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# Travel Information for Germany

Find information on Denmark in our [Denmark Trip Planner](#) and on France in our [France Trip Planner](#)

## A. Transportation Information

**Munich:** Name and airport code: Munich International Airport-Flughafen München (MUC) Website: [www.munich-airport.de/EN](http://www.munich-airport.de/EN). The Munich International Airport is very well-connected by international flights. Check their website for carriers. It is also well-connected by bus and train to downtown Munich.

### To and From the Airport

**By Airport Shuttle:** Lufthansa offers direct service from the Munich airport to various destinations in Germany. Check their website for destinations and schedules on Lufthansa Airport Shuttle. Web: [www.lufthansa-airportbus.com](http://www.lufthansa-airportbus.com)

**By Shuttle Bus:** Shuttles operate conveniently every 20 minutes from terminals 1 and 2 and the Central Area of the airport, and proceed directly to both the subway station Nordfriedhof in the Schwabing quarter and the Munich Main Station (München Hauptbahnhof). Check the website for schedules and more information. Autobus Oberbayern Shuttle. Web: <http://www.airportbus-muenchen.de/en/home/>.

**By S-Bahn:** After leaving customs, follow the green and white S sign for the S- Bahn urban rapid railway system, which takes you downtown to connect with other means of transportation (e.g. the metro (U-Bahn). There are two S-Bahn lines to the Munich main train station and city center: S-1 takes 45 minutes and S-8 takes 41 minutes. Check the website for a complete map of the metro. [Munich public transport authority](#).

**By Train:** While the S-Bahn takes you to downtown Munich, it is connected to the long-distance train system as well, which allows you to travel to other destinations in Germany. After taking the S-Bahn S-1 or S-8 from the airport to downtown Munich (Munich main train station: München Hbf), the train system can take you to your destination outside of Munich. Check the schedules and prices online. Deutsche Bahn AG - the German Railway. Web: [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

**Frankfurt:** Name and airport code: Frankfurt International Airport (FRA) Web: [www.airportcity-frankfurt.de](http://www.airportcity-frankfurt.de). The Frankfurt International Airport is connected by train, bus, and a special direct AIRail Service.

### To and From the Airport

**By AIRail:** Frankfurt airport has two railway stations. The long-distance AIRail station offers service to and from Bonn, Cologne, and Stuttgart, directly to the airport, right next to Terminal 1. Trains arrive at and depart from platforms 4 to 7, and they will even check your baggage when you board the train (for certain airlines).

**By Train:** There is a local railway station for S-Bahn regional and local trains at Terminal 1, Level 1. Trains arrive at and depart from platforms 1 to 3.

**By Shuttle:** Lufthansa offers an airport bus from Frankfurt to Strasburg, and airport shuttles to various other destinations. These are easy options since they leave directly from the Frankfurt airport.

**Lufthansa Airport Shuttle:** Web: [www.lufthansa-airportbus.com](http://www.lufthansa-airportbus.com)

**By Bus:** Buses arrive at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, and travel to various destinations around Frankfurt. Check the airport website for a list of destinations and schedules.

**Nuremberg (Nürnberg):** Name and airport code: Nuremberg International Airport (NUE) Web: [www.airport-nuernberg.de](http://www.airport-nuernberg.de). Nuremberg is a smaller airport, and most international flights connect through either Frankfurt or Munich.

### To and From the Airport

**By Train:** The U2 subway line directly connects Nuremberg Airport with the central train station in just 12 minutes.

**By Bus:** The airport is conveniently reached using the Nuremberg bus service. The bus stop is located in front of Terminal 1 at the departure level, and buses leave every 10 minutes. Check the airport website for destinations and schedules.

**By Taxi or Shuttle Service:** A taxi to downtown Nuremberg takes just 15 minutes and costs around 16 Euros (status 2017). Check the airport website for a list of shuttle services also available from the airport. Taxi Center. Tel: +49-91-11-94-10

**Hamburg, Germany:** Name and airport code: Hamburg Airport (HAM) Website: <https://www.hamburg-airport.de/en/>. The Hamburg Airport is well-connected by international flights. Check the airport's website for carriers. It's about 8 km from the city center and well connected by commuter rail to downtown Hamburg.

