

travel*tips*

GNTB international press service for Destination Germany

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Germany: a winter sports wonderland

The Alps, the Alpine foothills, the Allgäu and Germany's low-lying mountains are all winter sports paradises whose venues have hosted top-level competitions including the Olympic Games, world championships and European championships. Germany is also a winter wonderland for winter sports holidaymakers.

Ski jumping: Germany has a strong tradition of producing ski jumpers such as Jens Weißflog, Sven Hannawald and Martin Schmitt who have reached the top echelons of the sport. Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Oberstdorf are home to the most awe-inspiring ski jumps, whilst Willingen in the Sauerland has a monster of a jump, the highest in the world. At the Rennsteig Outdoor Center in Steinach in Thuringia, fearless amateurs can have a go themselves on the Skiflyer, gliding through the air for 150 metres guided by a wire rope ten metres above the ground.

www.roc-team.de, www.gapa.de, www.willingen.de

Alpine skiing: Germany is the perfect destination for a fun skiing or snowboarding holiday. It offers modern ski lifts and superbly prepared pistes, some of them floodlit so you can keep swooshing downhill even when it's dark. There are so many areas to choose from: Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the Alps, Schliersee in the Alpine foothills, Oberstdorf in the Allgäu, Mount Feldberg in the Black Forest, Mount Wasserkuppe in the Rhön hills, the Thuringian Forest mountains and the Harz mountains.

www.skilifte-wasserkuppe.de, www.hochschwarzwald.de

Cross-country skiing: mile after mile of prepared cross-country skiing trails for all levels of proficiency lead through snowy forests in the Alps, the Alpine foothills and the Allgäu, including the Berchtesgadener Land, Chiemgau and Tölzer Land regions, and through the low-lying mountains in the Bavarian Forest, the Fichtelgebirge, the Harz, the Swabian Alb and the Black Forest. There are trails to suit everyone, from beginners to accomplished cross-country skiers.

www.mitterdorf.info, www.skiwelt-schoneck.de

Tobogganing and bobsleigh: lovers of speed can hurtle down icy runs with gradients of up to 15 per cent at over 100 km/h in a passenger bobsleigh or 'taxibob'. Locations include Altenberg in the Erzgebirge mountains, Oberhof in the Thuringian Forest, Winterberg in the Sauerland and the artificial ice run at Lake Königssee, the world's first.

www.wia-altenberg.de, www.rodelbahn-oberhof.de, www.bobbahn.de, www.weltcup-koenigssee.de

Biathlon: German biathletes such as Magdalena Neuner has been at the pinnacle of this sport for many years. Fritz Fischer, who runs the biathlon camp in Ruhpolding, is also a well-known figure. Keen biathletes can fix their sights on the black discs at Activcamp Beer in Altenberg, Kaltenbrunn in the Werdenfeller Land region and the Hohenzollern Ski Stadium at Mount Arber in the Bavarian Forest.

www.biathloncamp.de, www.activcamp-beer.de, www.skigau-werdenfels.de

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Focus on health and wellness: specialist clinics in Germany

Orthopaedics & surgery at the Charité

The full range of top-quality treatments is offered by highly specialised departments at the Clinic for Musculoskeletal Surgery at the Charité hospital in Berlin, where the musculoskeletal tumour centre, the spinal centre and children's orthopaedics are all under the one roof. Patients are cared for by specialist doctors using the latest 3D computer-assisted, computer-navigated or arthroscopically assisted systems and the most minimally invasive procedures. Berlin, the German capital, offers myriad ways of making the most of any free time. The Bundestag and the Federal Chancellery in the city centre are worth a visit, as is Alexanderplatz, the famous square with the world clock. Also recommended is an outing to Charlottenburg Palace and its immaculate gardens.

