



# Survival Guide



# Stuttgart



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# Country

Germany, officially the **Federal Republic of Germany**, is a country in Central Europe. It is bordered to the north by the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic Sea; to the east by Poland and the Czech Republic; to the south by Austria and Switzerland; and to the west by France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The territory of Germany covers 357,021 square kilometers and is influenced by a temperate seasonal climate. With 82 million inhabitants, it accounts for the largest population among the member states of the European Union and is home to the third-largest number of international migrants worldwide.

## Demographics

With 82 million inhabitants, Germany is the most populous country in the European Union. However, its fertility rate of 1.39 children per mother is one of the lowest in the world, and the federal statistics office estimates the population will shrink to between 69 and 74 million by 2050 (69 million assuming a net migration of +100,000 per year; 74 million assuming a net migration of +200,000 per year). Germany has a number of large cities, the most populous being Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt and Stuttgart. By far the largest conurbation is the Rhine-Ruhr region, including Düsseldorf (the capital of NRW) and the cities of Cologne, Essen, Dortmund, Duisburg, and Bochum.

## Religion

Christianity is the largest religious denomination in Germany, with 53 million adherents (64%). The second largest religion is Islam with 3.3 million adherents (4%) followed by Buddhism and Judaism, both with around 200,000 adherents (c. 0.25%). Hinduism has some 90,000 adherents (0.1%). All other religious communities in Germany have fewer than 50,000 (or less than 0.05%) adherents. About 24.4 million Germans (29.6%) have no registered religious denomination.

## Languages

German is the official and predominantly spoken language in Germany. It is one of 23 official languages in the European Union, and one of the three working languages of the European Commission, along with English and French. Recognized native minority languages in Germany are Danish, Sorbian, Romany, and Frisian. They are officially protected by the ECRML. Most used immigrant languages are Turkish, Polish, the Balkan languages, and Russian.

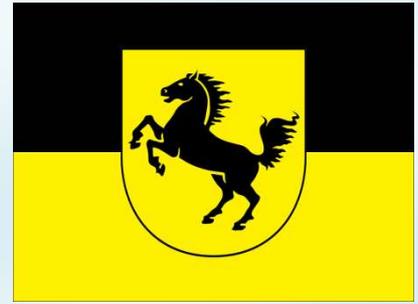
The standard German is a West Germanic language and is closely related to and classified alongside English, Dutch, and the Frisian languages. To a lesser extent, it is also related to the East (extinct) and North Germanic languages. Most German vocabulary is derived from the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Significant minorities of words are derived from Latin and Greek, with a smaller amount from French and most recently English (known as Denglisch). German is written using the Latin alphabet. In addition to the 26 standard letters, German has three vowels with Umlauts, namely ä, ö, and ü, as well as the Eszett or scharfes S (sharp s) which is written "ß".

German dialects are distinguished from varieties of standard German. The German dialects are the traditional local varieties and are traced back to the different German tribes. Many of them are not easily understandable to someone who knows only standard German, since they often differ from standard German in lexicon, phonology, and syntax.

Around the world, German is spoken by approximately 100 million native speakers and also about 80 million non-native speakers. German is the main language of about 90 million people (18%) in the EU. 67% of the German citizens claim to be able to communicate in at least one foreign language, 27% in at least two languages other than their own

# City

Stuttgart is the capital of the state of Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany. The sixth-largest city in Germany, Stuttgart has a population of 590,429 (February 2008) while the metropolitan area referred to as Stuttgart Region has a population of 2.7 million (2007).



The city lies at the centre of a heavily populated area, circled by a ring of smaller towns. The inner urban area has a population of 2.7 million making 'greater Stuttgart' the fifth biggest city region in Germany after the Ruhr Area, Berlin, Hamburg and Frankfurt.

Stuttgart is spread across a variety of hills, valleys and parks - unusual for German cities and often a cause of surprise to visitors who primarily associate the city with its industrial reputation as the "Cradle of the automobile".

## Geography

Stuttgart lies about an hour from the Black Forest and a similar distance from the Swabian Jura. The city centre lies in a lush valley, nestling between vineyards and thick woodland close to the River Neckar. In the hot summer months local residents refer to this area as the "Stuttgart cauldron".

Stuttgart covers an area of 207 square kilometers (80 sq mi). The elevation ranges from 207 meters (680 ft) above sea level by the Neckar River to 549 meters (1,800 ft) on Bernhartshöhe hill. As a result there are more than 400 flights of stairs around the city (called "Stäffele" in local dialect), equivalent to approximately 20 kilometers (12 mi) of steps. Many originate from the time when vineyards lined the entire valley. Even today there are vineyards less than 500 meters (1,600 ft) from the Main Station.

## Culture and Sights

At the centre of Stuttgart lies its main square, Schlossplatz. As well as being the largest square in Stuttgart, it stands at the crossover point between the city's shopping areas, Schlossgarten park which runs down to the river Neckar, Stuttgart's two central castles and major museums and residential areas to the south west.



