

WANDERTAGE

The *Wanderschaft* is a surviving medieval tradition in today's Germany. After finishing their apprenticeship, young craftsmen and craftswomen leave home, family, friends and all their belongings in order to travel and make working experiences in their crafts.

In a world of mobility, where following the best job opportunities means often even being ready to cross the country's border for good, *Wanderschaft* is an old custom becoming modern again.

Dressed always with the traditional corduroy suit and a black hat, also carrying a weird stick and just a tiny luggage, journeying carpenters, stonemasons and smiths choose to be free and homeless for, so the rule, at least three years and one day. Only allowed walking or hitchhiking, journeying craftsmen (the *Wandergesellen*) constantly get in contact with unknown people and places, looking for a master where to work and learn, or a place where to sleep.

A choice of low profile lifestyle for rediscovering simple pleasures, learning what is valuable in life and what is taken for granted. *Wanderschaft* is a unique way of traveling where *Wandergesellen* are getting help from people for a breeze of venture and hope in exchange.

Subject to many handed down secret rituals and strict rules, they are not allowed to get closer to their birthplace or carry a mobile phone. Nowadays many female tailors, upholsters and bakers are also on the road, accepted as part of the group by some of the recently founded guilds.

Belonging to a guild is for life and emphasizes solidarity and camaraderie to the group. The *Walz* (so the traditional trip), though, is also a very individualistic search for adventures: a modern romantic journey, quest for knowledge and the self.

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