

Germany Essentials

Packing Guide

People tend to over-pack when traveling. You don't want to be bogged down with too much stuff. Most airlines don't allow more than 1 piece of luggage anyway.

This Germany packing list is simple, articulated, and aims to get you prepped with all you need and still leave space for a few souvenirs.

Important points to keep in mind:

- It gets cold in Germany. You want to make sure to have some warm clothes.
- Your carry-on should double as a day pack. Ensure it is light weight, has many pockets, and is big enough to carry 2 days' supplies. This way you can leave your main pack at your home base/farm for short side trips.
- Most daily use items are widely available in towns and cities.

Documents

There's a lot of paperwork involved in German travel. Put the following all in one file. They'll stay together and you'll always know where they are.

- Emergency contact information, including whom to call in case of emergency.
- A list of all medications you're taking, including any allergies/pre-existing conditions, and dietary restrictions.
- Travel and medical insurance information.
- Debit and credit cards – make sure you have these with you, but also bring some cash. It is better to use cash because you will save on the international fees that banks will charge you. Convert the cash to Euro as that is the official currency of Germany.
- Copies of your passport, credit cards, and insurance. You should also leave copies of these at home with someone.
- Document Scans – Take cell phone photos of your passport, credit cards, insurance information, and any other documents, then save them as JPEGs to your online email account like Gmail. This way, if you lose any of your documents, you have copies available on your phone and anywhere with an internet connection. Also keep a list on your phone and in your email account of the contact details of banks etc. that you need to cancel.
- Passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your arrival. Also get a passport cover or put your passport in a zipper bag to prevent damage.
- Student card – if you are a student you can get many discounts and deals. Try getting the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) which is recognized in around 130 countries
- Flight tickets

Clothing

When working in Germany, you want layers of warm clothing that you don't mind getting dirty.

- 3 pairs of thick trousers /jeans
- 2 long sleeved shirt/2 T-shirts.
- 2 warm sweaters
- A warm raincoat/waterproof jacket
- One nice outfit in case of a party or other event.
- Enough undies for at least 4 days. This way you have one on, one washing, one drying, and one for just in case!
- A scarf or two, at least one pair of gloves and a good winter hat
- 1 bathing suit in case you go to a swimming pool

Gadgets

- Your smart phone. If it's unlocked you can easily hook up a local phone line with internet data package for less than 10€/month. If it's locked to your home line, you'll find Wi-Fi in cafes of larger cities and towns. Look into getting your phone unlocked before you leave home.
- Charger for that phone.
- Camera – You may still want to invest in a camera if you're looking to take a lot of photos or your smart phone, if it has a good camera.

Medical Kit & Toiletries

Finally, besides the clothing and the documents, you will probably need some self-care toiletries. It is best if you pack your basics, rather than bring an extensive number of toiletries. You can buy almost anything from a German supermarket or pharmacy so you don't need to make your luggage very heavy.

A few things we recommend bringing are:

- Toothbrush and a small tube of toothpaste;
- Hair products if you are sure you won't find them in German shops;
- Prescription medicine;
- A few painkillers just in case you need them and the shops are closed.
- Skin cream