

*Simply inspiring*

**Germany**  
The travel destination



## Tips for Green Travel in Germany:

# How to be a responsible traveler

German National Tourist Office  
122 East 42nd Street, Suite 2000  
New York, NY 10168-0072

[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

## Planning your trip



Source: DZT/ Studio Bormann

Just like any other trip green travel starts with precise planning. Create an itinerary which outlines where you want to go and how to get there. Look for tour operators that specialize in eco-friendly vacations and commit themselves to social and environmental projects. Quality- and eco-labels are a reliable indicator for the environmentally-friendly performance of service providers.

It is recommended to consider green aspects such as eco-friendly accommodation and transportation as early as possible in your booking process. Many travel websites and online booking engines have placed an emphasis on the environmental

performance of tour operators and service providers and are able to supply you with more detailed information. Always try to pack light and reduce your luggage to the things that you really need. Less weight uses less fuel and you will find it easier to get around when you don't have to carry a lot of luggage.

*Useful links for green travel planning:*

[www.ecotourism.org](http://www.ecotourism.org)

[www.responsible-travel.org](http://www.responsible-travel.org)

[www.sustainabletravelinternational.org](http://www.sustainabletravelinternational.org)

## Arrival/Departure

With 17 international airports and a railway network that offers unmatched travel opportunities in Europe, Germany is fabulously accessible. Traveling by public transportation is the best way to keep your carbon footprint low. Trains or international bus lines are convenient and affordable, especially when traveling within Europe.



Source: DZT/ Bruns Katja

Try to arrange that the distance of the flight correlates with the duration of your stay. For a transatlantic flight to Germany it is recommended to stay 10 days or longer. Prefer direct flights and choose airlines with a modern fleet, such as Lufthansa, using the latest CO2-saving aviation technologies.

Almost every airline, a number of companies and charitable organizations offer some kind of environmentally-friendly flyer program or give you the opportunity to participate in carbon offsetting. This means that you can compensate your flight or car travel emissions through a voluntary donation. For example, Lufthansa partners with the non-profit-organization "myclimate" for environmental engagement, allowing green travelers to invest in specific climate-protection projects. An emissions calculator takes the fuel-consumption during the flight into account, provides you with the exact amount of CO2-emissions and the total cost for their compensation, and allows you to make a voluntary monetary contribution. Donations made by passengers flying with Lufthansa fund climate-protection projects that will help to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

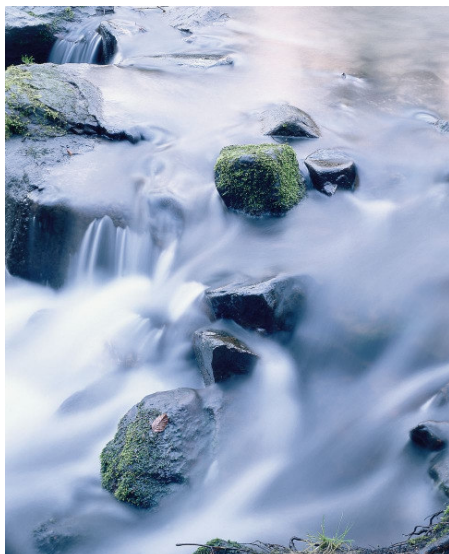
*Useful links for carbon offsetting:*

[www.atmosfair.com](http://www.atmosfair.com)  
[www.carbonfund.org](http://www.carbonfund.org)  
[www.carbonoffsets.org](http://www.carbonoffsets.org)  
[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)  
[www.flygreen.de](http://www.flygreen.de) (German only)  
[www.myclimate.org](http://www.myclimate.org)

*Useful links for transportation:*

[www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) (German Rail)  
[www.berlinlinienbus.de](http://www.berlinlinienbus.de)  
[www.touring.de](http://www.touring.de)  
[www.nachtzug.de](http://www.nachtzug.de)  
[www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com)  
[www.airberlin.com](http://www.airberlin.com)

## At your destination



Source: DZT/ Krieger Tim

Germany is one of the most environmentally- friendly countries in the world. Situated in the heart of Europe, it offers everything from sandy beaches in the north to high mountain ranges in the south. Germans care a lot about waste management and have kept these areas clean and pleasant for both locals and visitors to enjoy.

