



# LEARN GERMAN IN THE HEART OF GERMANY



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# Germany

## *A Brief History*

Germany has an interesting and deep history that goes back thousands of years. A country that has risen, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the Second World War, there is more to Germany than meets the eye.

### **Did you know that ...**

- The area now called Germany has rarely been united, not even by the Romans who only occupied its southern and western parts.
- The Protestant Reformation, initiated by Martin Luther, sparked a revolution of thought in the Christian faith resulting in many denominations of Protestantism.
- Prussia, Austria, and Russia defeated Napoleon in 1813 in the battle of Leipzig.
- Germany was eventually unified in 1871 and made into an empire under Emperor William I.
- Though Germany had a parliament, the emperor almost always had the last word.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919, bringing peace between Germany and the Allied Powers, thus ending the First World War.
- From 1919 to 1933, Germany was a parliamentary democracy.
- In 1933, Hitler first became chancellor of Germany, but outmaneuvered the German government and eventually became the dictator of nationalist Germany. The Protestant Revolution initiated by Martin Luther separated Germans into Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist?



Statue of William I, first German Emperor



The Reichstag in Berlin – the seat of the German parliament

- Germany was divided into West and East from 1949 to 1989, also dividing today's capital, Berlin, in two.
- Germany was reunited in November 1989 following the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- Germany is one of the few countries which allow you to drive without a speed limit on certain stretches of highway.
- The famous German Oktoberfest doesn't happen in October!
- Chancellor Angela Merkel studied Physics and holds a doctoral degree from Leipzig University.

# Geography and Climate

Located in the heart of Europe, Germany is a great travel destination. It borders Poland, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, and Luxembourg as well as the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

With the second largest population in Europe (~80 million) and the seventh largest area ( $357,022 \text{ km}^2 / 137,847 \text{ mi}^2$ ), Germany is surprisingly unspoiled by tourism. It's filled with amazing places to discover. Travel from the Alps in the South to the white chalk cliffs in the North. Don't forget to take a detour to see the Black Forest, or take a train to the *Zugspitze*. Located in the Bavarian Alps, it's the highest mountain in Germany at 2,962 m (9,718 ft.) high.

Germany's longest river is the Rhine at 1,230 km / 764 mi long and is dotted with castles all along the way. The most populous cities in Germany are Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, and Stuttgart.

Germany is divided into 16 federal states: *Baden-Württemberg*, *Bavaria*, *Berlin*, *Brandenburg*, *Bremen*, *Hamburg*, *Hesse*, *Lower Saxony*, *Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*, *North Rhine-Westphalia*, *Rhineland-Palatinate*, *Saarland*, *Saxony*, *Saxony-Anhalt*, *Schleswig Holstein*, and *Thuringia*. Each of these states has its own capital and flag. Germany also has a wide range of dialects, which can make communication somewhat difficult at times. People living in Bremen, for instance, might have a hard time understanding people from Bavaria.

The climate in Germany is temperate and includes all four seasons. June – September are usually the warmest months with an average temperature of  $26^\circ \text{ C} / 78.8^\circ \text{ F}$ .



Germany and its 16 federal states



Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

# The German Language

## *Another Step in Your Career*

German is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. It is the official language of several countries including Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. After the English language, it is the most commonly known language in the European Union and is one of its official languages. The German language is the third most taught foreign language in the United States, just after Spanish and French, and there are many Americans who can trace their ethnic heritage back to German roots.

There are many reasons for learning the German language, such as increasing potential career prospects, enriching your current career, or for enhancing travel experiences.

If you are interested in learning the German language for professional reasons, you have several options from which to choose. You can attend a college or university and get a degree in German. With a degree in German, you will see a surprising number of career opportunities open up for you. If you are bilingual, for example, you can be certified as a foreign language translator. This is a stimulating career opportunity that offers you many options. You can work full-time for a foreign language translation firm, translating important business documents or web pages for global corporations. Or you can be a freelance foreign language translator, setting your own work schedule and workload. Another career opportunity is to teach English to students in one of the German-speaking countries. By knowing both English and German, you will be able to enjoy a lifestyle where you can have a fulfilling career and experience the life and culture of another nation.



A typical German postbox

You might be established in a career and are required to learn the German language in order to either better communicate with overseas business associates or to relocate. You will find that if you need to relocate to a German-speaking country for your job, having a grasp of the language ahead of time will help make your relocation and transition less stressful.

Germany has a great deal of beauty and scenery that the world has yet to discover. Unfortunately, Germany still has some stigma attached to it from its history. In spite of this fact, the world has realized the excellent quality of German products. Thus, many entrepreneurs have built their business empires by working with German businessmen and exporters. If you plan to do business in Germany, the key is to start learning the German language. You'll gain respect in this way. Furthermore, there are almost 120 million people who are native or non-native speakers of the language.

