

HALLO HOHENFELS



USEFUL INFORMATION FOR LIVIGN IN GERMANY

THE GERMAN PHONE SYSTEM



The German phone system works a little bit different from the US.

Area Codes: Area Codes are assigned for each town.

- If you are in the same area, you don't have to dial the prefix. For example, Grossbissendorf and the post have the same 09472 area code. Therefore, if you call from Grossbissendorf to post you only have to dial 83-.....!
- If you live in Velburg and you want to call to post you have to dial 09472-83-.....! So make sure you know your area code when you give your number to a friend who lives in a different housing area.
- The phone numbers may vary in the number of digits. The older phone numbers have only three or four digits, while the newer ones usually have six digits.
- If you give your phone number to your family in the states you have to drop the zero (0) of your area code. For example if your family calls you from the States and you live in Hohenfels they have to dial 011-49-9472-.....!

Here are some area codes within the Hohenfels Training and Housing Area:

Hohenfels and Grossbissendorf	09472
Parsberg and Lupburg	09492
Beratzhausen	09493
Laaber	09498
Velburg	09182
Schmidmuhlen	09474
Hohenburg	09626
Regensburg	0941
Nurnberg	0911

Every Country has a different country code. Here are some:

United States and Canada	001
Great Britain and Ireland	0044
Italy	0039
Belgium	0032
France	0033
Japan	0081
Netherlands	003

RESTAURANTS AND GASTHAUSES



- Most Gasthauses and Restaurants are pretty informal.
- You have to have more time to eat out in a German restaurant.
- Since Germans eat the main meal at lunch time, most restaurants are open from 1100-1400.
- Be aware that credit cards are not accepted everywhere. Check on your way in the restaurant or the store if they have stickers for credit cards or not.
- Usually you don't have to wait to be seated. In most restaurants you can pick the table you like the most.
- Dogs are allowed in some German restaurants as long as they behave well (lying under the table, no barking).
- Don't bring any food or drinks in a restaurant. EXCEPTIONS: Baby bottles and baby jars.
- After you are done eating you can stay and have another drink if you want to.
- You have to ask for the bill. If you are in a bigger group, let the waiter know if it is one bill or separate bills.
- Tipping is different, too!! The waiters in Germany work on a regular salary basis. The price for your meal already includes a service fee. A common amount for a tip is between 1 and 2 Euros. Only if you have a larger group you may want to round up to maybe 5 or 10 Euros.
- There are no free refills and you will pay for as many drinks as you order.
- When ordering water you most likely will get sparkling water.
- Don't expect ice in your drinks.
- You are in a great place for BEER!! Beer is a Bavarian tradition and you will find a big variety of different kinds. Be aware that German beer is a lot stronger than American beer. Remember don't drink and drive!!!!



SHOPPING

- Germans have to pay “Mehrwertsteuer” or value added tax (VAT) of 19% on every item, except food, magazines, or books; which are 7%.
- The tax is already included in the price and is not added at the cash register when you check out.
- You can save the 19% by buying yourself some VAT Forms at the VAT Office which is located at the CAC (Community Activity Center) Bldg. 40. One VAT Form cost \$4.00.
- Before you buy something make sure the store accepts the VAT Form. They don't have to accept the form but most of them will.
- Since you have to pay for the VAT Form make sure it is worth it to use it. You will not save anything if you get 2, 80 Euro back. A good guideline is to use it for any purchase starting at 100 Euros and up.
- Some stores will take the 19% out right away at the cash register and you only pay the lower price. In other stores you have to pay the full price and then go to the customer service counter with your receipt and the VAT Form and you will get your money back.
- Check out the grocery store outside the post, like Aldi, Netto, or Edeka. Even with a low exchange rate you are still able to save some money by comparing the prices. Another plus is that the stores are open on Monday (except on German Holidays).
- There are no packers in German grocery stores and you either have to bring your own bag or you can buy a plastic bag at the store.
- Opening hours are also different in Germany. Only bigger gas stations stay open for 24 hours. All other stores will close between 1800 and 2000 during the week and between 1400 and 2000 on Saturdays. On Sundays, the stores are closed, except for special occasions, like a Christmas Market, etc.
- You are in a great area for Crystal. The Crystal Center of Europe (Neustadt/WN) is only a 90 minute drive away. High quality Crystal is also sold in the Bavarian Forest

TRAVELING IN GERMANY



Before you start to travel, make sure you have plenty of gas coupons. Gas coupons are money savers. You can buy them on post at the gas station, shopette, or PX. You need your car registration and ID card in order to purchase gas coupons.

You can use the gas coupons at all ESSO stations throughout Germany and the Netherlands. You can also use them at ARAL or BP stations on German Autobahns.

First aid kits and warning triangles are required in every car in Germany. The Polizei will do random safety checks!

There are a lot of places worth going to within a short driving distance. Take the opportunity!

- Kelheim and Weltenburg: Kelheim is about a 45 minute drive from the post. The city is pleasant and around Christmas time there is a beautiful Christmas market. From Kelheim you can take a boat tour through the Danube gorge to Kloster Weltenburg, the oldest monastery of Bavaria.
- Regensburg: A charming city with lots of shops and plenty of sight seeing. You'll find the oldest stone bridge of Germany crossing the Danube, the big cathedral, the castle and the remains of the Roman wall.
- Rothenburg o. d. Tauber: The only city in Germany with an intact surrounding wall. Attractions include the all year Christmas village, the torture museum and walking the wall.
- Schloss Rosenberg: A still intact castle, which features a "Bird of Prey" show on a daily basis. Rosenberg is located in a picturesque landscape close to Kelheim.
- Kallmünz: Also called the Bavarian Venice. A charming little town with many art galleries.
- Bamberg: The UNESCO protected Historical Downtown is beautiful and only a one hour drive form Hohenfels.

COURTESY OF YOUR



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