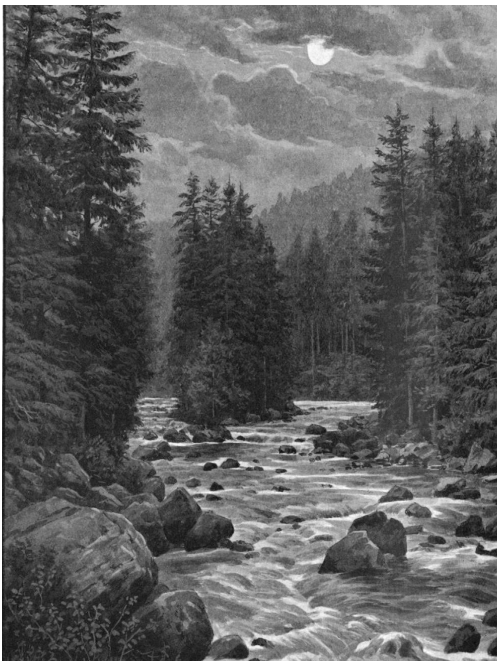


The Victorians and the Black Forest

The popular medium of the periodical accompanied the subjects of Queen Victoria throughout their lives. It explained their own society to them and opened a window onto the world beyond Britain. The Black Forest was one of the travel destinations that were newly discovered by Victorian tourists in the second half of the 19th century. Periodical articles, reports and stories about the Black Forest reflect the things that fascinated and intrigued British travellers of this less frequented area of Germany.

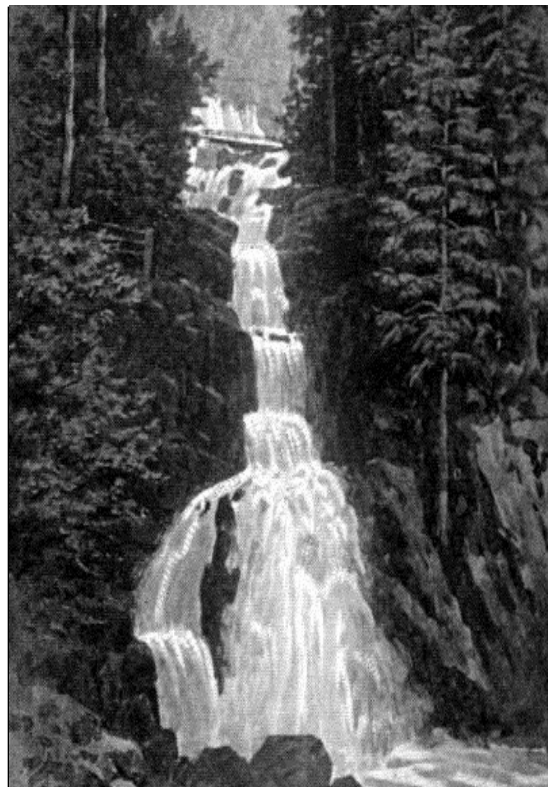
In eight posters students of the English department at the University of Freiburg show the facets of the Black Forest that were introduced to readers in Great Britain between 1840 and 1901: in periodicals for the family, for women and for a young readership. The final poster contrasts this view on the Black Forest from the outside with an inside view taken from the German periodical *Die Gartenlaube*. While the emphases shift slightly, there are also many similarities to the British view, as the German public newly explored and discovered the Black Forest for itself.



The Valley of the Murg (1901)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.1



Triberg waterfall (1901)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.1



The Valley of the Gutach (1901)
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Contributors:
Raihane Agrandi,
Melisa Atay,
Julia Ditter,
Lisa Dobrydneva,
Michael Enzmann,
Gayane Grigoryan,
Dunja Haufe,
Anne Korfmacher,
Simon Krause,
Lukas Kübler,
Christopher Martin,
Blaine Sinclair Milton,
Merve Özcamer,
Paulina Steżycka,
Anabel Thieme,
Bahar Un

Editorial Assistance:
Charlotte Jost

Supervisors:
Prof. Dr. Barbara Korte,
Prof. Dr. Stefanie Lethbridge

Freiburg im Breisgau —

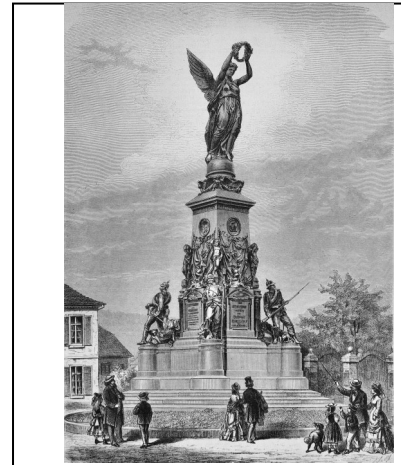
“should not be missed”

(Boys' Own Paper, 1887)

As the English discovered the delights of travel in the Black Forest, Freiburg fascinated with a history of Catholic influence and as a place full of local colour:

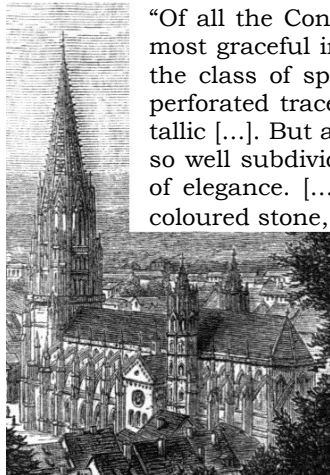
“[Freiburg is] one of the most curious relics of the feudal ages still to be found in Southern Germany. As the chief seat of the Catholic university of Baden it possesses some slight importance, and is celebrated by being the abode of that turbulent Herman von Vicari who has been trying to restore the unlimited power of papacy, [...]. But the traveller will be inclined to forget all such disagreeable matters on his walk through the town, for his eye will be immediately attracted by the varieties of dress which he will notice on the market, the Münster-square, and the Kaiser-strasse.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1854)

“The city contains churches and other public buildings, as well as fountains and domestic houses of a picturesque character; and these objects, with charming walks in the environs, may well detain the tourist two or three days.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)



Siegesdenkmal (1877)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

The cathedral is the greatest attraction – not only remarkable for its design but also for the fact that the spire is actually finished.