Some of the renowned German multinational industries like Allianz, Bayer, BMW, Deutsche Bank, Deutsche Telekom, Lufthansa Group, Metallgesellschaft, Robert Bosch, Siemens, Thyssen Krupp, Volkswagen, Westdeutsche Landesbank etc. are major players in the world economy, having a market presence in almost 60% of all countries. Thus, the German language frequently emerges in the global economy and industries.

## ***Another Language, Another Opportunity***

If you want to learn a little German to get more out of your travels, you might consider combining your learning experience and vacation by participating in an immersion program. Learning the language this way will not only teach you how to communicate in German but you will also experience the vibrant German culture. By traveling to Germany, where the language has its origins, you will become a part of the life and culture, learning the language quickly and with surprising ease.

Additionally, you will learn the conversational and idiomatic styles of the language. You will be able to practice what you have learned by interacting daily with native German people who won't necessarily be willing or able to communicate with you in English. Thus, you will become engrossed in everyday German life, appreciating the culture, history, architecture, people, food, and beer! There is no better way to learn the German language and experience Germany.

Germany may not be the first place tourists think of when planning a vacation but in reality, Germany is teeming with scenic spots such as the Bavarian Alps. Or one can catch a glimpse of the Nazi regime's vestiges at the Durer House in addition to the city of Nuremberg.



Traditional German food and beer

# Why Learn German?

It's true that learning a language can take time and may not be a piece of cake. That is especially true when you are learning a language that has rigid syntax and difficult vocabulary to contend with, like German.

However, learning German is not much different than learning English as a second language. Learning a second language puts you in a better position than anyone who only speaks English. Furthermore, learning German adds some interest and prestige to the learner. This is partly because German does not share the popularity of English, French, and Spanish as a lingua franca. German people themselves are quite proud that their language shares the same level of difficulty as Russian. Most Germans also know how to speak English well and they like to flaunt it. So when they don't find your German agreeable, they switch to English immediately.

German is the third-most taught foreign language in the Englishspeaking world after French and Spanish. Originating from the Indo-European language family, the German language uses Latin scripts. It is one of the world's major languages and is the official language of 8 countries.

Furthermore, German is the native language of well over 100 million people worldwide and the most commonly spoken language in the European Union. It is the official language of the more than 80 million inhabitants of Germany, but also of Austria and Liechtenstein. It is the main language of Switzerland, where nearly two thirds of the inhabitants speak it as their mother tongue. Many other countries in Europe have German-speaking communities, such as Belgium, France, and Italy. Additionally, millions of people outside of Europe speak German as well.



Modern clock with German words

## Did you know that...?



*The modern German alphabet is a Latin-based alphabet consisting of the same 26 letters found in the English alphabet. In addition to these 26 letters, German uses four extra letters: ä, ü, ö, and ß.*

*Close to one-third of EU inhabitants are able to converse in German.*

*German and English belong to the same West Germanic language family and share thousands of similar words and phrases.*

*German is the second-most commonly used language in scientific publications and on the Internet. Germany itself is the world's third largest producer of books and more than one-tenth of all books published in the world are written in German.*

*German is the language of writers like Goethe, Schiller, and Kafka; philosophers such as Kant, Nietzsche, and Schopenhauer; painters such as Dürer, Kollwitz, and Klee; musicians such as Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart; and scientists such as Einstein, Kepler, and Planck.*

# Three Must-Know Aspects About German Vocabulary

In the acquisition of any language, learning the vocabulary plays a crucial role. Every language comes with its own set of nuances. When learning German vocabulary, there are three particular aspects that you are required to recognize from the onset.

## 1. The Uniqueness

German vocabulary has some fundamental characteristics. For instance, the use of articles depends largely on the nouns. So while 'the' is commonly used in English to describe singular/plural nouns, it's not the same with German. In German, depending on the noun, you'll have to use 'der', 'das', or 'die'.

| MASCULINE  | NEUTER | FEMININE | PLURAL |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| NOMINATIVE | DER    | DAS      | DIE    |
| ACCUSATIVE | DEN    |          |        |
| DATIVE     | DEM    |          | DEN    |
| GENITIVE   | DES    |          | DER    |

The usage of verbs is fairly uncomplicated. As with English, you just have to understand a few basic verb conjugation patterns. For instance, "I sit" or "He sits" would translate to "Ich sitze" or "Er sitzt," respectively. Since most languages across the world see some changes to verb forms when used in different scenarios, verb conjugations in German aren't very hard to decipher.

