



Germany - Low



Germany Country Map



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 17 December 2025

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Germany is considered a safe travel destination, and most visits are trouble-free. Sensible safety precautions, such as limiting overt displays of wealth and main-

taining situational awareness, should be adequate to mitigate associated security risks. Street crime poses the greatest threat to visitors. Crime levels, however, are relatively low and violent crimes are unlikely to impact travellers.

Germany has experienced several terrorist attacks in recent years, often carried out indiscriminately using low-sophistication methods such as mass stabbings and vehicle rammings. In response, the German government has heightened security at public buildings, major events, transport hubs, and large gatherings. While measures are in place, the risk of future attacks cannot be ruled out.

The influx of migrants arriving in Germany has triggered several instances of civil unrest and spurred a wave of violent attacks from right-wing extremist groups. Such groups have well-established communication networks and can mobilise large numbers of supporters to stage both authorised and unauthorised protests, often with little notice.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- German is the primary language, but English is widely spoken, especially in the western part of the country.
- A gratuity of 15 percent is automatically added to the customer's bill. However, Germans typically leave additional change or smaller bills for exceptional service.
- The U.S. sign for "OK" (index finger forming a circle with the thumb) should be avoided in Germany, as it is considered an offensive gesture.
- "Fraulein" is only used for very young women and may be seen as condescending in other contexts.
- Homosexuality and same-sex marriage are legal in Germany.

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Berlin
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	30

KEY FACTS	
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	49
CURRENCY	Euro
ELECTRICITY	230 V 50 Hz
GMT	+1
LANGUAGES	German
LEADERSHIP	Head of Government: Chancellor Friedrich Merz. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday-Friday
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	Federal Republic of Germany
PLUG STYLES	Types C, F
RELIGION	Roman Catholic 24.8%, Protestant 22.6%, Muslim 3.7%, other 5.1%, Atheist/Agnostic 43.8%
TIME ZONE OFFSET	UTC + 2 (Daylight Saving Time observed)
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Federal Republic

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Low

Germany is a functioning and stable democracy with little to no associated risks of political violence or instability.

On 6 November 2024, the ruling coalition government collapsed due to internal disputes over fiscal policies, prompting the 2025 German Federal election to be brought forward to February. The election saw a victory for the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), though significant gains were made by the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD). The election period was marked by notable protests and isolated incidents of violence, primarily driven by tensions over migration between the AfD and left-wing groups. Continued protests centred on migration issues are likely.

Armed Conflict - Low

Germany is not currently involved in any active armed conflict but has committed peacekeeping forces to international operations, including former NATO missions in the Balkans and the war in Afghanistan. As a NATO member surrounded by allied or neutral states, the risk of armed conflict on German soil remains low. However, Germany's support of Ukraine in the ongoing Ukrainian-Russian war has made it vulnerable to potential hybrid warfare attacks by Russia.

Terrorism - Moderate

The terrorism threat in Germany is currently assessed as moderate. The country has experienced multiple high-profile attacks resulting in mass casualties. The primary threat stems from Islamist violent extremist organisations (VEOs) and self-radicalised individuals.

Terror attacks are likely to be perpetrated by self-radicalised individuals utilising low-sophistication methods such as knives, firearms, and vehicles. Attacks of this nature are notoriously difficult to detect and defend against; soft targets with symbolic value are most at risk, including major transport hubs, popular tourist sites,

and sporting venues. Travellers are therefore advised to maintain a high degree of situational awareness and vigilance at all times.

Car-ramming attacks have increasingly been used by terrorists as a method of attack. On 20 December 2024, an asylum seeker carried out a car-ramming attack at a Christmas market in Magdeburg, killing six people and injuring over 290. A similar attack took place in Munich in February 2025, leaving 37 injured.

Travellers are advised to remain vigilant in high-traffic areas, including markets, festivals, and protests, which have previously been targeted. In the event of a car-ramming, travellers should seek immediate cover behind large, solid objects or inside nearby buildings.

Other terrorism risks include far-right extremism, where radicalised individuals and groups, often driven by anti-migrant sentiments, target Muslim migrants. On 19 February 2020, a right-wing extremist killed ten people and injured several others in a shooting spree targeting shisha bars in Hanau.

