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Destinations for everyone across
Germany's **cities, towns and regions.**
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www.germany.travel/tourismforall

2015/2016 Edition

BARRIER-FREE

DESTINATIONS IN GERMANY



EIFEL · ERFURT · FRANCONIAN LAKES
LUSATIAN LAKELAND · MAGDEBURG
EAST FRISIA · RUPPINER LAKES
SAXON SWITZERLAND



Holidays for everyone in eight German regions

We are committed to making all aspects of your stay as enjoyable as possible. Take advantage of everything that barrier-free Germany has to offer.

► www.barrier-free-germany.com



Dear reader,

Destination Germany is attracting ever more tourists with both its diversity and outstanding visitor attractions. To make this diversity available to as many visitors as possible, a multitude of projects have been initiated in recent years with the aim of providing accessible experiences. Numerous tourism companies, including public transport operators, the hotel sector, restaurants and cafés, cultural institutions, recreational and sports facilities, as well as regional tourism organisations, have developed and implemented highly practical initiatives which have opened up all aspects of our country for everyone. Together with experts from all 16 German federal states, we have collated travel ideas for this publication under the theme ‘Tourism for All’. You can find more information, images, videos, links and an interactive map at www.germany.travel. Accessible packages are often only mentioned here as examples without much detail; however detailed information can be obtained from the providers directly. We and our partners wish you a smooth journey – experience Germany without barriers.

With warmest regards from your
German National Tourist Board

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More information about barrier-free travel in Germany is available at
www.germany.travel/tourismforall
in German, English, Danish, French, Dutch and Spanish.



Experience Germany without barriers.

Magnificent mountain panoramas, fascinating highlands and wide coastlines, natural conservation areas and pulsating metropolises, historical dwellings, world-renowned cultural institutions and distinguished events – each year all these attract more and more visitors to Germany from all over the world.

To make the diverse richness of Destination Germany available to everyone, a multitude of continually evolving projects have been initiated over recent years with the aim of providing accessible tourism opportunities.

Accessibility is multifaceted and affects very different visitor groups: people with temporary mobility restrictions, families with pushchairs and pregnant women can all benefit, as can permanently physically disabled people who may require a wheelchair or be partially or fully blind or deaf. Plus, with changing demographics, an increasing number of senior citizens are enjoying frequent use of accessible amenities. Over the following pages you will find attractive travel destinations throughout Germany that have been selected for their exemplary accessibility. Let yourself be inspired to enjoy a barrier-free holiday in Germany's towns and regions.

Detailed information is available at: www.germany.travel/tourismforall



Transport without barriers.

Germany is wonderfully accessible in terms of transportation. Whether you arrive in your own car, by plane or train, its urban centres and regions are supremely well connected. The long distance coach network, for example, is a popular way of travelling between German towns, and much of the country's public transport system, including infrastructure, communication and booking processes, is widely accessible.

A good example is the German airline Lufthansa, which helps passengers with restricted mobility to prepare for their journey with extensive check-lists, as well as providing an escort to and from the aircraft and passenger supervision when changing planes. Furthermore, the railway system's mobility initiatives cover all services; from seat reservations and travel assistance to a list of accessible destinations which is available online. German train stations include 40 travel centres equipped with optical-contact walking indicators, height-adjustable interfaces and induction loop audio systems.

Within the public transport network, most buses and trains are suitable for push- or wheelchairs, and there are usually reserved seats near entrances for visitors who find standing or walking difficult. Many car rental firms can provide vehicles with assisted steering or wheelchair loading aids and many towns contain lowered kerbs and pedestrian ramps with acoustic signals to ensure safety and comfort near traffic. www.germany.travel/transport

The **extensive rail network** connects all of Germany's towns and regions. Trains, infrastructure and services are all widely designed to meet the requirements of disabled travellers.

Unique to **Erfurt**, the 120-metre-long Merchants' Bridge is the longest (with 32 houses) inhabited bridge in Europe. The tactile model of the city, the Old Synagogue with the Erfurt Treasure, the Cathedral and the Augustinian monastery: Erfurt offers unique experiences geared to every target group all year round.



On the pulse of time.

More than three quarters of all visitors enjoy exploring Germany's towns and cities – those medieval centres full of crouching half-timbered buildings towered over by Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, not to mention all the majestic baroque residences and pub-and-club districts that never sleep. Multicultural, suitable for all ages and extensively barrier-free.

www.germany.travel/bf-town



A planned development until 2025, **Hamburg's HafenCity** is a dynamic environment with a maritime feel that combines working, living, entertainment, leisure, tourism and retail. All public areas, the HafenCity Infocenter in the Kesselhaus and the Sustainability Pavilion have been made fully accessible.



Magdeburg, the City of Otto welcomes all visitors to enjoy its highlights; for example the Magdeburg Cathedral, the Green Citadel or the Romanesque abbey Unser Lieben Frauen, which is now an art museum. There are special tours by mobility scooter for visitors with reduced mobility.



Discover the attractions of **Hannover**, the regional capital of Lower Saxony, at your own pace via an informative and accessible guided tour with 'The Red Thread' – your own personal tour guide. You can see the sights by simply following the 4,200-metre-long red line and arrows. In addition, there is an accessible route with amenities for the hard of hearing or partially sighted/blind visitors.



Over 1,500 historically preserved buildings define the image of medieval **Regensburg**. Together, the old quarter of Regensburg and Stadtamhof were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2006. Discover the city with the brochure 'Barrier-free Regensburg'; accessible group tours and guided tours by the Regensburg Tourism Company in German sign language open up the city for everyone.



The central Hessian university town of **Marburg** offers guided tours with the slogan 'Marburg: a new Perspective'. Feel, hear and touch your way around the Lahntal, the upper part of the town and the Schlossberg (castle hill). Explore the architecture and history of St. Elisabeth's Church through explanations and with your hands.



Frankfurt am Main is a financial centre, cultural hotspot, travel hub and pioneer in accessible tourism. The 'Feeling Frankfurt' guided tours explain the metropolis on the Main river via many touchable objects, tastings and anecdotes. Almost all public walking tours can be completed without the use of steps.



Over the course of 300 years the garrison town of **Potsdam** with its numerous baroque buildings — including Sanssouci Palace and Park — has developed into one of Europe's grandest former ducal towns. Cecilienhof House, Babelsberg Film Park, the Dutch quarter and the Potsdam Biosphere attract tourists from all over the world.



Cologne describes itself as 'cosmopolitan, tolerant and multicultural'. The historical old quarter and Cologne Cathedral attract tourists all year round, while the city's Carnival is legendary. The metropolis offers guided tours for the blind and partially sighted visitors, in sign language, for wheelchair users and in plain language.



Particular highlights of **Celle** include Europe's largest collection of half-timbered houses and the ducal Residenz Palace, one of the most beautiful Guelph Castles in North Germany, which combines Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque features. There are guided tours for wheelchair users and blind visitors, as well as audio guides.

Explore these cities as barrier-free travel destinations at www.germany.travel/bf-town

■ Guided tours of **CALW AND HIRSAU** vividly depict the towns' history — from the Dukes of Calw to Hermann Hesse — with stories and anecdotes about places of historical interest.

■ The English Garden, the Church of Our Lady, the German Museum, BMW Welt and the Olympic Park are just some of **MUNICH**'s highlights for accessible tourism.

■ Awaiting visitors to **WÜRZBURG** are the historical town hall, the Romanesque Würzburg Cathedral, the highly significant Mozart Festival and a UNESCO World Heritage site encompassing Würzburg Residenz Palace and Hofgarten Palace Garden.

■ The town hall with the Roland statue draws visitors to the Hanseatic city of **BREMEN**, as do the historical market square, St. Peter's Cathedral and the acclaimed fairy-tale figures of the Bremen Town Musicians.

■ Both in and beyond **HAMBURG'S FAMOUS SCHANZEN-VIERTEL** district, mobilWERK finds the best tour guides for visitors' individual needs: People, who live, work or socialise here, so they really know their way around.

■ Exploring the blue stones gives you a true feel for **GÜSTROW**. The walking trail around the old quarter — once a regular Sunday walk of the sculptor Ernst Barlach — takes in the main places of influence.

■ Blind and partially sighted visitors can explore **SOEST**'s old quarter with walking tours from the 'City guide' app, which uses directional information to guide you along a pre-planned route.