## 2. The Differences Between German And English

The use of adjectives in German, on the other hand, can be quite a challenge. This is because German adjectives generally require specific endings corresponding to the nouns in question. Additionally, the case used in the sentence also plays an important role in these endings. Therefore, these adjective endings can take some time to understand and master. A good thing is that, oftentimes, these adjective endings are omitted or slurred in spoken German.

### Die wichtigsten deutschen Adjektive / Bildergalerie



deutschlernerblog.de

While both languages are predominantly different, you will notice certain similarities in their vocabulary. After all, a number of English words sound quite similar to their German counterparts. However, this does not necessarily mean you can use this knowledge to speak or understand German.



### 3. The Words You Need To Learn

Start by getting a good understanding of how to use articles correctly. This relates to using them in accordance with nouns as well as direct / indirect objects (which comes later in the learning process). Also, familiarize yourself with the different forms of verbs and with their usage in the past tense. Doing this becomes particularly important as you make progress.

#### *A little challenge*

One of the hardest German words for non-Germans to pronounce is:

**Streichholzschäcktelchen** (small box of matches) -

[ˈʃ्ट्रaiχ.ˌhol(t)s,ʃéç.təl.çən]

This can be broken down to Streichholz|schäcktel|chen  
match | box | [belittlement]

Can you do it? Try the harder Version:

**Tschechisches Streichholzschäcktelchen** (little box of matches from the Czech Republic)

[ˈtʃéç̞iʃ̞es ˈʃ्टraɪç̞.hol(t)s,ʃéç̞.təl.çən]

Have a look at the next page, then come back and try again!



## Vocabulary

German, like English and Dutch, is a West Germanic language, which means that a lot of its vocabulary is quite similar to English.

Consider the following words:

- Mutter – mother
- Vater – father
- Papier – paper

Moreover, German has influenced other languages over the years, making it easier for English-speakers to recognize some words (schnapps, bratwurst, zeitgeist, kindergarten, gesundheit, to schlepp, schadenfreude...). Be careful, though! There are also false friends such as "Gift", which means poison.

Note that all nouns are capitalized.

## Grammar

German uses past verb tenses differently. For example, in English, the simple past and present perfect are used for different time periods and can be used both for speaking or writing. In contrast, the simple past is rarely used for speaking in German, as it is considered a "written" tense. Germans therefore often mistakenly use the present perfect instead of the simple past when speaking English ("I have eaten pie yesterday").

## Pronunciation

German has certain sounds and letters that are not used in English. For example, an *umlaut*, represented as two dots above the letter, changes the pronunciation of some vowels. In German, ä, ö, ü are the letters with umlauts; how to pronounce them, however, could pose a challenge to beginners. Other sounds such as "ch" or "eu" may also be difficult for some learners, because their native language may not include these particular sounds.

**wählen** (to vote) - [ˈvɛ:lən]

**zählen** (to count) - [ˈts ɛ:lən]

**später** (later) - [ˈʃpɛ:tə]

**hören** (to hear) - [ˈhø:Rən]

**stören** (to disturb) - [ˈʃtø:Rən]

**Höflichkeit** (politeness) – ['hø:fliçkaɪt]

and

**Schwein** (pig) - [ʃveɪn]

**Schule** (school) - [ʃu:lə]

**schön** (beautiful) - [ʃø:n]

**Würde** (dignity) - [ˈvʏrdə]

**Hürde** (obstacle) - [ˈhʏrdə]

**müde** (tired) - [ˈmy:də]

**Streich** (prank) - [ʃtraɪç]

**weich** (soft) - [vaɪç]

**leicht** (easy) - [laɪçt]

## Useful German

**Hallo!**

Hello!

**Guten Tag!**

Good day!

**Ich heiße ...**

My name is ...

**Vielen Dank!**

Thank you very much!

**Ein Bier, bitte!**

One beer, please!

**Wo ist die Toilette?**

Where is the restroom?

**Wo ist die Touristeninformation?**

Where is the tourist information desk?

**Ich spreche kein Deutsch.**

I don't speak German.

**Könnten Sie das auf Englisch sagen?**

Could you repeat that in English?

**Ich mache nur Urlaub hier!**

I'm just here on vacation / holiday!

**Wie viel kostet das?**

How much is this?

**Nehmen Sie Kreditkarten?**

Do you take credit cards?

**Wie komme ich zum Bahnhof?**

How do I get to the train station?

Beware! The 'sch' in German is not pronounced like in English!

# Your Stay in Germany

## *Living and Traveling*

Have you ever thought of moving overseas? You might be thinking: How do I relocate to Germany? Is it easy? What do I need to do? And what do I need to bring?



