

Frequently Asked Questions about Germany

A

Adventure Parks

When are Adventure Parks open?

They are usually open between April 15th and October 31st.

Where are Adventure Parks located in Germany?

See www.freizeitpark-guide.de or www.freizeit-und-erlebnisparks.de (German only) for all adventure parks throughout Germany.

Airports

Where can I find out more about the airports in Germany?

Please go to www.netticket.de/info/flughaeafen_deutschland.htm and you will find all of the airports in Germany listed, with links to each airports website.

B

Brochures

How can I obtain brochures about Germany?

You can either call our information center at 1-800-637-1171 or 212-661-7200 to order brochures via phone. For online orders through the web shop, please go to our website www.cometogermany.com

Bundesliga

How can I attend a "Bundesliga" soccer game?

Please go to the Bundesliga website at www.dfb.de to obtain information on games and reservations. Furthermore, you will be able to find Information on teams & match schedules at www.bundesliga.de. Please not that all of the games are taking place on weekends. If for some reason you are not able to obtain tickets, there is also the possibility of enjoying the games in one of the numerous sports bars throughout Germany.

Buses

Are bus services available between big cities or are trains the only way of public transportation?

There are bus services available. Please try "EUROBUS" (www.eurobus.de in German only) for complete information and the contact of a US-representation. Also try www.eurotours-reisen.de (German only).

Are bus connections available between Germany and other countries?

YES, please go to Deutsche Touring at www.deutsche-touring.com.

Are reservations required on the Europabus along the Romantic Road and the Castle Road?

YES, reservations are required. You can find complete information and dates of operation at www.deutsche-touring.com

C

Capital

What is the capital of Germany?

The capital of Germany is **Berlin**. For more information about the capital city go to

<http://www.visitberlin.de/index.en.php>

or

www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/389.0.html

Carnival

When is the Carnival season?

The carnival season starts 40 days before Easter. The most important cities for the carnival in Germany are:

Cologne www.karneval.de/ (German only)

Düsseldorf www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de/article.php?articleID=35 (German only)

Mainz www.mainz.de

Castles

Does Germany offer castle stays? Where would they be located?

There are many castles with hotel facilities in all categories throughout Germany. For further information, please see www.gastimschloss.de, www.der-burggarten.de (German only) and www.relaischateaux.com.

Are the castles in Germany open to the public daily?

Yes, except for Christmas, New Year's and a few other closing dates. Please see individual dates on each castle's website.

Do some castles still hold medieval banquets?

Yes, please check out the following websites:

<http://www.europapark.de/>

<http://www.burqsatzvey.de/>

<http://www.hotel-burg-reichenstein.de/castle-germany/index.html>

<http://www.burg-hotel-staufenberg.com/>

Christmas Markets

When are the Christmas Markets in Germany opening?

Most Christmas Markets in Germany are opening the first weekend of Advent and last for four weeks until Christmas Day.

http://www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/culture_and_events/christmas_markets.htm

Where are the Christmas Markets located?

You will find all kinds of Christmas Markets throughout Germany. For detailed locations, please go to http://www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/culture_and_events/christmas_markets.htm, or order our Christmas Wonderland brochure which is published every year with dates and locations of German Christmas Markets.

Cruises

Is it possible to do cruises and boat trips on the rivers in Germany?

Yes, if you are interested in cruises on German rivers, please check the following:

www.deilmann-cruises.com

www.vikingrivers.com

www.eurocruises.com

For day trips and excursions, please see the following links:

Rhine www.k-d.com, <http://www.rheinschiffahrt.de>
Danube <http://www.donauschiffahrt.de/> (only in German)
Spree <http://reedereiwinkler.de/> or <http://www.sternundkreis.de/>
Elbe <http://www.kreuzfahrten-pool.de/elbe-110-DST-1.html> (only in German)
<http://members.aol.com/elbkaiser/> (only in German)
<http://www.saechsische-dampfschiffahrt.de>

Are reservations for boat trips on KD-River-Excursions between Mainz and Cologne required?

There are no reservations required. For schedules and maps see the following:
www.k-d.com

Currency

Which currency does Germany have?

The euro (currency sign: €; banking code: EUR) is the official currency of the European Union member states of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, also known as the Eurozone. The euro was introduced to world financial markets as an accounting currency in 1999 and launched as physical coins and banknotes in 2002.

Currency exchange

Is it suggested to bring Euros when entering Germany?

Yes, it is recommended to have some Euros on hand when entering Germany. Euros can be obtained at each Bank in the US, but it is suggested to call in and ask whether they have Euros on stock.

What is the best way to pay in Germany?

As you get charged by your bank for every single time you use your credit card in Germany, it is recommended to use a debit card and withdraw money from an ATM. Traveler checks are also very useful and convenient when purchased in Euros.

D

Deutsche Baederverband

What is the "Deutsche Baederverband"?

The "Deutsche Baederverband" is an organization which is taking care of spas throughout the country, to assure that all of them meet by certain standards. For information about sanatoriums and spas, please go to www.baederkalender.de (in German only).