Information

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Medical Park, Bad Wiessee am Tegernsee

Medical Park Bad Wiessee St. Hubertus is a renowned clinic by Lake Tegernsee which specialises in orthopaedics, traumatology, sports medicine, internal medicine and cardiology. Its expertise has been sought by many top athletes, actors and other celebrities. The clinic is next to Germany's strongest iodine-sulphur springs, a natural remedy for many complaints, and also offers an extensive prevention programme. Bad Wiessee is on the western shores of Lake Tegernsee. Munich is just under an hour's drive away.

Information

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www.medicalpark.de

Rechts der Isar Hospital: the science of healing

Munich University Hospital, which has a workforce of around 4,200, is devoted to patient care, research and teaching. It offers the very highest levels of medical expertise across the entire spectrum of modern medicine, with over 30 clinics and departments and around 1,100 beds. Close collaboration between the healthcare and research teams enables patients to benefit from the latest advances in medical techniques at an early stage. With a total of 33 specialist clinics and departments working together under one roof, expert clinicians are always available for the treatment of any illness, however rare. But medical excellence is not Munich's only strong suit. The city is well known for many attractions including the art exhibitions at the Pinakotheken, the Brandhorst Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and Nymphenburg Palace, one of the largest royal palaces in Europe and once the summer residence of the Wittelsbach dynasty.

Information

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Email: vorstand@mri.tum.de
www.med.tum.de

One of Germany's leading medical establishments

'Rescue and treatment with the highest level of expertise' is the philosophy at this hospital where health professionals offer patients the greatest level of personal commitment. BG Klinik Ludwigshafen in the Palatinate ranks among the most highly regarded medical establishments in Germany in its areas of expertise – and that's no coincidence. In addition to traumatology and orthopaedics, the hospital specialises in the treatment of spinal cord injuries and burns, in technical orthopaedics and in knee and hip replacements. There's also lots to see in Ludwigshafen itself, especially the public art works dotted around the town centre including art installations, Miró's mosaic wall and the sculptures Lichttor on Rathausplatz, Knödelbrunnen on Bismarckstrasse and Lichtsäule on Ludwigsplatz. A concert in the German State Philharmonic hall is not to be missed either, should the opportunity arise.

Information

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www.bgu-ludwigshafen.de

Specialists at Asklepios Klinik Hohwald

Asklepios Orthopaedic Clinic Hohwald in Neustadt in Saxony specialises mainly in artificial joints for the shoulder, elbow, hand or finger. Computer-assisted navigation systems are used to position hip and knee replacements and conservative surgery accounts for a wide range of other treatments. When patients need a change of scenery, there's plenty to do including an excursion to Sebnitz, a town known for its silk flower industry, or to the neighbouring Czech Republic. If time permits, Právčická Gate, the biggest natural rock arch in Europe, is worth seeking out in the Bohemian Switzerland region.

Information

Asklepios Orthopädische Klinik Hohwald
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www.hohwaldklinik.de

125th anniversary of the automobile: events

'Walk in – drive out' at AutoTrend in Rostock

AutoTrend takes place in Rostock from 23 to 25 March 2012 with 75 exhibitors, 26 brands and over 200 different models. This is north-east Germany's no. 1 automotive fair and the theme is 'Walk in – drive out'. The full range of vehicles is on display, so informed choices can be made. The secret of AutoTrend's success lies in its diversity, so more than ever before visitors can discover everything they need to know about new cars, motorcycles, modifications and accessories. AutoTrend is based on a winning formula: driving-experience presentations by representatives from the entire automotive world coupled with expert knowledge and detailed information for prospective buyers. Highlights are the off-road track and its extreme tilt experience, the driving skills course requiring pinpoint precision, all kinds of driving simulators offering fun and entertainment for all ages, and the Audi ABT tuning and refining centre for sportsline style and power.