Crime - Low

The crime risk in Germany is currently assessed as low. Petty and opportunistic crime, including bag-snatching and pickpocketing, presents the greatest threat to travellers. Therefore, it is advisable to adopt sensible precautions, such as not leaving personal belongings unattended and maintaining situational awareness, especially when travelling alone. Tourist hotspots and city centres typically see increased amounts of opportunistic crimes.

Violent crime is rare and is most often linked to either organised criminal gangs or far-right nationalist groups that target ethnic minorities, refugees, and immigrants in violent assaults. Such attacks are most common in eastern states such as Brandenburg, Sachsen, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Cybercrime remains a major concern and is increasing in frequency. Viruses and malware continue to be preferred methods. Travellers should ensure they have taken appropriate cybersecurity measures.

Civil Unrest - Low

Protests and demonstrations are common in Germany, often sparked by political developments, immigration concerns, climate change, and socioeconomic issues. Most remain peaceful and well-policed, posing little risk to travellers. However, authorities may use stronger dispersal tactics, such as water cannons and tear gas, in cases of significant unrest or violence. For travellers, the primary concern during demonstrations is localised travel disruptions.

Labour unions, particularly those of the transport and industrial sectors, stage periodic strikes and protests over a range of grievances. Such events can trigger disruptions to travel and business.

Maritime and Piracy - Low

The Maritime and Piracy risk level for Germany is currently assessed as low, stemming from the relative regional security of the North and Baltic Seas.

Since 2022, tensions in the Baltic Sea have escalated significantly due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, resulting in increased Russian naval activity. These deployments are largely symbolic, responding to the growing NATO presence in the region, and pose little direct risk for mariners.

The Kiel Canal, an artificial waterway located in the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, sees over 30,000 vessel transits annually. The canal's high traffic elevates the risk of maritime collisions and poses significant challenges to navigational safety. The canal's strategic importance makes it a potential target for terrorist attacks and hybrid operations by foreign entities.

Health - Negligible

There are no significant health threats in Germany. Hospitals are well-equipped, and staff are well-trained. The German healthcare system operates on an insurance basis; citizens of other EU countries should carry their EHIC card at all times, and non-EU citizens would be advised to carry proof of insurance to ensure rapid and trouble-free treatment. Germany often requires payment immediately for treatment, travellers should ensure they have appropriate funds available.

Tick-borne encephalitis is known to be present in mountainous regions in the south, and travellers should employ preventive measures to avoid insect bites.

Mountainous regions may also suffer from slightly lower standards of emergency response, however, they are typically well covered by privately-operated medical evacuation helicopters, although costs for their use can be prohibitive without insurance.

Environmental - Low

There are no significant environmental threats in Germany. It is advisable to remain cautious of ice on the roads during winter. Mountainous regions, such as Bavaria, can be prone to avalanches.

The country occasionally suffers from flooding, particularly in the northern coastal areas around the River Elbe, the eastern part of the River Oder, and the southern mountainous regions. During severe flooding, travellers should anticipate localised travel disruptions and potential power outages. Travel through floodwaters is strongly advised against due to the threat posed by strong currents and underwater hazards.

Transportation - Negligible

Road conditions are generally of a high standard throughout Germany. A threat remains, however, from extremely cold winter weather conditions in alpine areas.

Travellers should avoid taking taxis from airports if not pre-booked, as fake taxis often target airport transfers. While it remains uncommon, taxi scams do occur. It is often customary for a passenger to tip the driver around ten per cent, and it is not unusual for drivers to request additional charges. It is advised to confirm a price before the transfer or use a pre-booked driver and vehicle. Uber has been banned across Germany as it fails to meet regulations and licensing requirements. Travellers should avoid all car-sharing services. It is advised that travellers use pre-booked travel and local drivers to avoid any unfamiliarity with in-country

roads and laws.

Bicycles are a popular method of transport. Bicycles have priority over pedestrians and automobiles; typically, the non-cyclist party in an incident will be held responsible for any injury or damage.

