

OIE Information & Travel Cheat Sheet

Country:

Germany (DE)

Sex & Dating

- High levels of gender equality in everyday life
- Catcalling & aggressive flirting less prevalent than U.S.
- Communication in dating is typically very direct

Alcohol & Drugs

- Legal age to buy/consume alcohol: 16 or 18
 - Dependent on type of alcohol/place purchased
 - Drinking in public is legal in general
- Cannabis (marijuana) recreational use is illegal
 - Medicinal use permitted under conditions
 - Currently moving towards legalization

LGBTQIA+ Culture

- DE is generally accepting & welcoming to LGBTQIA+
 - Especially in Berlin, home to many queer spaces
- Gender identity and expression typically more progressive in cities
 - Rural areas: more traditional stances
- Resources
 - Rainbow SIG
 - Diversity Abroad
 - OutRight Action International

Cultural Customs and Norms

- Population: 83 million
- Currency: Euro
- Official Language: German
 - Many Germans also know English
- Greetings are formal, titles are important
 - Always use formal language when meeting someone for the first time (ex. Herr/Frau)
 - Common to shake hands with every person
- Germans are environmentally conscious
- More open attitude towards public nudity (ex. saunas)

Resources

110 Police / **112** General EU emergency number (medical and fire)

+49 Country code

- International SOS
 - DU Membership Number: 11BSGC000067
 - Phone: 215.942.8478 / Website: [internationalsos.com](https://www.internationalsos.com)
- Student Support Program (My SSP): 24/7 Mental Health Support
- U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): travel.state.gov



International Education
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This is meant to be a helpful resource for students in selecting, understanding, and preparing for their time abroad. There is no intent to discriminate, generalize or stereotype the country or culture with the information provided here. A variety of sources, both formal and informal, were researched to gather this information.