Information

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Essen Motor Show

'For Drivers and Dreams' is the theme of the 2012 Essen Motor Show. Cars are king from 26 November to 4 December, filling 110,000 square metres of exhibition space with speed, handling and performance. At DTM World, the German Touring Car Masters, the cream of international touring car racing, will be unveiling the vehicles with which Audi, BMW and Mercedes will start the 2012 season. 100 years old and counting: the exhibition '100 years of the Monte Carlo Rally' will trace the fascinating history of this mother of all rallies. 'Deeper, faster, wider' will be the challenge in the VDAT Tuning Salon, whilst US tuning icon Eddie Paul mesmerises fans in the show zone. The Classic & Prestige Salon will have nostalgia but not a hint of fustiness, with three exhibitions: '100 years of Juan Manuel Fangio', '100 years of Indianapolis' and '50 years of the Jaguar E-Type'. Which just goes to show that old flames never die; fairs like this light the spark all over again. In the motorcycle hall, mind-blowing technology and biking demos will set hearts racing. Another highlight is the first racecar mart where everything and anything is for sale, as long as it's fast and fun, from a go-kart to a Formula 1 car.

Information

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A treasure trove of classic cars in Bremen

In 2012, the Bremen Classic Motorshow celebrates its 10th anniversary with a presentation of rare classic vehicles, all in mint condition. Aircraft manufacturing skills went into creating the Voisin C7C, which was built in 1928. The 1927 Hotchkiss AM2 was owned by a banker from Mulhouse, who used it to teach generations of his family to drive before it was acquired by the Alsace museum. For many years, the Mayor of Vienna was chauffeured to important meetings in the Austro Daimler ADR6. The 1925 Ravel 9HP, possibly the last of its kind, is extremely rare and was built by the brother of classical composer Maurice Ravel. 'Original' is the magic word at this event and it applies to the motorcycle show as well, which includes a Victoria Bergmeister, a Wanderer 500, an Opel Motoclub and even a Württembergia.

Information

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28215 Bremen
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Email: info@classicmotorshow.de
www.classicmotorshow.de

Classic cars in Ravensburg

When gorgeous cars, historical motorcycles, barn finds and old bicycles go on show at motoMarkt in Ravensburg in the Upper Swabian region of southern Germany on 19 and 20 November, vintage and classic car fans will think all their Christmases have come at once. This event in a beautiful town not far from Lake Constance is a hot ticket for anyone keeping an eye out for something, selling or simply wanting to enjoy the old-time charm of travelling in style. On the programme are a nostalgia exhibition, club presentations, special motorcycle shows, a vehicle & spare parts mart – outdoors or indoors – and a vintage tractor show on the Sunday.

Information

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Bleicherstrasse 20
88212 Ravensburg
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Email: oberschwabenhallen@ravensburg.de
www.oberschwabenhalle.de

Tuning & Sound Convention in Freiburg

'Automobil', Freiburg's mini international motor show runs from 3 to 5 February 2012, and features new models, car-related themes and all manner of automotive trends. Visitors can look forward to a comprehensive range of new, used and all-terrain vehicles, classic cars, racing cars, accessories and related services. The Tuning & Sound Convention is where the dreams of car lovers and engine tuners become reality.

Information

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www.automobil-freiburg.de

Sports museums in Germany

Germany's first sneaker museum in Cologne

Sneakers or trainers: almost everyone owns at least one pair and some even collect them. Originally known by names that reflected their purpose, like 'gym shoes' or 'sports shoes', they were designed for running and playing basketball or tennis; today they're objects of desire. Now they come in an incredible range of styles, benefit from awesome innovations in technology and command steep prices. The whole sneaker culture began when certain styles were adapted by subcultures like hip-hop and skateboarding – a remarkable development that has led to the foundation of Germany's first sneaker museum, which since May has been presenting themed exhibitions of particularly rare or popular styles. There is even a sneaker altar where visitors can worship the holy grail of sneaker history – the original Air Jordan I of 1985 or an Air Max prototype that never went on sale, of which there are only three pairs in the world.