Bus and train services differ between stations; some areas require ticket validation, and some have rules regarding bikes and luggage. It is typical that once brought, tickets are to be used within two hours. Most city train stations have multilingual ticket machines.

EMERGENCY DETAILS	
SOLACE GLOBAL:- +44 (0)1202 7959801.	
AMBULANCE AND FIRE:- 112, POLICE:- 110.	
BRITISH EMBASSY, BERLIN:- +49 30 204570. U.S EMBASSY BERLIN:- +49 30 83050. SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY, BERLIN:- +49 30 260650.	
POLICE NUMBER	112
AMBULANCE NUMBER	112
FIRE NUMBER	112
EMERGENCY DETAILS	Additional numbers:110 for police, 19222 is local-dial ambulance

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Road conditions are generally of a high standard throughout Germany. A substan-

tial threat remains, however, from extremely cold winter weather conditions in alpine areas. Snow clearance is generally very thorough, however, this does not remove all risks. If travelling to such an area in winter, the vehicle should be equipped with appropriate tyres and, if necessary, snow chains. Some stretches of the Autobahn have no speed limit. Travellers should maintain lane discipline and be prepared to encounter high-speed vehicles.

German streets have designated bike lanes, often indicated with red lines, and bikes have priority over pedestrians and cars when turning. Travellers should maintain awareness of cyclists and cycle lanes.

Public transport is widely available however, it can be busy at peak times.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 19, 2025

- **Remembrance Day for Roma and Sinti killed by Genocide:** Germany - Observance

DECEMBER 21, 2025

- **December Solstice:** Germany - Seasonal
- **Fourth Advent Sunday:** Germany - Observance

DECEMBER 24, 2025

- **Christmas Eve:** Germany - Half day

DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Germany - National

SIGNIFICANT DATES

DECEMBER 26, 2025

- **Boxing Day:** Germany - National

DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Germany - Half day

JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year's Day:** Germany - National

JANUARY 06, 2026

- **Epiphany:** Germany - Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt - Local holiday, Christian

JANUARY 22, 2026

- **Franco-German Day:** Germany - Observance

JANUARY 27, 2026

- **Remembrance Day for the Victims of National Socialism:** Germany - Observance

JANUARY 28, 2026

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **European Privacy Day:** Germany - Observance

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

- **Children's Hospice Day:** Germany - Observance

FEBRUARY 14, 2026

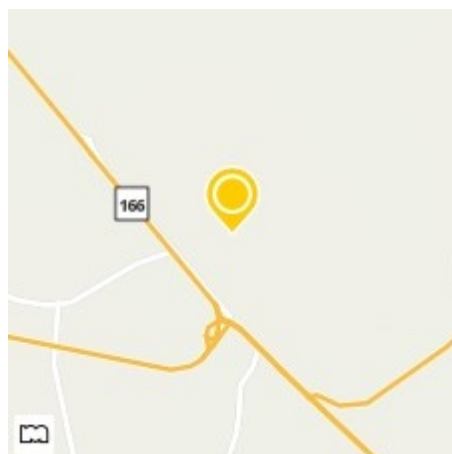
- **Valentine's Day:** Germany - Observance

FEBRUARY 16, 2026

- **Shrove Monday:** Germany - Observance

RECENT ALERTS

EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONDING TO LARGE OIL LEAK FROM A PIPELINE IN NORTHEASTERN GERMANY



RECENT ALERTS

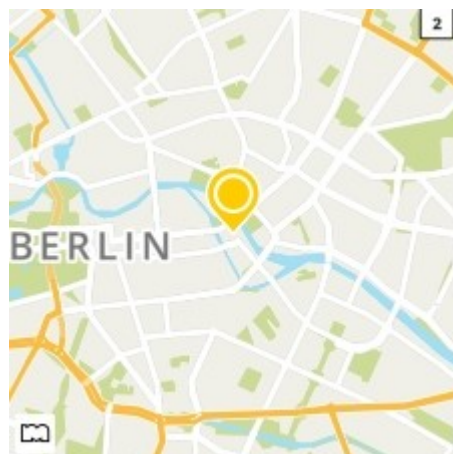
Category: Caution - **Risk:** Moderate



10-Dec-2025 20:04

According to local media sources, a large oil spill has occurred in the state of Brandenburg, northeastern Germany. Some reports state that over 200,000 litres of crude oil have leaked from a pipeline in Brandenburg following an accident. There is currently a large emergency services presence in the area, with efforts to clear up the spill expected to continue into the night. The full extent of the situation remains unclear.

COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS BLOCK MARCH BY DIE HEIMAT IN MITTE



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



29-Nov-2025 15:48

Local media sources report that counter-demonstrators have blocked a march by party Die Heimat in Mitte. The Christmas markets at Berlin's Humboldt Forum

RECENT ALERTS

came to an end as 150 Die Heimat demonstrators gathered; however, counter-demonstrators continued to grow in numbers. At this time, ground sources report approximately 1,200 counter-demonstrators in the area, blocking the march. The counter-demonstrators are standing along the boulevard and in the side streets. Ground sources further report that there is a heavy police presence in the area and that the demonstration is now stationary near Museum Island and will not be moving. There have not been any reports of clashes at this time, and it is unclear whether there are any casualties. Further information remains limited.

UPDATE: PROTESTS ONGOING IN GIESSEN



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate

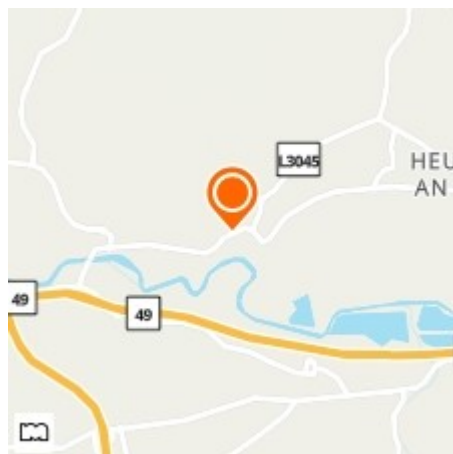


29-Nov-2025 14:21

German media reports that police have deployed water cannons against protesters amid continued protests, with clashes taking place along the River Lahn and towards the western part of the city. Reports confirm that at least one police officer has been injured.

RECENT ALERTS

UPDATE: GIESSEN PROTEST ESCALATES



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** High



29-Nov-2025 08:49

Local media reports that the anti-AfD protest in the Giessen area is continuing to escalate. Police have deployed water cannons and pepper spray in an attempt to disperse protesters. The number of people present has reached tens of thousands. German media reports that this is likely the largest police operation in the city's history. At the road blockade on the L3020 near Giessen, protesters are stopping vehicles and damaging them. Emergency services are aware of the situation and are en route to the blockade. Police have urged the public to avoid the area. Footage circulating online shows large groups of protesters marching along roads and violent clashes with police. Protesters are demonstrating against the re-establishment of the AfD youth wing.

PEPPER SPRAY DEPLOYED AGAINST PROTESTERS IN GIESSEN

RECENT ALERTS



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



29-Nov-2025 07:16

Local media reports that police have deployed pepper spray against protesters in Giessen. This comes amid clashes between police and protesters involving stones being thrown at the police. The protesters are demonstrating against the AFD party. Images circulating online show a police blockade and large crowds of protesters. There have been no injuries reported at this time.

MINOR CLASHES REPORTED AS ANTI-AFD PROTESTORS GATHER IN GIESSEN



RECENT ALERTS

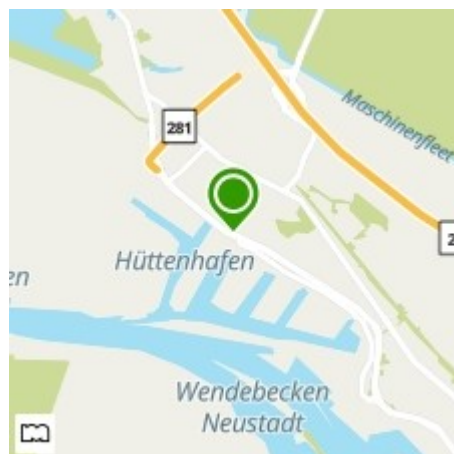
Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