Distances

Where can I find out about distances and driving instructions in Germany?

Please go to www.mapquest.com/maps/main.adp?country=DE for road maps and driving instructions.

Driver's License

Can I use my American driver's license while driving in Germany?

Anyone who holds a valid driver's license is entitled to operate a vehicle in Germany temporarily -- regardless of age. "Temporarily" means a maximum of six months.

www.germany.info

F

Family vacation

Where can I find further information on family vacations?

Please go to www.bauernhofurlaub.de (German only) and www.landtourismus.de.
(Information on vacation clubs for horseback riding, hiking, fishing, sailing, beach vacation, skiing, etc.) or
http://www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/infocenter/germany_for_families.htm

Ferries

Where can I book a ferry from Northern Germany to Scandinavia?

For schedules and agencies in Germany and US representations see the following links:
<http://www.scandlines.de/de/main.htm>
http://www.ttline.de/ENGLISH/fnp_start.htm

Do ferries leave from German ports to the Baltic States and Russia?

Yes. Ferry services with complete schedules and booking information can be found here
www.baltikuminfo.de/index.php?p=6 (German only)

Fitness

How can I find out about Health Spas, Fitness- and Beauty in Germany?

You can find more information about Health and Spas in Germany on our website at the following link:
www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/nature_active_recreation/spa_vacation.htm. Furthermore we
have published a Health & Spa brochure which can be ordered via our web shop or information
center (1-800-651-1171 or 212-661-7200).

Please also check the following links:

www.wellness-regionen.de/Deutschland/stadtmap.php
www.baden-baden.de
www.hotel-waldeck.com
www.badbertrich.de

G

Golf

Where can I find golf hotels (9, 18 holes) in Germany?

Please see the following links for information on golf hotels in Germany:

www.badgriesbach.de/e-gesundheit.htm (unfortunately no hotel reservation possible)
www.gmund.de (German only)
www.ludwigsburg.de
www.atrada.de (general information, German only)
www.golf.de (general information about Golf in Germany)
<http://www.deutsche-golfhotels.de/site/golfhotels/golfhotels.html> (in German only)

H

Holidays

When is Germany's National Holiday?

Germany's National Holiday is celebrated on October 3rd (Day of German Unity).

What other public holidays does Germany celebrate?

www.germany-info.org and www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de

2010

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Apr 2	Good Friday
Apr 4	Easter Sunday
Apr 5	Easter Monday
May 1	Labor Day
May 13	Ascensions Day
May 23	Pentecost Sunday
May 24	Pentecost Monday
Oct 3	Day of German Unity
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 26	2nd Christmas Day / Boxing Day

Heidelberg

When is the Heidelberg festival, featuring the "Student Prince"?

From end of July to end of August

On which dates are the Heidelberg castle illuminations?

Please see www.cvb-heidelberg.de/e911/e918/index_eng.html for dates and information.

Health & Spas

How can I find out about Health Spas, Fitness- and Beauty in Germany?

You can find more information about Health and Spas in Germany on our website at the following link: www.germany-tourism.de/ENG/nature_active_recreation/spa_vacation.htm. Furthermore we have published a Health & Spa brochure which can be ordered via our web shop or information center (1-800-651-1171 or 212-661-7200).

Please also check the following links:

www.wellness-regionen.de/Deutschland/stadtmap.php

www.baden-baden.de

www.hotel-waldeck.com

www.badbertrich.de

O

Opening Hours

What are the opening hours for banks in Germany?

Opening hours for bank can vary but most of the time they are open on weekdays from 9 am till 4pm. Some are even open on Saturdays. However, ATMs are available 24/7.

When are museums open in Germany?

Basically Museums are open from Tuesday till Sunday while most of them are closed on Mondays. Museums are closed on Holidays.

What are the opening hours for shops in Germany?

Shops are basically open from Monday through Saturday from 9am till 8pm. Some of them are also open on Sundays from 9am till 5pm. Shops are closed on Holidays.

Opera

Which are Germany's major Opera Houses?

Berlin - Staatsoper Berlin, DeutscheOper, Komische Oper
www.berlin.de/kultur-und-tickets/events/premieren/opernhaeuser/index.html (German only)
www.staatsoper-berlin.de/en/intro.htm
www.deutscheoperberlin.de/
www.komischeoper.de/index.php?id_language=2&sid=

Dresden - Semperoper (Saechsische Staatsoper)
www.semperoper.de

Frankfurt/Main - Oper Frankfurt
www.oper-frankfurt.de (German only)

Hamburg - Hamburgische Staatsoper
www.hamburgische-staatsoper.de

Leipzig - Oper Leipzig
http://www.oper-leipzig.de/html/index_en.php

Munich - Bayerische Staatsoper, Staatstheater am Gaertnerplatz
www.bayerische.staatsoper.de
www.staatstheater.bayern.de (German only)

Stuttgart –Staatsoper Stuttgart
http://www.staatstheater.stuttgart.de/oper_neu/index.php (German only)

Oktoberfest

What is the Oktoberfest?

