs on city tracks and on regional rail lines.
- Join the Christkindlesmarkt in Advent.
- See the Schlosslichtspiele, a light festival around the palace.

Day trips

Karlsruhe has good rail links to the cities of the Upper Rhine. Closer places come first.

- A Baden-Baden: A spa town at the edge of the Black Forest. Visit the thermal baths and walk in the park along the river.
- B Heidelberg: A university town with a ruined castle above the Neckar river. Allow about 1 hour by train.
- C Speyer: A small city on the Rhine with a large Romanesque cathedral.
- D Strasbourg: An Alsatian city with a Gothic cathedral and canal-side old quarter.
- Maulbronn: A UNESCO World Heritage monastery east of the city. A car makes this trip easier.
- E Black Forest: Forest trails, valleys and spa towns start just south of the city.
- F Stuttgart: The state capital, with museums and car collections.



Where to explore

These places work for a longer trip in the south-west.

- **South**: Freiburg im Breisgau, a university town at the edge of the Black Forest. Triberg is a Black Forest town known for its waterfalls.
- **Lake Constance**: Konstanz and Lake Constance for a lake break.

Getting there

- **By air**: Baden-Airpark, in Rheinmünster, is about 45 km from the city. It has mainly low-cost and holiday flights. See Baden-Airpark. Frankfurt Airport is a larger gateway with long-distance trains to Karlsruhe.
- **By train**: Karlsruhe Hauptbahnhof is on the main line through the Rhine valley. ICE trains run to Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Freiburg and Basel. Direct TGV and ICE trains run to Strasbourg and Paris. Trams stop in front of the station. Book on Deutsche Bahn.

Getting around

- **Public transport**: KVV runs trams, buses and tram-trains. Tram-trains continue from the city streets onto regional rail lines. Buy tickets in the KVV.regiomove app or in person at KVV sales points. See KVV.
- On foot: The centre is compact and flat. Most sights around the palace are within a 15-minute walk.
- By bike: The city is flat, and cycling is practical.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is compact and flat, and most sights are close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The city is flat and cycling is practical.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city. The centre is compact and trams are quick. A car helps for the Black Forest and for Maulbronn.
- **Parking**: Use multi-storey car parks near the centre. Kaiserstraße, the main shopping street, is a pedestrian zone.

Food & drink

Baden cooking is hearty and close to Alsace. Look for Flammkuchen, Spätzle and Maultaschen. Wine from Baden goes with most dishes. Asparagus is a spring favourite.

Durlach old town has taverns and cafés.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Doner Kebab · Döner Kebab
A sandwich of roasted meat, salad, and sauce in flatbread, invented by Turkish immigrants in Berlin and now a national staple.

DINNER

Schnitzel
A thin, breaded and fried cutlet, usually pork, served with potatoes or fries and a lemon wedge.

Sauerbraten
A pot roast marinated for days in vinegar and spices before slow cooking, served with red cabbage and dumplings.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Bratwurst
A grilled or fried pork sausage, often served in a bread roll with mustard, sold at stands nationwide.

Currywurst
Sliced sausage topped with curry-spiced ketchup, a Berlin invention now popular across the country.

Pretzel · Brezel
A large, chewy salted bread pretzel, especially common in Bavaria, often eaten with butter or cheese.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Black Forest Cake · Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
A layered chocolate sponge cake with cherries, cherry liqueur, and whipped cream.

DRINKS

Beer · Bier
Germany brews hundreds of regional styles, from Bavarian Weissbier to Cologne's Kölsch, each tied to its home city.

Gluhwein · Glühwein
Mulled, spiced red wine served hot, a staple of winter and Christmas markets.

Apfelschorle
Apple juice mixed with sparkling water, the everyday non-alcoholic drink of choice.

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Safety & health

Karlsruhe is very safe for visitors. Petty theft, such as pickpocketing, happens in crowds, at the station and at big events.

History

Karlsruhe is young for a German city. Margrave *Charles III William* founded it in 1715, and the palace came first. He planned 32 streets that spread out from the palace tower like a fan. The Pyramide later became his tomb.