### To and From the Airport

**S-Bahn:** The commuter rail (S-Bahn) line S1 connects the airport with the central railway station (Hamburg Hauptbahnhof). The journey takes 25 minutes and trains run every 10 minutes.

**Taxi:** A taxi to downtown costs about 25 to 30 Euros (status 2017)

**Berlin Tegel, Germany:** Name and airport code: Berlin Tegel Airport (TXL) Website <http://www.berlin-airport.de>. It is served by major airlines such as Lufthansa, Air France/ KLM, British Airways, Iberia, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Continental Airlines and Hainan Airlines. Airberlin uses Tegel airport as its Oneworld alliance hub.

Tegel Airport is about 4 km from the city center and well-connected by public transportation.

### To and From the Airport

**Bus:** Buses and express buses are operated by [BVG](http://www.bvg.de) (Berlin Transport Services) and leave frequently outside Terminals A and B. Tickets can be purchased either directly from the driver, the ticket machines outside the terminal building or at the ticket counter located at the exit of Terminal A/ B or on the bus. If you do not buy your ticket on the bus, make sure you validate your ticket when getting on.

**Taxi:** A taxi from Tegel Airport to Mitte (Alexanderplatz) costs about 30 Euro (status 2017)

**Berlin, Schönefeld, Germany:** Name and airport code: Berlin Schönefeld (SXF) Website: <http://www.berlin-airport.de/> . It is mostly used by charter and low cost airlines such as easyJet, Ryanair, Aer Lingus, UP and Norwegian Air Shuttle. But also major carriers Aeroflot and TAP Portugal go there. Schönefeld Airport is about 18 km from the city center and well-connected by public transportation.

### To and From the Airport

**S-Bahn:** The commuter rail (S-Bahn) lines S9 and S45 run every 10 minutes and connect to the inner city via Ostkreuz and Südkreuz.

**Regional Railway:** Also referred to as the Airport Express. Lines RE7 and RE14 run twice every hour between Berlin Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and Schönefeld Airport. Travel time is 30 minutes.

**Taxi:** A trip from the Schönefeld Airport to Berlin Mitte (Alexanderplatz) or Charlottenburg (Kurfürstendamm) costs about 45 Euros (status 2017)

### Train Transportation Information

The word “Hauptbahnhof” means “central station”, and is abbreviated as “Hbf”. This is typically the best-connected station in the town or city. The word “Flughafen” means “airport” and usually trains will connect from the airport station to the main Hbf station.

### German Train System

Germany is very well-connected by trains (Bahn), and the German train system has a comprehensive website to help you plan your travels around Germany. [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

#### Major Train Stations:

- Frankfurt: Frankfurt (Main) Hbf
- Munich: München Hbf
- Nuremberg: Nürnberg Hbf
- Stuttgart: Stuttgart Hbf
- Berlin: Berlin Hbf.

#### Types of Trains

- Intercity-Express (ICE)
- Intercity/Eurocity (IC/EC)
- Interregional (IR)
- Interregional-Express (IRE)
- Regional-Express (RE)
- Regionalbahn (RB)
- Night trains (NZ, EN, D-Zug, UEX, CNL)
- International trains: Thalys, Eurostar
- Local public transport: urban rapid transit (S-Bahn), underground (U-Bahn)

#### *Which train should I take?*

Depending on your destination, you have many options. Typically, longer distances between major cities are the ICE trains, which may even offer a first class department and include on-train food services. All stops are serviced on the Regionalbahn (RB) train, and oftentimes you may take one of these to reach a smaller town. When researching your train travel online, click on the abbreviation in the “Products” column for a complete description of the types of trains offered for your preferred route.

**Traveling by Train with your Bike:** It is a good idea to check on the German Train Systems website [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de) to see if your train allows bikes, and if so, how many. On some trains, a bike reservation may be required due to limited space.