29-Nov-2025 06:26

According to local media sources, individuals opposing the Alternative for Germany (AfD) political party have gathered in Giessen, Hesse, to protest the party's planned establishment of a youth organisation. A large police presence remains due to the high turnout of counter-protests, with minor clashes between authorities and civilians being reported. At present, no casualties have been confirmed. We will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

500 METRE EVACUATION ZONE ORDERED DUE TO UNEXPLODED WW2 ORDNANCE



Category: Caution - **Risk:** Low



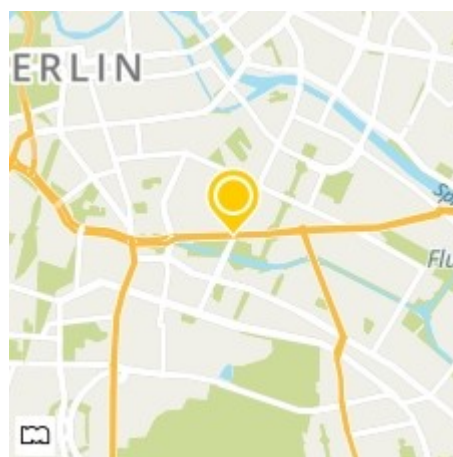
26-Nov-2025 08:23

Local media sources report that police have imposed a 500 metre evacuation radius due to the discovery of an unexploded WW2 bomb in the Beim

RECENT ALERTS

Industriehafen area of Bremen. A controlled detonation of the bomb by specialist police units is planned for 12:00 local time. Polizei Bremen report that there will be localised traffic disruption as well as the cancellation of some bus routes for the duration.

MULTIPLE ARRESTS DOCUMENTED AMID ONGOING PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN KREUZBERG, BERLIN



Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Moderate



25-Nov-2025 20:43

Berlin Police Operations (BPO) spokespersons have announced that at least 13 people have been arrested amid ongoing pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Kreuzberg, Berlin. The arrests have largely been attributed to isolated instances of violence against police personnel, with two officers sustaining minor injuries. Authorities report the protests are largely peaceful and controlled, only posing minor disruptions to local travel. Further details surrounding the protests are limited. We will continue to monitor the situation and update if there are any developments.

RECENT ALERTS

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING ISSUED FOR SNOW AND RAIN POSSIBLY LEADING TO BLACK ICE IN SOUTHERN GERMANY



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



23-Nov-2025 17:09

The German weather service (DWD) has issued severe weather warnings across multiple regions in southern Germany, due to the chance of black ice forming as a result of snow and rain. The warning has been in effect since 18:00 local time (17:00 UTC) and will be active until at least 05:00 tomorrow, 24 November. Authorities are warning residents to stay vigilant and be aware of the risks black ice poses while driving.

ANTI FAR-RIGHT PROTESTS EXPECTED IN GIESSEN, HESSEN ON 29 TO 30 NOVEMBER





Category: Civil Unrest - **Risk:** Low



21-Nov-2025 03:36

Local media have reported that counter-protests are expected due to the formation of a new youth organisation for Alternative für Deutschland (#AfD) in Giessen, Hessen, on 29 to 30 November. Antifa have organised up to 40,000 members to arrive in Giessen, Hessen during that weekend in 180 buses to protest against the formation and rally at the Hessenhallen exhibition centre, in which AfD will be holding an event. It is unclear if this will go ahead; however, we will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 13:51:26

Warnings and insurance

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of the current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Germany set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [German Embassy in the UK](#).

Passport validity requirements

Germany follows [Schengen area rules](#). Your passport must:

- have a ‘date of issue’ less than 10 years before the date you arrive – if you renewed your passport before 1 October 2018, it may have a date of issue that is more than 10 years ago
- have an ‘expiry date’ at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave the Schengen area (the expiry date does not need to be within 10 years of the date of issue)

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

If you have a residence permit, you must have a valid passport for the duration of your stay. Renew it before the expiry date.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Visa requirements

You can [travel without a visa to the Schengen area](#), which includes Germany, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel:

- as a tourist
- to visit family or friends

- to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events
- for short-term studies or training

The [requirements for working in Germany](#) are different.

