English-language exonyms used in the United Kingdom for places and features in Czechia, Germany and Poland

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This compilation lists the principal places and features of Czechia [CZ], Germany [DE] and Poland [PL] for which there exist conventional names (*exonyms*) in the English language as used in the United Kingdom today. It raises a number of interesting issues regarding the relevance of exonyms to various methods of communication, in particular the varying requirements of different contexts: *eg* cartographic *versus* textual; current *versus* historical; and toponymic *versus* geographical.

Apart from the country names, few of the exonyms in this list would feature in official United Kingdom cartography. Exonyms are not the principal cartographic name by which a feature is normally known in the United Kingdom, unless that feature is international in nature (*eg* Carpathian Mountains; Danube). For features within a single sovereignty, the name encountered in official UK cartography will usually be the relevant endonym.

The list was originally drafted with the EuroGeoNames project in mind, and is limited in scope. It relates to features within the three countries noted, and to features which are shared between or among them, and in both those instances it seeks to provide all the relevant names. But although the list includes features which one or more of these countries shares with other neighbours, it does not include the names adopted by those neighbouring countries for those features: *viz.* Beskids (5 entries); Carpathians (3 entries); Danube; Lake Constance; Moselle; Rhine; Tatras (2 entries). On the other hand, the compilation does include three international features for which the English language uses one of the available endonyms (Elbe; Neisse; Oder).

Exonyms of certain categories have not been included, although the categorisation is not always easy to apply:
- purely historical exonyms: *eg* Carlsbad, Danzig, Ratisbon;
- purely obsolete exonyms: *eg* Little Poland, Ore Mountains;
- obsolete English forms/spellings: *eg* Brunswick;
- names with a purely thematic application in geography: *eg* geomorphological expressions such as Harz Foreland.

There are 66 separate features listed here, of which 59 are within the territory of one of the three countries, and 7 are international. A total of only 66 English-language exonyms for a combined "endonym population" of 130 million in an area of some 750,000 square kilometres seems a commendably small number, very much in keeping with the guidelines recommended by UNGEGN, especially given that this total includes some exonyms which are arguably historical.

One interesting fact to emerge is that, for the most part, English exonyms for features in Germany relate to features internal to that country, whereas English exonyms for features in Poland relate mainly to international features which Poland shares with her neighbours. The number of English exonyms for internal and international features in Czechia is about equal. Other points to emerge are as follows:

- It is not always possible to define an exonym simply by language. The exonyms for *Zatoka Gdańska* and *Lüneburger Heide* show a difference between United Kingdom and United States practice, even though the common exonym language is English.

- Occasionally the phenomenon of a *variant exonym* is encountered, as in the exonyms for *Nürnberg* and *Schwäbische Alb*.

- Sometimes one exonym does not straightforwardly relate to one feature: the exonym *Bohemian Forest*, straddling Germany and Czechia, relates to one endonym in Germany (*Böhmerwald*) but to two endonyms in Czechia (*Český les* + *Šumava*).

- The English exonym *Cracow* is used more in English-language material published in Poland than it is used in the United Kingdom. This willingness to accommodate even obsolescent English exonyms is characteristic of many Central European countries.

Finally, the preparation of this list has once again illustrated the very subjective nature of the question of exonyms. It is unlikely that any two toponymic experts would draw up precisely the same list, and even the same expert might compile slightly different lists on separate occasions!

Endonym(s) [*English alphabetical order*]	**English Exonym** [*English reading order*]
Bayerische Alpen [DE]	Bavarian Alps
Bayerischer Wald [DE]	Bavarian Forest
Bayern [DE]	Bavaria
Beskid Śląski [PL] = Slezské Beskydy [CZ]	Silesian Beskid Mountains
Beskidy [PL][1]	Beskid Mountains
Beskidy Środkowe [PL]	Central Beskid Mountains
Beskidy Wschodnie [PL]	East Beskid Mountains
Beskidy Zachodnie [PL]	West Beskid Mountains
Bodensee [DE]	Lake Constance
Böhmerwald [DE] = Český les [CZ] + Šumava [CZ]	Bohemian Forest[2]
Čechy [CZ]	Bohemia
Česká republika [CZ]	Czech Republic
Česko [CZ]	Czechia
Český les *see entry under* Böhmerwald	
Deutschland [DE]	Germany
Deutschland, Bundesrepublik [DE]	Federal Republic of Germany
Dolny Śląsk [PL][3]	Lower Silesia
Donau [DE]	Danube
Franken [DE]	Franconia
Fränkische Alb [DE]	Franconian Jura

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[1] Apart from the five Beskid features listed here, there are several other divisions of the Beskid Mountains for which there are no exonyms in English.