The Oktoberfest is one of the largest, most popular folk festivals with different beer tents and a huge fair ground. It is attended by millions of locals and visitors from around the world and takes place in Munich every year from the 3rd Saturday in September, ending on the 1st Sunday in October.

Oktoberfest Schedule 2010:

September 18 - October 3

www.munich-tourist.de

www.oktoberfest.de

Do I need to purchase tickets for the tents at the Oktoberfest?

You do not need to purchase tickets. However, make sure to arrive as early as possible, especially, if there is a large group with you. For instance, during the week, arrive no later than 2:30pm and on the weekends, it's best to go in the morning. Otherwise, you run the risk of not being able to enter the tents at all because they're already full.

P

Public transportation

What is the easiest and most convenient way to get around in German cities?

The easiest way to get around in cities (like Berlin, Munich, Dresden, etc.) is to use public transportation. There are buses, trams and the U-Bahn (subway) and S-Bahn (like a subway, but most of the time above ground) waiting for you to get explored. For transportation networks of major German cities, please go to www.urbanrail.net/eu/euromet.htm.

R

Richard Wagner Musical Festival

In which city does the Richard Wagner Musical Festival take place?

The festival takes place in Bayreuth, Bavaria.

Please see the following websites for further information:

www.bayreuth.de

www.festspiele.de (in German only)

<http://www.bayerischer-hof.de/FESTIVAL>

Race tracks

Where is the famous car race track Nuerburg Ring?

The Nürburgring is situated 55 miles southwest of Cologne and 38 miles northwest of Koblenz. The nearest airports are Köln-Bonn (50 miles) and Düsseldorf (75 miles). Please go to www.nuerburgring.de for further information.

Are there other car race tracks?

Another famous race track in Germany is the Hockenheim. Please see the following link for information

www.hockenheimring-shop.com/DEFAULT.aspx?tabID=453

Where can I find a motor cycle race track in Germany?

The Sachsenring (German: Saxony ring) racing circuit is located in Hohenstein-Ernstthal near Chemnitz in Saxony, eastern Germany. Among other events, it features the annual German motorcycle Grand Prix of the FIM Grand Prix motorcycle racing street motorbike world championship. Please go to <http://www.sachsenring-circuit.com/> for information, events and tickets

Rail

Where can I find Rail Schedules?

You can check schedules and connections at www.bahn.de.

Where can I purchase Rail Passes?

Rail Europe 877 257 2887

www.raileurope.com

Rail Agent 888 RAIL 444

www.railagent.com

Rivers

Is it possible to do cruises and boat trips on the rivers in Germany?

Yes, if you are interested in cruises on German rivers, please check the following:

www.amawaterways.com

www.vikingrivers.com

www.eurocruises.com

For day trips and excursions, please see the following links:

Rhine www.k-d.com, <http://www.rheinschiffahrt.de>
Danube <http://www.donauschiffahrt.de/> (only in German)
Spree <http://reedereiwinkler.de/> or <http://www.sternundkreis.de/>
Elbe <http://www.kreuzfahrten-pool.de/elbe-110-DST-1.html> (only in German)
<http://members.aol.com/elbkaiser/> (only in German)
<http://www.saechsische-dampfschiffahrt.de>

S

States of Germany

How many states does Germany have?

Germany consists of 16 federal states including the Free Hanseatic Cities of Hamburg and Bremen and the capital city Berlin.

www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/389.0.html

T

Tickets

How can I reserve tickets in advance for concerts, sport events, etc.?

To purchase all kind of tickets for events in Germany, please go to www.tickets.de

U

UNESCO

What is the UNESCO?

The UNESCO was founded in 1946 as the United Nations Specialized Organization for Education, Science and Culture. Within its fields of competence, UNESCO will "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture".

www.unesco.de

What are the "UNESCO World Heritage" sites in Germany?

UNESCO World Heritages are sites which the World Heritage Committee considers as having outstanding universal value. Find a list and detailed descriptions of the 33 UNESCO sites in Germany at the following link <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31>

W

Weather

What is the weather like in Germany?

Germany is situated within the moderately cool west wind zone between the Atlantic Ocean and the continental climate to the east. Sharp temperature fluctuations are rare. There is precipitation in all seasons. In winter the average temperature fluctuates between 1.5 degrees Celcius in the lowland areas and minus six degrees Celcius in the mountains. In July, the average is around 18 degrees Celsius in the lowlands and 20 degrees Celsius in the sheltered valleys of the south. Exceptions are the Upper Rhine Trough with its very mild climate, Upper Bavaria with its intermittently occurring warm Alpine wind from the south (Föhn) and the Harz Mountains' special microclimate with its cold winds, cool summers and heavy winter snows.

Please check weather information for your location in Germany at the following link

www.wunderground.com/global/DL.html
www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de