If you're travelling to other Schengen countries as well, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day limit. Visits to Schengen countries in the 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days. If you overstay the 90-day visa-free limit, you may be banned from entering Schengen countries for up to 3 years.

Until the Entry-Exit System (EES) is fully rolled out, make sure you get your passport stamped on entry and exit (read 'New Schengen entry requirements').

If you're a visitor, border guards will look at your entry and exit stamps to check you have not overstayed the 90-day visa-free limit for the Schengen area.

If your passport is missing a stamp, show evidence of when and where you entered or left the Schengen area (for example, boarding passes or tickets) and ask the border guards to add the date and location in your passport.

At German border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket
- prove that you have enough money for your stay

Staying longer than 90 days in a 180-day period

To stay longer, you must meet the German government's entry requirements. Check which type of visa or permit you need with the [German Embassy in the UK](#).

If you're in Germany with a residence permit or long-stay visa, this does not count towards your 90-day visa-free limit.

Read about [entry processes if you live in Germany](#).

New Schengen entry requirements

From 12 October 2025, the European Union's (EU) new Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin roll out.

This means that when you travel into the Schengen area for short stays, you may

need to register your biometric details, such as fingerprints and a photo. You do not need to take any action before you arrive at the border, and there is no cost for EES registration.

On your first visit into a Schengen country from 12 October onwards, you may be asked to register your details at a special booth before proceeding to the immigration desk. Follow directions from your travel operator or the staff at your port of entry. You may also need to provide either your fingerprint or photo when you leave the Schengen area. Children aged 11 or younger will not have their fingerprints scanned but can be required to have their photo taken.

EES may take each passenger a few extra minutes to complete so be prepared to wait longer than usual at the border.

EES will not be rolled out to all ports of entry at once, the numbers of passengers being registered at each port of entry will vary, and some destinations may take up to 6 months to fully roll out the new process.

Until EES is fully rolled out your passport will continue to be stamped, even if you've already been registered for EES. Once EES is fully rolled out, it will replace the current system of manually stamping passports when visitors arrive in the Schengen area for short stays and you will input biometric details every time you enter or exit.

If you enter the Schengen area through the Port of Dover, Eurotunnel at Folkestone or Eurostar at St Pancras International and you are asked to register for EES, the information will be taken at the border before you leave the UK.

Read more [information on the EU Entry/Exit System and to understand which countries are in the Schengen area](#).

Border controls at Germany's land borders

A temporary reintroduction of border controls is currently in place at Germany's land borders.

See information from [The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community](#).

Checkpoints on the Germany/Poland border

Poland has introduced border checks on the Germany/Poland border. Vehicles may be stopped and documentation checked. For further information see [Poland Travel Advice](#).

Vaccine requirements

For details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Germany guide](#).

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into and out of Germany](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Taking food into Germany

You cannot take [meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries](#). There are some exceptions such as powdered baby milk, baby food and special foods or pet feed required for medical reasons.

Taking money into Germany

You must declare any amount above 10,000 euros in cash or other payment types. You can find more information on the [German Federal Foreign Office website](#).

Safety and security

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out how to [reduce your risk from terrorism](#) while abroad.

Terrorism in Germany

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Germany.

Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in public places visited by foreign nationals such as:

- restaurants
- markets
- shopping centres
- places of worship and religious sites, including synagogues
- sporting and cultural events
- crowded places and public gatherings

Examples of recent attacks include:

- in 2024, 3 people were killed and several injured following a knife attack in Solingen
- in 2021, 5 people were stabbed and injured on a train in Neumarkt, Bavaria
- in 2020, one person was killed and another seriously injured in a knife attack in Dresden
- in 2020, 8 people were killed and 5 injured in 2 mass shootings in shisha bars in Hanau
- in 2019, 2 people were shot and killed after a failed attempt to enter a synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle

German authorities regularly report that they have disrupted planned attacks and made arrests.

Crime

Protecting yourself and your belongings

Crime levels are similar to the UK. Take sensible precautions to avoid mugging, bag-snatching and pickpocketing. Be particularly vigilant at airports, railway stations and in crowded public places or gatherings. Do not leave bags unattended.