German Autobahn

### **Cost of living**

The cost of living in Germany is relatively low compared to other developed countries, especially Anglo-American countries. Depending on where you live, you should expect to spend at least 700 euros per month. As of 2017, the average (single) resident of Germany spends 1240 euros per month. Although it's stated that you can live on 5,650 euros a year (470 euros a month), this is a rather low estimate. Depending on where you live, you should expect that you will spend 600 to 700 euros per month. However, going to university is free in Germany, so it is definitely among the best choices for international students.

### **Residence Permit**

There are many types of visas you can apply for. Make sure to check with your embassy before leaving, as the conditions vary from country to country.

Residents of most countries can come to Germany on a tourist visa, which is valid for three months. No application is needed. It is then possible to go to the *Ausländerbehörde* (Foreigners' Authority) and apply for a residence permit, job-seeker visa, student visa, etc.

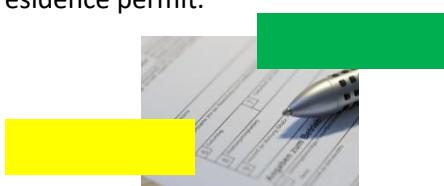
### **How do you get a Residence Permit?**

The *Ausländerbehörde* in your city can give you more detailed information about their requirements, as they vary from city to city. In most places, you will need the following **ORIGINAL** documents:

- your passport (valid for at least six months)
- recent biometric picture
- proof of address (lease, etc.)
- proof that you can support yourself and your family (if applicable) financially. You might have to prove that you have a job offer or that you have enough money in your account, depending on your situation.
- proof of health insurance
- *Meldeschein* (residence registration)
- degrees / certificates, maybe a transcript too
- proof of marriage (if applicable)
- sometimes you need a birth certificate (especially for children)
- pet passport and vaccination certificate (if applicable)

### **What is the *Meldeschein*?**

It is a document that shows you are registered at the *Bürgeramt*. It is usually quick and easy to get once you have a permanent address. All you need to do is take your passport and proof of address to the *Bürgeramt*. You will also need to bring this document along when applying for a residence permit.



## Shops and business hours

Typically, most stores (including pharmacies) are closed from Saturday afternoon until Monday morning. This is generally true for smaller cities in Germany, but in cities such as Leipzig, most stores remain open until 8:00pm and some grocery stores until 10:00pm on Saturdays. On Sundays, you can usually find a supermarket and pharmacy open for a few hours in the main train station, as well. (In the Leipzig main station, they are open from 12:00pm to 6:00pm.)



## Food and Drinks

Germany has so much more to offer than just the stereotypical Bavarian traditions like Oktoberfest. All 16 federal states have their own traditions and food. It is very unlikely to find someone from the north of Germany eating a *Weißwurst* (veal sausage) while drinking a *Weißbier* (wheat beer) in a *Dirndl* or in *Lederhosen*. Don't miss the chance to enjoy some traditional German food wherever you might find yourself. Another plus: traditional German food, compared to other European countries, is affordable. You'll get a full meal with drinks and a dessert for about €25 (assuming you're not in Berlin or Munich). Obviously, you have to taste German beer, too. Germany produces quite a range of various beers, so you should try at least one or two.

## Cities you should visit when coming to Germany

**Berlin** – the capital of Germany. Here, you can enjoy a taste of Germany's history, back when the country was divided into East and West. Visit the last pieces of the Berlin wall and let it take you back in time. Museum Island, the Reichstag (German parliament), the Berlin Zoo, and famous techno clubs await you!

**Hamburg** – a port city and home of art and dance. Forget about the world and sit for a moment on a dock in Hamburg while watching impressive container ships at work. Let yourself be taken to a whole new world with musicals like Aladdin and The Lion King.

**Dusseldorf and Cologne** – cities of carnivals and impressive architecture. Don't miss out on these two cities – especially Cologne, where various German TV shows are produced daily.

**Munich** – city of Oktoberfest. Munich is what most people picture when they think about Germany, so you're in for a treat! If you have the chance, visit Oktoberfest (actually taking place in September, strangely) and drink your Mass (roughly 1 liter of beer) while enjoying the full German experience!

These are just a few examples. There are many more cities worth seeing, depending on your interests and time!

# 10 Tips for Moving to Germany

## 1. Learn German

Before leaving your country, you might want to learn a bit of German. English is not spoken everywhere in Germany (or in the rest of Europe, for that matter). Outside of big tourist cities such as Frankfurt and Berlin, few people speak English. They might understand it, but often only with difficulty. So, if you're here for the long run, it might be better to take a course or two.