■ Lying at the foot of the Harz mountains, **HALBERSTADT** awaits its visitors with the majestic treasures of its cathedral. Specifically designed guided walks, which cater for visitors' particular requirements, lead you to the town's attractions.

■ In **WERNIGERODE**'s Bürgerpark, visitors can explore the nearby mountains recreated in miniature. The 'Little Harz' miniature park contains many tactile exhibits and is of course fully accessible.

■ The composer Johann Sebastian Bach and the church reformer Thomas Müntzer made the historical free imperial city of **MÜHLHAUSEN** famous far beyond the region's borders.

■ **KOBLENZ**, one of Germany's oldest towns, lies at the point where the Moselle flows into the Rhine. With prior arrangement, the various themed guided tours can be made available for wheelchair users.



SAXONY-ANHALT EASILY ACCESSIBLE



IN SAXONY-ANHALT everyone can experience the fascinating stories from past times, historical findings and cultural highlights! The beautifully restored half-timbered houses of Wernigerode and the UNESCO World Heritage site Quedlinburg will both enchant and inspire you to explore the Harz mountains. Let us help you plan your barrier-free holiday. We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit us at www.saxony-anhalt-tourism.eu or contact us by telephone on +49 (0) 391 568 9981



Experience Düsseldorf without barriers

Information about barrier-free guided tours, hotel rooms and sights

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Limitless shopping pleasure.

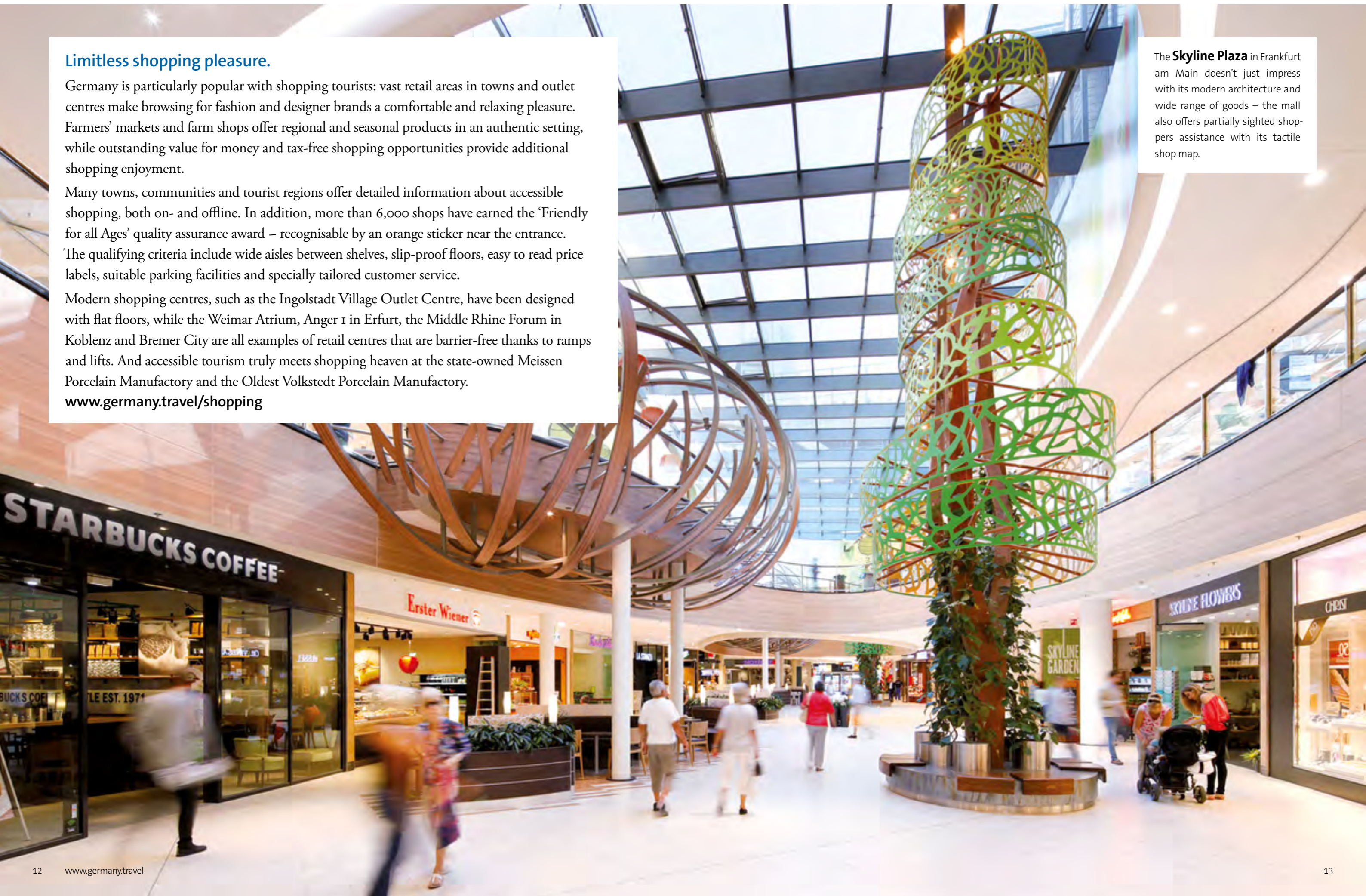
Germany is particularly popular with shopping tourists: vast retail areas in towns and outlet centres make browsing for fashion and designer brands a comfortable and relaxing pleasure. Farmers' markets and farm shops offer regional and seasonal products in an authentic setting, while outstanding value for money and tax-free shopping opportunities provide additional shopping enjoyment.

Many towns, communities and tourist regions offer detailed information about accessible shopping, both on- and offline. In addition, more than 6,000 shops have earned the 'Friendly for all Ages' quality assurance award – recognisable by an orange sticker near the entrance. The qualifying criteria include wide aisles between shelves, slip-proof floors, easy to read price labels, suitable parking facilities and specially tailored customer service.

Modern shopping centres, such as the Ingolstadt Village Outlet Centre, have been designed with flat floors, while the Weimar Atrium, Anger 1 in Erfurt, the Middle Rhine Forum in Koblenz and Bremer City are all examples of retail centres that are barrier-free thanks to ramps and lifts. And accessible tourism truly meets shopping heaven at the state-owned Meissen Porcelain Manufactory and the Oldest Volkstedt Porcelain Manufactory.

www.germany.travel/shopping

The **Skyline Plaza** in Frankfurt am Main doesn't just impress with its modern architecture and wide range of goods – the mall also offers partially sighted shoppers assistance with its tactile shop map.



Today, anybody can conquer **Ehrenbreitstein Fortress** in Koblenz high above the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle — via the cable car with accessible gondolas or the inclined lift. To help you get your bearings when you arrive, you'll find ramps, a guide system for blind people and audio guides.



Seeing, hearing, feeling culture.

With 39 UNESCO World Heritage sites, architectural masterpieces from the Middle Ages to the Bauhaus, over 6,000 museums, hundreds of theatres and world famous orchestras and an agile, contemporary creative scene, Germany truly shines as a cultural destination of distinction. Our endeavour to make these treasures accessible to everyone is every bit as multi-layered as the tourist amenities themselves. www.germany.travel/bf-culture



With ramps and non-slip floors, the **Mercedes-Benz Museum** in Stuttgart offers a striking journey through the history of the automobile — with audio guides for hard of hearing visitors and videos in sign language. The museum has already received the 'Golden Wheelchair' award.



Lying in the heart of Hamburg, the **Bucerius Art Forum** offers four exhibitions all year round on themes from antiquity to the present. The Bucerius Art Forum is fully accessible. Tours in sign language can be booked with the Hamburg Museum Service.

