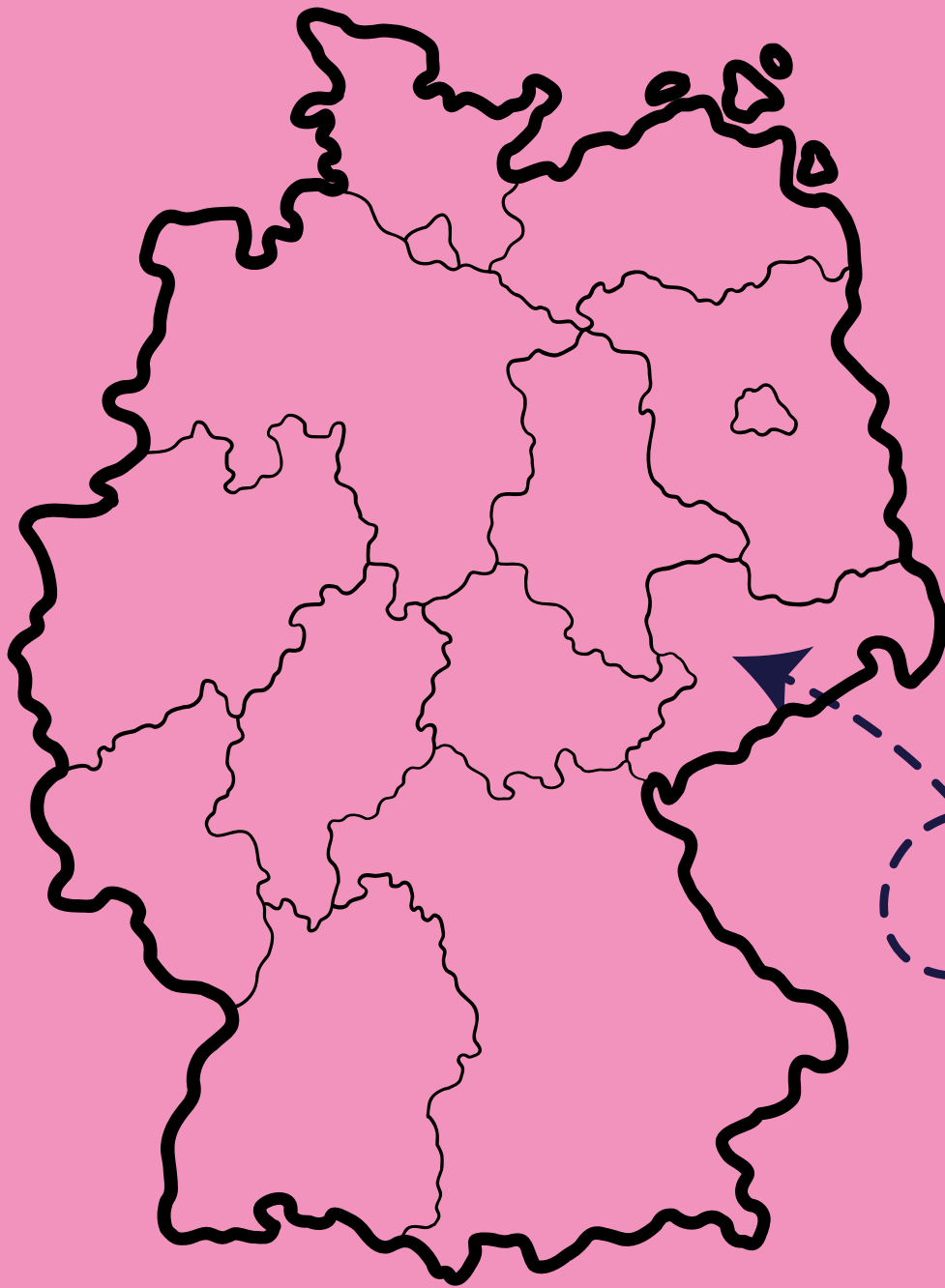
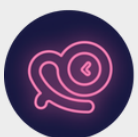


VOLUNTEERING



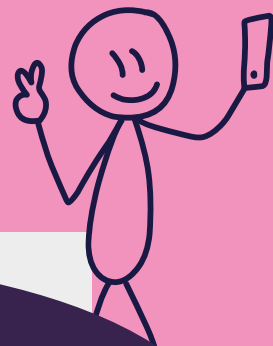
IN GERMANY



Youth Association DRONI
for and with young people

ARRIVAL

Germany has many international airports that you might arrive at – the biggest ones include Frankfurt, Berlin, Munich, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. Every major airport is connected to the nearby city by public transport, you should check whether you will have to use the metro, regional trains or a bus. Several airports even have their own high-speed train station. For more specific details, contact your host organisation!