The Freiburg Cathedral (1882)

By permission of the British Library,
P.P.6004.gs

“Of all the Continental spires of the fourteenth century, by far the most graceful in outline is that of Freiburg in Breisgau. It is one of the class of spires peculiar to Germany, the side being formed of perforated tracery. This generally has a weak effect, and looks metallic [...]. But at Freiburg the tracery is so rich and the perforations so well subdivided that the impression is not one of weakness, but of elegance. [...] Like the rest of the church, it is built of a rose-coloured stone, which, from the dampness of the climate (Freiburg, in Breisgau, being one of the three places on the continent which registers the deepest rainfalls in the year), is covered with a rich orange-coloured lichen. [...] The new spires at Cologne are of the same description as those of Freiburg, but are nothing like so graceful.” (*Girls' Own Paper*, 1886)

“It is certainly the most perfect specimen of gothic in southern Germany [...] The spire is glorious, of the most elegant filigree work, and of extremelightness. It is to be regretted that the choir is of much later date than the nave, which spoils the effect of the whole. One of its great perfections consists in its being completed, a peculiar merit in Germany, where nothing, from the constitution downwards, arrives at a happy and definitive conclusion.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1851)

There are other attractions: shops, beer and patriotism

“Lilla, who had never been in a town before, was quite bewildered by the novelty and by the magnificence, as it seemed to her, of the shops [...] the rich quaint dresses, and [...] the curious old-fashioned carriages [...]” (*Little Folks*, 1873)

“We fell in with some student friends, who insisted on our [...] going to their Bierkneipe to soak ourselves with beer. After various patriotic songs, expressive of the unity of Germany and its superiority to all other nations known and unknown, with a modest allusion to its extension as far as the German tongue is heard, we took a reluctant adieu of our friends and the glorious cathedral [...]” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1851)

In the end, Freiburg is interesting mainly because it borders on more exciting places ...

[We] notice Freiburg because it lies in the western outskirts of the Black Forest, and affords a good opening into a line of roads which takes us through some of its best southern districts.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

“But the principal object in our visit to Freyburg is that we may see the celebrated Höllenthal [...]” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1851)

“To find the true Schwarzwälder, the traveller must put on his knapsack and leave the beaten track [...]” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1854)



View towards Freiburg from Loretto (1875)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Schwarzwald Tourism

“Go to Baden and – live”

(*Baily's Monthly Magazine*, 1862)



Allerheiligen Abbey (1879)

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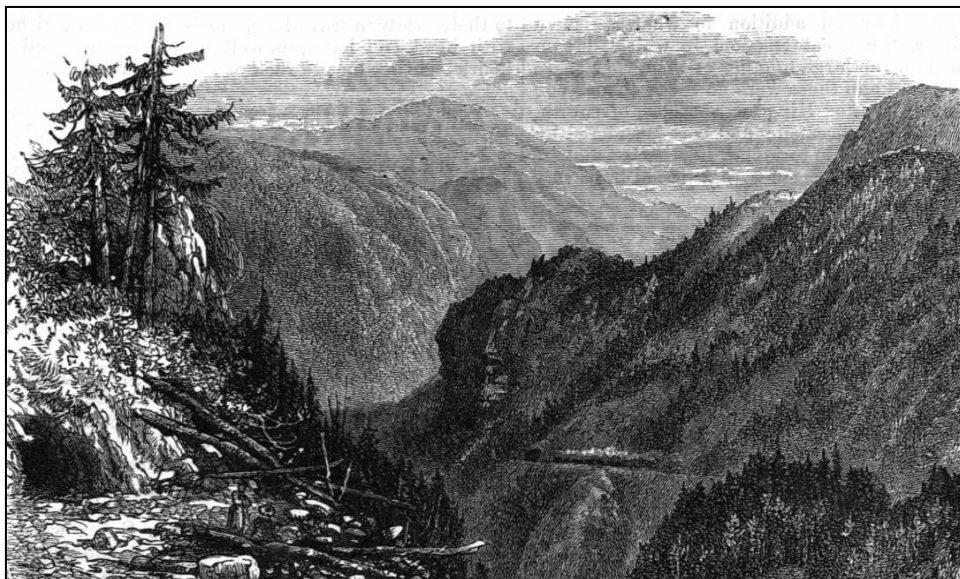
“On leaving Baden-Baden the traveller should proceed by railway to Achern, whence the first excursion must be made to the ruins of Allerheiligen.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)

Modern transport – especially the railway – made it easy to get to the Black Forest and its surroundings. But Victorian travellers who took cosmopolitan Baden-Baden to be the ‘real Schwarzwald’ were missing out.