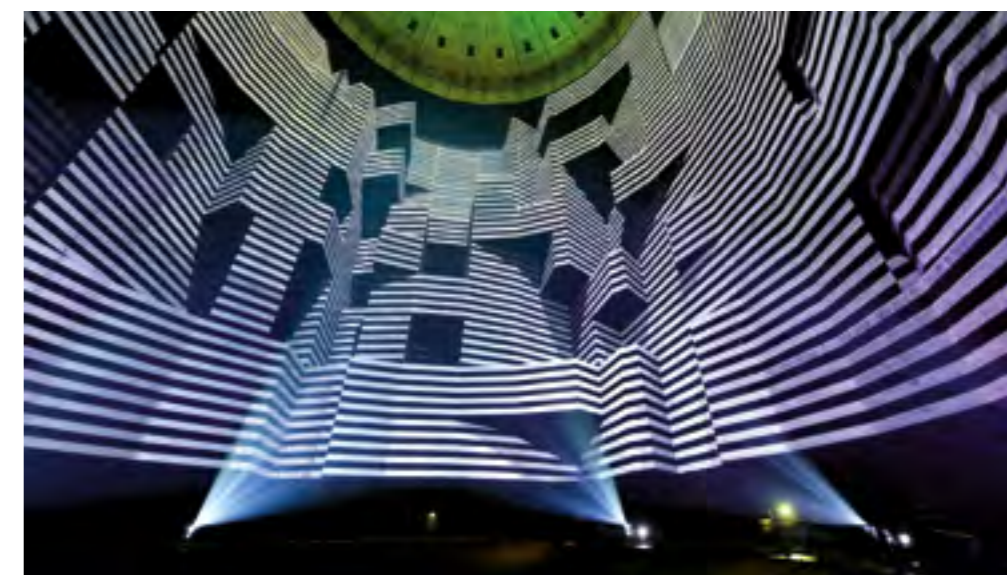


There's nothing to see in Frankfurt's **Dialogue Museum**. Guided by the blind members of the darkness team in six special experiential rooms, 'Dialogue in the Dark' lets visitors discover the invisible. The museum's surroundings take on a new character — puzzled, impressed and absorbed, sighted visitors learn to see things in a new light.



With its Science Center Spectrum, the **German Technology Museum** in Berlin is an interactive place of learning and experiences. A touchable mock-up of the entire facility is displayed in the fully accessible Infothek. Many of the exhibits include a description in Braille.

An industrial memorial and source of inspiration for internationally renowned artists, the **Oberhausen Gasometer** provides a spectacular setting for cultural experiences using all the senses. Accessible via the glass panoramic lift, the rooftop offers impressive views across the entire western Ruhr area.



The City of **Bremen's Kunsthalle** art gallery chiefly exhibits French and German art from the 19th and 20th centuries. All rooms have an entrance width of 1.3 metres and are fully accessible. Audio guides are provided; induction loop systems are available for hard of hearing visitors.

Visitors to Dresden's **Hygiene Museum** will discover the 'Abenteuer Mensch' (Adventurous Human). These spectacular exhibitions can be experienced by everyone thanks to tactile route finders, subtitled films, sign language tours, tactile objects and plain-language audio guides.



Founded in the 12th century, the town of **Lübeck** with its **historical old quarter** is today a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its romantic pathways and courtyards as well as a wealth of the old quarter's attractions can be discovered via accessible guided tours led by professional guides in 16 languages.



A UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, **Völklingen Ironworks** is the world's only fully preserved ironworks from the Golden Age of the iron and steel industries. The gargantuan blast furnace was decommissioned in 1986 and today remains an exciting and stimulating cultural site for the 21st century. All areas of the Völklingen Ironworks World Cultural Heritage site are accessible via ramps and lifts, with the exception of the viewing platform.



The **Museum of Film and Television** in Berlin uses its 1,200 square metres of floor space to trace the history of moving pictures, from the first hand-animated images all the way to today's digital films. The facility offers touch tours and walks for hard of hearing visitors — either at fixed times or booked individually.



The collections in the **Mainz State Museum** range from the beginnings of culture to contemporary art. Distinguished for its exemplary accessibility, the museum offers an audio guide with audio descriptions that leads visitors to its touchable objects. Special membrane books make important paintings touchable.



St. Michaelis church is one of the most beautiful Baroque churches in northern Germany and its tower is Hamburg's most famous landmark. The entrance to the church and crypt of 'Michel' (the church's nickname) is suitable for wheelchair users. Special tours for blind and partially sighted visitors are provided, as are induction loop systems during services.



The **Dresden State Art Collections** rank among the foremost and oldest museum networks in the world. Their goal is to give all visitors unrestricted access to the art collections of the Saxon Electors, which date from the 16th century.



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Feel the pulse of a vibrant city! Experience modern high streets and shopping centres amidst historic surroundings. Discover and be amazed by the cultural highlights of Germany and after a day of sightseeing why not enjoy some exciting nightlife? German cities are full of magic and fascinating contrasts. **To experience real "Lebenslust" simply visit: www.germany.travel/cities**

Lebenslust

Barrier-free Frankfurt



Further information on barrier-free travel in Frankfurt

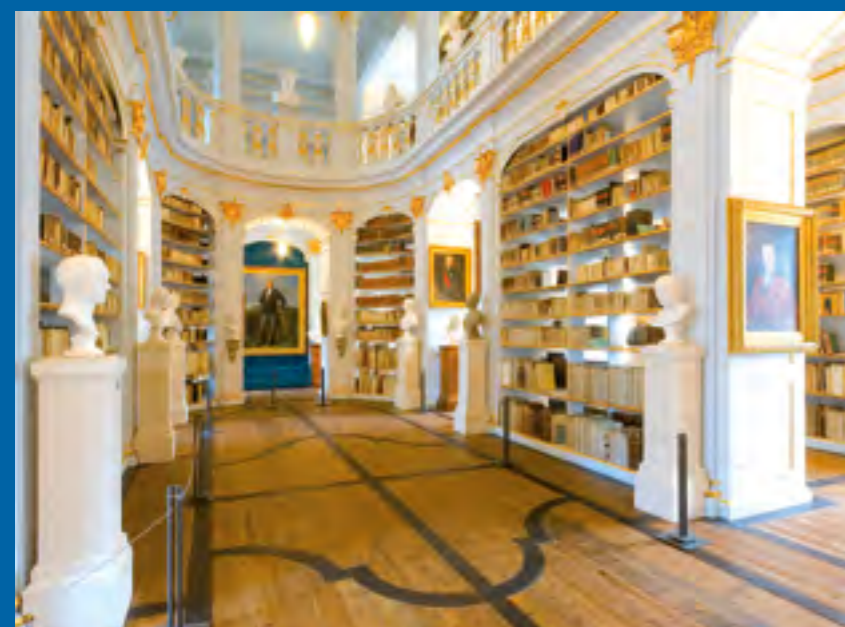
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The City of Stuttgart's barrier-free **Porsche Museum** exhibits over 80 legendary racing cars, consumer vehicles and unusual prototypes. Visitors to the museum's workshop can see classic Porsche models being restored and prepared for races.



A UNESCO Cultural Heritage site, **'Classical Weimar'** contains 13 attractions including the Goethe Museum, Schiller's House and the Duchess Anna Amalia Library. The classical city offers guided tours for visitors with reduced mobility and in sign language, as well as bicycles for everyone.



Each year around 300,000 visitors head to the **Störtebecker Festival** on Rügen island in the Baltic Sea, where the story of the legendary sea pirate and his companions is played out in Germany's largest and most beautiful open-air theatre. The entire facility is barrier-free.



'Luther's last trail', the new exhibition in **Martin Luther's final residence** in Eisleben, tells the story of the church reformer's last journey. Thanks to a new building and the extension of one part of the museum, the facility has been made largely barrier-free.



The **Westphalian Industrial Heritage Museum** preserves, explores and explains the spirit of 150 years of industrial history. All eight sites make use of cinemas, audio clips and interactive stations to help visitors understand the region's industrial heritage and history.



Thanks to extensive renovation works, the **Romanesque Jerichow Monastery** in the Old March (Altmark) region offers an almost entirely step free experience. The monastery's garden provides an experience for all the senses — smelling and tasting the herbs and medicinal plants is highly recommended.