For decades, Germans have recycled their garbage and reused natural resources to produce energy. The separation of trash and the implementation of an intelligent deposit system for plastic and glass bottles as well as cans have resulted in less pollution and waste. There are separate garbage containers designated for glass, paper/cardboard and plastic/ cans; and there is even a separate one for bio-degradable waste.





You can easily identify recyclable packaging by the green symbol “Grüner Punkt”. Buy reusable bottles whenever you can. You will get the deposit back when returning them to any store. Returnable bottles are marked with the word “Pfandflasche” and the deposit is usually 0.25€. In supermarkets, you have to purchase plastic bags if you don’t bring your own ones for reuse.

For a full insight into the region you are visiting, it is always a good idea to see the local tourist office or to ask locals for insider tips. Ask for recommendations about things to see and do or what is typical for the area to enjoy local traditions, customs and festivals. If you are thinking of bringing back souvenirs, try buying local merchandise. Souvenirs made locally generate direct benefits for the communities you visit by supporting local craftsmanship. Look out for “Made in Germany” – by purchasing these souvenirs you can also lower your carbon footprint because they do not need to be imported. Visit our website [www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com) for a detailed list of events and information about shopping and traditions in German culture.

*Useful links for recycling and environment:*

[www.gruener-punkt.de](http://www.gruener-punkt.de)  
[www.umweltbundesamt.de](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de)  
[www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)

## At your hotel

Finding eco friendly accommodation and accessing information on the environmental performance of your accommodation can turn out to be quite a challenge. Look out for certificates and labels that indicate an eco-friendly establishment. Another possibility would be to book your hotel on the “Viabono” website where a list of exclusively “green” accommodations is available.



Climate-neutral hotels are a brand-new and growing sector in Germany’s accommodation market. An increasing number of hotels have taken successful efforts not to emit more carbon-dioxide than they save by using environmentally-friendly technologies and supporting carbon-saving programs.

*Useful links for eco-friendly lodging:*

[www.viabono.de](http://www.viabono.de) (Hotel listing)  
[www.bio.de](http://www.bio.de) (German only)  
[www.biohotels.info](http://www.biohotels.info)

[www.ecocamping.net](http://www.ecocamping.net) (partly in English)  
[www.gentle-tours.org](http://www.gentle-tours.org)  
[www.bauernhofurlaub-deutschland.de](http://www.bauernhofurlaub-deutschland.de)

**10 Tips how to be eco-friendly during your stay:**

1. Social responsibility is a key factor when determining how green a hotel is. Ask if your hotel has a written policy concerning environmental initiatives and relations with local people.
2. Turn off the lights, air-conditioning, TV and other appliances to save energy when leaving your room for the day.
3. Demanding to change towels every day produces unnecessary water and power usage for the hotel – use them for as long as possible.
4. Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth helps saving water – one of the most valuable resources on earth. Did you know that in Germany, tap water is always of such good quality that you can drink it? Leaving the water running is like pouring drinks down the drain!
5. Showering uses less water than a bath. Take a dip in the hotel's Jacuzzi instead.
6. German toilets have adjustable flushing according to your particular needs. Try it and save gallons of water!
7. During the summer months, the climate in Germany is moderate and less hot and humid as in certain parts of North America. Open the windows if possible instead of using the air-conditioning - you will save energy and reduce noise levels.
8. Avoid and separate trash. Use appropriate trash receptacles.
9. Miniature toiletries produce a lot of waste - bringing your own helps to reduce it.
10. Give your hotel feedback and express your appreciation for any eco-friendly programs it currently offers. If it doesn't, encourage the management to go green in the future.