“Many a free and enlightened Briton in the course of a summer tour spends a day or two at Baden-Baden, and fancies that [...] he has seen the Black Forest.” But in fact, he “knows absolutely nothing of the Black Forest.” The “true Schwarzwälder” can only be found in regions “where the omniscient Murray has thought it beneath his dignity to penetrate.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)

“We have now to describe another route, the easiest and least expensive of all, whilst it surpasses the rest in variety, novelty, and grandeur. We allude to the Black Forest Railway, which can be reached from Schaffhausen by a branch running to Singen. [...] Here you are within the Black Forest circle of the kingdom of Wurtemberg [...]” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

Despite the comforts of modern railway connections, the voyage to the Black Forest was often uncomfortable and passengers were so roughly handled that they started to look like “a cargo of restored lunatics from Bedlam.” Travelling in the Black Forest was much more exciting: “You are above the tops of the pine-covered hills [...]. As the train rushes on, you have a sensation of freedom, of flying, inexpressibly delicious.” (*The Argosy*, 1882)



A Black Forest Railway (1879)

By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.1

The Black Forest offered modest comfort combined with novelty.

“The people will be found, as a general rule, hospitable and kind to strangers and there are many worse ways of amusing oneself than a night spent in a Black Forest chalet.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)

“In the principal resorts the hotels are excellent, and English is generally spoken. [...] It is true that in some rural inns the traveller may have to perform his morning ablutions in a pie-dish and a pint of water; but is this not part of the novelty of the situation?” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1901)

Take care, as “when it rains in the Black Forest, it rains in earnest.” (*The Argosy*, 1882)

The Black Forest appealed to Victorians especially because of nature's proximity to culture.

One could escape society without completely losing contact to it: “[I]f you wish to escape from society and indulge in misanthropic tendencies, there are plenty of smooth, gently ascending paths leading through the forest, with comfortable benches and shady resting spots, and terminating usually in some glorious view over mountains and valleys.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)

Those who preferred cultural comforts could restore their health in spa resorts, such as the “Kniebis Baths”: “People come to drink the waters, a combination of iron and carbonic acid gas, not particularly agreeable to the taste. But what will not man go through to heal real or imaginary ills?” (*The Argosy*, 1882)

The only disadvantage was the hilly nature of the Black Forest: “Couldn't they level it [...] or build viaducts or something?” (*The Argosy*, 1882). Certainly “the traveller must be blessed with good legs if he wish to enjoy the Black Forest scenery, for it is a constant succession of going up and down hill.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)



Schwarzwaldhotel Triberg (1882)

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Encountering Local Life –

“charmingly primitive”

(*The Ladies' Treasury*, 1859)

Victorian travellers were both intrigued and repelled by Black Forest customs.

“The refinements of civilisation have not yet, apparently, penetrated the Black Forest; for there the cabin of a peasant is put to the most miscellaneous of uses – far more so than that of a peasant in the northern districts of Ireland. The Irishman does not object to the familiarities of his pig, but we think he would resist the intrusion into his abode of fowls, ducks, &c. Not so, however, the inhabitant of the Black Forest [...]” (*The Lady's Newspaper*, 1862)

“The inhabitants are a primitive people, of extremely simple habits [...]. Nothing that can possibly be made use of is lost. The children may be seen standing in the stream in the villages, carefully washing weeds before they are given to the cattle.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

“You must know that a strong feature of those living in the Black Forest is the love and reverence they have for religion. At the same time there is a good deal of superstition mixed up with it.” (*Girl's Own Paper*, 1885)

Despite supposedly primitive living conditions (or because of them?) the Black Forest people were hospitable and – in their simplicity – admirable.

“As to the people, they are charmingly primitive; intelligence, honesty, and industry their three chief virtues; preserving the ancient dress and manners of their forefathers; and, as any adventurer may ascertain for himself, never forgetful to entertain strangers.” (*The Ladies' Treasury*, 1859)

“I never remember to have spent a pleasanter evening; seated in a snug room before a well-spread table, by the side of a delightful stove, that bade defiance to the frost.” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1840)

“The peasants of the Black Forest meet [...] of winter evenings, the women to spin, the men to sing songs or tell tales; and an especial class of literature has been provided for them in late years to take a place of tales and songs that were deemed objectionable by the clergy of the province.” (*All The Year Round*, 1862)



Leaving for the river (1895)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

While some English travellers admired the degree of education among the peasants, they also delighted in teaching the ‘natives’.

“In each parish there is a good school for boys and girls (mixed schools); the instruction is gratis [...] We have been amazed, on entering a cottage or farmhouse far from town or village, to hear ourselves addressed in perfectly good English.” (*Girl's Own Paper*, 1885)

“The raspberries were ripe, so I gathered a good quantity, and explained to my hostess the process of making jam. An English boy will hardly believe me when I say that it was quite a new idea to her. [...] When you go there I hope you will find the good lady still flourishing, and an adept jam-maker.” (*Boy's Own Paper*, 1887)



Encountering the locals (1869)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Most travellers found the local food wholesome, if not luxurious. Others struggled to adapt to foreign foods and drink.

“We started the next morning [...] after a substantial breakfast [...] that is, to stow the ground-tier dry with meat and other solids, and afterwards taking a top-dressing of coffee, eggs, bread and butter, &c. – not forgetting to pouch the most considerable part of a cold hare, and a flask or so of kirchwasser [i.e. Kirschwasser].” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1840)

“And here let me give my humble tribute of thanksgiving for the dainty cheer we almost always found; for if the cutlets were woolly, and the soup innocent of meat, still could we not compensate for all this by eating our fill of trout [...] And even if the wine more resembled vinegar [...] were we not thirsty and only too glad to get wine at all in these desolate regions, instead of having to make lime-kilns of ourselves by swallowing the fiery kirchwasser?” (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1851)

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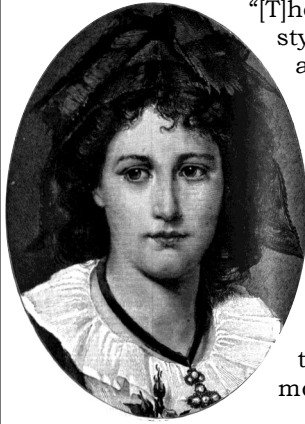


Homely evening by the side of a stove (1885)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.5993.w

Black Forest Men and Women

Old-fashioned but of quiet dignity

Male and female costume seemed quaint to Victorian travellers. But the lack of fashion consciousness was often judged positively.