Explore culture at these barrier-free travel destinations at www.germany.travel/bf-culture

- The **SLAWENBURG RADDUSCH** in the Spree Forest is a restored fortification from the 9th/10th century. Here you can discover the 12,000 year history of Lower Lusatia.
- The **BADEN-BADEN FESTIVAL THEATRE** ranks among the largest classical music venues in Europe. Its schedule includes opera, classical concerts, ballet performances, jazz evenings and international shows.
- As the State Museum of Art and Cultural History, the **FOCKE MUSEUM IN BREMEN** provides an extensive insight into the history of this Hanseatic city. All areas of the museum are extensively barrier-free.
- **BREMEN'S ÜBERSEEMUSEUM** (Natural History and Ethnographic Museum) leads visitors on a journey through the diversity of all the continents. The 'Learn What Moves the World' exhibition is devoted to global topics such as climate change and human rights.
- The private **COLLECTION OF LEMMERS-DANFORTH IN THE PALAIS PAPIUS**, a historical building in Wetzlar's old quarter, offers a wealth of historical furnishings which are among the foremost of their kind.
- The old-established **HAMBURG STATE OPERA** was founded as the first public opera house in 1678 and remains famous today for its gripping opera productions and ballet performances.
- As one of Germany's most important art galleries, **HAMBURG'S KUNSTHALLE** houses masterpieces spanning 700 years of art history. All three buildings are fully accessible.
- The nationally famous **EMDEN KUNSTHALLE** art gallery made its name with works of classical modernity and special exhibitions by famous artists. The attached school of painting undertakes projects for all age groups.
- At **COLOGNE'S CHOCOLATE MUSEUM**, visitors learn everything about the humble cocoa bean's transformation into finished chocolate, as well as all manner of facts about the cultural and historical origins of the confection and its industrial manufacture today.
- The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in the City of Bonn, or the **FEDERAL ART GALLERY** for short, deals actively with themes of inclusion, a changing society and demographic shifts.
- Redesigned by star architect Daniel Libeskind, the **MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM IN DRESDEN** explores, critically and from a modern perspective, military history as a historical, cultural and anthropological phenomenon.
- In **ZWICKAU'S AUGUST HORCH AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM**, 100 years of automobile history are brought to life with luxury models from Horch, Audi, Wanderer and DKW. There's also the Trabant cult car.
- Every summer the 70 steps of Erfurt Cathedral are transformed into a spectacular open-air stage for the **CATHEDRAL STEPS FESTIVAL PLAYS**. Erfurt Cathedral and the Church of St Severus provide the backdrop for unforgettable evenings.
- Visitors to the **GERMAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM IN BERLIN** come into physical contact with history. The exhibits are also explained acoustically or in sign language.
- The historical town of **SPEYER** is defined by its cultural monuments: the Romanesque imperial cathedral (a UNESCO World Heritage site) is barrier-free, as are sites of rich Jewish tradition like the Judenhof with the SchPIRA Museum and mikveh (Jewish bath).
- **LEIPZIG'S NOTENSPUR** (Note Trail) is a five-kilometre, visually signposted route through the city's town centre that connects the homes and workplaces of famous composers.
- Johann **SEBASTIAN BACH'S BIRTHPLACE IN EISENACH** hosts hourly concerts played with historical instruments. The museum's new building contains 'sound chairs' and 'walk-in music' for a fantastically sensuous experience.





The Cathedral and the Church of St. Severus in Erfurt provide the backdrop for **Thuringia's biggest Christmas market**; with romantic market stalls lining wide, flat paths, a twelve-metre-high Christmas pyramid and the aroma of gingerbread and glühwein – all promising a delightful market experience.

Celebrating together.

The list of German fairs is long; from Christmas markets to town fairs, from the Schützenfest fair to the Erntedank parade. The number of domestic and overseas visitors to these festival sites, with their colourful mixture of mobile vendors, fairground rides, restaurants and cafés, is substantial and constantly growing.

Although each fair has its own unique heritage and character, the celebrating is always done together. The various organisers and funfair operators are working hard to make fairs more accessible and equally welcoming to visitors of all ages and disabilities.

Hence the Munich Beer Festival offers special tours of the festival site; the Free Market (Freimarkt) in Bremen organises a 'Disabled Persons' Day' in its Bavaria Tent; Hannover is creating an 'Accessible Schützenfest fair' with a shuttlebus service and wheelchair-friendly rides, while Erfurt's Christmas market contains accessible infrastructure to enable an enjoyable visit by everyone. In addition, the 'Rhine on Fire' spectacle in Koblenz caters for visitors with limited mobility, and Kiel Week has developed a range of services from shuttle buses to the accompaniment of groups by helpers. www.germany.travel/events

A highlight of the **Bavarian Forest National Park** is Neuschönau, the world's longest canopy walk, which reaches a height of 25 metres and offers unique views of the forest floor. The canopy walk is also accessible to wheelchair users.

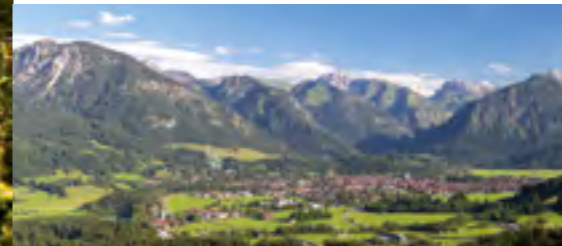


Nature experiences for everyone.

Tactile and barefoot pathways that let you feel coastal mudflats and lush mountain pastures; audio guides that let you hear the animal sounds in the forest; plain-language commentaries that make nature understandable to everyone – whether with a pushchair or a wheelchair, numerous footpaths throughout the German landscape offer a truly unhindered experience. www.germany.travel/bf-nature



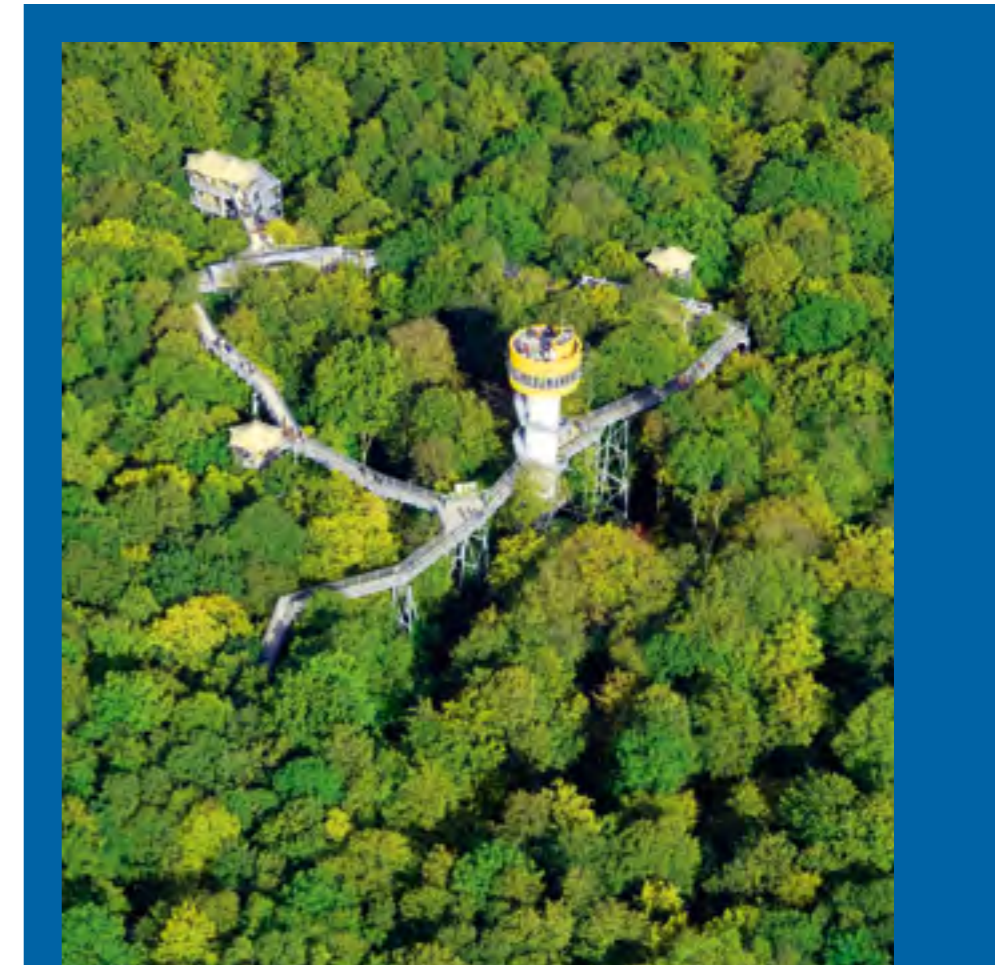
Bremen's **Botanika** provides an insight into the biological diversity of the Himalayas, tropical Borneo and the Japanese Garden. The exhibition's various areas are connected by ramps. There are regular tours for blind and partially sighted visitors.



