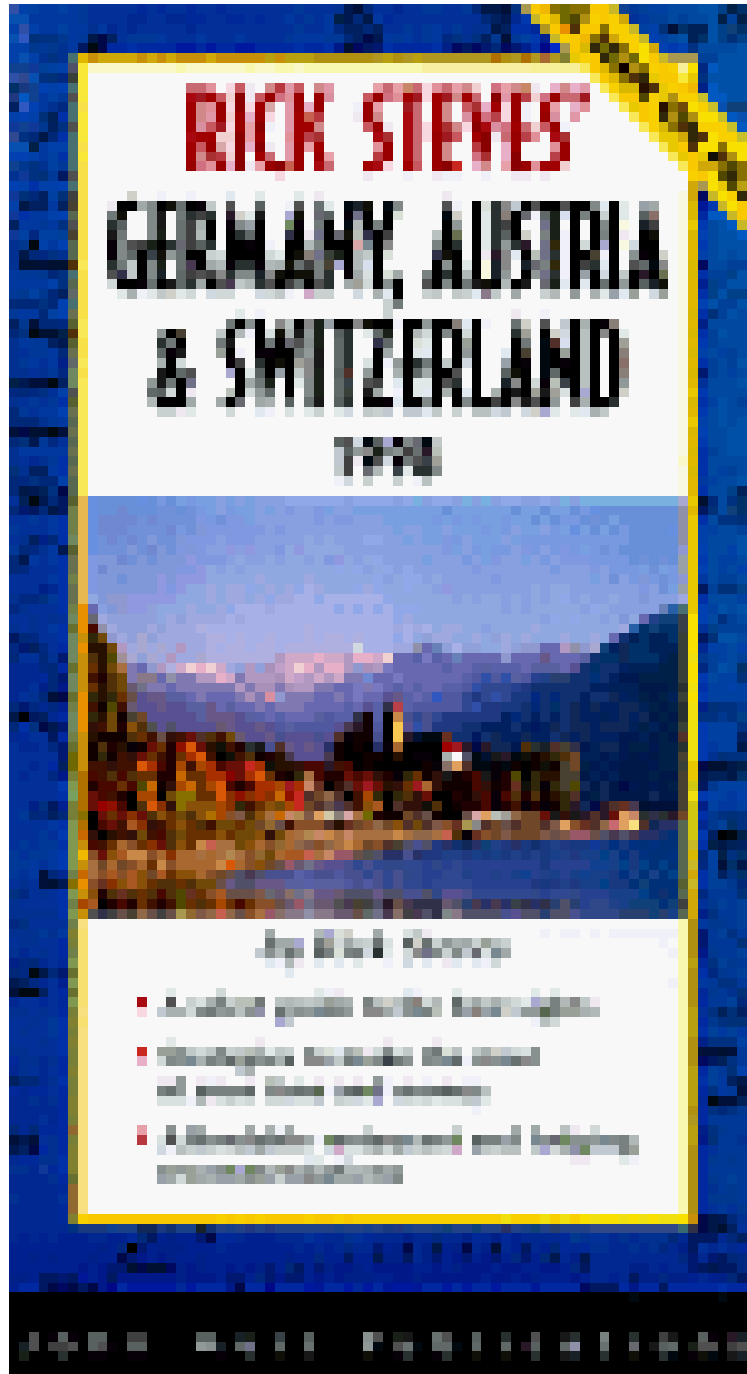


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Rick Steves : Rick Steves' Germany, Austria Switzerland 1998 (Serial) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rick Steves' Germany, Austria Switzerland 1998 (Serial):

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Solid GuideBy T. HooperYou can really tell that Steves loves Germany and Austria because this is one of the best guidebooks in his series. First things first--this is not a regular guidebook in that it doesn't show an endless list of cities that you will probably never visit. Instead, he figures that you'll have less than two weeks for your vacation, so he picks out the places that he thinks you will enjoy the most. If you are looking for a more complete listing, then another guidebook would be better. Getting back to the guide, he has a particular flair for finding the scenic beauty of this region of Europe, and he gives lots of advice for finding those picture perfect spots that you're looking for. Also, Steves is good at tapping into the beer hall scene, so if you're thinking of checking out Bavaria, you'll be able to get some good tips. Of course, you can get better recommendations from a local though. Just think of this as a starter kit, and once you make a few contacts and start talking to the locals, you'll be able to find the places that aren't list in any guidebook. Another good thing about this guidebook is that the maps are fairly easy to follow. The downtown maps for cities are especially good. However, this book is for train travelers. If you are going to be driving, you'll need to pick up a separate road map because there aren't any good road maps in this guidebook. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. easy to read and a very good source for locating ...By B. beerbowerthis map was a big help in planning a 2 week trip in Bavaria, Alsace France, Switzerland and Austria. easy to read and a very good source for locating towns villages along the way 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Satisfied with map. By Yuvonnie Tharp Very pleased with map; will use for our trip to Germany in November.

"Rick Steves' Germany Austria Switzerland 1998" takes visitors from the Rhine to Bavaria through Germany's medieval heartland. In Austria and Switzerland, scenic riverside towns, a beautiful lakes district, and small ski villages await independent travelers wishing to make the most of their trip and see the real soul of the countries they are visiting. 40 maps .

.com Beautifully ornate Neuschwanstein Castle, frothy beer at Oktoberfest, skiers schussing down the slopes and dodging snowflakes in the Tirol, Julie Andrews and the The Sound of Music--Germany, Austria, and Switzerland conjure up countless fairy-tale images. There are so many, in fact, that making decisions about how to spend your time in the region may be difficult. Enter Rick Steves. He began traveling, and writing about travel, at the green age of 14. Since then, his ineluctable Eurocentric passion has developed into his livelihood, with a series of guide books, a Web site, a tour company, and a public television program. Steves believes that you should use your travel time--and your money--wisely; see what's representative of the countries you plan to visit; and allow room for "magic moments." To that end, Rick Steves' Germany, Austria Switzerland 1998 provides just enough information to guide you to "the best" attractions, but at a reasonable cost. Each country section begins with quick facts--size, currency, population--then quickly gets into the meat of the guide: ranked lists of sights (from "worth getting up early and skipping breakfast for" to "worth knowing about"), maps, and recommendations on transportation, accommodations, and where to dine. Those whose wanderlust must be confined to a period of days should follow one of the suggested itineraries; they're intended to give you a taste of the region without pushing you into sensory overload. If you're staying for five days, visit Munich, Bavaria, and Salzburg; if you've got a full week, then add Rothenburg and take a breather. Or, in the name of Rick Steves, find a "Back Door angle" and create your own plan. For those who expect their guide books to entertain as well as inform, Steves's high-on-life approach will be a good fit. (If you detest puns and can't tolerate occasional hyperbole, then you should probably try a guide of a different flavor.) Of the Swiss, he writes that "like Boy Scouts ... [they] count cleanliness, neatness, punctuality, tolerance, independence, thrift, and hard work as virtues, and they love pocketknives." He also expounds, briefly, on the virtues of German cuisine: "Nutella is a chocolate-hazelnut spread that may change your life." Who can argue with that? --Heidi Robinson Today's tourists are as likely to be toting Rick Steves as Giorgio Armani, tasting the good life without burning through the Kids' college fund.