

PEOPLE PLACES

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.

VERSIONS

Diverse

RIGHTS

Worldwide, VOD, Mobile

ORDER NUMBER

56 4739 | 01-12

12 x 30 min.

English, German, Spanish

56 4739 | 01-10

10 x 30 min.

Arabic

56 4739 | 04-08

05 x 30 min.

Portuguese

58 4812

01 x 60 min.

German, Portuguese



Coming Home

What is it like for a person to return to his roots, to go back to the country of his childhood and youth, a country he left years ago for a life in a foreign place? How has life changed for the family and friends he left behind? What memories are triggered by the experience? What has changed after all these years? What is the true meaning of home? These are all questions examined in the series **Coming Home**.

Each edition focuses on a protagonist who has at some point taken the decision to leave his homeland – whether it be in North Africa, South or Central America, or Asia – to live in Germany. We accompany him on a journey to the country of his birth. Because he knows the language of the nation and has spent part of his life there, the insights he provides go much further than those of a tourist or foreign journalist. At the same time, the program captures two differing viewpoints of each nation: the viewpoint of a foreigner who is also a native citizen, and the viewpoint of the native citizen who is also a foreigner. Most of our protagonists feel at home in both their old home and their adoptive one – or in neither.

01 Egypt

For twenty years now the Egyptian journalist and author Azza Hassan has been living in Berlin. Every year she travels to her native country. But this time her visit will be more in-depth. A camera team will accompany her and the trip will become a search for clues. How are her family doing in Cairo? What are her relatives doing? What do her friends think? How is the country changing? Azza's journey will provide an intimate insight into the life of Egyptian society. The question that arises for Azza is: what does "home" mean?

02 Morocco

The author and journalist Mohamed Massad lives in Saarbrücken, in south-west Germany. He often travels to his old home Morocco for private and professional reasons. Tangier, Ketama, Fez, Rabat, Casablanca, Essaouira: this time he will be visiting the places that shaped his life until he came to Germany twelve years ago. He will visit his family, meet his friends and talk to politicians. Mohamed will learn about the changes in Moroccan society and will try to find out where he fits in here. Is Morocco still his home?

03 Tunisia

For almost twenty years now, Kaouther Tabai, an author and IT specialist, has been living in Munich. She only rarely travels to her former home, Tunisia. This time she wants to take the time to meet people she hasn't seen for a long time and maybe also explore the country anew for herself. From the city of Tunis to the wild Cape Bon, from the sacred city of Kairouan to the oases of the south, Kaouther sets off in search of discoveries and intensive encounters.

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04 Argentina

Cherry pick the best of both cultures – that’s the approach of Victoria Bürgin. The costume designer has lived since 2003 in Germany, the country her great grandparents once left for Argentina. She feels at home in Germany, but still sometimes gets homesick for the country of her birth.

05 Mexico

Music promoter Jorge Sánchez Meza found his way to Germany thanks to German friends he made at home in Mexico. In the year 2000, they saved up some money and surprised him with an air ticket. He stayed for three months, and decided he would like to live and work in Germany. As to Mexico, he would like to return someday, even though his homeland becomes less familiar with each and every visit.

06 Chile

For a long time, Ana Aravena Gross couldn’t bring herself to go back to her homeland, Chile. The pain of her experiences during the Pinochet dictatorship was still too raw. After studying architecture in Madrid, she came to live and work in Berlin. When she does eventually decide to visit Chile again, she encounters a nation that is very different to the one she left behind all those years ago.

07 Brazil – Alex Flemming

Germany is the country of his forefathers, and the Brazilian painter and sculptor Alex Flemming tried settling there once before. In the mid-1980s, he came to experience East German-style Socialism for himself, and returned to Brazil six months later, disillusioned. He went back in the early 1990s, this time to a reunified Germany – and stayed. Not that he has ever neglected his Brazilian contacts; his paintings and installations are exhibited in galleries and museums across the South American nation.

08 Colombia

Jaqueline Rojas works as a dentist in Berlin. She continues to be fascinated by her home country Colombia, but she chooses to live in Germany because it is peaceful and free. For her, Colombia is still an unstable and dangerous place. Although Europe is now her adoptive home, it’s important for her to visit relatives and friends back in South America.

09 India – Harmeet Bans

Success demanded a few sacrifices: Once in Germany, Harmeet “Bunty” Bans shaved off his beard, cut his hair and gave up his turban. Today, he’s the proud owner of a chain of restaurants in Berlin. But he’s never lost contact with his relatives or religious roots. This feature report follows Bunty through a land of contrasts, from the city of his birth, Bombay, now Mumbai, to Amritsar, home of the Golden Temple, the most sacred shrine of the Sikhs. From Punjab Bunty continues to Goa, and everywhere he goes, he meets friends and relatives.

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10 India – Anand Narayanaswamy

Anand Narayanaswamy takes us to the scenes of his childhood and teenage years from Chennai to Kolkata, once known to the West as Calcutta. Anand shows us a country that has undergone radical changes in the past few decades – just as he has himself: an ethnic Tamil and IT specialist, he's found a new home in Munich, where he now lives with his wife and two children.

11 Brazil – Eliane Fernandes **HD**

Also available: 60 min. version in German, Portuguese | 58 4812

Eliane Fernandes Ferreira was born in an idyllic spa town in southern Brazil, but her forefathers come from the north of the country: her great-grandfather was a rubber baron who sought his fortune in the jungles of the Amazon Basin. She is an ethnologist at the University of Bremen and is conducting research into Brazil's indigenous peoples. More than 10,000 kilometers separate her adoptive home in Germany and the Amazon Basin where she works. But Eliane Fernandes Ferreira feels at home in both places.

12 Japan **HD**

It all started with a slice of bread: When Sambi Saito tasted the bread her father brought back to Tokyo from his travels in Germany, she knew she wanted to live in the place that produced such delicious fare. She came to Cologne to train as a baker and went on to study nutritional science. Her visit home to Japan begins in Tokyo, where she was born and raised and where her parents still live. From Tokyo Sambi Saito travels to Miyagi Prefecture, a region badly hit by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Other destinations include Kanazawa, Kyoto and Kobe.