



Frankfurt - City Business Guide

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Overview

Frankfurt is a dynamic city where history mingles with modern efficiency. Situated on the Main River, in southwestern Germany, the city is characterized as much by its towering streamlined office buildings as by its medieval squares. Frankfurt's Römerberg square, in the heart of the city, was the site of a fort constructed by Charlemagne, the first Holy Roman Emperor, who declared the city one of the empire's two capitals.

The financial center of Germany, as well as a communication hub, Frankfurt boasts one of the world's most important stock exchanges as well as the European Central Bank. It also serves as a transport, tourism and business hub for Central Europe and hosts many international trade fairs.

Business Etiquette

- * Make appointments during morning or afternoon business hours. Luncheon meetings are not customary.
- * Arrive punctually for engagements.
- * A neat appearance is important. Attire is generally conservative.
- * When addressing German associates proper titles should be used.
- * Business cards are exchanged on the first meeting. When you receive a card, take a moment to look at it.
- * Firm handshakes are used to open and close business meetings.
- * Refrain from smoking unless your German associate does.
- * If invited to a German home, bring flowers and a moderately priced bottle.

Chamber of Commerce

Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Borsenplatz 4; Tel.: +49 069 21-97-0

American Chamber of Commerce, Rossmarkt 12; Tel.: +49 069 92-91-040

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Rossmarkt 19; Tel.: +49 069 28-32-15

Korea Trade Center (KOTRA), Mainzer Landstr. 27-31; Tel.: +49 069 24-29-920

Embassies and Consulates

American Consulate, Gießener Str. 30; Tel.: + 49 (069) 75 35 0

Australian Consulate, Grüneburgweg 58-62, Tel: +49 069 90 55 80

Brazilian Consulado General, Hansaallee 32 a; Tel.: + 49 069 92-07-420

British Consulate, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 42; Tel.: +49 069 17 00 020

French Consulate, Zeppelinallee 35; Tel.: +49 069 79 50 960

Japanese Consulate, Taunustor 23. O.G, Taunustor 2.; Tel.: +49 (069) 23 85 73 0

Netherlands Consulate, Bockenheimer landstr, 39; Tel.: + 49 069 97-12-010

Business Centers

Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

Buro-Center an der Messe, Beethovenstr. 8-10; Tel.; + 49 (069) 9 75 54-0

E.P.J. Business Center, Mainzer Landstrasse 27-31; Tel.: +49 069 27-40-150

Regus Business Center, Lyoner Str. 26; Tel.;+ 49 (069) 6 77 33-0

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Alte Oper Frankfurt, Opernplatz; Tel.: + 49 (069) 13 40 0

Congress Center Messe Frankfurt, Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage 1; Tel.: +49 069 75-75-3000

Sheraton Frankfurt Hotel, Rhein Main Airport; Tel.: +49 069 69-770

Translation Offices

Linua World GmbH, Goethestr. 22; Tel.: + 49 (069) 89 00 44 44

Kern GmbH, Bockenheimer Landstr. 108; Tel.: +49 069 75-60-730

Courier/Messenger Services

Kurier Turbo GmbH, Rollinistr, 29; Tel.: +49 069 943445-0

DHL, Tel.: 0180 53-45-22-55 (toll-free within Germany)

FedEx, Station, Langer Kornweg 34c, 65451 Kelsterbach ; Tel.: 0800 123-0800 (toll-free within Germany)

UPS, Robert-Bosch-Str. 4, 60386 Frankfurt-Fechenheim; Tel.: 0800 882-6630 (toll-free within Germany)

Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

Cyberdyer Internet-Café, Tongesgasse 13; Tel. : + 49 (069) 91 39 67 54

Internet Cafe, Hanauer Landstr. 58; Tel.: + 49 94 41 06 04

Internet Cafe Webside, Hartmann Ibach str. 63, Tel.:+49 069 46 00 8618

Visas & Customs

Citizens of the EU, Brazil, Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the U.K., and the U.S. do not need a visa for a stay up to 3 months. Citizens of the People's Republic of China must apply for a visa.

Duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 liter of spirits with an alcohol content exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter of spirits or liquors with an alcohol content not exceeding 22% by volume or 2 liter of sparkling liquor; 2 liter of any other wine; 50g of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette; 500g of coffee or 200g of coffee extract, and; personal goods up to the value of EUR178.95. However, there are now no limits imposed on tobaccos and alcohol from one EU country to another.

Phone Information

The country code for Germany is 49. The city code for Frankfurt is 069.