Oberstdorf in the Allgäu is well prepared for disabled visitors. Footpaths are accessible by wheelchair or special E-bikes. 'Das Höchste' ('The Highest') mountain cable cars give you unlimited views amid the freedom of this mountain world. The tourist information centre as well as many accommodation facilities cater for special requirements.



From powerful mesas to delicate rock formations, **Saxon Switzerland National Park** offers spectacular views. Many paths within the park are accessible to visitors with limited mobility. The first handicapped national park tour guide, Veit Riffer, has compiled a list of recommended tours.



A UNESCO World Heritage site, **Hainich National Park** will captivate you with its slogan 'leave nature to its own devices'. The canopy walk, wild-cat village Hütscheroda and various footpaths are accessible for wheelchair users and contain information boards with tactile wording. The 'Brunstalweg' adventure walk offers a guiding system for blind and partially sighted visitors as well as an audio guide. Wheelchair users can also tour the park by horse-drawn carriage.



In the **Schauinslandbahn**, Germany's longest circulating cable car, passengers are floated up to a height of 1,220 metres in 20 minutes. The panoramic view stretches from the town of Freiburg and the Rhinegold to the Blue Ribbon of the Vosges mountains. Hiking paths and circular walks open up a dreamlike land-and mountainscape.



A highlight of the **Eifel National Park** is the accessible adventure area 'Wild Kermeter' with its 'Wilderness Trail' adventure walk. Interactive stations teach visitors of all ages about topics from wilderness and forest development to the influence of different animal and plant species on the forest.



Among the highlights of the **Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park** is a mudflat tour in the mud mobile. Schleswig-Holstein mudflats. Millions of microorganisms thrive in the nutritious soil. Trained mud guides and national park rangers share their extensive knowledge and provide exciting, yet safe, excursions. The coastal mudflats are a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Along the chalk coast in **Jasmund National Park** on Rügen island, specially trained rangers lead visitors along wheelchair-friendly nature trails that criss-cross the hilly coastal landscape.



A path suitable for wheelchairs leads from the Himmelsbreite car park through the **Kellerwald-Edersee National Park** up to the new barrier-free viewing platform with views across the Eder valley. The 250-metre-long 'Edersee Canopy Walk' is specially designed for people with limited mobility. Parts of the national park belong to the 'Old Beech Forests of Germany' UNESCO World Heritage site.



There is no limit to the attractions of Rhineland-Palatinate for holidaymakers. Romantic river valleys, picturesque vineyards, half-timbered houses, historical towns and castles - there's a reason why Rhineland-Palatinate received the nickname „Romantic Germany“. More than 500 castles, palaces, and ancient ruins join numerous museums, exhibitions, and UNESCO World Heritage sites like Trier's Roman buildings or the Speyer Cathedral to form a veritable treasure chest just waiting to be discovered. From active hiking or cycling tours of this region in the south-west of Germany to more leisurely relaxation on wine and spa breaks - the choice is yours.

Palatinate will ideally round off your stay in the ten regions. As many people as possible should be able to enjoy the many and varied charms of this region. There are more and more options for wheelchair-bound holidaymakers and travellers with other disabilities: For example seven overnight stays with breakfast in Koblenz, free entry to legendary Lorelei, the Arp Museum in Remagen, Geyser in Andernach and fortress Ehrenbreitstein. During a river cruise on the Rhine you discover steep vineyards and picturesque castles. Price per person from Euro 399,00.

Outstanding hotels and restaurants together with the hospitality of the people of Rhineland-

More information and booking:
www.accessibility.romantic-germany.info

Lüneburg Heath's unique, ancient landscape attracts visitors and offers fixed footpaths, some of which have touchable boundaries. Gentle inclines, rest stops and seating areas make excursions accessible to everyone. 'Joëletten' (hiking wheelchairs) and wheelchair-friendly carriages are also available.



The **Andernach geyser** — the world's highest cold water geyser at 50 to 60 metres — is just one of the visitor attractions at the Eifel Volcano Park. A (barrier-free) boat ride connects the interactive discovery centre to the geyser eruptions at Namedyer Werth.



Visitors with limited mobility can also enjoy the unspoiled nature of the **Harz National Park**. The historical Harz narrow-gauge railway leads up Mount Brocken; both the Brockengarten at the peak and the TorfHaus national park visitors' centre offer interactive walking tours of the mountain.

Explore nature at these barrier-free travel destinations at www.germany.travel/bf-nature

- Five locations in the Havel region of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt are jointly hosting the **FEDERAL GARDEN SHOW 2015**. All are connected by a fully accessible ferry.
- From a height of 23 metres, visitors to the **CANOPY WALK IN WALDKIRCH** can appreciate unspoiled views of the Black Forest mountains and the Rhinegold with the Kaiserstuhl hills.
- Fairy-tale adventures await visitors to North Hessen's **HABICHTSWALD NATURE PARK** — the home of the Brothers Grimm. People with restricted mobility can discover the forest's secrets in a 'Joëlette' (a special one-wheeled wheelchair).
- On their way south, **60,000 CRANES** take an annual rest in the **WEST-POMERANIAN BODDENLANDSCHAFT** (salt marshes). The natural spectacle of their evening arrival before sunset is especially impressive.
- With a flood model, wind machine, birdsong piano and large eel-basket, the **ELBTALAU BIODIVERSITY** in Lüneburg gives visitors an entertaining insight into some of Europe's most primeval countryside.
- World famous fairy-tales and legends are right at home in the **WESERBERG-LAND HILLS**: the Pied Piper of Hamelin, Cinderella and the Baron von Münchhausen. Many paths can be explored by bike, E-bike or special wheelchairs.
- The **INCLUSIVE BRIDLE PATH IN MÜNSTERLAND** allows everyone to experience Mother Nature's rich bounty. The inclusive bridle path includes wheelchair ramps. Its extra wide layout allows horses to be ridden together and to be led.
- The **'WALDWEG GRENZENLOS** — Accessible Forest Adventures in Southern Westphalia' is a forest walk designed for disabled people comprising 40 way stations which allow visitors to experience the forest using all their senses.
- The **AMELUNGSKOPF FOREST WALK** near Wernigerode is specifically designed for blind and partially sighted visitors. The walk is suitable for walking poles, which can help enable independent hiking.



**NORD
RHEIN
WEST
FALEN**

© Photos 1, 2, 4: Tourismus für Alle e.V. (NatKo), © Photo 3: Nationalparkforstamt Eifel



NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA FOR ALL: REMOVING BARRIERS TOGETHER.

Tourismus NRW e. V. is supporting the "Travel for all" initiative with attractive packages for everyone – with and without disabilities. City tours, exploring nature, cultural highlights – now everyone can enjoy being a tourist in North Rhine-Westphalia. For more information please visit:

WWW.BARRIEREFREIES-NRW.DE

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EUROPÄISCHE UNION
Investition in unsere Zukunft
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Top-class sporting events, live.

There are regular top-class sporting events all over Germany. Nearly all stadiums and arenas are highly accessible, with sporting organisations and clubs offering all fans many opportunities to enjoy their events. For example, partially sighted spectators can enjoy football or ice hockey matches thanks to live audio commentary in the stadium.

The Bundesliga's first guidebook for disabled fans was published in 2006 and is currently issued by the Bundesliga Foundation of Professional Football in collaboration with Deutsche Bahn (German Rail). The guide provides information about accessible travel and ticket sales, navigation in stadiums and seating for disabled fans and their companions. An accessible PDF version can be downloaded online.

Besides football, Germany hosts many other sporting events which warmly welcome all visitors: wheelchair users enjoy the best views of the annual Biathlon World Cup in Oberhop from reserved seats above the stand; lifts make the ski jump's viewing gantry accessible in Oberstdorf's Erdinger Arena, where the opening jumps of the Four Hills tournament take place each year.

www.germany.travel/events

Like many other old-established sporting arenas, the **Olympic stadium in Berlin** – seen here during the International Stadium Festival Berlin (ISTAF) – was completely modernised for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, with a focus on improving accessibility.