## Other Types of Transportation in Germany

- Taxis:** Taxis can easily be found outside airports and train stations. It is good practice to ask for an approximate fare before the ride and pay meter start. Keep in mind that the cost may vary depending on traffic in the city. You can round up to add a tip.
- Rental Car:** If you decide to rent a car, we suggest arranging this from the U.S. - it's cheaper. Be sure to find out the exact address of the location to pick up your rental car, (preferably at your arrival airport). It's best to make these arrangements in advance, and if you wish to go through a German company, we suggest SIXT CAR RENTAL [www.aq.sixt.com](http://www.aq.sixt.com).
- Bus:** Germany has an extensive domestic bus network although most travelers stick with the more convenient rail network unless they want to get to smaller towns, particularly in the Bavarian Alps and along the Romantic Road. International buses are a popular alternative to the train with services to destinations throughout both eastern and western Europe. Central bus stations (Busbahnhof) are usually located near the main train station (Hauptbahnhof) in most big towns and cities. However, some smaller bus companies, such as those serving eastern European destinations, operate from their own terminals.

## B. Language Tips

**Vowels:** may be long (usually when doubled or followed by h) or short

- Short a - like 'a' in "hat", or 'u' in "hut"
- Long a - like 'ah' in "father" Short e - like 'e' in "let" or "bet" Long e - like 'a' in "state"
- Short i - like 'i' in "hit"
- Long i - like 'i' in "marine" or 'ee' in "see"
- Short o - like 'o' in "hot" Long o - like 'or' in "torn" Short u - like 'u' in "put"
- Long u - like 'o' in "who" or 'oo' in "pool"

### Consonants

- B - when followed by consonant, like 'p' in "tap"; otherwise like the 'b' in "boy"
- Ch - when followed by a, o, u, or au, like 'ch' in Scottish "loch"; otherwise like 'ish'.
- D - when final or followed by a consonant, like 't' in "cat"; otherwise like 'd' in "day"
- F - like 'f' in "friend"
- G - when final or followed by a consonant, like 'k'; otherwise like English
- H - as in English
- J - like the 'y' in "yes"
- I, M, N - as in English
- NG - like the 'ng' in "sing"
- P - as in English, even when followed by another consonant like 'k' + 'v'
- R - trilled as in Spanish
- S - when initial letter or before a vowel, like 's' in "rose"; when final word or before consonant, like 's' in "sea"; when initial letter before 'p' or 't', like 'sh' in "ship"
- T, TH- as in English
- V - like 'f' in "fear"
- W - like 'v' in "vine"
- X - like 'x' in "tax"
- Z - like 'ts' in "hurts"

### Diphthongs

- EI, AI, EY, & AY - like 'i' in "mile" or "sigh"
- AU - like 'ow' in "meow"
- EU & AU - like 'oi' in "boil" or 'oy' in "boy"

## Bicycling Specific Phrases

- Bicycle: Fahrrad (say far-rod)
- Flat tire: Loch im Rad (say Lohk im rod)
- Water: Wasser (say vahsir)
- I am on a bicycle tour: Ich mache eine Fahrradtour. (Say: Eek mahkeh ine far-rod- tour.)

## C. How to Dial Telephone Numbers

The International Access Code (IAC) for the US and Canada is 011 and for Germany it's 00

The Country Code (CC) for Germany is 49 and for the US and Canada it's 1

Area Codes in Germany can be various digits in length

To call Germany from the US or Canada, dial IAC + CC + LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number for the Munich Olympic Park is (0)-8930670. The number could also be listed as +49-(0)-8930670. In both cases, you would dial 011-49-8930670. Notice the Trunk code (0) is dropped when you dial.

To call the US or Canada from Germany, dial IAC + CC + LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number of the ExperiencePlus! headquarters in Colorado is 970-484-8489. You would dial 00-1-970-484-8489.

To call Germany from another European country, dial IAC + CC + LN.

**Example:** The local telephone number for the Munich Olympic Park is (0)-8930670. The number could also be listed as +49-(0) 8930670. In both cases, you would dial 00-49-8930670.

To call Germany from within Germany, dial LN

**Example:** The local telephone number for the Munich Olympic Park is (0)-8930670. You would dial 0-8930670. Unlike the US there is no need to differentiate local and long distance by dialing a 1. Notice that the Trunk Code (0) is dialed.

## D. Eating and Drinking

Breakfast (*Frühstück*) commonly consists of bread, toast, and/or bread rolls (the term for which varies a lot by region) with jam (*Marmelade* or *Konfitüre*) or honey, eggs, and strong coffee or tea (milk, cocoa or juice for children). Deli meats, such as ham, salted meats and salami, are also commonly eaten on bread in the morning, as are various cheeses. A variety of meat-based spreads such as *Leberwurst* (literally "liver-sausage") can be found during breakfast as well. Muesli (*Müsli*) and cereals such as cornflakes are also popular.

