



Black Forest farmhouse, Fallerhof
Photo by Andy Christian

Great Drives

Black Forest

Black Forest - Hills, hairpins and highlights

Rent an Avis car and drive for sanctuary and seduction in Germany's Black Forest.

Find tall trees, hairpin bends and giant cuckoos in the beautiful Black Forest. With its rolling hills, thick fir forests and glassy lakes, this enchanting region is straight out of a Brothers Grimm fairytale and made for the romantic road tripper.

Test drive this two-day tour for the best of the Black Forest.

Collect up your rental from [Avis rent a car Karlsruhe](#) and drive over the hills to clear your head in **Baden Baden's** manicured parks and opulent thermal baths, then climb the twisting **Schwarzwald-Hochstrasse** to **Freudenstadt**, home to the country's biggest market square.

Germany's highest waterfall and the original Black Forest cake lure you south to **Triberg** and the zigzagging B500 to the region's highest mountain, **Feldberg**. Make the buzzing university city of **Freiburg** your last stop, before driving back to the airport or you can drop off the vehicle at our [Avis Offenburg](#) office.

High Points en route

Baden Baden – The art of bathing

There are umpteen thermal baths to choose from in this pretty, effervescent city, but the grand 19th-century **Friedrichsbad** is arguably the most spectacular with its ornate dome and mosaic-tiled chambers. No soak at home will ever be the same.

Freudenstadt – Rhine view

Just a half-hour drive from Baden Baden, the ornate clocks and elaborate towers of Freudenstadt, the simple, modern design of the swish **Schliffkopf Hotel** is the perfect antidote. Take in the immense views over the River Rhine and into France.

Triberg – Cuckoos and cake

It's about 1000 metres to climb up to **Triberg**, home to the **world's biggest cuckoo clock** – get there on the hour to see the huge bird pop its head out. The town's other claim to fame is the 163-metre **Triberger Wasserfälle**, Germany's highest waterfall. The finest *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* (Black Forest Cake) is baked according to the original 1905 recipe in Café Schäfer.

Titisee – All aboard

On a hot day, it's tempting to dive into the bottle-green water of this ice-age lake. Take a **boat ride** surrounded by miles of deeply-forested mountains, peppered purple with wild flowers, and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Freiburg – Gothic grandeur

Cultured Freiburg is officially Germany's warmest and sunniest city – and just a short motor west to the Rhine. The pavement cafés framing the **market square** afford prime views of the filigree spires and leering gargoyles adorning the red sandstone Gothic **cathedral**. Explore the cobbled **Old Town's** galleries, leafy beer gardens and canalside boutiques.

AVIS

We try
harder.

High Points en route - Free time on your hands? Take your pick from the following gems:

1/ Dorotheen Hütte, Wolfach – Lip service

Glass has been made in this area for around 2000 years, and the experts at **Wolfach** are still using traditional glass-blowing techniques. Watch them make lead-crystal art in front of your eyes, then have a go yourself.

2/ Europa Park – Mini Europe

Germany's biggest theme park takes the form of a mini Europe. Choose from rides and attractions like fjord rafting the rapids in Scandinavia or zipping down the Swiss bob run. Budding F1 drivers can try the miniature version of the Silverstone racetrack.

3/ Freilichtmuseum – Step back in time

Wander round **Gutach's** open-air museum, arranged like a traditional Black Forest village, and you'll see how the architectural landscape here has changed little in centuries. Alongside authentically reconstructed wooden farmhouses, there are regular demonstrations of crafts from basket making to wood carving.

4/ Pforzheim – All that glitters

The self-proclaimed "city of gold" is the centre of Germany's jewellery and watch-making industries. So what better place to buy your significant other a bit of bling? Even if you don't want to buy, take a look at the historical pieces at the **Schmuckmuseum** on Jahnstrasse.

5/ Lake Constance – One lake, three countries

Measuring a whopping 40 miles long, this lake straddling Germany, Switzerland and Austria attracts cyclists, walkers and water sports enthusiasts. If you have time, take the ferry from zeppelin city **Friedrichshafen** to Mainau island's botanical gardens.

Avis Great Drives Route Map: Black Forest



Need to know

Round circuit

218 miles (350 km); approx 6 hours driving time

Best time to come

June to beat the summertime crowds, September for autumn colour, and December to March for cross-country skiing.

Soundtrack

A Walk in the Black Forest by Horst Jankowski

Essential item

Nordic walking sticks to tackle uphill paths

If you are traveling from other airports, check our [car hire Germany](#) branch network.

With offices in **4,000 locations in 114 countries**, Avis can help with your car rental needs wherever you are in the world – and help turn a drive into an experience.

For [car hire tips](#) or to see other road trips in the [Avis Great Drives](#) series visit our blog www.wetryharder.co.uk

To book visit www.avis.co.uk or call **08445 818181**

Last updated August 2010.