[2] The Czech endonyms differ in the northern half (*Český les*) and the southern half (*Šumava*) of this feature.

[3] The name *Nizina Śląska* [PL] relates to a physiogeographical feature smaller than the English *Lower Silesia*.

Gdańska, Zatoka [PL]	Gulf of Gdańsk[4]
Górny Śląsk [PL][5]	Upper Silesia
Hannover [DE]	Hanover[6]
Harz [DE]	Harz Mountains
Helgoland [DE]	Heligoland
Helgoländer Bucht [DE]	Heligoland Bay
Helska, Mierzeja [PL]	Hel Peninsula
Hessen [DE]	Hesse
Karpaty [PL]	Carpathian Mountains
Karpaty Wschodnie [PL]	Eastern Carpathian Mountains
Karpaty Zachodnie [PL]	Western Carpathian Mountains
Kaszuby [PL]	Kashubia
Köln [DE]	Cologne
Kraków [PL]	Cracow (*obsolescent in the UK*)
Labe [CZ] = Elbe [DE]	Elbe (*English uses the DE endonym*)
Lüneburger Heide [DE]	Lüneburg Heath[7]
Lužická Nisa [CZ] = Neisse [DE] = Nysa Łużycka [PL]	Neisse (*English uses the DE endonym*)
Mazowsze [PL]	Mazovia
Mazury [PL]	Mazuria
Morava [CZ]	Moravia
Mosel [DE]	Moselle
München [DE]	Munich
Neisse *see entry under* Lužická Nisa	
Niederlausitz [DE]	Lower Lusatia
Niedersachsen [DE]	Lower Saxony
Nordfriesische Inseln [DE]	North Frisian Islands
Nord-Ostsee-Kanal [DE]	Kiel Canal
Nordrhein–Westfalen [DE]	North Rhine–Westphalia
Nürnberg [DE]	Nuremberg *or occasionally* Nuremburg
Nysa Łużycka *see entry under* Lužická Nisa	
Oder [DE] = Odra [PL]	Oder (*English uses the DE endonym*)
Odra: *see entry under* Oder	
Ostfriesische Inseln [DE]	East Frisian Islands
Polska [PL]	Poland
Polska, Rzeczpospolita [PL]	Republic of Poland
Pommersche Bucht [DE][8] = Pomorska, Zatoka [PL]	Pomeranian Bay
Pomorska, Zatoka *see entry under* Pommersche Bucht	
Pomorze Zachodnie [PL]	Pomerania[9]
Praha [CZ]	Prague
Rhein [DE]	Rhine

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[4] This is the exonym in UK English; in US English it is *Gulf of Gdansk*.

[5] The name *Wyżyna Śląska* [PL] relates to a physiogeographical feature smaller than the English *Upper Silesia*.

[6] The spelling *Hanover* persists in English because of its association with the Hanoverian Dynasty.

[7] This is the exonym in UK English; in US English it is *Luneburg Heath*.

[8] *Oderbucht* is sometimes used as the DE endonym.

[9] Of the available Polish endonyms, the English form *Pomerania* relates better to the historical region *Pomorze Zachodnie* rather than the historical region *Pomorze Gdańskie*.

Rheinland [DE]	Rhineland
Sachsen [DE]	Saxony
Sachsen-Anhalt [DE]	Saxony-Anhalt[10]
Schwaben [DE]	Swabia
Schwäbische Alb [DE]	Swabian Jura *or* Swabian Alps
Schwarzwald [DE]	Black Forest
Śląsk [PL] = Slezsko [CZ]	Silesia
Slezské Beskydy	*see entry under* Beskid Śląski
Slezsko	*see entry under* Śląsk
Šumava	*see entry under* Böhmerwald
Tatry [PL]	Tatra Mountains
Tatry Wysokie [PL]	High Tatra Mountains
Thüringen [DE]	Thuringia
Thüringer Wald [DE]	Thuringian Forest
Warszawa [PL]	Warsaw
Westfalen [DE]	Westphalia
Wisła [PL]	Vistula

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[10] This English form may still occasionally be seen, though the English language now uses the endonym more frequently.