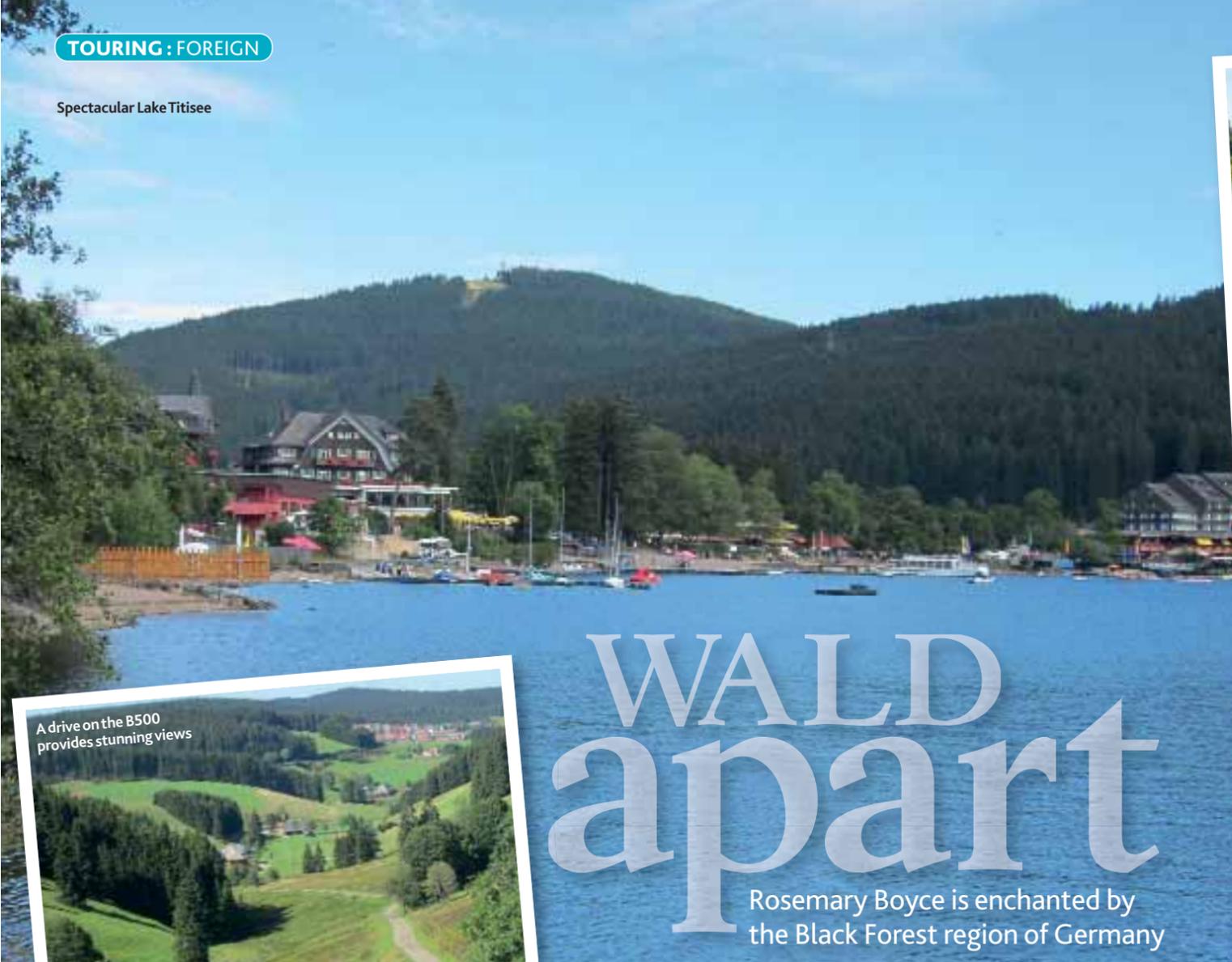


Spectacular Lake Titisee



WALD apart

Rosemary Boyce is enchanted by the Black Forest region of Germany

A drive on the B500 provides stunning views



Cheers! Relaxing lakeside

Imagine a landscape that mimics a perfect canvas – fir trees bound skywards above deep folding valleys, heavy-roofed farmhouses dot open lowlands and cool glacial lakes lure the eye.