Before that, the ruling family lived in Durlach. You can still see this past at Karlsburg. Karlsruhe grew as a capital and a centre of law and science. Today the Federal Constitutional Court and the Federal Court of Justice sit here.

Karl Benz, who built an early automobile, and *Karl Drais*, who invented an early two-wheeler, were both born in Karlsruhe. The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology grew from a polytechnic school founded in 1825.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Germany at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

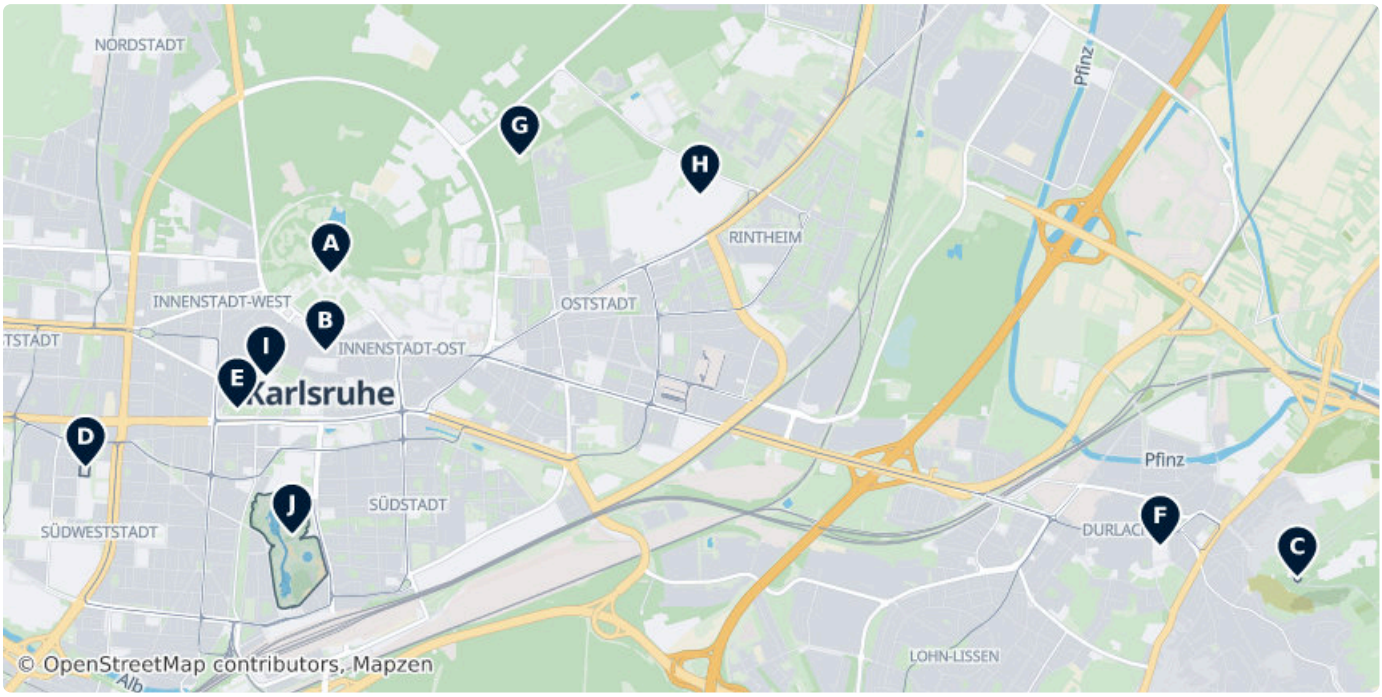
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
German

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Karlsruhe Heritage Highlights

This route links Karlsruhe's principal heritage sites: the 1715 Baroque Karlsruhe Palace with its central market pyramid tomb; the Erbgroßherzogliches Palais on Kriegsstraße, home to the Bundesgerichtshof; the Großherzogliche Grabkapelle in the Fasanengarten and the Bürklin family mausoleum on the Hauptfriedhof. It also includes the ZKM contemporary art centre, the Badische Landesbibliothek (legal-deposit library), the Karlsburg in Durlach, the Turmberg ruin with panoramic viewpoints, and the Zoologischer Stadtgarten.





A Karlsruhe Palace

Karlsruhe Palace was built in 1715 for Margrave Charles III William of Baden-Durlach after a dispute with the citizens of his previous...

