

Winter Course Erlangen 2008

Ethanology: Brew the Fuel of the Future

Survival Guide



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Chapter 1

Arrival in Erlangen

Welcome to Erlangen!

This guide should help you to get around in the city and make your stay more comfortable. Besides we are always open to your questions!

Accommodation

We will sleep in a youth hostel across the street from our office. The address is "Südliche Stadtmauerstraße 35" in the centre of Erlangen.

Arrival

When you arrive, we will pick you up if you tell us when and where you arrive. But just in case of emergency here is some help how to find the hostel:

By plane

The next airport from Erlangen is in Nuremberg (airport-code NUE), which is about 12km southern of Erlangen.

If you find cheaper flights to Frankfurt (am Main – there is another airport called Frankfurt Hahn further away) or Munich please consider that trains in Germany are rather expensive unless you find a special offer!

There are two ways to get from Nuremberg airport to the hostel. The easier one is to take the subway-line U2 to the Nuremberg main-railway-station (Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof) and from there take a train. For this you need a ticket with distance 4 (includes subway and train if you don't take the IC- or ICE-class trains) from the machine. Then check how to arrive by train.

A little bit cheaper (you need a ticket with distance 3 from the driver) but more complicated is to come by bus. Take line 32 in front of the airport to Thon and get off at the final station. Then change to line 30 to Erlangen again to the final station – however only use this option if you don't arrive in the middle of the night or you might end up at the bus-station with no more bus coming until the morning.

By train

If you arrive at the train-station of Erlangen get out the main entrance and go forward to a big square then follow the "Universitätsstraße". At the end of the park where some small street comes from the left you turn right into "Krankenhausstraße" and you will end up at the hostel.

By bus

Few international line-buses stop in Erlangen, but ask your travel-agency. The alternative is to get off in Nuremberg either at "Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof" next of the main railway-station or at "Rothenburger Straße". From "Rothenburger Straße" take the subway to the railway-station "Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof" first. Then take a train to Erlangen. Both options require a ticket with distance 4.

By car

So you have a car? :-)

If you want to come by car you won't be able to park in front of our office. (it's almost in the centre of the city without free parking). Call us in advance and we will find a solution for you. Maybe you can even find somebody else from the course to join you so the trip is not so boring.

By boat

Ya wanna cum by boat, hum? Have you already found Erlangen on the map? No? So let's have a look: We are 450 km away from North Sea and Mediterranean Sea, so do you think it is a good idea to come by boat? What? Yes? Well ok, it is not impossible: Just take a romantic boat trip on the river Danube or Rhine/Main and take the Europe-Channel between those two. Erlangen has a tiny port there – if you really manage it (we want photos as proof) we will have a surprise for you!

What to bring:

ID or if necessary passport and visa/invitation
your ticket
this survival guide printed for phone-numbers etc.
some money (needed for souvenirs, additional drinks etc. only)
sleeping bag
towel
clothing for cold/rainy weather
good shoes (for walking/hiking)
sunglasses (we are optimistic)
medicine (if you need any)
international health insurance card
student ID
typical food and drink from your country for the international evening
photo camera (if you want)
your music instrument (if you can play it)
and the most important thing: happiness!

Chapter 2 Useful Tips

Communication

To make phone-calls home from Germany, you have to dial 00, then the country-code (Germany for example is 49), and then the number without the first 0.

If you call to another town inside Germany, you have to add the city-code (09131 for Erlangen) before the number.

So if you want to call the bonding-office for example you dial +49 9131 127901 from your country, 09131 127901 from another town inside Germany and 127901 within Erlangen. For many public phones you need a telephone card which you can buy in a post-office or paper shop for example (only few accept coins).

Emergency numbers

Police 110

Ambulance 19 222

Fire Brigade 112

Directory enquiries 11 833 (national) / 11 834 (international)

Taxi Call 19410

Food

Important: Please tell us before you come if you don't eat certain food for religious or ethical reasons, since it takes some time to organise food for a group! You will then only get potatoes to eat (no, just kidding – we make good food for you!).

German food has huge regional differences. Most important elements of the German kitchen are potatoes, cabbage and apples in all forms. If you think about Bratwurst and Sauerkraut being typical German you are perfectly right in Erlangen. There are many different types of bread (solid and liquid) and sausages available in Germany.