Although the city centre was heavily damaged during World War II, many historic buildings have been reconstructed and the city boasts some fine pieces of modern post-war architecture.

A number of significant castles stand in Stuttgart's suburbs and beyond as reminders of the city's royal past.

## Prices

The German currency is Euro - 1 Euro = 100 Euro-Cent.

The price-level in Germany is about European average, it's a little bit higher in Stuttgart.

**Example of prices in Stuttgart:**

Metro ride within Stuttgart	2,15 € (single trip)
	5,80 € ( inner city - the whole day)
	8,20 € (four times journey)
Bread/Baguette	0,50 – 1,10€
Mineral water in a supermarket	0,30 – 0,80€
Beer in a supermarket	50- 90 ct. (0,5 liters)
Beer-box (10 liters) in a supermarket	8 – 16 €
Cheap dinner in a pub	5,00 €
Döner-Kebab	3,00 €
Big Mac	3,20 €
Coffee	1,00 – 2,50€
Ice cream	0,60 – 1,20€
Lager-Beer (0,5 liters) in a pub	2,50 – 3,20€;
Wheat beer	2,80 – 3,30 €;
Newspaper	0,60 – 1,30€
Box of condoms (3 pieces)	3€
Cigarettes (18 pieces)	4€

Tips are not obligatory in Germany but quite normal in bars, restaurants and taxis.

## Transportation

### Plane

If you decide to come by plane you can check the prices at [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net)

If you don't get a cheap flight to Stuttgart, you can also check the prices for Munich or Karlsruhe/Baden Baden. The Train from Munich to Stuttgart costs about 29 – 52€, from Karlsruhe to Stuttgart about 16,70 – 20,00€.

### Train

If you want to come by train, for example via Paris or Munich or anywhere else, you'll find everything you need at [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de). You will arrive at Stuttgart central station and someone will pick you up there.

If you come by car, just use Google maps.

If you need any other info on how to get to Stuttgart (on foot, hitchhiking, teleportation, etc...) just write us, we'll be glad to help you.



# Dictionary

Hello	Hallo
Good morning	Guten Morgen
Good evening	Guten Abend
Good night	Gute Nacht
Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehen
Thank you	Danke
You're welcome	Bitte
Sorry	Entschuldigung
What is that?	Was ist das?
Enjoy your meal	Guten Appetit
Cheers!	Prost!
I'm lost, can you tell me the way to...	Ich habe mich verlaufen, kannst du mir sagen wie ich nach ... komme?
I'm hurt, can you please call the ambulance	Ich bin verletzt, ruf bitte einen Krankenwagen
How are you?	Wie geht es dir?
What's your name?	Wie heißt du?
I'm drunk	Ich bin betrunken
One beer please	Ein Bier bitte
Do you want to dance?	Hast du Lust zu tanzen?
Lets go outside, I want to show you something	Lass uns raus gehen, ich will dir etwas zeigen
You are beautiful/handsome	Du bist hübsch/schön
I like you	Ich mag dich
I love you	Ich liebe dich
Do you want to kiss me?	Willst du mich küssen?
My place or yours?	Zu mir oder zu dir?
I'm a strawberry, eat me!	Ich bin eine Erdbeere, iss mich!
Lets just be friends	Lass uns Freunde bleiben
Fuck off!	Verpiss dich!

# Important numbers

police 110  
ambulance 19222  
fire-brigade 112  
directory enquiries 11833 (national), 11834 (international)  
Taxi call in Stuttgart 5510000  
bonding office +49(0)711 685 682 82

## Websites

University of Stuttgart: [www.uni-stuttgart.de](http://www.uni-stuttgart.de)  
German Railway: [www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)  
Official Website of Stuttgart [www.stuttgart-tourist.de](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de)  
Airport Stuttgart [www.stuttgart-airport.com](http://www.stuttgart-airport.com)

## Don't forget to bring

- Passport or ID-Card
- Student card
- Visa (necessary only for citizens of FYR Macedonia, Russia, Serbia-Montenegro, Ukraine and Turkey; we will help you if you need an invitation)
- Formal clothes (for official opening and exclusive discotheque)
- Clothes for sunny and rainy weather
- Swimming suit
- Camera
- **Sleeping bag** (weekend-trip to the Bodensee)
- a typical drink, food and funny song from your country for the international evening

## Contact

**bonding office in Stuttgart**  
bonding-studenteninitiative e.V.  
Allmandring 5b  
70569 Stuttgart

Phone ++49 711 685682 82  
Fax ++49 711 685682 83

web [www.bonding.de/stuttgart](http://www.bonding.de/stuttgart)  
Email [S\\_SeasonCourse@bonding.de](mailto:S_SeasonCourse@bonding.de)