Traditionally, the main meal of the day has been lunch (*Mittagessen*), eaten around noon. Vegetables are often eaten in stews or vegetable soups, but can also be served as a side dish. Carrots, turnips, spinach, peas, beans, and many types of cabbage are very common. Noodles are usually thicker than Italian pasta and often contain egg yolk. Especially in the south-western part of the country, the predominant variety of noodles is *Spätzle* which contain a very large amount of yolk. Besides noodles, potatoes and dumplings (*Klöße* or *Knödel*) are very common, especially in the south.

Dinner (*Abendessen* or *Abendbrot*) is usually a smaller meal, often consisting only of a variety of breads and meats, similar to breakfast, or possibly sandwiches. However, in Germany, as in other parts of Europe, dining habits have changed over the last 50 years. Today, many people eat only a small meal in the middle of the working day and enjoy a hot dinner in the evening at home with the whole family. Nevertheless, the traditional way is still rather common, especially in rural areas.

Most cafes and restaurants will offer daily specials, which commonly come with a side dish such as a salad or similar. If you are interested in something lighter, most bakeries (*Bäckerei*) and oftentimes butcher shops (*Metzgerei*) offer prepared sandwiches. Last but not least grocery stores are a good option; you can get bread, cheese and cured meats and prepare your own sandwiches. Groceries, butcher shops and bakeries are commonly open from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. Some smaller shops might take a break between noon and 3 p.m. Lunches are commonly served from 11.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. and dinners starting at about 6 p.m. as late as 9 p.m., depending on the type of restaurant and whether you are in a smaller town or village or a major city.

## E. Hotel Recommendations

### **Berlin:**

[HSH Hotel Apartment Mitte](https://www.hsh-mitte.de) (https://www.hsh-mitte.de)

Invalidenstrasse 32/33, 10115 Berlin

[Hommage à Magritte](http://hommage-a-magritte.com/en/) (http://hommage-a-magritte.com/en/)

Grolmanstraße 32-33, 10623 Berlin (near Kurfürstendamm)

### **Frankfurt**

[Hotel Nizza](mailto:info@hotelnizza.de) (info@hotelnizza.de www.hotelnizza.de)

Elbestrasse 10, 60329 Frankfurt

[Hotel Concorde](mailto:info@hotelconcorde.de) (info@hotelconcorde.de www.hotelconcorde.de)

Karlstrasse 9. 60329 Frankfurt

Near the main train station (Hauptbahnhof)

[Quality Hotel Kaiserhof](mailto:H8115@accor.com) (H8115@accor.com www.kaiserhof-frankfurt.de)

Kaiserstrasse 62, 60329 Frankfurt

### **Füssen**

[Hotel Sonne](mailto:info@hotel-sonne.de) (info@hotel-sonne.de www.hotel-sonne.de)

Prinzregentenplatz 1, 87629 Füssen

### **Hamburg**

[Henri Hotel](http://henri-hotel.com/en/) (http://henri-hotel.com/en/)

Burghagenstrasse 21, 20095 Hamburg

### **Munich**

[Hotel Laimer Hof](mailto:info@laimerhof.de) (info@laimerhof.de www.laimerhof.de)

Laimerstrasse 40, 80639 Munich

[Sofitel Munich Bayerpost](mailto:h5413@sofitel.com) (h5413@sofitel.com www.accorhotels.com)

Bayerstrasse 12, 80335 Munich

Near the main train station (Hauptbahnhof)

[Hotel Schweiz](mailto:info@hotel-schweiz.de) (info@hotel-schweiz.de www.hotel-schweiz.de)

Goethestrasse 26, 80336 Munich

[Hotel Schlicker](mailto:info@hotel-schlicker.de) (info@hotel-schlicker.de www.hotel-schlicker.de)

Tal 8, 80331 Munich

Near the town center, next to Marienplatz (Mary's square)

[Platzl Hotel](mailto:info@platzl.de) (info@platzl.de www.platzl.de)

Sparkassenstraße 10, 80331 München

[Louis Hotel](mailto:contact@louis-hotel.com) (contact@louis-hotel.com www.louis-hotel.com)

