



European
Joint
Support Unit

Activities

Hamburg





LOCAL AREA INFORMATION

Shopping

Spitalerstrasse (Hospital Street) is an integral part of Central Hamburg's shopping district. The pedestrian zone runs parallel to the Mönckebergstrasse street and ranks among the ten most visited streets in Germany. Spitalerstrasse is where Hamburg citizens go for variety: from department stores to pharmacies and bank branches, from fashion to opticians to phone shops — it's all there. The heart of Hamburg's central shopping district connects Central Station with Rathausmarkt (City Hall Square). Spitalerstrasse is characterized by its attractive mix of stores housed in typical Hanseatic merchant buildings of grand proportions.

Supermarkets

Supermarkets in Hamburg range in price as in the UK. Lidl and Aldi are names you may recognize. However, REWE, Netto and Kaufland are all worth a visit.

There is an Aldi and an Edeka in town within a short walking distance of the MQ site.

Quiet days

Germans take their days off quite seriously and one example of this is the law that assures no unnecessary noise is made on Sundays and public holidays. It is recommended that you don't wash your car, cut the grass, make repairs or even hang up laundry. Most Germans still regard Sunday as a day of rest and with that all shops are closed except perhaps a bakery or two for Sunday Frühstück (breakfast). Quiet hours are stipulated as between 2200-0700 every day and all day on a Sunday.

Public Holidays

As a predominantly Catholic country Germany observes various holidays throughout the year. In NRW there are 11 days set aside as public holidays, 2 of which always fall on a Thursday. This then enables a 4-day weekend with the Friday known as Bridging Day (Brückentag) It is worth noting that different regions in Germany may have different public holidays

Recycling

All glass bottles, recyclable items and paper waste are to be separated, dustbins and crates are provided for refuse disposal as follows:

Brown bin: Garden waste and vegetable peelings

Blue bin: Paper and cardboard

Yellow bin: plastic (tetrapak) and tins – washed out

Black bin: all other waste

Am Schützenplatz (a short walk from the house) has a small recycling area where you can take your glass bottles and cardboard.

Please refer to:

https://abfall.kreispinneberg.de/Service+_Termine/Abfuhrtermine+%28alle+Orte%29.htm

for collection dates.



Pfand system

The Pfand system in Germany means that consumers pay a deposit on glass and plastic bottles. Don't throw away your empty bottles if they have the signal of "Pfandflasche" which means bottle deposit. This sign means that you paid an amount in advance, which is usually 25 cents per drink, which you can get back in every supermarket through a machine.

TAX FREE INFORMATION

Tax Free Shopping

British students and their dependants benefit from NATO's Status of Forces Agreement and its Supplementary Agreement. The Germany Enabling Office maintains the BFGnet website, which contains a wealth of information on these benefits and the process to follow when claiming them.

Tax Free Vehicles

Each entitled person is permitted to register only one new tax-free vehicle within any one-year period. In addition to one tax-free vehicle, one tax-free motorcycle/quad bike, moped or bicycle with auxiliary motor, may be registered within any one-year period. However, only one vehicle per 'Entitled person' per year can be exported to the UK free of tax.

Companies who offer tax free car sales:

www.forcescarsdirect.com

www.emctaxfree.com

www.griffintaxfree.com



Airports

Hamburg Airport 18km

Bremen 120km

Hannover 150km

Rail

www.bahnhof.de

The Halstenbek SBahn stop is at the end of the road and goes directly into the Hauptbahnhof (S3 line). If you want to travel to the Fuhrungs Akademie or the International School, you will need to change at Altona and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. If you download the HVV app you can buy tickets online or you can buy them at the ticket machines in the station.

When travelling by train don't forget to stamp your ticket before travel. Machines are usually located on the platforms

Postal Services

Mail from the UK is received through the British Forces Post Office (BFPO). The BFPO system has been known to be very slow.

Standard address format:

Service number, Rank, Name

GAFCS

PO Box 2020

BFPO 105

If you need a UK postcode for BFPO as some companies do not recognize BFPO addresses the format is:

Rank/Name

GAFCS

PO Box 2020

BFPO 105

BF1 0AX

www.deutschepost.de

Deutsche post offer counter service, postage stamp machine and parcel collection. An efficient way of sending mail to the UK.

You can also get post delivered directly to your SFA address. This way although more expensive than using BFPO can often be quicker.



Cycling in Germany

Riding your bike in Germany requires you to have a road worthy bike with lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell to alert pedestrians that you are coming.

Cycling is very popular here in Germany and the Netherlands. There are dedicated cycle lanes, either for sole use by the cyclist or the pavement is divided for the pedestrian and the cyclist. Cyclists often use their bell to warn you of their presence. It is advised when walking to keep out of the cycle lane. Remember to cycle in the direction of the traffic, cycling the wrong way can result in a fine. Getting caught cycling whilst under the influence of alcohol can result in the German authorities confiscating your driving license.

Places to explore:

HAMBURG DUNGEON

www.thedungeons.com

MINIATUR WUNDERLAND

www.miniatur-wunderland.de

HAGENBECK'S ZOO

www.hagenbeck.de

KUNSTHALLE

www.hamburger-kunsthalle.de

DEICHTORHALLEN

www.deichtorhallen.de

SEA LIFE CENTRE

Timmendorfer Strand

www.visitsealife.com

SNOWDOME BISPINGEN

Bispingen

www.snow-dome.de

ROCK CLIMBING

www.nordwandhalle.de