A Black Forest peasant girl (1884)
By permission of the British Library,
P.P.1163.ed

"[T]he dress of the Black Foresters is very tasteful, but the style in which the clothes are made will not meet with approval. Imagine the waist just under the armpits, after the fashion of our George II., and then the immense coat-tails the men wear to make up for this, rendering them frightfully clumsy to look at." (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)

"The dresses of the women are most inelegant, but they adhere to them with the strongest attachment because it is accounted a point of honour and a mark of virtue for them to dress as their grandmothers and great-grandmothers dressed before them" (*The Ladies' Treasury*, 1889).

"Their dress is not picturesque, yet one would be sorry to see it superseded by that of modern fashion. The old women, who still adhere to the high straw hat, thick bunchy petticoats and short body, are not unlike the Welsh women; the caps with the gold and silvered embroidered backs and the long ribbon strings down to the ground, worn by the majority of the women and girls are very quaint, but a girl need be very good looking to carry off the effect." (*Girl's Own Paper*, 1885)

"[I]n the Black Forest the ever-changeable goddess Fashion is not worshipped [...]. there are for everyday wear enormous straw hats, measuring roughly two feet six inches across, with three large blobs of red wool on the top. [...] These [...] head-gears have, as you can well imagine, a most curious effect." (*Boy's Own Paper*, 1887)



Young man (1879)
By permission of the
British Library,
P.P.6004.1

Elaborate wooing and wedding rituals made the Black Forest appear charmingly outlandish.

"Marriages in the Black Forest are arranged after a very different style from that which is usual amongst ourselves. The young man who has fallen desperately in love with some charming girl (as young men will do all over the world), and who is madly anxious to obtain her consent to their union, does not venture to make a proposition in person, but goes straight way to a negotiant, and entrusts the matter to him. It is tolerably well understood, notwithstanding, that such a marriage is probable [...] and so, in due time and in due form, behold the negotiant rides up to the house of the Dulcinea's father." (*The Ladies' Treasury*, 1859)

"On the morning of the wedding-day the friends of the bride arrive early to assist her in the duties of the toilette. They plait into her hair a quantity of red cotton; they clothe her in a robe of silk gauze, and a cloak of black silk, which falls from the head to the feet; they place upon her head a straw crown, covered with pieces of coloured glass." (*The Ladies' Treasury*, 1859)

Women lost their beauty early through severe living conditions. Nonetheless, Victorians were almost envious of the Black Forest's firm rooting in tradition.

"[P]oetical licence is a very good sort of thing in its way; but to a matter-of-fact-personage like myself the deep-blue eyes of these peasant girls bore a striking resemblance to those of a dead fish, glowering with lack-lustre gaze from beneath their hollow sockets; their appearance betokening severe labour and scanty rations." (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1840)

"But the beauty to be found among the women is remarkable [...]. Their large black eyes and clear brown complexion would tempt a misogynist [...]. As is usually the case with all German peasant women, their beauty soon fades from hard work and privation, and by the age of twenty-five they are old and wrinkled." (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1858)



Black Forest maiden (1886)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

The girls and women are peculiarly gentle and subdued in expression, induced, as I think, by the sombre grandeur of the country in which they live; their manners are modest and restful, and, no matter whether you find them at house-work or field-work, in the schools or in the factories, there is a quiet reticence and dignity about them very striking. They are not in the least frivolous, but they are inquisitive, and, I should say, obstinate." (*Girl's Own Paper*, 1885)



The bridal toilette (1885)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.5244.o

“They work hard in many ways”

(*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

Black Forest Economy

The aspiring economy of the Black Forest was based on ingenuity and craftsmanship.

“A characteristic feature is perceptible throughout the history of the Schwarzwald trades; the forester who comes across anything that strikes him, never rests till he has thoroughly learned how to produce it. The first wooden clocks, as we have seen, were made by peasants, who admired similar articles in foreign parts [...]. The lucky inventors took the greatest trouble to hand down the secret to their children; but the ambitious neighbours set every wheel in motion, until they had detected it.” (*All the Year Round*, 1862)

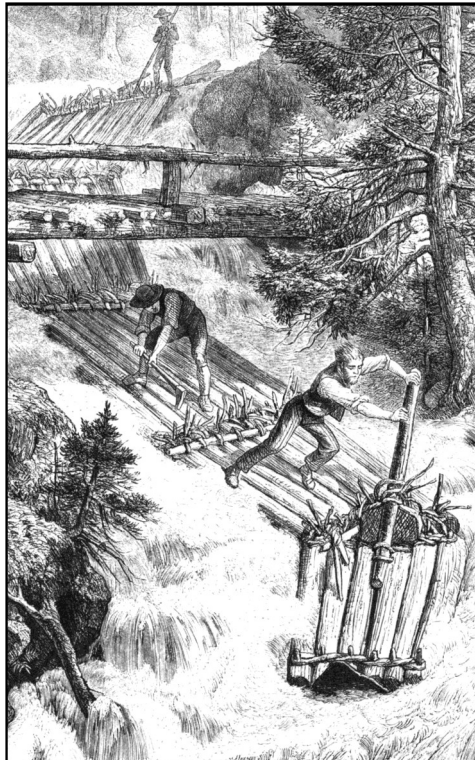


Straw plaiting (1885)

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Both men and women contribute to the family's scanty income.