SIM-CARD

The most practical option is to get a German prepaid SIM-Card. The main companies are Vodafone, Telecom and O2, but the cheaper options have similarly good coverage. For the cheaper options you can check out the big super-market chains such as Aldi and Lidl, which offer easy prepaid options (Aldi Talk, Lidl Connect) that you can buy in every supermarket. You will hardly need SMS and minutes here, so we recommend to only purchase data. Once you have the SIM card, you can conveniently manage everything through the provider's app.



MONEY

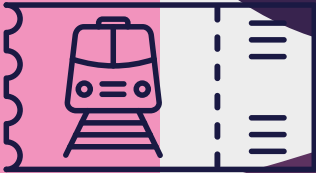
Before you arrive in Germany, you should check the conditions of your Georgian bank account. If there are high fees on paying and withdrawing cash in other currencies, you can consider opening a bank account with favourable travelling conditions (for example Revolut or N26). Changing cash from other currencies into Euros is rather unusual in Germany and might lead to high fees. Maybe there is also the option to get your monthly allowance in cash (Euros) while you're in Germany. While cash is still very popular in Germany and there are surprisingly many places that don't accept credit cards, in all major stores you can pay cashfree.



TRANSPORT

IN CITIES

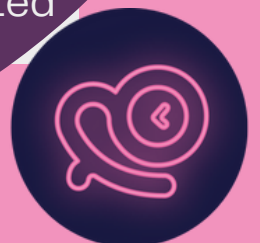
Public transport in Germany is generally very good. In all major cities in Germany there are advanced transportation systems that can include buses, trams, metros, suburban and regional trains and in some cases even ferries. While Google Maps works well for navigating, most cities/regions have their own apps for public transport. You can buy tickets with these apps or ticket machines (but usually not on the transport!). In bigger cities, there are usually night buses that run after 12pm and sometimes all night from Friday to Sunday. If you use public transport a lot, we highly recommend buying the Deutschland-Ticket, a ticket that allows you to use ALL local and regional public transport in Germany for only 58€ a month. You can buy it via the Deutsche Bahn (DB) app, but be careful to cancel it on time as it automatically renews after the 10th day of each month.



CROSS COUNTRY

For travelling in between cities (and to other countries) your main option is the train. The national operator DB offers many connections with high-speed trains but can often be delayed.

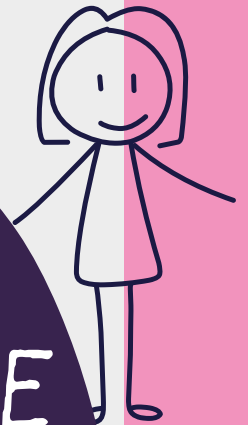
Prices are not cheap but you can often make some bargains by booking in advance. The cheaper but less comfortable option is Flixbus, which operates all over Europe and offers very cheap connections in Germany and beyond. They also offer a limited number of train connections with Flixtrain, but only between major cities.



SHOPPING

Big supermarkets can be found all around Germany and offer everything you need. The cheapest options include Aldi, Lidl, Netto and Penny while Edeka or Rewe are more expensive.

Be warned that supermarkets and most other shops are not open on Sundays and usually close at 8PM! In most places there are weekly markets that take place once or twice a week and offer cheaper and more regional fruits and vegetables. Malls can be found in most bigger cities but for a cheaper second-hand alternative you can look for your nearest "Sozialkaufhaus" (Social-shop).