‘Filu’, Germany’s northernmost high ropes course in Leck (Schleswig-Holstein), is unique. From the high ropes to the handicap-course, everyone has the chance to enjoy their own personal adventure at this professionally designed and supervised climbing facility.

Faster – higher – further.

Athletically ambitious or adventure-hungry travellers can find all manner of thrills and challenges throughout Germany while being certain of getting the support they need. Everyone who takes part, from elite athletes to pleasure cyclists, is guaranteed a great time.

Being there is everything. www.germany.travel/bf-action



Let your eyes wander across the panoramic view as you enjoy a **cycle trolley ride** between Staudernheim and Altenglan in the Palatinate’s Glan valley. As well as standard models, cycle trolleys with electric motors or hand bike fittings are available to ensure a less strenuous ride and the chance to really enjoy Mother Nature.

Many areas of Lower Saxony include **rental points for E-Bikes and special bicycles**. Crest the highland peaks of the Weserbergland hills in comfort, or defy the headwinds sweeping across the plains — the additional electric motor makes cycling faster, easier and more relaxing.



The **DKB-Ski sport-HALLE** in Oberhof is Germany’s first indoor ski run. At a constant temperature of minus four degrees Celsius, its two-kilometre cross-country ski trail over varying terrain provides perfect skiing conditions for recreational and professional skiers alike — and also caters for Paralympic disciplines.



Hand biking in Rostock’s heathland: a map is available showing a range of proven routes for cyclists, hand bikers, wheelchair tandems and wheelchair hikers in Germany’s largest coastal forest. The map forms the basis for a range of available guided activities.



Eight **hand bike tours** of varying length and difficulty allow visitors to discover the unique countryside around Lake Chiemsee, the Chiemgau mountains, the Wendelstein stone spiral staircase and the Inn and Mangfall valleys. The cycle routes are clearly signposted; wheelchair-friendly toilets, showers and parking spaces are provided.



Markkleeberg Canoe Park in Leipzig offers white water rafting or tubing at one of Europe’s most advanced white water facilities, where professional oarsmen and women prepare the intrepid visitors for the adventure ahead. The rapid dinghy ride is enjoyed by people of all ages and is suitable for disabled people with no prior rafting experience.

With 350 objects for touching, experimenting and learning, the **Phaeno interactive exhibition in Wolfsburg** awakens a passion for science and technology in visitors of all ages — with its six-metre-high fire tornado and amazing decompression-propelled sphere, for example. All areas are accessible; upon request individually tailored group tours are also available — ‘phaeno for everyone’.



You'll be amazed.

Germany's leisure parks and interactive exhibitions combine fun with action, the fascinating with the curious, and the down-to-earth with the exotic. Some are traditional, others futuristic — all are designed with a love of detail and special attention to visitors' individual needs.

www.germany.travel/bf-leisurepark



The **German Emigration Centre in Bremerhaven** uses detailed reconstructions and multimedia performances to bring the emigrants' fortunes to life — separation from home, crossing the oceans and arrival in the new world.



The **Müritzzeum in Waren** is an impressive, completely accessible exhibition centre dedicated to the green spaces of the Mecklenburg Lakes. The staff have purposely designed tours and events for visitors with sensorial impairments or reduced mobility.



The **Europa-Park in Rust** is Germany's largest leisure park, recreating many of the world's countries with typical restaurants, cafés and shows. Most attractions and shows are accessible; however the rides (except the EP Express) are not suitable for wheelchairs. The Europa-Park's hotels rank among Germany's Category A-rated accessible accommodation establishments, restaurants and cafés.



Munich's interactive exhibitions include sporting attractions like the architecturally striking Allianz Arena (home of Bayern Munich FC), concerts and events at the Olympic Park of 1972, and BMW Welt. All attractions offer accessible tours and events.

Over 5,000 sea creatures await you at **Sealife in Oberhausen/Königs-winter**, including sea horses, jellyfish, rays, clownfish and Asian small-clawed otters — all are fully accessible. A ten-metre-long underwater tunnel passes through the tropical tank, letting visitors marvel at sharks, tropical fish and green sea turtles.



LEISURE PARKS AND INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS

Using interactive stations, the **Grottoneum discovery museum in Saalfeld** gives visitors the opportunity to touch, taste and trace the 440-million-year history of stalactites and stalagmites. The facility is fully accessible with flat floors throughout. Height differences are bridged using ramps and platform lifts.



Nestling in the sweeping surroundings of the city's zoo, the **Darwineum in Rostock** is one of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's top interactive attractions. The spacious centre enables visitors to explore evolution and offers people with sensorial impairments or limited mobility an unforgettable experience.

Lying just outside Berlin, **Babelsberg Film Park** employs a grandiose mixture of entertainment, action, and authentic film and TV to provide insights into the exciting work of movie professionals. An audio guide provides extensive commentary that includes authentic insider stories.



Explore these barrier-free leisure parks and worlds of discovery at www.germany.travel/bf-leisurepark

■ **KARL'S VILLAGE OF DISCOVERY** in Elstal near Berlin is a paradise for families, adults and senior citizens. Visitors can watch the cooks' and bakers' at work in three factories, where the live presentations are an adventure for all the senses.

■ **HEIDELBERG ZOO** ranks among the most innovative in Germany. In five themed areas, visitors experience a colourful animal kingdom with a special focus on the relationship between humans and animals.

■ Lying just outside Stuttgart, **SENSAPOLIS INDOOR LEISURE PARK** serves up attractions for every age group: 16 slides, a fairy-tale castle, a space ship with a space exhibition and a knowledge centre.

■ **HAGENBECK ZOO** in Hamburg has amazed visitors for over a century with its botanical diversity, historically preserved panoramas and impressive ice lake. More than 1,850 animals from all the continents are waiting to be discovered!

■ The **HAWOGE SPIELMAGAZIN IN HALBERSTADT** is an indoor play centre with various theme areas which are suitable for young and old alike, and for visitors with or without disabilities. The wheelchair carousel is a particular highlight.

■ **VIBA NOUGAT WORLD IN SCHMALKALDEN** lets you experience pure indulgence via its interactive and informative exhibition, various culinary courses, the Viba Shop and the Epicure (Genießer) Bistro & Café Lounge.

■ The **VISITOR MINE CONVEYOR BRIDGE F60** near Finsterwalde, also called the 'Reclining Eiffel Tower of Lusatia', brings home the incredible dimensions of the former open brown coal pit.

■ The **'GARDENS OF THE WORLD'** at the centre of Berlin-Marzahn's concrete buildings are perfect for a green excursion. The park has been awarded the 'Accessible Berlin' sign.

■ The **UNIVERSUM SCIENCE CENTRE BREMEN** turns science into an adventure. Resembling a silver whale or a mussel, the Science Centre houses many interactive exhibits with themes of people, earth and the cosmos.

■ How big is a sperm whale? How small is a seahorse? The **MULTIMAR WATTFORUM NATIONAL PARK CENTRE IN TÖNNING** provides answers to these and many other questions about coastal mudflats, whales and world heritage.

■ **HANNOVER'S ADVENTURE ZOO** transports visitors to another world; a particular highlight being the journey down the Zambezi river. The boats glide silently over the water, passing giraffes, lions, zebras, and — last but not least — hippos.



Association of Embrace Hotels

WELCOME AS A GUEST - APPRECIATED AS A PERSON

Welcome to the World of Embrace Hotels

At the beginning of Embrace there is the idea not to divide the world into winners and losers. The Embrace Hotels embody and improve this concept – accessible in the literal and figurative sense, experientable for everyone.

The association draws strength from diversity:

- the range of personnel – whether handicapped or not – with their individual strengths and development potentialities,
- the variety of hotels – from city hotel to spa and conference hotel
- as well as the variety of guests – whether handicapped or not – who share our notion of Embrace.

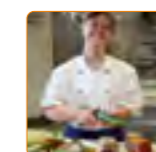
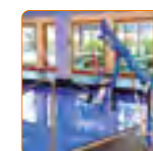
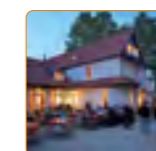
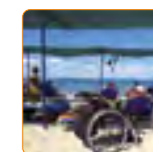
Welcome as a guest - appreciated as a person.