“In 1694 some glassworkers brought into Triberg [...] a straw hat from Switzerland. The inhabitants, who were very poor at that time, looked at it until they thought it possible to imitate it, and thus create a new industry for themselves, by which the women and girls could add a little to the weekly income. They succeeded so well that [...] at this present time above 6,000 girls are engaged in the Black Forest upon this one industry.” (*Girl's Own Paper*, 1885)



Rafters at work (1868)

Image: Wikimedia Commons

With its steep hills and its primeval woods, the Black Forest is not destined for rich farming but for logging.

“[W]oodcraft takes precedence of farming, and even cattle-grazing. The growth, the cutting down, and the removal of timber form a large part of the people's employment. [...] The woodman's axe is often heard amidst the silence of the dark, yet silvery forests, and down comes the tall fir-pole with a tremendous crash. The trees, when trimmed, are floated by mountain torrents into the rivers which water the valleys. When streams have not sufficient volume and force to serve the purpose [...]. [D]ams are formed [...] and when opened, the waters rush out with immense violence, carrying all before them, [...] masses of timber wending like serpents down the tortuous stream [...]. At the head of the raft a strong, clever raftsman guides its course by means of a long pole.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

The Black Forest is especially famous for its cuckoo clocks, which were an important article for export.

“In 1730 the first cuckoo-clocks were made; ten years later, perpendicular clocks; ten years after that again, metal works were substituted for wooden. About the year 1770, eight-day clocks were manufactured in the Schwarzwald; and almost simultaneously musical clocks, first with bells, and then with whistles. The latter were gradually so improved that they performed the masterpieces of Haydn and Mozart. At the present day, magnificent musical instruments, playing any quantity of tunes, may be inspected at Schöpferlin's manufactory in Lenzkirch.” (*All the Year Round*, 1862)

“Triberg is a great emporium of this most interesting art-trade. [...] But the clock trade is also carried on in villages by people who work in their own homes. Not only the father, but the mother and the children, when not employed in household affairs, work away upon some article employed in the construction in time-pieces. [...] As many as 13,500 people are engaged in the business, and there are no less than 1,429 inde-



Black Forest clock-maker

By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.1

pendent artisans and masters, the latter of whom employ 5,726 pair of hands.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1879)

“A large proportion of the shops of Triberg are devoted to the sale of cuckoo and other clocks, the manufacture of which forms the principal industry of the district.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1901)

Magic and Adventure

Tales from the Black Forest

Despite its allure as a picturesque travel destination, the Black Forest was often presented as a dangerous and threatening space.

"[T]he oldest and strongest need not have been ashamed to display alarm in the midst of a dark forest, where the road could scarcely be seen, and in whose depths there arose a thousand confused and mysterious sounds." (*Boys' Own Magazine*, 1861)

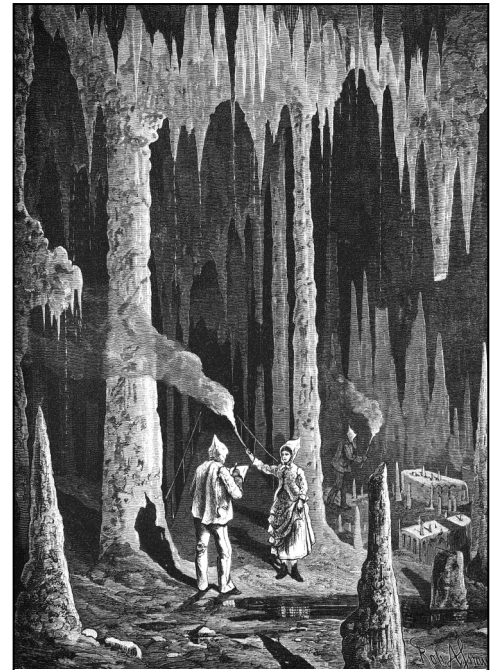
"The Black Forest, stretching away for many a league from the base of that mountain range, lay like its name, black as night, the abode of darkness, mystery and horror." (*Boys of England*, 1868)

Tales set in the Black Forest were rich in superstitious lore and predisposed readers to think of the dark forest as a place of mystery.

"Diederich was a firm believer in all sorts of supernatural lore, but he could not help thinking as he walked along that it was exceedingly strange what had become of the hosts of sprites and goblins which every forest and ruin in Germany used to abound in the days of yore [...] and if at any time lights were seen, and strange noises heard, in any of the old castles, they must have been in consequence of the spirits of the departed barons holding their midnight revelry in those halls where they had formerly presided in the flesh." (*Bentley's Miscellany*, 1840)

"Instantly the gigantic form of the huntsman, with his fiery eyes, appeared before the trunk of the tree from beneath whose curtain of hanging leaves Casper had but just emerged." (*Boys of England*, 1868)

"High in the air [...] appeared the gigantic figure of a knight completely armed, and carrying his lance upon his shoulder. The priest raised his hand and made the air-drawn sign before which, according to the superstition of the age, the powers of darkness were supposed to tremble." (*Boys of England*, 1884)



Cave inhabited by gnomes (1879)
Image: Wikimedia Commons



Dutch Michael (1861)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.5993.d

The perils of the Black Forest were also attributed to bands of lawbreakers roaming the forest.