Source: Bayer. Staatsbad Bad Kissingen GmbH/ Hagen Gerhard

## At the restaurant



Source: DZT/ Käflein Achim

### 6 Tips for responsible dining:

1. Avoid buffet style restaurants where food needs to be warmed and plenty of it is thrown away at the end of each day. Instead, visit a la carte restaurants where the meal is especially prepared for you and you also get to enjoy the personal service and recommendations of a friendly waiter.
2. Choose organic food over the regular menu. It is healthier and supports eco-friendly agriculture.
3. Refrain from using ice cubes which require a lot of energy in production.
4. Try regional products instead of exotic dishes whose ingredients have to be imported long distances.
5. Avoid frozen food that needs electric power for cooling and choose fresh products instead which are richer in vitamins and taste.
6. Choose dishes with seasonal fruits and vegetables to support local farmers.

Useful links for green dining:

[www.biosiegel.de](http://www.biosiegel.de)  
[www.bioland.de](http://www.bioland.de)  
[www.biohotels.info](http://www.biohotels.info)



## Getting Around the “Green Way”



*Source: DB AG* “Wochenende” are the equivalent for the weekends and are also valid nationwide. Please visit German Rail’s website for more information about schedules, fares as well as full terms and conditions.

The best way of getting around in Germany is to use the highly sophisticated public transportation system, especially trains and national bus services.

German Rail has many special offers including rail tickets for the different federal states known as “Ländertickets”. They can be a bargain if you are traveling in a party of five or less within the same state on weekdays. Weekend tickets called “Schönes

A bike tour or simply a walking tour can be a fun experience to explore your neighboring surroundings. In major cities like Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart, Cologne and Karlsruhe you can rent a bike at designated train stations. This service is constantly being expanded across the country. In many cities, “Welcome Cards” are available that include a package of sightseeing attractions. Most of them include a ticket for local public transportation, as well.

*Useful links for green transportation:*

[www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) (German Rail)  
[www.callabike.de](http://www.callabike.de)  
[www.touring.de](http://www.touring.de)  
[www.berlinlinienbus.de](http://www.berlinlinienbus.de)  
[www.eurolines.de](http://www.eurolines.de)



*Source: DB AG/Heiner Mueller- Elsner*

## Activities

Being active and engaged in sports is a great way to relax and clear your head from life's daily stresses, as long as it does not harm nature. Stay on trails and avoid backcountry camping. Endangered plants and animals will appreciate your efforts.



*Source: Münsterland Touristikzentrale*

Refrain from taking part in rally or off-road tours through the wilderness. Be fair, travel with goodwill and take personal responsibility for your actions and their impact on nature and the people you visit.

Please remember: Being responsible during your trip helps to ensure that you and others can come back to enjoy the same beauty time and time again. So leave nothing but a footprint!

## Did you know...?

### Green Travel (Sustainable Travel)

The United Nations (UN) defines it as limiting negative impacts on areas both environmentally and socially, while making sure that travel contributes significantly to the local economy and is not just spirited away by international tourism conglomerates.

Traveling “green” means to save natural resources such as fresh water and energy in combination with respectful behavior towards the environment and local people.

### Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

This colorless and odorless gas plays an important role in the life cycle of our planet. It is a greenhouse gas which experts hold responsible for global warming. Due to human activities such as the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation, the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide has increased by about 35% since the beginning of the age of industrialization. A high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere works like a shield under which the temperature rises like in a greenhouse.



### **Global Warming**

Carbon dioxide emissions are said to cause the Earth's climate to change and warm up. The effects of climate change can be seen nowadays. Temperatures are increasing, glaciers are receding at unprecedented speeds, storms are becoming more frequent and severe, and the polar ice caps are melting.

### **Carbon Footprint**

The carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide emitted due to humans' daily activities – from washing a load of laundry to driving a car or traveling by plane. The carbon footprint is the sum of all your emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> directly or indirectly.

### **Carbon Offsetting**

Offsetting your carbon footprint will support and hasten the transition to a future of clean energy. Basically it is a donation of money to carbon offsetting organizations. Those support greenhouse gas reduction projects such as wind farms which produce clean energy that replaces energy gained from fossil fuels. By funding these reductions in greenhouse gas emissions you balance out, or “offset”, your own impact on the environment by an equivalent amount. Carbon offsetting helps you take personal responsibility for the environmental consequences of your activities.