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Reisen für Alle

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WWW.EMBRACE-HOTELS.DE

At the **Tuscan Spring Baths in Sulza**, everything has been designed for the visitors' enjoyment – from the wheelchair-friendly walkway between the hotel and spring to the extra-wide sauna doors.

Take a deep breath and relax.

Around 650 award-winning health and spa resorts across Germany promise relaxation, restoration and healing. These medicinal establishments are naturally well suited to visitors with either permanent or temporary mobility restrictions, or who need assistance. Numerous hot baths, often with sauna areas, offer endless ways to relax.

The areas surrounding the spa resorts also play their part in making visitors feel fully at ease. Good examples are the themed gardens in the rose town of the north, Bad Langensalza, tours of the salt-evaporation works at Germany's oldest natural brine spa, Bad Salzmen, and Germany's only radon tunnel in Bad Kreuznach. The many lovingly tended and designed spa gardens also offer an especially pleasurable experience. www.germany.travel/health

Sometimes sporty, sometimes leisurely – always restorative.

Let yourself be carried and pampered on majestic, flowing rivers through the German countryside, or explore lake-based water sports at your own pace – the opportunities for a waterside vacation are diverse and accessible to everyone. www.germany.travel/bf-water

 **The museum and pre-historic pile village**

on the shore of Lake Constance displays reconstructed villages from the Neolithic Age as examples of the UNESCO-protected pile dwellings. The houses are connected by wide footbridges. Group tours are available for partially sighted or deaf visitors, as well as for people with learning difficulties.



At the **Franconian Lakes** visitors will discover a unique holiday landscape equipped with access ramps to bathing areas and 'Tiralo beach wheelchairs'. For those who prefer to stay dry, pleasure cruises can be booked on Lake Altmühl and Lake Brombachsee — with stepless access to the boats.



Up to five wheelchair users can take a Baltic Sea cruise on the **cruise sailing boat 'Wappen von Ueckermünde'** ('Emblem of Ueckermünde'). The boat offers passengers the opportunity to develop their skills in seamanship, navigation and meteorology using the on-board equipment.




Föhr island in the North Sea, also called the 'Fresian Caribbean', is a holiday paradise for visitors of all ages. Details about the accessibility of dining and accommodation facilities can be found in an online databank and in the brochure 'Amrum and Föhr for Wheelchair Users'.

The **Lusatian Lakes** guarantee an activity-filled holiday. More than 20 of the region's lakes are opened up by an extensive network of wheelchair-accessible paths. Kayaks, motor- and sailing boats can be hired at Lake Senftenberg's water sports centre, where a lift enables safe embarkation onto the boats.



Three of the most beautiful beaches around **Eckenförð bight** offer barrier-free entry and beach wheelchairs. The nearby town of the same name is equally well prepared for disabled visitors — from guided tours of the miniature golf course to the nearby high ropes course.



 Families with young children and disabled visitors can explore the UNESCO World Heritage site **Lower Saxony Wadden Sea** in tranquillity — with special mud-mobiles and mud-wheelchairs. The barrier and car-free Langeoog island also offers carriage taxis.



A holiday in the **North Sea spa town of Büsum** is a holiday for everyone; families with children will feel just as at home as senior citizens. The beach can be accessed by wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. Additionally, the coastal mudflats outside Büsum can be explored thanks to ramps and special mud-wheelchairs.

Accessible destinations – individual travel with DB

Mobility Service Centre: 0180 6 512 512*
The competent partner for barrier-free travel.



Discover the fully accessible sea around Rheinsberg where the catamaran 'Wotan' can be hired for week-long cruises. The similarly-equipped boat 'Tristan' is available for day trips. The **Rolly Tours** company offers training courses for obtaining a domestic speedboat licence.

Explore these barrier-free travel destinations and indulge in vacations on the waterside at www.germany.travel/bf-water

- **WARNEMÜNDE BEACH OASIS** is a barrier-free resort on the Baltic Sea coast with beach wheelchairs, wicker beach chairs on wheelchair-friendly platforms that can be reserved, a beach restaurant, beauty and fitness facilities and physiotherapy services.
- Excursions or boat trips through the **MIDDLE RHINE VALLEY UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE** — which includes the fabled Loreley valley — offer a comfortable alternative to travelling by car and are suitable for visitors with limited mobility as well.
- A healthy North Sea climate, sweeping sand beaches and unspoiled nature with fabulous medicinal cures — all this can be found on **SYLT ISLAND** all year round.
- The fine sands of the kilometre-long Nordstrand beach with barrier-free entrance, a maritime ambience and great transport connections — all these have made **LAKE COSPUDEN** the star attraction of Leipzig's Neuseenland.
- **DOBBERTIN CANOE STATION** at the abbey of the same name forms the starting point for kayaking tours for groups with up to 40 wheelchair users. The tours lead through the Nossentiner/Schwinzer heathlands and the Sternberg lakes.



Deutsche Bahn's Mobility Service Centre provides comprehensive services and special offers for passengers with disabilities. The "Barrier-free Destinations in Germany" association also caters for the particular needs of guests with reduced mobility (www.barrierefreie-reiseziele.de).

Together, they have created individual accessibility packages that meet the wishes and requirements of holidaymakers with limited mobility, offering them convenient options for travelling to and from their destination, onward travel, accommodation and tourist activities. For up-to-date information, go to www.bahn.de/reiseziele-barrierefrei

Get in, relax.

* 20 cents per call from a German landline, max. 60 cents per call from a German mobile network



Hospitality without limits.

In Germany, there is a wide selection of accommodation available to suit everybody's needs. These range from luxury five-star hotels with exceptional service to family-run guest houses, from extravagantly-designed hotels to rustic country inns, from youth hostels to simple holidays on a farm.

Many places offer guests comfortable and convenient access with level entrances and elevators. Most hotel chains also have special rooms available with wheelchair access. Some sites offer Braille signage to allow for better orientation for travellers with visual impairments.

In addition to excellent practical support, it is primarily the atmosphere that makes the stay so memorable for guests. Many hosts train their staff to meet the different needs of their guests; some hotels are geared to be all-inclusive while others develop complete offers for families with small children or provide holidays for family caregivers. Hospitality without limits does not end at the hotel door, but often also extends to assistance with directions or a variety of recreational activities in the area.

All sites offer: a competent and friendly service team that strives to meet the needs and requirements of each guest.

www.germany.travel/accommodation





In 1878, King Ludwig II began building the 'Bavarian Versailles' — **Herrenchiemsee Palace** showed the monarch's admiration of King Louis XIV of France. The palace can be reached by a wheelchair-friendly boat trip across Lake Chiemsee. The museums in the New Palace and the Augustine canon seminary are particularly recommended.

Simply magical.

Defiant medieval fortresses, baroque castles with sweeping gardens, strictly classical ensembles or romantic quotations from various periods; Germany's cultural legacy is defined by the symbiosis of nature, architecture and countryside — our duty is to open up this legacy to as many travellers as possible. www.germany.travel/bf-ppag



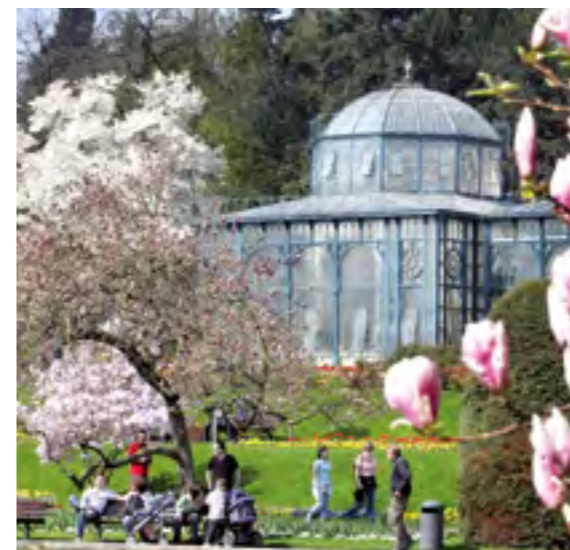
In the 18th century, the baroque **Schönhausen Castle in Berlin** was the summer residence of Queen Elisabeth Christine, consort of Frederick the Great, and later became the seat of the East German President. Audio guides are available in plain language and for partially sighted visitors, as well as video guides in sign language.



Of the around 1,000 Saxon castles that are open to public view, **Königstein Fortress** is probably the most accessible site. A special map helps wheelchair users get around, while a tactile model enables partially sighted visitors to feel their way around the fortress.