"You must know that they lived in the Black Forest, a place much frequented by armed robbers [...] who watched for travellers as cats watch for mice, pouncing upon the defenceless ones, sometimes murdering them, always robbing them of their gold, jewellery, and even clothes." (*Routledge's Magazine for Boys*, 1866)

Stories of witches and witchcraft have a long tradition in rural Southern Germany. Misery and evil came as a pair.



Witchcraft (1890)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.5993.s

"In a miserable hut in the depths of the Black Forest in Germany, [...] long since deserted [...] an old woman lay on a miserable pallet at the point of death. This was the present tenant, best known to the peasantry of the locality as 'Mystery Madge'. The title was bestowed upon her in consequence of her being popularly supposed to have dealing with the Evil One. [...] But both man and maid were very careful not to offend the old crone, if they fell across her path, lest trouble should fall on them or theirs." The spectacular death of Madge confirms suspicions: "the triangular space on which she stood gave way, and Mystery Madge disappeared in a sheet of flames, which shot up, while a peal of diabolical laughter rent the air." (*Boys of England*, 1890)



A friar and his companion seek to escape outlaws (1884)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.5993.s

"And how am I to find a way out of this pathless wilderness, where danger confronts the wanderer at every turn? Not from its savage denizens alone, but yet more ferocious enemies – from man – outlaws and assassins, who, disappointed of a richer victim, would shed my blood in mockery and scorn." (*Boys of England*, 1884)

Black Forest Nature

“a sense of sublimity” *(The Leisure Hour, 1879)*



In the Black Forest (1877)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.gs

For those who moved beyond the cosmopolitan attractions of Baden, the Black Forest offered picturesque beauty and an exhilarating sense of solitude.

“All this part of the Black Forest abounds in pine wood. [...] To stand at the foot of one of these lofty pines, and look upwards, has a strange effect on the sight and the imagination, especially if at the moment the ear is filled with the murmurings of an adjoining brook, and the music of the wind through the boughs overhead. The whole is calculated to affect the mind with a sense of sublimity [...]” *(The Leisure Hour, 1879)*

“The beautiful valleys, thickly studded with quaint villages and snug farm-houses; transparent streams rushing swiftly through the dales and turning the wheels of many a picturesque mill; the grand wooded slopes and the sweet scent of the fir forests which give the name to the district; the pure exhilarating air, and a population always kindly and courteous in their bearing to strangers – all these combine to fulfil the requirements of a tour.” *(The Leisure Hour, 1901)*

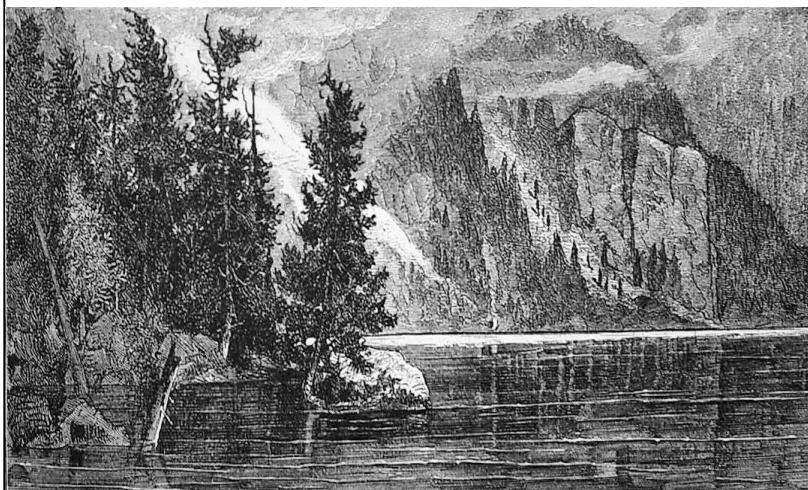
English travellers were tempted by the Black Forest’s wild and sombre beauty which evokes a sense of a lost past.

“The present is an age of great cities. [...] At the remote period [of] the age of forests [...] only a few daring spirits attempted to explore its dark depths. The sombre hue of its wide spreading woods has given it its modern name, and it seems to have suggested images of terror, and inspired emotions of fear, in the minds of the roving tribes [...]” *(The Leisure Hour, 1879)*

“Cold and cruel, dark and green, the waters looked today. The lake is not large, but its remote situation, its wild aspect, its unbroken setting of fir trees, its absolute solitude and desolation, throw a weird influence upon the spectator and encompass him with a spell.” *(The Argosy, 1882)*

The Black Forest’s greatest charm lies in the blurred boundary between nature and man.

“There, where few penetrate, or have the chance of penetrating, visions of impossible loveliness exist. [...] stretches of green banks lined with the wild flowers of the wood, sufficient to keep you in a state of ecstasy for weeks [...] spots almost untrodden by the foot of man; where the birds will scarce start at your presence, for they have not yet learned the natural enmity that exists between themselves and mankind.” *(The Argosy, 1882)*



Feldsee (1879)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

The way people travelled influenced the way they experienced Black Forest nature:

“[T]he view from the New Castle of Eberstein – a wonderfully pleasant drive from Baden, through a road that winds up into forests and down into hollows; taking you into the heart of the woods [...] yielding the very utmost enjoyment of the fresh pure delight of these sylvan retreats and solitudes as you are drawn swiftly through the air by strong, willing horses; [...] delicious wafts, and the rustle and murmur of the trees make music for you as you journey.” *(The Argosy, 1882)*

“Since the days of my wanderings the Forest has been much ‘developed’ by a railway: but if you really want to enjoy the scenery let me earnestly recommend you to keep away from it, and endeavour to forget its existence.” *(Boy’s Own Paper, 1887)*