Emergency Phone Numbers

- * **Police** 110
- * **Ambulance** 112
- * **Fire** 112
- * **Rape/Battered Women's Hotline** 70-94-94

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

All German city codes begin with 0 when dialing from inside the country. For calls within Frankfurt, drop the city code. Some local telephone numbers may have more digits than others. Dial 03 to get the operator and dial 11 8 33 for directory inquiries. Dial 11 8 34 for international directory assistance.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

Germany's primary cellular standard is GSM, and the main mobile phone operators are T-Mobile, E-Plus, Vodafone, and O2. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into Germany, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

As of January 1, 2002, euro became the official currency. Euro notes are available in denominations of EUR5, EUR10, EUR20, EUR50, EUR100, EUR200, and EUR500, while coins are in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents, and EUR1 and EUR2. The euro is divided into 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, post offices, hotels, train stations, airports, or at the offices of American Express and Thomas Cook. ATMs are available throughout the country. Most businesses accept Visa and MasterCard, and some accept American Express, Diners Club, and JCB cards.

Tipping

- * **Restaurants** Round up the bill to the nearest euro or two (unless a service charge is included on the bill)
- * **Bars** Round up the bill to the nearest euro or two
- * **Airport Skycap/Porter** EUR1 per bag
- * **Taxis** Round up to the nearest euro or two at most
- * **Hotel Bell Desk** Except in instances of extremely good service, a tip is not necessary
- * **Hotel Housekeeping** EUR1 or EUR2 per day
- * **Parking Attendant/Valet** EUR1 or EUR2
- * **Haircare/Personal Services** EUR2 or so

Time Difference

Frankfurt is in the Central European Time Zone (GMT/UTC plus one hour). Daylight-savings time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October (GMT + two Hours).





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VAT & Taxes

Most prices already have Germany's 16% VAT included. Some goods, like books, carry a 6.5% VAT.

Voltage

Electrical voltage and current are 220V-240V AC / 50Hz. Electrical Plugs Plugs have two round prongs. Heavy-duty plugs have a third round prong.

Local Transportation

Frankfurt's excellent public transportation system may eliminate the need for having your own car. Taxis are efficient and convenient. You can hail taxis in the street or call them, but there's an extra charge if you phone to be picked up. You can count on paying about EUR7 for a short city ride.

Frankfurt's public transit is a combined system of subways, trams, city trains, and buses, run by the Verkehrsgesellschaft Frankfurt-am-Main (VGF). Most of the system operates from 4am to 2am, but there are a few night buses that run from 1am to 5am. The system is divided into zones, and the price varies accordingly. Day passes, weekly passes, and monthly passes are available.

Health Info

There are no particular health problems to worry travelers in Germany. The standards for food handling are among the highest in the world. The water throughout the country is safe to drink right from the tap, though its high calcium content makes it taste almost universally lousy.

Climate

Frankfurt's weather is generally pleasant between May and October, with temperatures ranging between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit and occasional rain. July and August experience the highest temperatures. During winter months, Frankfurt experiences frequent rain and temperatures between 15 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** January 1
- * **Good Friday** Friday before Easter
- * **Easter** Sunday in mid-March or early April
- * **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter
- * **Labor Day** May 1
- * Ascension Day 40 days after Easter
- * **Whitsunday** Seventh Sunday after Easter
- * **Whitmonday** Monday after Whitsunday
- * **Corpus Christi** 10 days after Whitsunday
- * German Unification October 3
- * **Christmas Eve** December 24 (shops close early)
- * **Christmas Holiday** December 25 and 26
- * **New Year's Eve (shops close early)** December 31

Where to Eat

Bruckenkeller is one of Frankfurt's best German restaurants with its seasonal menu and refined service. Stars presents the ideal opportunity to enter the **Messeeturm** and enjoy a nice meal with the delightful old-fashioned live piano. **Weihaus Brusckenkeller**, in the heart of the town, offers medieval ambience strolling musicians and excellent german food and wines. Frankfurt's celebrities and business elite dine on German and French cuisine at **Erno's Bistro**. **Isoletta** is a popular upscale Italian establishment. Founded in 1880 **Zum Gemalten Haus** has been an institution for centuries. Decorated in a genuine country-house style, **Edelweiss** serves traditional Wiener Schnitze and other typical Austrian dishes with a twist, few like spinach dumplings with tomato-parmesan cheese.

Local Gift Ideas

A variety of finely finished wooden items, like wooden games and dolls, can be purchased in Frankfurt. Handcrafted jewelry makes a unique gift. Bembel, the Ebbelwei wine carafe with matching glasses is a distinctive choice.

Leisure Time

The geographical and historical heart of Frankfurt, the Romerberg, consists of several half-timbered structures. If you only have time to visit one museum in Frankfurt, make sure it's the Stadelsches Kunstinstitut und Stadtische Galerie. Classical music and opera performances take place in the Alte Opera (Old Opera House) on Opemplatz. For serenity and green space, stroll along one of the Stadtwalk's numerous trails. Exotic varieties of plants can be seen in the Tropical Garden and Botanical Gardens. If your visit coincides with soccer season, you may want to catch an Eintracht Frankfurt match.