### **Organic Food**

Organic foods are produced according to certain production standards, meaning they are grown without the use of conventional pesticides, artificial fertilizers, human waste, or sewage sludge and that they were processed without ionizing radiation or food additives. Livestock are reared without the routine use of antibiotics and without the use of growth hormones. Organic food is legally regulated.

### **Recycling**

It involves processing used materials into new products in order to prevent the waste of potentially useful materials. Recycling reduces the consumption of natural resources, energy usage, air and water pollution and results in lower greenhouse gas emissions.



Source: BMU/ Bern Müller

PS: Think twice before you print this brochure. Adjust your printer settings to “Black/White modus” and “2 pages per sheet” – or simply save this file to your hard drive or mobile device.

## Offices and agencies of the German National Tourist Board

### Offices / Agencies for Northwest Europe

#### Netherlands

Duits Verkeersbureau  
Postbus 12051 · NL-1101 AB Amsterdam  
Zuidoost  
Tel.: (020) 697 80 66  
Brochure Request: 0900 - 1 09 10 29  
Fax: (020) 691 29 72  
E-mail: [duitsland@d-z-t.com](mailto:duitsland@d-z-t.com)  
[www.duitsverkeersbureau.nl](http://www.duitsverkeersbureau.nl)

#### Belgium / Luxembourg

Duitse Nationale Dienst voor Toerisme  
Office National Allemand du Tourisme  
Gulledelle 92 · B-1200 Brussel/Bruxelles  
Tel.: (020) 2 45 97 00  
Fax: (02) 2 45 39 80  
E-mail: [gntobru@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntobru@d-z-t.com)  
[www.duitsland-vakantieland.be](http://www.duitsland-vakantieland.be)  
[www.vacances-en-allempagne.be](http://www.vacances-en-allempagne.be)

#### Great Britain / Ireland

German National Tourist Office  
P.O. Box 2695 · GB-London W1A 3TN  
Tel.: (020) 73 17 09 08  
Fax: (020) 73 17 09 17  
E-mail: [gntolon@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntolon@d-z-t.com)  
[www.germany-tourism.co.uk](http://www.germany-tourism.co.uk)

### Offices / Agencies for Northeast Europe

#### Denmark / Baltic States / Greenland

Tysk Turist Information  
Vesterbrogade 6 D, III · DK-1620 København V  
Tel.: (33) 43 68 00  
Fax: (33) 43 68 01  
E-mail: [gntocph@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntocph@d-z-t.com)  
[www.tyskland-info.com](http://www.tyskland-info.com)

#### Norway

Tysk Turistbyrå  
P.B. 6723, St. Olavs pl. · N-0130 Oslo  
Tel.: (22) 85 34 80  
Fax: (22) 60 55 27  
E-mail: [tyskrb@tyskrb.no](mailto:tyskrb@tyskrb.no)  
[www.tyskland-info.com](http://www.tyskland-info.com)

#### Sweden

Tyska Turistbyrån AB  
Box 10147 · S-100 55 Stockholm  
Tel.: (08) 6 65 18 81  
Fax: (08) 6 65 18 83  
E-mail: [info@tyskaturistbyran.se](mailto:info@tyskaturistbyran.se)  
[www.tyskland-info.com](http://www.tyskland-info.com)

#### Finland

DZT-Saksan Matkailutoimisto  
c/o DFHK PL 859 · FIN-00101 Helsinki  
Fax: (09) 6 80 17 79  
E-mail: [dztinfo@dfhk.fi](mailto:dztinfo@dfhk.fi)

#### Poland

Oficjalne Biuro Informacyjne DZT w Polsce  
Via Polska Sp. z o.o. Skr. poczt. 767 · PL-00  
950 Warszawa 1  
Fax: (022) 63 66 110  
E-mail: [waw@d-z-t.pl](mailto:waw@d-z-t.pl)  
[www.niemcy-turystyka.pl](http://www.niemcy-turystyka.pl)