(49.01348, 8.40437)



B Pyramid

The Karlsruhe Pyramid is a pyramid made of red sandstone, located in the centre of the market square of Karlsruhe, Germany.

7 Karl-Friedrich-Straße, Karlsruhe 76133, Germany
(49.00923, 8.40391)

ka.stadtwiki.net/Pyramide



C Turmberg

The Turmberg is a hill located in Durlach, a suburb of Karlsruhe in Germany. It is home to a castle ruin.

24 Reichardtstraße, Durlach 76227, Germany
(48.99682, 8.48534)

Apr 16-Oct 14 Mo–Su	07:00–20:00
Oct 15-Apr 15 Mo–Su	09:00–16:00



D ZKM Lichthof 1+2

Contemporary art museum established in 1999 within the ZKM Centre for Art and Media; displays media art, large-scale installations and rotating exhibitions focused on art–technology intersections.

Lorenzstraße 9, 76135 Karlsruhe, DE (49.00285, 8.38382)

We–Fr	10:00–18:00
Sa–Su	11:00–18:00

zkm.de/museen/museum-fuer-neue-kunst, +49 721 81000



E Erbgroßherzogliches Palais

Late 19th-century grand-ducal city palace on Kriegsstraße; since 1950 the building houses the Federal Court of Justice (Bundesgerichtshof), retaining its representative façade and historic interior elements.

Kriegsstraße, Karlsruhe 76133, Germany
(49.00607, 8.39653)



F Karlsburg Castle

Karlsburg Castle in the Durlach district of Karlsruhe characterizes the history of the Baden since 1563.

Pfinztalstraße, 76227 Karlsruhe, Germany
(48.99853, 8.47385)



G Großherzogliche Grabkapelle

Neo-Romanesque grand-ducal burial chapel in the Fasanengarten, built 1889–1896 from Hermann Hemberger's plans after designs by Franz von Neumann; contains the Baden grand-ducal crypt.

76131, Germany (49.01993, 8.42019)

Apr-Oct Th	11:00–14:00
Apr-Oct Fr	14:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Sa–Su	13:00–17:00
Nov-Mar Mo–Su	Closed

grabkapelle-karlsruhe.de, +49 721 46722869

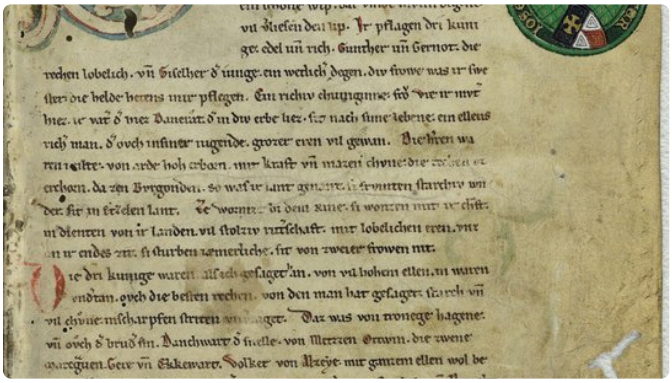


H Bürklin'sches Mausoleum

19th-century family mausoleum situated in the northeast section of Karlsruhe Main Cemetery (Hauptfriedhof); notable for its funerary architecture and sculpted tomb monuments.

Karlsruhe 76131, Germany (49.01780, 8.43530)

Mo–Fr	08:00–17:00
Sa–Su	09:00–16:00



I Baden State Library

The Baden State Library is a large universal library in Karlsruhe. Together with the Württembergische Landesbibliothek, the BLB is the legal...

Blumenstraße, 76133 Karlsruhe, Germany (49.00783, 8.39894)

Mo–Fr	09:00–19:00
Sa	10:00–18:00

blb-karlsruhe.de, +49 721 1752222



J Karlsruhe Zoo

The Karlsruhe Zoo is a city garden with a zoo in the southwest of Karlsruhe, Germany.

Ettlinger Straße 6, 76137 Karlsruhe, Germany (48.99915, 8.40113)

Mo–Su	09:00–dusk

zoo-karlsruhe.de, +49 721 133 6815

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