Information

Sneakermuseum
Jülicher Strasse 14
50674 Cologne
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Email: info@sneakermuseum.de
www.sneakermuseum.de

This history of skiing

Mount Feldberg in the Black Forest is the birthplace of German alpine skiing, which began around 1890. The thrilling development of this winter sport from its earliest beginnings to the present day is traced in an exhibition in the Hugenhof, a building dating back more than 300 years, in Hinterzarten in the heart of the Black Forest. All kinds of memorabilia commemorate great skiers such as Georg Thoma, who won the Nordic Combined at the Squaw Valley Olympics in 1960, and Christl Cranz, who dominated women's skiing in the 1930s, was twelve-times world champion and Olympic champion in the Alpine Combined at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936. As well as illustrating how skis are made, the exhibition includes ski fashion accessories, ski films, cases full of medals, cups and start numbers – in short, everything charting the evolution of winter sports from old wooden skis to the modern snowboard. Winter landscapes painted around 1900 are also on show in this traditional Black Forest building.

Information

Schwarzwälder Skimuseum
Im Hugenhof
79856 Hinterzarten
Tel.: +49 (0)7652 982 192
Email: info@schwarzwaelder-skimuseum.de
www.schwarzwaelder-skimuseum.de

The history of golf

Visitors can discover the whole history of golf at the European Golf Museum in Regensburg in Bavaria, which charts man's obsession with hitting ball with club from the Middle Ages to the modern day. The museum is set in the medieval vaults beneath Antikhaus Insam in the heart of the old quarter right next to the cathedral. Its sheer number of rarities make it one of the major collections of golfing history. There are club heads from more than 400 years ago, for example, 17th and 18th century Delft tiles with golf motifs, distinctive Morris woods, irons and brass putters from 1780-1930, not to mention rare golf posters and antique prints of St. Andrews and other prestigious courses in the Roaring Twenties. Collectors' items, such as valuable bronze and ivory sculptures reflecting the splendour of the era, make this museum a must for golf enthusiasts.

Information

Antikhaus Insam
Tändlergasse 3
93047 Regensburg
Tel.: +49 (0)941 510 74
Email: info@golf-museum.com
www.golf-museum.com

A centre of cycling history

The German Bicycle Museum is in Villa Füglein, a grand art nouveau building in Bad Brückenau in Lower Franconia. It provides a majestic backdrop for the most comprehensive display of bicycles in Germany, with 230 exhibits spread across two floors. The museum is not only a centre of cycling history but also a focal point for cyclists from all over Germany and abroad. Activities on offer there include penny-farthing riding and guided cycling tours.

Information

Deutsches Fahrradmuseum
Heinrich-von-Bibra-Strasse 24
97769 Bad Brückenau
Tel.: +49 (0)9741 938 253
Email: museum@deutsches-fahrradmu-
seum.de
www.deutsches-fahrradmuseum.de

3,000 years of fascination with sport

The German Sports and Olympics Museum in Cologne brings the whole gamut of sporting emotion to life. A permanent exhibition guides visitors through almost 3,000 years of sporting history, from antiquity to the modern day, reliving unforgettable highlights, celebrating great sportsmen and women, remembering triumphant victories and recalling bitter defeats. In September, the exhibition was updated to include the most momentous occasions in sport's last decade, and action sports acquired their own dedicated zone where big-screen film installations and many original exhibits showcase the thrills of sports such as wind-surfing, skateboarding, snowboarding and BMXing.

Information

Deutsches Sport & Olympia Museum
Im Zollhafen 1
50678 Cologne
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Email: info@sportmuseum.de
www.sportmuseum.de

Winter sports events in Germany

60th Four Hills Tournament in Garmisch & Oberstdorf

There'll be plenty of drama at the ski jumping event in Oberstdorf on 29 and 30 December – the first competition in the 60th Four Hills Tournament – because contestants will be staking their claim to overall victory right from the off. As has happened before in the Ski Jumping World Cup, and not only in the two previous years, whoever wins this first round of the Four Hills Tournament in the Allgäu has gone on to win the most coveted title in ski jumping. This winter, organisers are again expecting over 30,000 spectators from around the globe to attend the opening event and turn Oberstdorf's Erdinger Arena into a cauldron of noise. After the season's second ski jumping competition in Germany, the New Year's Ski Jumping in Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 31 December and 1 January, it will then be clear who will travel to Innsbruck in the number 1 spot before the medals are decided in Bischofshofen. Will Switzerland's Simon Ammann post his first tournament win, or will victory fall to Germany's Severin Freund?