SAFETY INSURANCE

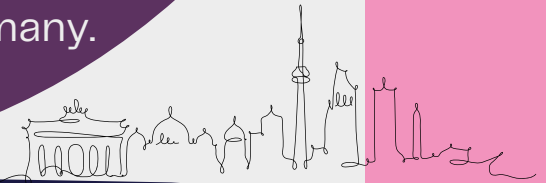
During your voluntary service, you are fully insured through your sending organisation. Before you arrive, you should download your insurance's app and inform yourself about the procedures in emergencies. Germany is a very safe country but in some areas of big cities it might be advisable, especially for women, to not go outside alone late at night. In case of emergencies, the general emergency number is 112 and you can also download the official emergency call app nora for extra safety. You should always contact your host organisation, too, for further help.



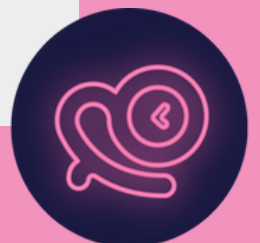
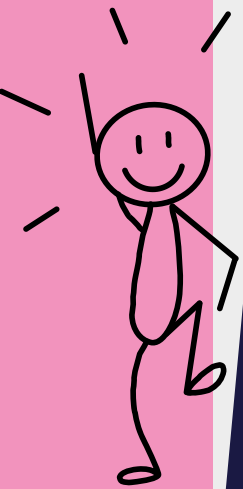
REGIONS IN GERMANY

Germany is a huge country with 85 million inhabitants – and the culture, climate and even language can vary quite substantially between regions! There can also be a major difference between big cities and the more rural areas and you might notice small changes when travelling between the former East and West Germany.

Major regions in Germany include:

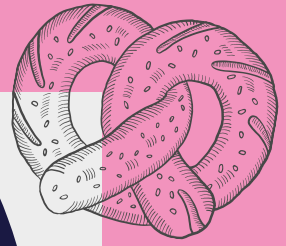


- Berlin: the capital and biggest city of Germany offers everything you expect and probably a lot more. There's an endless offer of cultural events and you can go here for sightseeing, (techno) partying, museums, second hand shopping and more.
- The North: In northern Germany you can explore the coasts of the Northern and Baltic Seas, including many beautiful islands. Weather can be colder and windy here, the landscape is very flat and people are said to be slightly colder and closed up here. Try a typical fish-sandwich in the biggest city Hamburg, or explore the many beautiful smaller cities like Lübeck, Wismar, Lüneburg or Oldenburg.
- Nordrhein-Westfalen: With over 18 million people, this region is the most populated in Germany. The Ruhr-area is the most densely populated area and is known for its former mining activity and delicious Currywurst sausages. Interesting tourist destinations include the biggest city Köln with its famous cathedral, former capital Bonn and "bike capital" Münster.

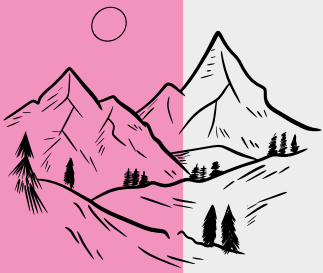


REGIONS IN GERMANY

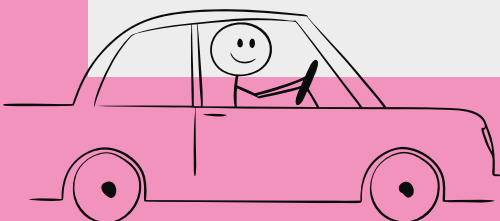
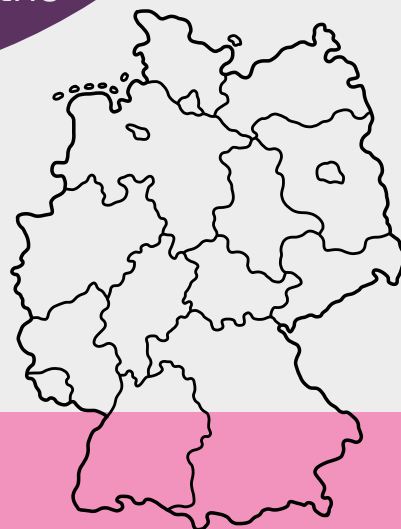
Bayern/Bavaria: This is where most German stereotypes originate from. People here can have strong dialects that are even hard to understand as a German native. You can definitely find traditional Bavarian clothes, beer and pretzels here, especially at local festivities such as the famous Oktoberfest. Outside of the regional capital München, you can visit famous attractions such as the Neuschwanstein castle or go hiking in the Alps.



