

ORGANIZING YOUR DAILY LIFE IN GERMANY

Opening Hours

- **shops:** Monday - Friday: 8:00-20:00
Saturday: 8:00-16:00 (supermarkets until 20:00)
(Most shops are closed on Sundays; but you can buy some food at petrol stations or at bakeries.)
- **banks:** open Mo-Fr from 9.00 – 16.00

German radio and TV

ARD: consortium of German public broadcasting services: www.ard.de
ZDF: Second German Television: www.zdf.de
Hit radio RTL: www.rtlradio.de

Newspapers

Some links to German newspapers: www.bayerischerundschau.de, www.bild.de, www.faz.de, www.np-coburg.de (You will find English newspapers in many shops all over Germany, also in railway stations.)

Travelling in Germany

Travelling by train is a very good way to get to know the country. All information about the connections (bus and train) you will find on the website of the **German railways (Deutsche Bahn):** www.bahn.de

(There are always special prices for younger people, students and groups. Information is available at all stations. Be careful with busses; they don't go so often to small villages in the weekend.)

You can always find information on: <http://fahrplan.bahnen-und-busse.de/>



Emergency calls: Fire brigade/Ambulance: **112**
Police: **110**

Medical services:

Pharmacies: usually open Mo-Fr from 8.00 – 18.00 / Sa from 8:00 – 12:00

(One emergency Pharmacy is open for 24 hours. Notdienstapotheke: <http://www.apotheken.de>)

Doctors: open Mo-Fr from 8:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 18:00 except Wednesday afternoon

Legal restrictions for young people

1. You are not allowed to smoke below the age of 18 years in public places, including bars and restaurants.
2. You are not allowed to drink alcohol below the age of 18 years generally, but you are allowed to drink beer at the age of 16 years.
3. Carry your passport always with you. The police want to check your identity sometimes.
4. Don't litter (paper, cigarettes, chewing gum, etc.) the streets. Cross the street only when the traffic light is green. Otherwise you might be fined.



Environmental Zones (Umweltzonen)

Big German cities, under a law passed in 2006, are acquiring environmental zones (*Umweltzonen*); areas into which you can't drive your car unless it bears a windshield sticker certifying that it has an acceptable emission level. There are three different stickers: a green one certifying that the vehicle is environmentally acceptable; a yellow one for less acceptable vehicles and a red one for those that are still less acceptable.



Communications with locals

If you get some German instruction, and you don't understand what people are talking about, it might not be your fault. There are a lot of different dialects in the whole of Germany. But all Germans should be able to talk to you in the German that you have learned in school.