Information

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Am Faltenbach 27
87651 Oberstdorf
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Email: info@vierschanzentournee.com
www.vierschanzentournee.com

Second Ski World Cup at Munich's Olympic Park

On 1 January 2012, the top 16 men and women skiers in the World Cup standings will gather for a second showdown on the piste (a mere 200 metres) on the north side of Munich's Olympic Hill. This is after 25,000 visitors were captivated by tense floodlit duels, man v. man and woman v. woman, and a host of exciting events at the start of 2011. Spectators attending in 2012 can expect even more thrills, because in addition to the FIS Ski World Cup event highlights, there'll be plenty of action at the third Winter Sports Festival (30 December to 1 January). As befits this prestigious sporting extravaganza, fans will enjoy perfect views of the contest and the Olympic Lake will be drained in order to maximise the space. In the parallel slalom, a mere stone's throw from the tent-roofed Olympic Stadium, there can only be one winner. Tension reigns until the very last moment when the final battle is over between the two remaining athletes; the first to cross the line picks up 100 precious World Cup points.

Information

Olympiapark München GmbH
Spiridon-Louis-Ring 21
80809 Munich
Tel.: +49 (0)89 307 60
Email: info@olympiapark.de
www.skiweltcup-muenchen.de

Tour de Ski returns to Oberstdorf

This relatively new winter sports fixture is no stranger to Oberstdorf in the Allgäu, which hosted one leg of the inaugural Tour de Ski in the 2006/2007 World Cup season. Back then, nobody knew how popular the Tour de Ski would be among competitors and fans, but it has become the most important series of cross-country skiing races in the world, and Oberstdorf will again be hosting one of the stages. So, on New Year's Eve, Oberstdorf will be the focus of attention as the assembled cream of cross-country skiers take to the trail. Oberstdorf follows on from the first stage of the competition in Oberhof, then it's off to Toblach, then Val di Fiemme for the finale. Up for grabs are four individual World Cups, two for women and two for men. The Oberstdorf event gets underway on 31 December with a line-up of stars contesting the classic sprint competitions. Then, on New Year's Day, the Ried cross-country stadium will be the venue for double pursuit races on World Cup trails.

Information

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Email: info@tour-de-ski.info
www.tour-de-ski.info

2012 Biathlon World Cup in Ruhpolding

Biathlon, one of the most exciting, most engaging winter sports, is now a real crowd puller. So, when the world's elite biathletes battle it out in Ruhpolding from 1 to 11 March 2012, the atmosphere will be electric, with thousands of spectators spurring them on along the course and tension rising in the shooting range. The Chiemgau Arena is one of the world's most modern biathlon stadiums, offering ideal conditions for the athletes who will line up at the start for eight individual races and three relays. Promising to be more spectacular than ever before, there will be a grand opening ceremony on 29 February 2012, a daily programme of entertainment on the town centre stage and a night with the biathlon stars in Champions Park, where the victory ceremonies take place.

Information

Ruhpolding Tourist Information
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www.ruhpolding2012.com

Luge and Bobsleigh Championships

Altenberg in Saxony's Erzgebirge mountains will be at the heart of the action from 6 to 12 February 2012 as top luge athletes compete in the World Championships on one of the most challenging artificial tracks on the planet. Prior to that, from 2 to 8 January 2012, skeleton and bobsleigh racers will have hurled themselves down the steep ice chute with up to 15 per cent gradients in a World Championship that also counts as a European Championship.