Baden-Württemberg: Located in the South-west, this region is known for the charming Black Forest mountains, lovely Lake Constance (Bodensee), the biggest lake in Germany, and beautiful medieval cities such as Heidelberg, Freiburg or Tübingen. Be sure to try the local dishes Käsespätzle and Maultaschen!

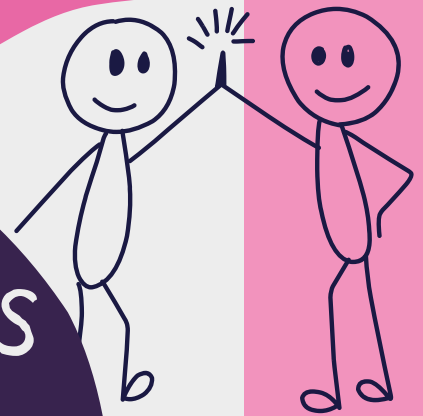


Sachsen/Saxony: In this eastern region of Germany people may speak an interesting local dialect. You can explore the beautifully rebuilt city of Dresden or spend time in the popular student city of Leipzig. Nature-wise, you can enjoy the stunning "Saxon Switzerland" mountains and hike in the Ore Mountains.



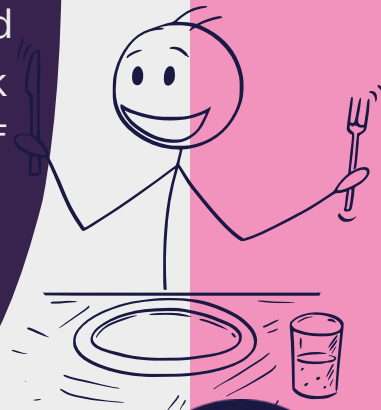
CULTURE

Get ready to have an amazing time in Germany! People here usually speak enough English to communicate in daily life, if you need help to find the way just approach someone. Be aware that the stereotype of German punctuality is rather accurate – for most occasions Germans will be arriving right on time or even 5 minutes before and expect the same from you. Also be prepared that some Germans can be very direct with expressing their thoughts in a conversation, don't take it personally. A topic that you should generally be careful about is everything related to WWII, make sure to take the opportunity to read up on the topic and maybe visit one of the memorial sites while you're in Germany. One stereotype that is not true is that Germans don't understand humour. Don't be afraid to crack a joke and have a laugh with your friends!



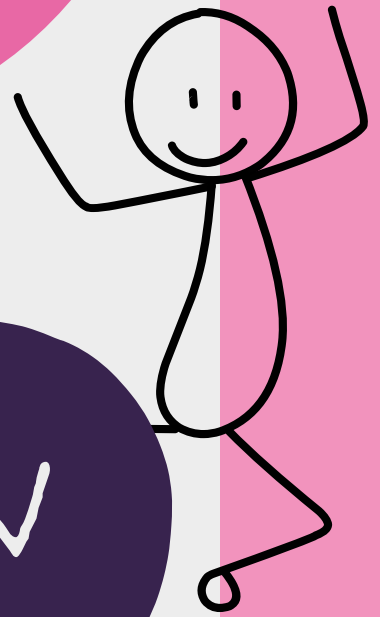
FOOD & DRINKS

The food in Germany is just as diverse as its regions – have a look at recommendations in that section. Going out for food is generally not that cheap but if you leave the city centres you can always find affordable spots. And most importantly – you have not lived before you tasted a real German Döner – a dish invented by Turkish work migrants. For drinks be careful to not drink too much of the amazing German beer, there are more than 5000 different kinds of it! While not comparing to Georgian wines, several regions in Germany are also famous for producing good wines. Make sure to also try the famous Club Mate drink – you'll either love or hate it. Tap water in Germany is of extremely high quality and usually tastes just as good as bottled water.



PACKING LIST

Apart from all your favourite clothes and daily items, don't forget to bring all sanitary products and medicine you might need. It's also very important to bring a laptop or tablet you can use for working and recreation. Germany's landscapes and weather are very diverse, so make sure to pack light clothes for the warm summers, but also warm clothes for the colder winters. Especially if you go to the north, you will need a rain jacket! If you are an outdoor person, you should definitely bring your hiking boots, too.



HAVE FUN
IN
GERMANY!

