

# Travel Money Guide



# Germany



## Visa Costs (Inbound)

Australians and New Zealanders do not require a visa to enter Germany for up to 90 days. However, they do require a passport that remains valid for the duration of their visit.

If you need more information regarding visas and other travel document requirements for your trip, please ask your travel consultant.

## Departure Tax

Any airport or departure taxes are included in the price of your air ticket.

## Tipping

It is common to tip in restaurants and bars in Germany. "Rounding up" the amount of your bill or giving a tip of 5-10% of the total of your bill at minimum is customary.

## ATM Access

**Good** – There are ATMs everywhere.



## Debit and Credit Card Access

Debit and credit cards are generally widely accepted, although some establishments may not accept credit cards. Look for a sticker on a shop's door to advise which cards are accepted, or simply ask.

Pay in local currency as often as possible. This will prevent unseen currency conversion fees eating into your travel money. Consider using a prepaid currency card to ensure you aren't wasting your money on hidden fees.

Always remember to advise your bank of your travel plans before you leave. This will avoid them flagging your international transactions as fraudulent and freezing your accounts.

## Pickpocket Security Rating

**3 stars** – theft is possible

Although pickpockets and theft aren't a common problem in Germany, it is still advised to exercise caution, especially when using public transport or in crowded areas.

Always keep your valuables close to your body and never leave bags unattended.



## Cost of a Coffee

€2.55 (regular cappuccino)

## Transport

Germany has an efficient public transport system. Bigger cities provide buses, trams, underground subways and suburban trains.

Fares differ depending on where you are travelling and the time of your travel. A multi-ticket strip or day pass usually offers better value than a single-ride ticket.

## Insurance Cover Tips

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade recommends travel insurance for all overseas travel. Your travel consultant can provide information to you about travel insurance.

Standard travel insurance that covers theft, loss and medical emergencies is recommended. If you are taking part in any potentially dangerous activities, such as hiking or motorcycling, ensure your policy covers this in case of injury, and always inform your insurer of pre-existing medical conditions. Online access to your policy details, with 24x7 emergency support, is recommended.

## Accommodation

**Budget:** Around AU\$50/night\*

**Moderate:** Around AU\$115/night\*

**Luxury:** Around AU\$220/night\*

\*Based on a standard room for 2 people in Berlin.

## Bargaining Scale

Bargaining and haggling are not customary in Germany. Generally, everything has a fixed price, and it is considered unusual to attempt to negotiate this price, although, negotiating prices on big ticket items such as cars and houses is sometimes acceptable.



## Top Expert Tip

Booking your train journey tickets in advance and keeping an eye on Deutsche Bahn's 'Sparpreis' saver fares will help you get where you need to go and save some of your hard-earned travel money at the same time!

## Scammers and Ripoffs

Opportunistic beggars in Germany are the most common scam for tourists. This can be quite an organised system, and the people involved may not be genuinely in need. They will often tell tales of personal hardship and ask for money. Sometimes, even if you give them money, they will demand more to distract you while you are pickpocketed.

The safest bet is to just ignore them and keep on walking with your bag close to your body.

Another scam to keep an eye out for is fake ticket inspectors, who demand that fines be paid on the spot. Real ticket inspectors will give you the option of being issued with a penalty notice and paying at a later time.

## General Travel Advice

Contact the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) for general travel advice, as well as specific advice (including safety alert levels) relating to travel to Germany. You can also register your travel plans with DFAT, so that you may be more easily contacted in an emergency.

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