Our region has a huge density of breweries (around 400 in Franconia) and you would need a long time to test them all! About 100 km in the north one of the German wine-regions is located along the river Main (known for their bag-shaped bottles).

During the Winter Course you will get breakfast, lunch and dinner each day with at least one cooked meal per day. Exception will be the international evening where every participant will introduce her/his country's famous food and drinks.

Getting around in Erlangen

The most comfortable way to get around in Erlangen is by bus. Buses have their number and final destination written on the top.

But the centre is quite compact, so it is no problem to walk through it. Everyone has a

bicycle here so we are sometimes called the German bicycle capital.
The Summer Course transportation will be done by public transportation and bikes.

If you get lost

If you should ever happen to get lost during some activity, just call our office. If it is not possible for any reason look for some nice girl or guy and show her/him this:

Hallo, ich bin Ausländer und habe mich verlaufen oder brauche Hilfe!
Bitte zeigen Sie mir den Weg zur
bonding Studenteninitiative e.V., Südliche Stadtmauerstrasse 58, 91054 Erlangen
oder lassen Sie mich dort anrufen:
Tel. 0 91 31 / 12 79 01
Vielen Dank!

Language

The native language in Germany is – big surprise – German. It belongs to the Germanic language-group and is related to many northern European languages, closest to Dutch/Flemish and English. Out of the 9 million words are many loan words from Celtic, Greek, Latin, French and English.

You might find that most Germans try to find a compromise between politeness and directness. A Dutch joke says that if you work in an international company and do a bad job, your English colleague will tell you “Nice job, indeed!”, your German colleague will say “It is ok but you could have done it better” and your Dutch colleague will yell at you “You idiot screw it all up!”.

Anyway, for the course you don't need to know any German - besides many people on the street know English (also French, Italian, Spanish and Turkish are common). However knowing a few words can make it easier to get around in your free time.

Pronunciation:

Special letters are “ö” (like e in her), “ä” (like a in have) and “ü” (like u in French salut).

Often new words are „engineered” by putting old ones together. By this very long funny words are born like Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän (captain of the Danube-steam-shiping-society).

Some words:

Hello	Hallo
Bye	Tschüss
Good morning	Guten Morgen
How do I get to the...	Wie komme ich zum...
...Oktoberfest?	...Oktoberfest?
...railway-station?	...Bahnhof?
...post-office?	...Postamt?

One beer please	Ein Bier bitte
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	eins, zwei, drei, vier, fünf
Ten beer please	Zehn Bier bitte
I am drunk	Ich bin betrunken
What is this?	Was ist das?
You have beautiful eyes	Du hast wunderschöne Augen
Do you want to dance?	Willst Du tanzen?
Shall I show you my stamp-collection? – Soll ich Dir meine Briefmarkensammlung zeigen?	
No, I have a headache – Nein, ich habe Kopfweg	
I have Aspirin in my bedroom – Ich habe Aspirin im Schlafzimmer	
Good night – Gute Nacht	
Yes – Ja	
No – Nein	
Please – Bitte	
Thanks – Danke	
Excuse me – Entschuldigung / Verzeihung	
Where is the toilet? – Wo ist die Toilette?	
I don't speak German – Ich spreche kein Deutsch	
German can be very easy:	
Hi – Servus	
Bye – Servus	
Oh my goodness – Na servus	

Location

The course will mostly take place in the Friedrich-Alexander-University (FAU) of Erlangen-Nuremberg. The technical faculty (where we are) and accommodation is in Erlangen.

Erlangen is with 100,000 inhabitants of whom 20,000 are students a typical German university-city with lots of bikes, known for medical technologies and also for its brewing traditions. The annual beer-festival "Berg" is one of the largest of its kind in Germany.

The settling of fugitive French Protestants gave it the name "Hugenot-City".

About 15km to the south, Nuremberg is placed. Since it used to be the largest medieval German "Free Imperial City" and favourite place of many German emperors, medieval architecture dominates the historical centre. Economic stagnations since the 16th century made it unnecessary to break down the city-wall for housing, leaving one of the largest remaining city-walls worldwide. Nowadays Nuremberg is known for its toy industry, Christmas Market, museums, exhibitions... and to some for its ice bear baby "Flocke" in the zoo.

Erlangen and Nuremberg are situated in the region Franconia, which is part of the state

Bavaria (though many Franconians don't consider them being Bavarians), one of the oldest states in Germany.