Counterfeit currency

Only change money at banks, ATMs or official money exchanges. Check your change when paying in cash. British nationals have been arrested for trying to pay with counterfeit currency.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

It's not a legal requirement to carry ID. However, if you cannot show ID when asked, police can escort you to get your passport.

They will ask for a passport and, if you are a resident, for your residence card as well.

Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis, carry severe penalties. You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including when transiting through the airport.

Airports in Germany have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

If you're taking part in organised outdoor activities, check that the company is reputable and has documented safety procedures.

For sports activities like skiing, potholing and mountaineering, and for sports classed as particularly dangerous (for example off-piste skiing, mountain biking, climbing or paragliding), your insurance should include:

- mountain rescue services
- helicopter costs
- repatriation to your country of residence or possible transfer to neighbouring countries for treatment

Hiking

Check weather forecasts and conditions and make sure you're properly equipped

for the worst-case scenario with items such as a map, compass, GPS and telecommunication equipment.

Risks are greater if you undertake any activity alone. You may want to hire a guide for expert advice. Always leave copies of your itinerary with someone.

Winter sports

Read about [preparing for winter sports abroad](#).

Take advice on weather and avalanche conditions before you travel. Follow local skiing laws and regulations.

Off-piste skiing is very dangerous and can invalidate your travel insurance. Avalanches are a risk in some areas. Follow safety instructions carefully and go with a qualified guide. Check ahead on the [European Avalanche Warning Service](#) website.

Transport risks

Road travel

If you are planning to drive in Germany, see [information on driving abroad](#) and check the [rules of the road in the RAC's Germany guide](#). The guide lists driving regulations and other legal requirements you need to be aware of.

You can drive in Germany for up to 6 months with your UK photocard driving licence. If you stay longer, you'll need to have both the [1968 version of the international driving permit \(IDP\)](#) and your UK driving licence with you in the car. You cannot buy an IDP outside the UK, so get one before you travel.

The [German Federal Transport Ministry](#) has more information on the validity of non-German driving licences.

If you're driving a vehicle that does not belong to you, you may need to show written permission from the registered owner.

Check if you need a [UK sticker to drive your car outside the UK](#).

If you are visiting Germany, you may be able to use your [Blue Badge](#) in some circumstances. Check local parking rules.

If you live in Germany, check the [driving requirements for residents](#).

Low emission zones

Some inner-city areas have an environmental zone ('Umweltzone'). Only vehicles that meet specific exhaust emission standards can enter. See [Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection](#) for more information.

Health

Before you travel, check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Dial 112 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance or medical assistance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Germany](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See what [health risks you'll face in Germany](#), including Mpox.

Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of Germany, including mountainous regions.

Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

TravelHealthPro explains [best practice when travelling with medicines](#).

Healthcare in Germany

FCDO has a list of [medical providers in Germany](#), where some staff will speak English.

Health insurance cards

To get medically necessary state healthcare in Germany, you need a Global Health Insurance Card ([GHIC](#)) or a European Health Insurance Card ([EHIC](#)).

The NHS's [getting healthcare abroad webpage](#) has details about:

- how to apply for a [GHIC](#)
- how to get temporary cover if you lose your card or it does not arrive in time
- who qualifies for a new [EHIC](#) instead of a [GHIC](#)
- what treatment counts as medically necessary

A [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) is not an alternative to travel insurance. You may have costs your [GHIC](#) or [EHIC](#) does not cover, including:

- changes to travel and accommodation bookings
- additional standard costs for treatment
- medical repatriation to the UK
- treatment that is ruled non-urgent
- private healthcare
- private clinics

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Germany](#).

Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([FCDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in Germany

Ambulance: 112

Fire: 112

Police: 110

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you're involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from [FCDO](#)

[FCDO](#) has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Germany
- dealing with a [death in Germany](#)

- being [arrested in Germany](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting [FCDO](#)

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

Help in the UK

You can call [FCDO](#) in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Germany](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

Solace Global Risk, Twin Sails House, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1JF, UK