

Key to the guides

Places that fascinate, places big and small that offer stories and experiences worth remembering and sharing. Raven Travel Guides Germany provides the key information to help make a satisfying visit for culturally aware travellers on a budget.

Where you are, what you are looking at, why it is there and who made it what it is today. Raven Guides helps decide where to spend precious travel time and money and how to get there, as well as offering tips on where to get more detail on the most intriguing places.

Walks

For cities, an introduction and orientation to the Altstadt (old city centre), its landmarks, and sometimes other interesting districts.

Information

Where to find tourist offices and other information resources including public internet and bookshops stocking literature for visitors, maps and travellers' guide books.

Transport

All the options for getting to and from the destination, broken up by mode in the case of large cities, with a guide to frequency of services and travel times between centres.

All the details of city transit options, ticket and fare structures and where to get further assistance are covered. In large cities these are also divided by mode for convenience, including taxi information and phone numbers and tips for cyclists (with arrangements for carrying bicycles on public transport).

Visitor cards

Period passes are available in many cities, generally covering public transport travel with additional benefits including entry discounts at some attractions.

Tours

Sightseeing trips are almost everywhere but increasingly there are audio guides available for rental and mobile phone-based services. Raven Guides summarises what is available in English. In smaller destinations these and other sections are grouped as 'Activities'.

Cruises

Where destinations are on rivers or lakes cruises provide an opportunity to see them from a different perspective, sometimes very similar to that viewed by travellers of the past and always at a restful pace.

Views

Nothing puts a city in context like a view. Whether the vantage points be natural or man-made, Raven Guides provides details for getting there and opening times and costs where they apply.

Parks & gardens

Public green spaces are beautiful and valuable but usually free and can provide a restful



RAVEN QUICK GUIDE

All the key information so travellers can find things fast.

Tourist information: Local tourist office and information centres.

Accommodation service: Where to get advice and help with booking accommodation.

Money: A selection of well-positioned banking services (including opening hours) for travellers who have questions about money.

Lockers: Location and cost of lockers for travellers.

Transit information: Where to get maps, timetables and advice on using tickets.

Post: Locations and opening hours of full-service Deutsche Post offices (including Postbank money transfer facilities) or handy affiliate postal services.

Internet: Places with usually reliable wi-fi access (and opening hours) or access to internet terminals for travellers.

Laundry: Coin laundries or other wash services with locations and opening hours.

Police: Where to find help, with telephone contacts including the national police and fire emergency number, tel 110.

Pharmacy: A selection of well-positioned pharmacies including opening hours.

Ambulance: Always, in cases of medical emergency, tel 112.

Hospital: Medical centres with emergency casualty departments and contact telephone numbers should they be needed.

way to pass summer evenings when other attractions are closed. Families with children also find them appealing (zoos are included).

Markets

Whether as a source of reasonably priced fresh food or an experience of traditional local life, the market is a central part of all cities and towns – and a must for vegetarians and vegans.

Events

The biggest annual festivals strongly influence the tourist business locally and can be reasons to schedule a visit (or stay away, depending on taste). Rates for accommodation and availability of budget beds will likely be affected. In Germany trade fairs are another big business and can book out accommodation many months in advance.

Food

An overview of some of the best parts of town to look for reasonably priced meals, along with a few suggestions including vegetarian and vegan options where handy.

Meet & drink

Cafes and bars for refreshment and as places

where people get together – meet the locals or other travellers and swap travel tips.

Accommodation

A range of budget accommodation suggestions selected to appeal to varying tastes, arranged from those in central locations to those further away but still handy to transport or attractions. Make a choice from large budget hotels, private or accredited hostels, or small hotels or pensions – often family-run businesses – offering more intimate surroundings. Contact details are provided and, for individual establishments, website links to assist in making choices.

Details provided include rates, services such as parking and internet access. Location details or transport tips for reaching each listed property are provided – arrive relaxed.

For ease of use details of accredited Deutsche Jugendherberge hostels, commonly located away from city centres, are listed last, but with telephone and email contact information and transport tips.

Also in this section are links for tourist office or other accommodation services that provide alternatives including apartment and private room rentals.

Abbreviations

Prices, fares & rates – These are given in euros (€) except where noted.

Months, days of the week & hours – These are abbreviated (according to the 24-hour clock), usually between parentheses, to provide concise summaries of opening times: (Apr-mid Sep, M-F 9-16.30). The notation (M-Sa 10-1) means opening 10.00 and closing 1.00 the following morning.

Admission prices & tickets – For brevity, these are shown with a standard child rate after the virgule: €5/3 (ages and student, pensioner or other concessions may vary).

Accommodation rates – These are shown thus: singles/doubles/triples from €50/65/80.

Fares – First and second-class fares where available are given thus: first/second-class tickets for €100/70.

Measures – Distances or heights are given in kilometres or metres: 3km, 250m.

Weights are in grams or milligrams: 10g, 100mg.

Volumes are given in litres or millilitres: four litres, 250ml.

German language & names

Street names, addresses & names of attractions – These are given in the native language to accord with signs and maps.

Placenames – Where an English version is common usage, this is given, otherwise the name native to the country. Where placenames differ between languages, especially in cases of transport destinations, the native name followed by a virgule and the relevant equivalent: Szczecin/Stettin.

Personalities – These, especially from history, are named by customary English usage for easy identification: Charlemagne, Frederick Barbarossa, Frederick the Great. All other native names are rendered as in German.

Other foreign words – Where introduced these appear in italics, with translations in parentheses or explanations in plain text.

Common terms for travellers –

Altstadt – the medieval old town, generally the city centre

Rathaus – the town hall, often *Altes* (old) or *Neues* (new) Rathaus

Dom – a cathedral or, occasionally, a collegiate church

Hauptbahnhof – central rail station

ZOB (Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof) – central bus station

Schloß or *Schloss* – palace or castle



Quickly choose what to visit. **Local sights** are displayed on grey panels, with location and, where relevant, admission details. Sights are grouped by area as closely as practicable with transport tips to assist visitors.

Excursion suggestions for major sites or nearby towns are displayed on gold panels, again with admission details as necessary, transport tips and a travel time estimate. These attractions could absorb a few hours or a day.



MUSEUMS & GALLERIES/ PERFORMANCE

Cultural attractions are coded blue, with details of admission, ticket price ranges and background information. [Website links](#) are provided for city museum organisations, institutions such as orchestras and dance companies or booking sites. For museums and galleries transport tips are included.

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