Viktualienmarkt 6, 80331 Munich

### **Potsdam**

[Hotel Brandenburger Tor](https://www.hotel-brandenburger-tor.de/en/) (https://www.hotel-brandenburger-tor.de/en/)

Brandenburger Strasse 1, 14467 Potsdam

### **Regensburg**

[Hotel Münchner Hof](mailto:info@muenchner-hof.de) (info@muenchner-hof.de www.muenchner-hof.de)

Tändlergasse 9, 93047 Regensburg

## Würzburg

[Hotel Rebstock](http://www.rebstock.com) (rebstock@rebstock.com www.rebstock.com)

Neubaustraße 6, 97069 Würzburg

[Novotel Würzburg](http://www.novotel.com) (h5362@accor.com www.novotel.com)

Eichstraße 2, 97070 Würzburg

## F. Reading and Movie List

### Literature on Germany

- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. One of the most well-read accounts of the Holocaust.
- *Germany: A New History* by Hagen Schulze. Covers Germany's often spotted historical past from the time of the nomadic Nordic tribes who migrated south into the Roman Empire, to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
- From *A Tramp Abroad*, "The Awful German Language" by Mark Twain. 1880. An amusing first-hand account of problems with the language on Mark Twain's trip to Germany.
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. This childhood fable based on the Holocaust is a quick, meaningful read.
- *Stones from the River*, by Ursula Hegi. Set in Burgdorf, Germany during and after WWII our protagonist is Trudi Montag, who happens to be a dwarf.
- *The Vision of Emma Blau*, by Ursula Hegi. German immigrants attempt to assimilate in their American home.
- *The German Lesson*, by Siegfried Lenz. 1972. A young man in post-war Germany is forced to write an article because he failed his German lesson.
- *Danube* by Claudio Magris. A comprehensive history and travel book about the Danube by Italian scholar, Claudio Magris. Sometimes ponderous, in the style of Italian writers, it is worth a read before you depart.

### Literature about German Culture and/or Cuisine

- *The German Way: Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes, and Customs in the German-Speaking World* by Hyde Flippo.
- *Prost!: The Story of German Beer* by Horst D. Dornbusch. The best parts of German history and beer, mixed into a fine brew.

### Movies About or Set in Germany That We Have Enjoyed

- *The Edukators*, about a group of friends united by their passion to change the world. When the rich go on vacation, The Edukators break into their homes. They don't steal, but simply rearrange everything, leaving the message "Your days of plenty are numbered."
- *Swing Kids*. About a group of friends during Nazi Germany whose love of swing dancing and American music gets them into trouble.
- *Run Lola Run*. *Lola* (played by Franka Potente) has 20 min to raise 100,000 DM and meet her boyfriend. Otherwise, he will rob a store to get the money. Three different alternatives may happen depending on some minor event along Lola's run.
- *The Lives of Others* (2006) starring Martina Gedeck, and the late Ulrich Mühe. Written and directed by Florian Henckel. Nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, this is the amazing story of a Stassi officer and the man he is instructed to keep an eye on. A remarkable film.
- *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2002) starring Daniel Brühl, Katrin Saß. Written and directed by Wolfgang Becker. The funny, touching story of a young man's attempt to comfort his communist mother when she comes out of a coma after the wall has come down.
- *The Counterfeiters* (2008) starring Karl Markovics and August Diehl. Directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky. Based on the true story of the history's largest counterfeiting operation based in a prison camp during WWII. Winner of the Best Foreign Language Film.
- *Downfall* (2004) starring Bruno Ganz and Alexandra Maria Lara. Directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel. Nominated for the 2005 Best Foreign Language film this historical drama recounts Hitler's mental demise.

- *Deutschland 83* (2016) A thrilling spy series in 8 parts set in 1983 in the midst of the power struggle of the Cold War.

## G. Germany Tourism Link

<http://www.germany.travel/en/index.html>

<http://www.visitberlin.de/en/welcomecard>

<http://www.hamburg-travel.com/search-book/hamburg-card/>

sources: <http://www.berlin-airport.de/en/travellers-txl/to-and-from/buses-and-trains/local-public-transport/index.php>

## H. Other Travel Resources

If you'd like to explore more transportation options, we find that <https://www.rome2rio.com/> is a helpful resource.