## 2. Find a tandem partner

A lot of university students and business people are seeking an English native speaker who would be willing to trade English speaking time for German speaking time. This can be a great opportunity for you to practice your German without breaking the budget. It could also provide you with a great source for helpful information about the local area and Germany in general.

## 3. Inform yourself as much as possible before you leave

Visit [https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMI/willkommen-in-deutschland\\_en\\_3432900.html](https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/Infomaterial/BMI/willkommen-in-deutschland_en_3432900.html) for a free brochure in English with all the information you'll need to get started!

## 4. Take things step by step

Of course, there are many challenges and unknowns when moving, especially to a different country. While it may be good to get an idea of the big picture, don't be too quick to paint it all in, and don't be afraid to paint outside the lines.

## 5. Take time for yourself

Moving to another country can be challenging and is often accompanied by a lot of paperwork (especially in Germany). Enjoy a nice ice cream creation at an Eiscafé, take a stroll in the park, have a good German beer at an international Stammtisch.... have fun, and remember that there is always someone there to help you – whether it's your friends, family or German institutions in your new hometown.



## **6. Just ask for help**

You are not sure about how to rent an apartment (flat) or car? You don't know where to go when you want to register in a new city? Or you simply don't know where to buy certain foods? Just ask your colleagues, friends, or institutions.

## **7. Start looking for accommodation early**

You may want to start looking before coming, as vacancies are limited in European cities in general. There are many agencies that offer help in finding a place to stay, but they do charge a fee to the owner as well as to the tenant.

An important point to consider is whether you want furnished or unfurnished housing. In Germany, there is usually NO furniture included in the apartments - no kitchen cabinets, appliances, closets, or counters, and in some cases not even a bathtub or a toilet. So, unless you plan on staying there for quite some time and like redecorating, you might want to look for furnished accommodations instead.

## **8. Learn about social etiquette in Germany**

Depending on the situation, the way politeness is expressed can vary significantly from our own. For example, Germans value silence in public, which means it can be considered rude when you speak loudly on a bus or in a supermarket.

## **9. Give your new German friends some time**

When you come to Germany and have your first encounters with Germans, you may be a bit confused or intimidated. Germans seem quite distant and cold at first, but when you get to know them, you'll see that Germans are friendly and warm-hearted just like anyone else. Most Germans value friendship highly, and once you've found a friend, you've got a friend for life.

## **10. Enjoy the process**

Don't put yourself under too much pressure. You've grown up in another country with different ways of doing things. Cut yourself some slack, and you'll see that you are automatically adapting to living in Germany in no time. Blogs from expats and Facebook groups can be very useful to learn about local customs, events, and hangouts.

# Saxony and Leipzig

With a history spanning more than 1,000 years, Leipzig has earned more than a few claims to fame – as a city of music (Bach, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, and Schumann), commerce, trade fairs, heroes, and the site of the Peaceful Revolution, and is known as ‘Little Paris,’ ‘Athens on the River Pleisse’ and ‘the Venice of the North.’

Leipzig is surrounded by numerous lakes and green areas and has many parks conveniently located near the city center. Relax at the *Sachsenbrücke* (Saxon Bridge) in *Clara-Zetkin Park*, a popular spot for locals to meet up with friends and enjoy the sun and street performances.

Leipzig is also known for having one of the oldest universities in Germany. Great minds such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Nietzsche studied here.

Keeping the historical tradition alive, Leipzig still hosts many trade fairs, such as the International Book Fair in March. It is also home to Europe’s biggest Wave Gothic Festival (WGT), which takes place around Pentecost, in May or June.



## Places to Visit in Leipzig

### The Monument to the Battle of the Nations “Völkerschlachtdenkmal”

From October 16-19, 1813, Leipzig was the site of the Battle of the Nations. The monument commemorates Napoleon's defeat in Leipzig. The unified armed forces of Russia, Prussia, Austria and Sweden prevailed in a decisive victory over Napoleon and his allies on German soil.

### Gewandhaus

As aforementioned, Leipzig is a city of music. The Gewandhaus is a famous concert hall and home of the world-renowned Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Attending a concert there is definitely an unforgettable experience. The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is the site of much of the city's music and concert life.

### St. Thomas Church “Thomaskirche”

St. Thomas Church is a Lutheran church and is well-known as the place where Johann Sebastian Bach worked as a Kapellmeister (music director) from 1723 until his death in 1750. It is also the location of his remains.

### St. Nicholas Church “Nicolaikirche”

This is one of the largest churches in Saxony. Several works by Johann Sebastian Bach, who was the music director at St. Nicholas Church and St. Thomas Church, premiered here. The church rose to national fame in 1989 because of the Monday Demonstrations. St. Nicholas Church became the center of the peaceful revolt against communist rule.