Information

Wintersport Altenberg GmbH
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News and dates

North Sea holidays with a clear conscience

For holidays in tune with nature, Lower Saxony's North Sea coast has long been a destination with a focus on climate protection, eco-awareness and sustainability. This holiday region between the Ems and Elbe rivers offers a winning combination of unspoilt natural beauty, car-free islands, small coastal towns and the exceptional Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park. There's lots of eco-friendly, resource-efficient accommodation and restaurants specialising in regional and seasonal cuisine. The North Sea island of Juist, for instance, is strongly committed to climate protection and aims to be carbon-neutral by 2030. Locals and visitors are all doing their bit; every Thursday is a vegetarian day.

Information

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www.die-nordsee.de

Spruce-themed wellness in the Westerwald

Winter sparkle comes to Lindner Hotel & Sporting Club Wiesensee in the form of a spruce-themed range of wellness treatments and menus. The first port of call is to linger in a colour-therapy steam bath with a bag of fresh spruce needles exuding a wonderful wintry aroma. As the essential oil from the spruce needles clears the airways, gentle green lights induce calm and relaxation – like being in a forest. Next up is a spruce needle and goat butter cream pack, which stimulates the circulation and encourages cell regeneration, in a pampering hammock, before the ritual is rounded off with a spruce needle oil massage. The spruce theme then continues with a festive four-course meal in the hotel restaurant.

Information

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Email: info.wiesensee@lindner.de
www.lindner.de/fichte

Themed medieval route for caravanners & cyclists

The German Half-Timbered Houses Route now stretches for almost 2,500 kilometres, linking some 100 member towns from the Elbe estuary to Lake Constance. Out now is a new, revised brochure presenting the motor home pitches in around 80 of those towns, including details of locations, mains supplies, waste disposal facilities, prices and special features. For those preferring to explore the route by bike, a new cycling map 'Vom Neckar zum Schwarzwald und Bodensee' (From the river Neckar to the Black Forest and Lake Constance) is also available. This most southern section of the route runs from Mosbach in the Neckar valley to either Haslach in the Black Forest's Kinzig valley or Meersburg on Lake Constance – 560 kilometres connecting 24 medieval towns that showcase the Alemannic and Franconian styles of half-timbering.

Information

Deutsche Fachwerkstrasse
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36041 Fulda
Tel.: +49 (0)661 43680
Email: info@deutsche-fachwerkstrasse.de
www.deutsche-fachwerkstrasse.de

Until 22 December

During Advent, Heilbronn is hosting its annual Christmas market, with twinkling fairy lights and 90 decorated wooden huts gathered around St. Kilian's Church and the town hall.

Information

www.heilbronn-tourist.de

Until 1 January 2012

In 1984, Joseph Beuys spent eight days with a camera crew in Japan. The exhibition 'Joseph Beuys: 8 Days in Japan and the Utopia of EURASIA' is showing at Hamburger Bahnhof Museum in Berlin.

Information

www.hamburgerbahnhof.de

Until 9 April 2012

Wolfsburg Art Museum presents 'The Art of Deceleration. Motion and Rest in Art', which spans the work of artists from Caspar David Friedrich to Ai Weiwei.

Information

Information

www.kunstmuseum-wolfsburg.de

15 January to 15 April 2012

Retrospective at Behnhaus-Drägerhaus Museum in Lübeck honouring the work of Anders Zorn, the impressionist painter, etcher and sculptor whom contemporaries hailed as the 'genius of the century'.

Information

www.daetz-centrum.de

25 and 26 February 2012

Haidmühle Sports Club in Bavaria is hosting its 23rd International Sled Dog Races, with sprints and long-distance racing in both the open class and the pedigree class.

Information

www.haidmuehle.de

16 January to 22 April 2012

'Furniture designed by architects from Aalto to Zumthor': exhibition at Cologne's Museum of Applied Art featuring pieces by Norman Foster, Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind and Hadi Teherani.

Information

www.museenkoeln.de