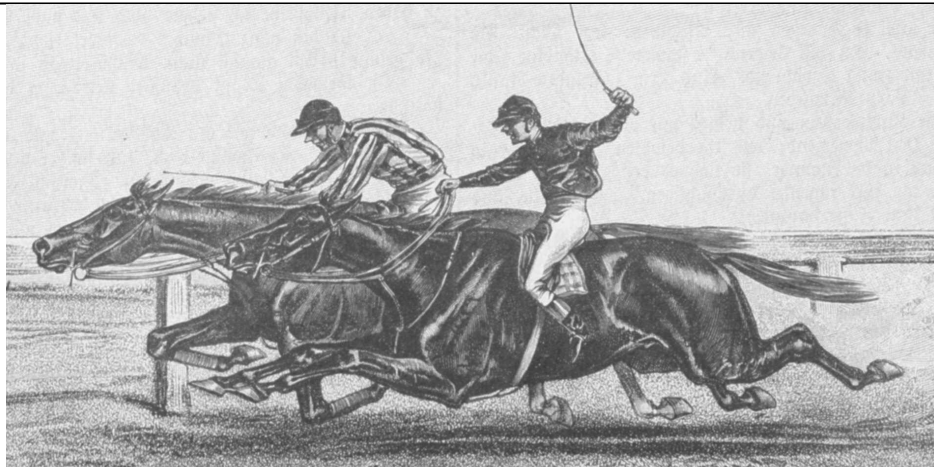
“The use of the cycle enables the traveller to come into close relations with the inhabitants of the country visited, and to penetrate into out-of-the-way corners which are often inaccessible by railway or other modes of locomotion.” *(The Leisure Hour, 1901)*



Wehratal (1879)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Black Forest Sports

Hunting, Shooting, Fishing – and Cycling



Horse racing (1888)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

Fashionable sports entertainment was available at the Baden-Baden race grounds. Though less advanced than English racing, it had the charm of innocence.

“In Baden-Baden racing, the turf, and everything connected with it, is nearly in its infancy. As yet it is dressed, superbly dressed, in the white robes of innocence and simplicity. There you have the genuine unsophisticated article, for which all men long [...] it is devoid of offence, of noise, of business, of *éclat*.” (*Baily’s Monthly Magazine*, 1862)

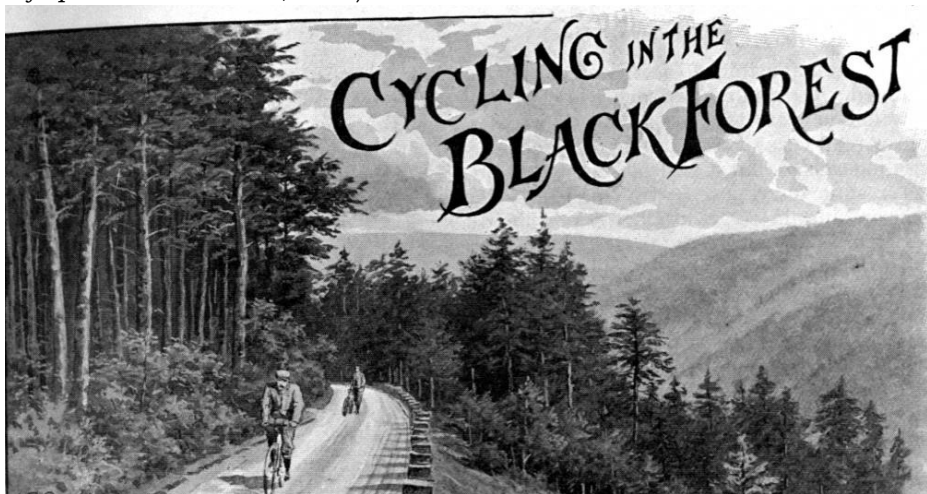
For those who wished to be physically active, walking and cycling offered a glorious nature experience but also required some determination, getting up those hills and encountering puzzled natives.

“You must know [...] that the Germans are not very great walkers and that an Englishman and his knapsack are always looked upon with great curiosity.” (*Boy’s Own Paper*, 1887)

“From Hornberg to Triberg is a climb of 800 feet [...]” (*Badminton Magazine of Sports and Pastimes*, 1897)

“Those who are tempted to experience these charms of novelty and variety will find the Black Forest of Germany an ideal cycling ground.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1901)

“The ride through the valley of the Gutach [...] is a truly delightful experience. The scenery is as fine as anything to be found in the Black Forest. The meadows are more than usually verdant, the fruit-trees more luxuriant than in the valley previously traversed, and the farm buildings almost appear to have been specially designed with an eye to picturesque effect.” (*The Leisure Hour*, 1901)

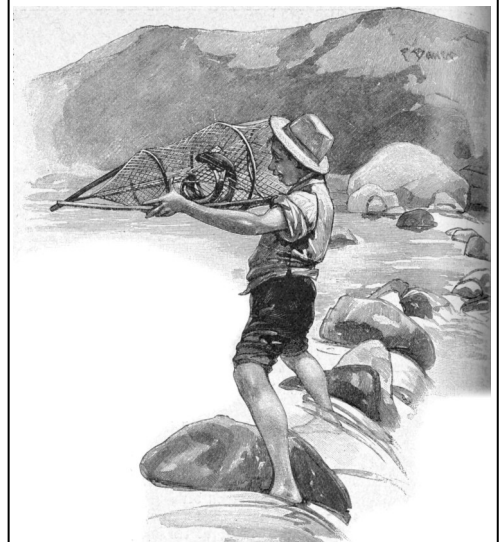


Near the summit of the Kniebis (1901)
By permission of the British Library, P.P.6004.1



The Black Forest promised pleasures for the tourist as much as for the sportsman in its unique combination of hunting or fishing and picturesque nature.