### Leipzig Zoo

The zoo is internationally recognized for its large building projects such as Pongoland (housing gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans) and Gondwanaland (the world's largest indoor rainforest hall). It has bred more than 2,000 lions, 250 rare Siberian tigers, and other carnivores like bears, and has been called the “Zoo of the Future.”



Gewandhaus in Leipzig

## University of Leipzig

Don't miss the chance to pay a visit to the University of Leipzig, the Alma Mater of Germany's chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel. Chancellor Merkel studied Physics in Leipzig back when it was still called Karl-Marx-Universität.



## Bars, Cafés and Restaurants

In Leipzig, you can choose from many bars, cafés and typical German or international restaurants where you can enjoy delicious meals, drinks or coffee. A few of the more well-known ones are below.

### Bars & Cafés

**IMPERII Restaurant & Bar,**  
Brühl 72

**KilliWilly**, Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 44

**Moritzbastei**,  
Universitätsstraße 9

**Mintastique**, Straße des 11. Juni

### Restaurants

**Ouzeri Was Kost Das**,  
Nonnenstraße 5d

**Falco**, Gerberstraße 15

**Trattoria**, Reichpietschstraße 51

**Kollektiv**, Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 72

## Souvenirs



If you want to buy authentic GDR (East German) souvenirs, you can buy products from the former German Democratic Republic in the **Ossiladen** (at the Höfe am Brühl) – specializing in products from the time when Germany was still divided into West and East.

You can also buy many souvenirs in the **Leipzigshop** (Erich-Zeigner-Allee 64) or in the **Thomasshop** (Thomaskirchhof 18).

Take home a regional pastry called the "Leipziger Lerche" and wash it down with a local beer called "Gose" or a bottle of "Kräuterlikör" – a popular spirit made with herbs.



You can also buy authentic GDR souvenirs at HO-Der DDR Laden GmbH (Großer Marktweg 6, 04178 Leipzig).

# **Helpful Information for Your Stay in Leipzig**



## **Emergency Numbers**

Police 110

Fire Brigade 112

You can call either number, no matter what the emergency.

## **Tourist Office**

Katharinenstraße 8

Mon – Fri 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sat 9.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sun 9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Phone: +49 341 7104260

Email: info@itm-leipzig.de

## **Post Office**

Windmühlenstraße 22 – 26

Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. - 12 a.m.

*Brühl 8 (opposite the shopping mall)*

Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. - 3 a.m.

## **Leipzig Lost and Found**

Technisches Rathaus  
Prager Straße 118-136  
04317 Leipzig

+49 341 123-8400

fundbuero@leipzig.de

## **Taxi**

You can call a taxi at +49 341 982222 (Löwentaxi Leipzig).

You can also hail a taxi on the street. A lit taxi sign signifies that the taxi is available. All taxis in Germany have a taximeter, so you do not have to worry about negotiating the fare.

## **Medical Assistance**

German doctors offer a standby service (also on weekends and evenings). They also offer home visits. The following specialists are available to meet your medical needs: internists, gynecologists, surgeons, orthopedists, eye doctors, otolaryngologists and pediatricians. If you need to see a doctor, you should call in advance to check availability. For questions regarding payment, consult your health or travel insurance provider beforehand.

For more information, please check this webpage:

<http://www.kvs-sachsen.de/bereitschaftsdienste/bereitschaftsdienste-im-direktionsbezirk-leipzig/stadt-leipzig>

## **Public Transportation**

**Deutsche Bahn** – for longer trips between cities: [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

**Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe** – for transportation in Leipzig: [www.lvb.de/verkehrsbetriebe/](http://www.lvb.de/verkehrsbetriebe/)

**Easy Go App** – an app for Leipzig including offers from Deutsche Bahn (for Android and iOS)

# Discover Halle and Dessau

If you are looking for a calm city full of history and culture but near to bigger cities like Leipzig or Berlin – Halle and Dessau are the places for you!

## Halle (Saale)

Halle is a city in Saxony-Anhalt, just half an hour away from Leipzig. With a population of approx. 241,000 inhabitants, Halle is relatively small compared to Leipzig (591,000 inhabitants). The University of Halle-Wittenberg, however, is one of the oldest universities in Germany, and famous personalities like Dorothea Erxleben (first female medical doctor in Germany) or Frederick Muhlenberg (first speaker of the House of Representatives of the US) have studied there. The birthplace of Georg Friedrich Händel (famous German-British baroque composer) is also a very green city with approx. 7000 hectares of water and green spaces.

