



ONLINE TRAVEL WORKSHOP BONUS:

Germany Ancestry Itinerary

WORKBOOK

**How to Plan Your Ancestry Trip
to Germany Without Overwhelm!**

*Discover my 6 Best-Kept Secrets to Walk in Your German
Ancestors' Footsteps and See Germany Like Never Before! 🤯*

www.MyAncestorsJourney.com

Welcome! (Willkommen!)

This workbook is your companion to my Live Online Travel workshop called *“How to Plan Your Ancestry Trip to Germany Without Overwhelm: Discover My 6 Best-Kept Secrets to Walk in Your German Ancestors’ Footsteps and See Germany Like Never Before!* 🤔”

How to Use This Workbook:

You don’t need to have everything figured out today.

The goal is simple:

- Create clarity
- Capture ideas
- Take the first calm planning steps

Use this workbook to gather your first ideas. Write by hand if you can. This is not about perfection. It’s about direction.

You already did the hardest part: discovering where your ancestors came from.

Now you turn that knowledge into a meaningful journey.

I am here to guide you along this journey. One step at a time. Until the day you can (literally) walk in your German ancestors’ footsteps yourself! 😊👣

All the best! (Alles Gute!)

Sonja from My Ancestor’s Journey

Secret No. 1 – The Priority Most People Miss

Planning a heritage trip can feel overwhelming. To make it manageable, start with the most important question first: What are your goals for this trip?

1. When you imagine being in Germany, what moments feel most important to you? Circle those that apply.

- Standing in your ancestral hometown
- Seeing the same places your ancestors saw
- Finding out more about your ancestors' lives
- Feeling and enjoying local German life
- Cross off Germany bucket list attractions
- A mix of everything

2. Gather ideas: What do you want to see, do and learn while in Germany?

3. Write down any additional ideas that come to mind and collect these “on the go”, for example in a paper journal or in a “Notes app” on your phone. Coming up with ideas is a process, it won’t be an “overnight fix”.

These ideas will guide every future trip planning decision.

Secret No. 2 – The Mapping Strategy Experts Use

Lists can create overwhelm. Maps create understanding. With a map, you can turn your floating ideas into a clear visual plan:

1. Your Known Ancestry Locations: Write down what you already know.

- Ancestral hometown(s) or region(s) in Germany
- Emigration port (if known)
- (Approximate) emigration year(s)

2. Your Wish List: Now write down places you feel drawn to:

- Cities or regions you've always wanted to see
- Cultural or historical interests
- Family stories connected to places

3. Mapping Prompt: On a map (digital or printed)

- Mark ancestral hometowns first
- Add wish-list destinations second

Secret No. 3 – The Itinerary Rule Nobody Shares

Rushed trips can feel disappointing. So plan for meaning, not speed. Also, ancestry travel can be quite emotional. So make sure you include some “breathing space” as well.

1. Reality Check. Answer honestly.

How many days do you have for your trip? _____ days

2. The Pacing Rule

Now that you have gathered a lot of ideas of what to do and see, you can map out each day. Keep in mind to prioritize your must-see spots, especially if you are short on time and add some downtime / buffer time to balance busy days with relaxing moments to just enjoy the local atmosphere.

To do: In a calendar or simple Word doc, note down what to do each day, where to stay and how to get from A to B.

3. Planning Prompts

For each ancestral location:

- Would this be a day trip or overnight stay?
- What might you want time for beyond “seeing it”?

For non-ancestral stops:

- Is this a must-see or a nice-to-have?

Secret No. 4 – The Stay-Location Mistake to Avoid

Choose your bases wisely. Where you sleep affects how every day feels.



1. Accommodation Preferences. Circle what matters most to you (but bear in mind there will be differences between staying in a big city vs. staying in a small (home)town, so you might want to do this exercise separately for the two.

- Comfort
- Walkability to sights you want to visit
- Quiet location
- Easy train (or other public transport) access
- Parking (if you have a rental car)
- Local atmosphere
- Luxury (spa etc.)



2. Planning Prompts: Now that you have a rough idea of your itinerary, decide:

- Which locations might be best as overnight bases?
- Which places might not need an overnight stay?



3. To do: Write a list where you want to stay for which part of your journey (consider proximity to train stations, city centers, attractions etc.) and check availability early.

Tip: My 6-week online course “Revisit Germany” (see page 9) includes itinerary templates and lists of familiar and special accommodation ideas (for example ships or castles). 😊

Secret No. 5 – The Context Changes Everything

When history is about your ancestors, it can become very personal. Try to prepare by learning about German history beforehand and then visit places on your trip to connect the dots.

1. Your Ancestors' Time. Write what you already know:

- (Approximate year) your ancestors emigrated
- If known: Region-specific history (state at the time)
- Family stories or traditions from their home region

2. Places where you can learn more about their lives, the time period they lived in and reason(s) for emigrating:

- Open-air (living history) museums (all regions Germany)
- Emigration museums (ie. the German Emigration Museum in Bremerhaven)
- Guided tours and other museums

3. What you can find out during your trip:

- Why might your ancestors have left this region?
- What was daily life likely like for them?

Secret No. 6 – Realistic Budget Planning

Replace guesswork with clarity and create a list of your (estimated) budget. A calm budget creates a calm trip.



1. Budget Categories. Estimate ranges, not exact numbers.

- Flights: _____
- Accommodation: _____
- Transportation within Germany: _____
- Food: _____
- Activities and entrance fees: _____
- Guided (group) tours: _____
- Buffer for surprises: _____



2. Tips to find your ranges:

- Look up the current prices for transportation (flights, rental car, trains) and accommodation in the places you will go to and add everything up to get an idea of the costs.
- Look up current prices for restaurant visits in the regions you are going to visit and come up with a rough estimate of your daily food and drink budget.
- Think about all the activities you would like to do, look up the prices and estimate a rough budget.



3. What you can do for a clear overview and to stay on track:

- Write down all the estimates you found in an Excel sheet
- Fill this Excel sheet with what you actually spent on your trip
- **Tip:** A template for such an Excel sheet is included in my 6-week online course "Revisit Germany" (see page 9). 😊

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY WITH US

The Germany Trip Planning Masterclass: Revisit Germany

Need **further help** with planning your ancestry-inspired trip to Germany?

Consider joining my next **6-week Germany Trip Planning Masterclass** (access for 12 months) **called "Revisit Germany"**.

The online course covers everything you need to know for planning your **ancestry travel adventure of a lifetime** to Germany in **step-by-step tutorials**.

In addition, there will be a private Facebook group and **monthly live Zoom Calls** with me (Sonja, an **ancestry travel specialized tour guide** and German native), in which you can ask me all of your **burning ancestry travel questions!**



BUT: This course **only opens for a brief period** at certain times a year.

The doors are **currently open**, but will **close again on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST** (Eastern Standard Time US and Canada)!

[>> Learn more about Revisit Germany and join the course](#)