“The property is known as Bad Boll, and embraces forty miles of each side of the Wutach [...], which is acknowledged to be the best trout and grayling river in the Black Forest. [...] The scenery is magnificent, embracing some of the most picturesque spots in The Black Forest.” (*The Fishing Gazette*, 1893)



Catching trout (1895)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

“One hears very often of people [...] who would like to vary the monotony of scenery and sight-seeing with some decent trout-fishing. [...] The neighbourhood of Diekirch is very pretty, and there are many interesting expeditions which can be made by rail or carriage from that place. With regard to the fishing, there are several rivers of various sizes, whose fishing the manager – who is a fisherman himself – rents and places at the disposal of his visitors.” (*Baily’s Magazine*, 1896)

If one was unlucky, of course, one ran into huntsmen that were mere tourists: “A friend of mine [...] was placed [next to a young American] who discoursed loudly about the eternal dollars [...] in such a very decided manner that the hares curiously enough declined to run anywhere near his side of the beat.” (*Bell’s Life*, 1871)

The German View

The Black Forest and Its People

The popular *Gartenlaube*, an illustrated family weekly founded in 1853, introduced its readers to the region and its people. Its articles remark on similar things as their English counterparts – the beauty of the landscape, the strangeness of custom and costume.

“A wire frame gives the crown shape and support; gold and silver tinsel, beads, flowers made from silk and silver wire lend it colour and stateliness. In harmony with this are the bold colours of the dress and pinafore, the colourful ribbons woven into her hair, the bright silk neckerkerchief, the white ruff and above all, the beautifully coloured stomacher between the bands of the bodice.” (*Gartenlaube*, 1886)



A bride from the Baar region (1886)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

In the second half of the nineteenth century, as the remote Black Forest became more accessible, Germans discovered the Black Forest as an area of tourism and recreation.

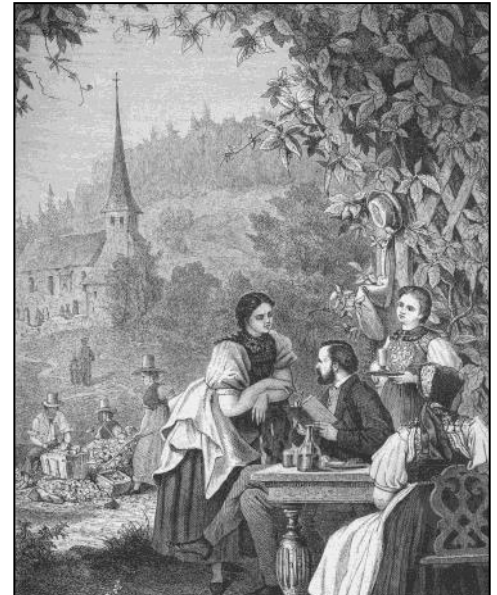
“The opening of the first stretch of the Höllental railway has made the most beautiful part of the Black Forest accessible to the tourist. Whoever has stood on the Freiburg Schloßberg and let his eye roam to the sombre peak of the Feldberg and back again over the glorious surrounding forests and meadows will appreciate the incomparable beauty of this valley and understand what gift of new pleasant tours has been made to the locals. It will now be possible, on a beautiful summer’s day, to leave Freiburg after lunch, spend the afternoon at the Titisee, which is high up in the mountains and surrounded by forest, and return to town in the evening. Unless one prefers to continue one’s wanderings and go to the wooded Feldberg sung by old Hebel, of whom one is constantly reminded here.” (*Gartenlaube*, 1887)



Laying out the nets (1895)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

But there is also a notable emphasis on the Schwarzwald’s kind of Germanness, which was of special concern before and after the unification of 1871.

“For a millennium and a half, the people have been German through and through, of Alemannic stock. The Celts, who originally inhabited the country, were not only subdued, but thoroughly expelled when, in the last centuries of the Roman rule, the Alemannic advanced triumphant on both sides of the Rhine [...]. Over the course of history, the character of the Black Forest people has proved to be most respectable. It is refreshing to converse with the common man. He belongs to a healthy, sturdy breed of people, full of quiet confidence, whose bright mind is eager to learn and ready to adopt any good thing, always open and friendly in conversation, much inclined towards fact-filled discussion, full of patriotism and true German spirit. Mischievous in all his guilelessness – this is how the Black Forester presents himself to the visitor of his mountains.” (*Gartenlaube*, 1879)



Traveller’s view on Höllental (1868)
Image: Wikimedia Commons

As modern transport and trade developed, the Black Forest became more and more international.

“First of all, we must mention those trades which are related to wood production – namely sawmills, board-cutting, parquet-making, coopering, brush-making and wood carving. The latter primarily serves the clock industry. This industry, recently suffering from American competition on foreign markets, remains of the utmost importance; it is indigenous to the country, not imported.” (*Gartenlaube*, 1879)

“While we were thus looking out the window, we happened to hear a conversation being carried out in English behind us. Had Mr. Benjamin Disraeli or Lord John Russell and their servants appeared unannounced at the Stern guesthouse? No, it was simply the innkeepers from Bärenthal and Todtnau, who began to discuss domestic matters in a foreign language. The Black Forester likes to travel and see foreign parts of the world; he also visits the British Isles and learns the language spoken there; he works abroad, looks around, earns respect and money, and then returns home to his dark fir woods. And when he finds others there who also understand English, he starts a conversation, which allows him to remain fluent in the foreign language without offending anyone.” (*Gartenlaube*, 1868)

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