## Places to Visit in Halle

### The Shopping District of Halle

If you're looking for some souvenirs or some new, fancy clothes – the shopping district of Halle has everything your fashion heart desires. Visit the market square, Leipziger Straße, Kleinschmieden, Große Ulrichstraße, Schmeerstraße, Alter Markt, Rannische Straße, Kleine Ulrichstraße, Große Steinstraße, Hallmarkt, and Talamstraße.



### Cultural Island

Right between the University Square and Großer Ulrichstraße, you'll find Culture Island (Kulturinsel). If you're looking for a good play to watch in the evening, this is the place. Also, if you're interested in a puppet-theatre which combines old puppeteer traditions with avant-garde theatrical pleasure, Culture Island has it all!



### Market Church of Our Dear Lady "Marktkirche Unser Lieben Frauen"

The church is also called *Liebfraukirche*, *Marienkirche* or *Marktkirche* and was built between 1529 and 1554. Martin Luther preached in this church, and famous musicians like Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Friedrich Händel worked there, as well.

### Halloren chocolate factory

When you're in Halle, make sure to pay a visit to the Halloren chocolate factory. Not only can you visit the factory itself, but you can also learn how to make chocolate, and buy chocolate at a reduced price right from the production line.



# Dessau-Roßlau

Just 1 hour from Leipzig, the green city of Dessau welcomes you. Dessau is home of the Bauhaus and UNESCO World Heritage Bauhaus architecture. In 1945, Dessau was almost completely destroyed by Allied air raids. After World War II, it was rebuilt using the typical East German construction style, *Plattenbau*, and became a major industrial center of East Germany. Today, however, Dessau is a rather calm and green city with a famous campus for architecture, facility management, and design.

## Places to Visit in Dessau

### Bauhaus Dessau

Dessau is the city most closely associated with the Bauhaus. This is where the school of design was active for the longest period of time. It was founded by Walter Gropius in Weimar in 1919, where it experienced its heyday from 1925 to 1932.



The famous Bauhaus in Dessau



### UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Come and enjoy the flora and fauna of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Middle Elbe – one of the last natural river vistas in Europe.

### The UNESCO Garden Realm of Dessau-Wörlitz “Gartenreich Dessau-Wörlitz”

You might get lost in the 142 km<sup>2</sup> Garden Realm of Dessau-Wörlitz. Savor the beauty of castles, parks, gardens and lakes. Also, the first Palladian Palace ever built outside England still exists here.



### Elbe Biking Trail

“Elberadweg”

The Elbe Biking Trail is a route that starts in the Czech city of Prague and ends in the German city of Cuxhaven, near the North Sea. You'll see many cyclists taking a break in Dessau or in the city of Coswig, only a few kilometers away. If you're feeling sporty but don't want to cycle the whole 1,000 km, just take a day trip to Magdeburg (approx. 60 km from Dessau).

# Wittenberg, Martin Luther, and the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences to the door of All Saints' Castle Church in Wittenberg. What started in Wittenberg in the 16<sup>th</sup> century has influenced language and education, culture and economy, society and politics in Germany, in Europe and in the whole world.

## Martin Luther

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany. He studied at the University of Erfurt and decided to join a monastic order in 1505. After he was ordained in 1507, Luther started teaching at the University of Wittenberg and was made a doctor of theology.

As a doctor of theology, Luther watched the clergy selling “indulgences” in anger. These “indulgences” promised remission from punishments for sins of either living or dead persons. For him, it was enough to have faith in order to obtain forgiveness. On October 31, 1517, he published his theses, attacking papal abuses and the sale of indulgences.

In January 1521, Luther was excommunicated by Pope Leo X. When Luther refused to recant, he was declared an outlaw and a heretic. He went into hiding in Wartburg Castle, where he translated the Bible into German, which he published in 1522 (New Testament) and 1534 (Old Testament).



Bronze statue of Martin Luther



Luther Rose or Luther Seal

## 500 Years of Reformation



More than 500 years after Luther nailed his 95 theses to a church door, his influence is still present. On October 31, 2017, numerous events, festivities, plays, workshops, and exhibitions celebrated 500 years of reformation.

Naturally, Lutherstadt Wittenberg hosted most of the events. The themes were the global impact of the “Luther Effect”, “Luther and the Germans,” and Luther himself.

Even former US President Barack Obama visited the German Protestant Kirchtentag in Berlin in 2017. Together with Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), 70,000 visitors were attracted.

Another highlight was the *BlessU-2*, the first blessing robot in the world. The question was: Is a blessing from a robot really a blessing?