### Russia / Ukraine

Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus  
Olimpiski Prospekt 18/1 · Hotel "Renaissance"  
129110 Moskau  
Tel.: (495) 7 37 64 08  
Fax: (495) 7 37 64 09  
E-mail: [dztmow@germanyclub.ru](mailto:dztmow@germanyclub.ru)  
[www.germanyclub.ru](http://www.germanyclub.ru)

### Offices / Agencies for Southwest Europe

#### Spain / Portugal

Oficina Nacional Alemana de Turismo  
San Agustín 2, 1º derecha, Plaza de las Cortes  
E-28014 Madrid  
Tel.: (091) 4 29 35 51  
Fax: (091) 4 20 24 50  
E-mail: [infoalemania@d-z-t.com](mailto:infoalemania@d-z-t.com)  
[www.alemania-turismo.com](http://www.alemania-turismo.com)

#### France

Office National Allemand du Tourisme  
21, rue Leblanc «Le Ponant II» · F-75015 Paris  
Tel.: (0033) 1 40 20 01 88  
Fax: (0033) 1 40 20 17 00  
E-mail: [gntopar@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntopar@d-z-t.com)  
[www.allempagne-tourisme.com](http://www.allempagne-tourisme.com)

#### Italy

Ente Nazionale Germanico per il Turismo  
Casella Postale 10009 · I-20110 Milano-Isola  
Tel.: (02) 84 74 44 44  
Fax: (02) 2 82 08 07  
E-mail: [gntomil@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntomil@d-z-t.com)  
[www.vacanzeinermania.com](http://www.vacanzeinermania.com)

#### Swiss

Deutsches Verkehrsbüro  
Talstraße 62 · CH-8001 Zürich  
Tel.: +41-44- 2 13 22 00  
Fax: +41-44- 2 12 01 75  
E-mail: [gntozrh@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntozrh@d-z-t.com)  
[www.deutschland-tourismus.de](http://www.deutschland-tourismus.de)

### Offices / Agencies for Southeast Europe

#### Austria

Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e. V. (DZT)  
Schubertring 12 · A-1010 Wien  
Tel.: (01) 5 13 27 92  
Fax: (01) 5 13 27 92-22  
E-mail: [deutschland.reisen@d-z-t.com](mailto:deutschland.reisen@d-z-t.com)  
[www.deutschland-tourismus.de](http://www.deutschland-tourismus.de)

#### Czech Republic / Slovakia

DZT-Vertriebsagentur Tschechien  
c/o travel plus s.r.o. · Na Příkope 24  
CZ - 110 00 Prag 1  
Tel.: (02) 24 22 84 17  
Fax: (02) 24 22 99 57  
E-mail: [info@dzt.cz](mailto:info@dzt.cz)

### Slowenien

im.puls d.o.o.  
DZT Vertriebsagentur Slowenien  
Levstikova ul. 22 SL-1000 Ljubljana  
Tel.: 00386 - 1-251 11 11  
Fax: 00386 - 1-251 11 13  
E-mail: [haberl@siol.net](mailto:haberl@siol.net)

#### Hungary

Német Turisztikai Központ-DZT  
Magyarországi Képviselet  
c/o Német-Magyar Ipari és Kereskedelmi  
Kamara Lövház utca 30 H-1024 Budapest  
Tel.: (01) 34 57-633  
Fax: (01) 34 57-634  
E-mail: [dztbud@ahkungarn.hu](mailto:dztbud@ahkungarn.hu)

### Offices / Agencies for America / Israel

#### USA / New York

German National Tourist Office  
122 East 42nd Street, 52nd Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10168-0072, USA  
Tel.: (212) 6 61 72 00  
Fax: (212) 6 61 71 74  
E-mail: [gntonyc@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntonyc@d-z-t.com)  
[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

