

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

GERMANY

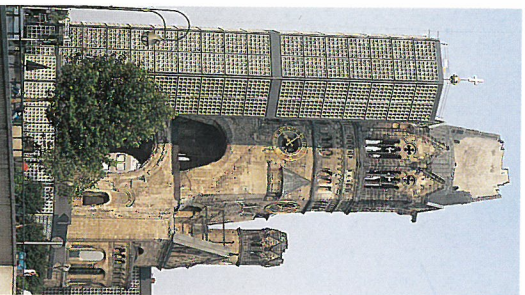


AREA 357,022 sq km
POPULATION 81,472,000
MONEY Euro

AUSTRIA



AREA 83,859 sq km
POPULATION 8,217,000
MONEY Euro



▲ **Berlin:** this ruined tower, next to the new tower of the Memorial Church, is left as a reminder of the destruction caused by war. It is in the city centre. Berlin is no longer divided and is once again the capital of a united Germany.

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GERMANY has more people than any other European country apart from Russia. Most of the 81 million Germans live in towns and cities. Several million people called 'guest workers' have come from southern Europe and Turkey to work in Germany's factories. But nowadays there is unemployment in Germany, as in other European countries, and many 'guest workers' have returned home. Among the many different goods made in Germany there are excellent cars: Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Opel, Porsche and Volkswagen.

There is also plenty of beautiful and uncrowded countryside. The north is mostly lowland. Parts of the south, such as the Black Forest, are mountainous and popular for holidays.

Germany was one country from 1870 to 1945. In 1990 it became one country again. From 1945 until 1990, it was divided into West Germany and East Germany, and there was a border fence between the two. In Berlin, the high wall that divided the city into east and west was knocked down in 1989. It became the capital city again in 2000.

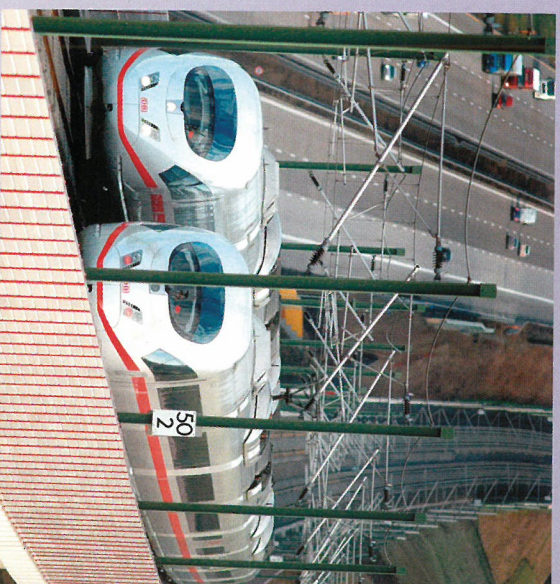


▲ **Edelweiss** are flowers that grow high in the Alps. They can survive in thin soil on steep slopes, and do not mind being buried by snow all winter. They are a national symbol in Austria.



▲ **The Rhine Gorge**, in western Germany. Castles once guarded this important river route. The River Rhine flows from Switzerland, through Germany to the Netherlands. Big barges travel between the ports and factories beside the river. Tourists travel along the river to enjoy the beautiful landscape.

TRANSPORT



Germany has excellent roads and railways. The picture above shows two inter-city express (ICE) trains passing on a bridge over an *autobahn* (motorway).



The Austrian stamp (left) shows a cable-car which takes tourists to the top of a high mountain. Austrians speak German: their country is called 'Österreich'.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

AUSTRIA: Until 1918, Austria and Hungary were linked, and together ruled a great empire which included much of Central Europe and Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia (see page 34). But now Austria is a small, peaceful country.

Most Austrians live in the lower eastern part of the country. The capital is Vienna, on the River

Danube. Many famous composers have lived in this city. It was once at the centre of the Austrian Empire: now it is in a corner of the country.

In the west of Austria are the high Alps. Many tourists come to enjoy the beautiful scenery and winter sports. Busy motorways and electric railways cross the Austrian Alps to link Germany with Italy.

WHO ARE THE NEIGHBOURS?

Nine countries have borders with Germany – Austria is one of them. Try to name the others – then check your answer on the map on page 19.



▲ **Hallstatt, Austria**, is built on steep slopes which are part of the Dachstein Mountains in the eastern Alps, south-east of Salzburg. It lies beside a deep blue lake with the same name. There is plenty of snow in winter.