Door of All Saints' Castle in Wittenberg

## The inlingua Method: direct-active-all the time

The language training you will experience at inlingua sets out to take you methodically, systematically and as efficiently as possible to fluency in the target language. Your trainer uses only his / her native language from the first training session on.

**Learn languages the best way – by speaking them!**

And speaking is what we will get you to do: reacting in standard situations, taking the initiative to get what you want, saying what you want to say, role plays, communication activities, and simulated dialogues. We want you to be able to use your language skills at any time in various situations.



- You learn to use the language correctly, without lectures on grammar. New words are not translated, but made clear and put into immediate, active use.
- The training is structured and includes a variety of different activities: controlled practice, freer practice, dialogues, role plays and discussion, plus the use of media such as video and CD-ROM.
- You are guided and supported by trainers who are native speakers and trained teachers.
- Regular exercises and tests show you what your current level is and what areas need reinforcement and improvement. inlingua tests and examinations are of course in line with internationally recognized certificates.



**Sprachen sind**  
**inlingua®**

## Checklist

- ⌚ important documents (passport / ID, visa, health certificate, plane ticket, etc.)
- ⌚ clothes (for warm, cold, wet, and sunny days)
- ⌚ toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, brush, make-up, etc.)
- ⌚ international insurance
- ⌚ cash (always good to have on you)
- ⌚ credit cards (no checks!)
- ⌚ adapter
- ⌚ pen & paper for notes
- ⌚ medications
- ⌚ camera
- ⌚ laptop / tablet
- ⌚ small first aid kit
- ⌚ books
- ⌚ sports gear (if you want to go hiking, swimming...)
- ⌚ smartphone / cell phone without sim-lock
- ⌚ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⌚ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⌚ \_\_\_\_\_
- ⌚ \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes

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# Contact

Are you ready to expand your horizons?

**Let the journey begin!**

Email: [info@inlingua-leipzig.de](mailto:info@inlingua-leipzig.de)

Phone: +49 3 41/222 88 77 0

## Office Hours

Mon – Thu                    8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fri                            8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sat – Sun                    closed

## Address

**Wolpert Schulungszentrum  
inlingua Sprachschule Leipzig GmbH**  
Prager Str. 36 & Gutenbergplatz 1D  
04317 Leipzig      04103 Leipzig

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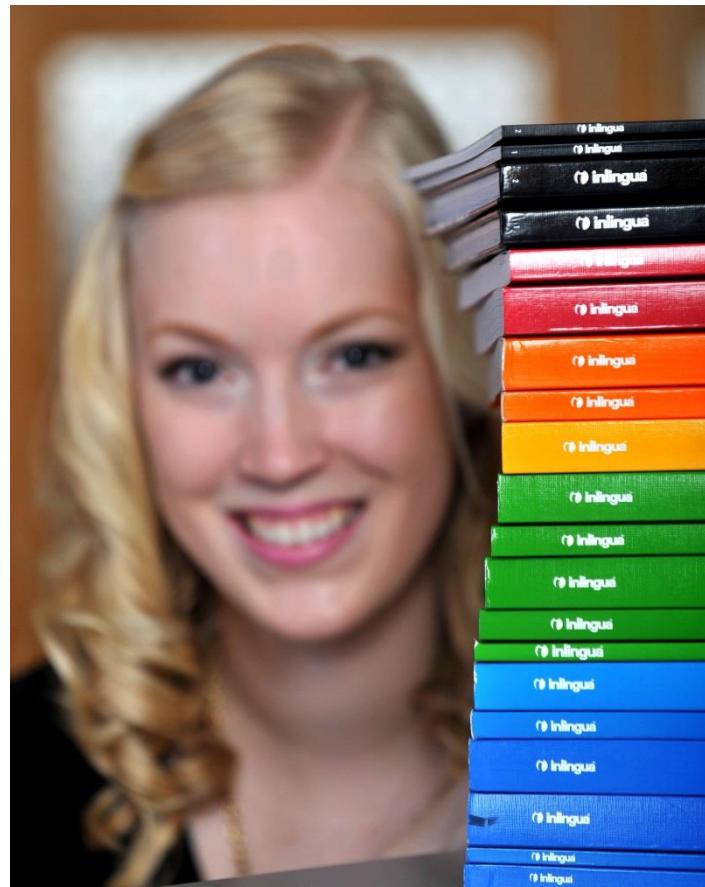
 [@inlinguaLeipzig](https://www.instagram.com/inlinguaLeipzig)

 [info@inlingua-leipzig.de](mailto:info@inlingua-leipzig.de)

 +49 341 / 222 88 77-0

 [www.inlingua-leipzig.de](http://www.inlingua-leipzig.de)

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





**Bis Bald in  
Leipzig, Halle  
und Dessau!**