#### USA / Los Angeles

German National Tourist Office  
1334 Parkview Ave, Suite 300  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
Tel.: 310-545-1350  
Fax: 310-727-1371  
E-mail: [info@gntolax.com](mailto:info@gntolax.com)  
[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

#### USA / Chicago

German National Tourist Office  
P.O. Box 59594 Chicago, IL 60659-9594  
Tel.: +(1 773) 539 63 03  
Fax: +(1 773) 539 63 78  
E-mail: [info@gntoch.com](mailto:info@gntoch.com)  
[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

#### Canada

German National Tourist Office  
Office National Allemand du Tourisme  
480 University Ave, Suite 1410  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2  
Tel. (416) 968-1685  
Fax (416) 968-0562  
E-mail: [info@gnto.ca](mailto:info@gnto.ca)  
[www.cometogermany.com](http://www.cometogermany.com)

#### Brasil

Centro de Turismo Alemão - DZT  
Câmara de Comércio e Indústria  
Brasil-Alemana  
Rua Verbo Divino, 1488 3º andar  
04719-904 São Paulo - SP, Brasil  
Tel.: (011) 51 81 23 10  
Fax: (011) 51 81 27 88  
E-mail: [dzt.brasil@ahkbrasil.com](mailto:dzt.brasil@ahkbrasil.com)  
[www.alemania-turismo.com](http://www.alemania-turismo.com)

### Israel

German National Tourist Office  
c/o Lufthansa German Airlines  
37, Sheerit Israel Street · II-68165 Jaffa,  
Israel II-61080 Jaffa  
Tel.: (03) 5 13 53 06  
Fax: (03) 6 82 56 22  
E-mail: [dzt@barak.co.il](mailto:dzt@barak.co.il)  
Postal address:  
German National Tourist Office  
P.O. Box 8082, 61088 Jaffa

### Offices / Agencies for

Asia / South Africa / Australia

#### Japan / South Korea

German National Tourist Office  
7-5-56 Akasaka, Minato-Ku · Tokio 107-0052  
Tel.: (03) 35 86 07 05  
Fax: (03) 35 86 50 79  
E-mail: [gntotyo@d-z-t.com](mailto:gntotyo@d-z-t.com)  
[www.visit-germany.jp](http://www.visit-germany.jp)

#### China

German National Tourist Office  
c/o Delegate of German Industry and  
Commerce Beijing Landmark Tower 2, Unit  
0811  
8 North Dongsanhuan Road · Chaoyang  
District  
10 00 04 Beijing, China  
Tel.: (10) 65 90 09 26-215  
Fax: (10) 65 90 61 48  
E-mail: [dzt@bj.china.ahk.de](mailto:dzt@bj.china.ahk.de)  
[www.germany-tourism.cn](http://www.germany-tourism.cn)

#### China / Hong Kong

German National Tourist Office  
German Industry and Commerce  
Hong Kong, South China, Vietnam  
3601 Tower One, Lippo Centre  
89 Queensway, Hong Kong  
Tel.: (25) 26 54 81  
Fax: (28) 10 60 93  
E-mail: [info@ahk.org.hk](mailto:info@ahk.org.hk)  
[www.germany-tourism.org.hk](http://www.germany-tourism.org.hk)

#### Australia / New Zealand

German National Tourist Office  
c/o German-Australian Chamber of Industry  
and Commerce  
P.O. Box 14 61 · Sydney NSW 2001, Australia  
Tel.: (02) 82 96 04 88  
Fax: (02) 82 96 04 87  
E-mail: [gnto@germany.org.au](mailto:gnto@germany.org.au)

#### Dubai

German National Tourist Office  
c/o Lufthansa German Airlines  
World Trade Center 15 th Fl.  
P.O. Box 09224 Dubai U.A.E.  
E-mail: [gnto.murad@dlh.de](mailto:gnto.murad@dlh.de)

#### South Africa

German National Tourist Office - South Africa  
c/o Lufthansa German Airlines  
P.O. Box 412246 · Craighall, 2024 ·  
Johannesburg, South Africa