



# Anything but old!



Shakira wears it. So do Kim Wilde and Madonna: jewellery from the “Konplott” label, which took the world by storm from **Trier**, is a shining example of the creative new scene that is flourishing in many ancient university cities. The beauty and cultural richness of the “Historic Highlights of Germany”, which stretches back as far as 2,000 years, seem to fire the imagination of young students. You can sense it in the trendy shops, the easygoing pubs and traditional wine bars where students and business people, locals and guests all mingle casually. In Germany, it’s normal to share a table with others which makes it easy to meet new people and chat to the locals.

When different people and life-styles collide, creative energy is set free: ever more innovative design, fashion, furniture and art is thriving behind medieval walls. At regular intervals throughout the year, the Stijl design markets in **Mainz** and **Freiburg** offer a great selection of emerging designer labels. **Osnabrück** has its “Tape Art” - objects made of re-purposed cassette tapes by Steve McGuire and Kathrin Lazaruk. In **Rostock** you can become a collector of local and international art by inserting three 1 Euro coins into an art vending machine at the “artquarium” - just three of the countless unusual design projects awaiting you.

There are plenty more wacky ideas and cool art in **Augsburg**, **Münster**, **Erfurt**, **Würzburg**, **Potsdam**, **Koblenz**, **Wiesbaden**, **Regensburg** and in **Heidelberg** - the epicentre of

student life in Germany. These locations all feature thriving alternative-design stores, art studios and galleries showing the work of upcoming artists, experimental off-theatres, pubs with live music, poetry and slams, 60s style cafés and loungy clubs. This pot-pourri of the ultra modern, hip and bizarre is counterbalanced by the rich history of the ancient towns and their world famous UNESCO World Heritage Monuments. Such a unique fusion is rare anywhere in the world, but typical for Germany’s historic university cities. They are also easy for the British to visit because most Germans speak at least basic English, and for the many international students it’s second nature anyway.

More info at [historicgermany.travel](http://historicgermany.travel)