East of the Rhine, bordering Switzerland and France, Germany's Black Forest (Schwarzwald) lies within the state of Baden-Württemberg and spans an area roughly 120 miles long by 40 miles wide.

Our journey involved a 425-mile drive via Belgium, Luxembourg and Metz in France to our chosen base in the Southern Black Forest at Bruderhalde, 1 1/2 miles south-west of Titisee-Neustadt. Titisee is a renowned holiday destination and health resort, which in a 1971 community reform was connected with the nearby town of Neustadt. The glacial lake of Titisee is its star attraction, said to be named after the Roman emperor, Titus.

The blue-green lake shimmers in the sunlight 858m above sea level. To

appreciate its beauty you might follow a lakeside path, board a cruiser, even set off in a pedalo or rowing boat – although many say the best view is from the lookout tower on Hochfirst mountain.

The centre of Titisee has an abundance of shops, much to the souvenir hunter's delight. If shopping's not your thing, you might head for the waterfront promenade and leave the crowds behind, or take time out and relax awhile in one of the many cafés or coffee shops.

Titisee is in the heart of the Southern Black Forest Natural Park which also offers a host of sporting attractions. 'Nordic walking' is particularly popular and there are many hiking trails, a large network of cycle routes plus opportunities to embark on adventure tours and much more besides. Signposting on all paths is excellent.

Curiosity is certain to get you behind the wheel for a more leisurely tour of this picturesque region. The scenic marked roads, especially the B500, unfold

landscapes that defy description. Challenging is the prospect of catching on camera the rolling hills and deep valleys, or a distant lone farmstead.

Take the stretch of the B500 from Titisee in a northerly direction towards Furtwangen and Triberg. Time passes easily in Furtwangen, for here in the German Clock Museum more than 350 years of clockmaking tradition are kept alive. This town also hosts an antique clock collectors' fair during the last weekend in August. So deep-rooted is the timepiece tradition in the Black Forest that a 200-mile German Clock Route runs through the region.

Triberg, meanwhile, claims to be the cuckoo clock capital of the world. One particularly interesting example, which claims to be the biggest in existence, is a few minutes uphill from Triberg in Schonach. Built 31 years ago by Josef Dold, you can step inside it to admire the craftsmanship.

Lying in a romantic setting amid the wild landscape, Triberg is a busy tourist spot. Worth visiting is the museum, the pilgrimage church and the town hall which features magnificent wood carvings. Then there's the pull of Café Schafer on Hauptstrasse where you will find a tasty

example of Black Forest gâteau. Here the confectioner Claus Schafer is heir to Josef Keller's 1915 recipe which is claimed to be 'often imitated – never copied'.

Triberg also boasts the highest waterfalls in Germany – the waters of the River Gutach plunge more than 160m via seven cascades into the valley below, a natural spectacle that attracts more than half a million people each year. This was just one of many memorable experiences – one thing is for certain, Black Forest gâteau will never taste the same again. ■



Triberg – the cuckoo clock capital of the world



Josef Dold's famous giant clock

“The glacial lake of Titisee is the star attraction, said to be named after the Roman emperor, Titus”



The Rhine borders the Black Forest to the east



INFORMATION

SITES

A choice of sites in Germany can be found in the Club's 2012/2013 *Caravan Europe* guide that also covers Austria, Benelux, Central Europe, Greece, Italy, Scandinavia and Switzerland, priced £8.99 to members (non-members £15.99) plus £2.50 postage and packaging. Order your copy at caravanclub.co.uk/shop or by calling 01342 327410. We stayed at: → **Camping Bankenhof**, Bruderhalde 31, 79822 Titisee-Neustadt (p336). Call 0049 7652 1351 or see camping-bankenhof.de. Ask at reception for a KONUS card for free local public transport.



Camping Bankenhof

TRAVEL/TOURISM

→ **Ferry and sites bookings via the Club** – a choice of sites in Germany, bookable through the Club, can be found in our 2012 *Continental Caravanning* brochure. A site to consider would be **Camping Belchenblick** (G02, p124). For site and ferry details and to make bookings, call 01342 316101 or see caravanclub.co.uk.