Germany is situated in the middle of Europe and has access to North Sea and Baltic Sea in the north and to the Alps in the south. It is a very green country – and when I say green I mean rainy! In the moderate semi-maritime climate it may rain any time of year, but very cold and hot temperatures are unlikely.

Germany is a rather young state, existing in its present form only since 1990 when it was build out of the eastern and western German states. It is historical (not entirely correctly) related to former Nazi-Germany (1933 – 1945), the German Empire (1872 – 1933), the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations (962 – 1806) and the Eastern Franconian Empire (843 - 962, after being split between east and west which became modern-day France). We have 9 neighbours: Denmark (north), Poland, Czech Republic (east), Austria, Switzerland (south), France, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands (west).

Money/Prices

In Germany you can pay with the Euro (only). If you have to exchange, try to do it before your arrival since the rates for foreign currencies here are usually not very good.

Examples of prices in Erlangen:

Small beer (0,5 liters) in a pub: 2,30 €

Normal size strong-beer (1 liter) at the on the beer-festival: 6 €

Bus ride within Erlangen: 1,40 € (single trip) or 2,80 € (the whole day)

Döner-Kebap: 3 €

Beer-box (10 liters) in the supermarket: 11 €

Cheap dinner in a pub: 3,50 €

Tips

Tips are not obligatory in Germany but common if you are happy with the service. It is normally rounded to a 10-Cent-step and should be around 5%.

Opening hours

Most small shops and offices are opened between 8 A.M. and 6 P.M., larger ones usually until 8 P.M., on Sunday shops are closed.

The "German Time"

In Germany we have an understanding of time like most of the northern countries.

If we say we will meet in the afternoon we will be there between 3 and 5 pm.

If we say we will meet around 3 pm than it means +/- 10 minutes.

Sometimes we will say: "Lets meet at 3 pm". Then you have a tolerant time of +/- 2 minutes.

A strange thing is if somebody says: "Lets meet exactly at 3 pm". Then you have just the opportunity to be there earlier. Normally it is enough to be there 30 seconds before.

It influences the course in a funny way. When we leave e.g. for the lectures we want to

meet you exactly at this time. Not two minutes later. If you understood that like "Lets meet around X pm" it maybe viewed like a serious problem.

We would like to see that you can learn to live with this strange understanding of time. Maybe you can tell your children later: "When I was young I travelled to this strange country with their own believe of time..."

Visa

Citizens of Schengen-countries only need to bring an I.D. or passport. If you need a visa, contact us and we will help you with it.

Official visa-regulations:

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/WillkommeninD/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Staa-tenlisteVisumpflicht.html>

Please also check if an invitation will be useful besides visa regulations.

Weather

Typical for this time of year are -5° to +5°C. We don't get much snow in Erlangen in winter, so expect rather rainy cold weather. Or you can make us happy and bring us some snow...

Chapter 3 The Winter Course

In this course you will get information about how ethanol is produced and how it can be used to generate electric power. Besides classes at university we will have workshops and excursions so you get a more practical insight in the topic. In the end there will be a test of what you've learned so you might get some credits at your university for the course.

Besides the academic part we will have a cultural program like city-tours and visit of the Christmas Market in Nuremberg. In the evenings there will be different parties such as the pub-crawl, city-rally and the popular international evening, where every participant presents his country with a typical food and drink.

In the end we hope that you not only learn a lot about Ethanol, but also get an inside in German culture and spent an unforgettable week with other crazy students from all over Europe (or even further).

The rules

As we are a large group it is necessary to create some rules to make sure that the time will be enjoyable for everybody. We all want to have fun and that's why you should follow these rules:

- If you miss lectures or cause serious problems we will consider to send you home at your own cost and to keep the deposit. We want you to have fun, but we receive funds because of the lectures, not because of making party day and night. Also it is an academic course you applied for...
- Be on time. It is stress for the organizers if you are late and annoying for the others. To be late may be viewed as a serious problem
- Stay with the group during excursions. If you go somewhere tell an organiser. Just remember we like you and we don't want to lose you!
- Drinks are for free (as long as you are not too drunk)
- Smoke outside the house
- Food will be prepared with love and a lot of passion
- The organizers will always take care of you
- Stay happy and healthy if possible :-)
- Tell us if anything is wrong