Recently extensively restored, **Hambach Castle** — a cradle of German democracy since the Hambach Festival — sits in splendour high above oceans of vines. The castle's exhibition is well worth viewing, as are the majestic views over the Rhineland Plain. Guided tours are available for visitors with learning difficulties.



Wilhelma Gardens in the City of Stuttgart encompasses both the Wilhelm I Royal Park containing historical buildings — once the King's private retreat — as well as a modern zoological botanical garden. A free map aids orientation and provides details of the barrier-free circular tour.



The **Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz** is a UNESCO World Heritage site that fuses cultural enjoyment with striking natural beauty. Visitors to the castles and car parks can make use of a route plan showing a 'traffic light system' of obstacles and barriers.

Frederick the Great sketched the designs for **Sanssouci Palace and Park** (and its famous garden terrace) himself — so he could take his strolls there. The New Palace and picture gallery were built later. At the top of the castle, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, lies the sepulchre of Frederick II.





The historically preserved **egapark in Erfurt** captivates visitors with the lush diversity of its plants across a vast area. The scent, sound and touch garden, large play area and children's farm, plant show homes and many restaurants and cafés are a hit with young and old alike.



Horticultural centre (Park der Gärten) in **Bad Zwischenahn** is Germany's largest model garden and a cosmopolitan, interactive forum for garden and nature lovers of all ages. A small scent arena, a fragrance organ, scented plants, a touch garden with information in Braille, a barefoot path and a sound island guarantee an adventure for all the senses.



With its open lawns, widespread footpaths, extensive landscaping and many wooded groves from other regions of the world, **Knoops Park** in the City of Bremen is a treasure trove of natural diversity. The Garden of the Blind is a particular highlight; tactile panels within provide information about the garden's design and its various plants.

Explore these barrier-free travel destinations with palaces, parks and gardens at www.germany.travel/bf-ppag

- As crown prince, Frederick the Great had a court of the muses built in Rheinsberg. Amid the picturesque setting of Lake Grienerick, the tradition of music, opera and theatre performances at **RHEINSBERG PALACE** has been kept alive up to the present day.
- Together with the adjoining municipal woods, the **BÜRGERPARK** in the City of Bremen covers an area of 202 hectares and is one of Germany's best maintained country parks.
- One of the foremost creations of romantic historicism in Europe, **SCHWERIN CASTLE** lies in a picturesque lake and park setting. Leading architects of the 19th century contributed designs to the castle.
- Since the 17th century, **HUSUM PALACE** has been a place of high culture, concerts, presentations and performances. Four special exhibitions each year showcase contemporary artworks from across Schleswig-Holstein.
- For over 350 years, the **BAROQUE GOTHA UNIVERSUM, TOGETHER WITH FRIEDENSTEIN PALACE AND THE DUCAL MUSEUM**, has united the art collections of the Dukes of Gotha, the Museum of Nature, the Historical Museum and the Ekhof Theatre — the world's oldest baroque theatre.
- The sole baroque palace of the prince-bishops on the Upper Rhine, **BRUCHSAL PALACE** is most famous for the 'King of all Baroque Staircases', created by Master Builder Balthasar Neumann.
- Special tours tailored to the individual requirements of blind visitors and wheelchair users around the reconstructed **ROMAN FORT AT SAALBURG** provide a fascinating insight into the border fort's history and everyday life in the Roman Empire.
- The collection of historically preserved buildings that captivate visitors to Mecklenburg's **LUDWIGSLUST PALACE** includes the Prince's Palace, the Palace Park, the Palace Church, the Orangery and the Fountain House — as well as the entire historical town centre.
- In Landau in the Palatinate, a former barracks complex containing historical buildings lends the **REGIONAL GARDEN SHOW 2015** a distinctive character. Visitors can enjoy beautiful flowerings and magical colours across a largely barrier-free 27-hectare area.



ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAYS IN SAXONY



Detailed and reliable descriptions of individual offers provide trust in the journey and pleasure during the holiday. The free brochure "Sachsen Barrierefrei" (Barrier-free Saxony) presents 92 accessible accommodations and 379 accessible cultural and leisure facilities in every Saxon holiday region and in the metropolises Dresden, Leipzig and Chemnitz. The focus lies on touristic destinations, especially in the sector of art and culture. All offers can also be found in the online database at www.visitsaxony.com.



Contact

Tourism Marketing Company of Saxony
 Bautzner Strasse 45-47 · 01099 Dresden · Germany
 Phone: +49 (0)351-491700 · info@sachsen-tour.de
www.visitsaxony.com

SAXONY. STATE OF THE ARTS.

Useful barrier-free information.

Many German organisations, authorities and companies endeavour to make travelling into and within Germany as accessible and barrier-free as possible. Before starting your journey, please find out who can best support you with your individual requirements.

■ BARRIER-FREE DESTINATIONS IN GERMANY

This working group comprises a network of towns and tourist regions committed to developing accessible tourism in Germany through the continual development of travel offers for visitors with limited mobility, hearing and visual impairments and learning difficulties. The group's central communication hub is the internet portal: www.barrier-free-germany.com

■ ALLERGY-FRIENDLY COMMUNES

Some German spa resorts are designated allergy-friendly, meaning accommodation facilities, restaurants, grocery shops, bakeries and other retail businesses meet the criteria for allergy-friendliness. Allergy sufferers and their travel companions can therefore depend on finding verified allergy-friendly offerings at these resorts, such as guaranteed pet-free rooms or the absence of strong scents or allergenic plants. Baabe on the island of Rügen, the North Sea island of Borkum, the Schmallenberg Sauerland, the Black Forest holiday region and Bad Hindelang in the Allgäu – all are certified allergy-friendly communes: www.deutscher-heilbaederverband.de

■ CAR TROUBLE

Various motoring organisations across Germany offer breakdown recovery services; the biggest of which are the German Automobile Association (ADAC), AvD and ACE.

■ TRAVEL COMPANIONS / CONCESSIONS

Companions and carers can enter free of charge at most events and attractions throughout Germany – always enquire about available concessions when making reservations and buying or ordering tickets. German citizens with disabilities are provided with a special document giving details of their disability; should you possess a similar document, it is recommended to bring it with you.

■ DEUTSCHE BAHN (GERMAN RAIL)

Deutsche Bahn (DB) is a leader throughout Europe in barrier-free travel. As a first port of call, the central office of DB's mobility service (MSZ) provides information about relevant services and offerings: www.bahn.de/accessible

■ ELECTRICAL CHARGERS / AIDS / THERAPEUTIC EQUIPMENT

The German electricity system works at 220 volts; type F ('grounding-type') plugs are standard, while type C 'europlugs' are common for devices with protective insulation and low power requirements. Most hotel bathrooms contain shaver points that can accept British and American plugs – please remember to bring any necessary adapters or mains power supply units with you.

■ AIRLINES

Many airlines cater for passengers with limited mobility and offer individually tailored services. For example, German airline Lufthansa provides answers to key questions concerning barrier-free travel online and via the special phone number 0800 8384267 (toll-free from German landlines). Air Berlin also offers services ranging from the free accompaniment of care-dependent passengers at the airport to the transportation of medical equipment. Should you require support, always contact your airline prior to starting your journey: www.lufthansa.com/Travelers-with-special-needs www.airberlin.com

■ FOOTBALL

Football is Germany's number one sport. Advice on barrier-free access to Germany's stadiums can be found in the Bundesliga's travel guide for disabled people at www.barrierefrei-ins-stadion.de

■ HEARING AIDS

For problems with hearing aids, a hearing aid acoustician can be of help – you'll find one in nearly every German town.

■ ILLNESS

Germany possesses an outstanding network of specialist doctors and hospitals. When contacting medical staff, please always explain your disability.

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on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag



www.germany.travel



Inspiring Traditions

Dance with folks dressed in full traditional garb, marvel at masterfully made handicrafts or sample melt-in-your-mouth regional specialties: century-old traditions are alive and well in Germany, their charms just as magical today as they were in the old days. **Discover them on a tour at www.germany.travel/tradition Join in on the fun at #JoinGermanTradition**



INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

■ FOOD ALLERGIES

In Germany, most foods and restaurant menus carry appropriate allergy warnings; if unsure, staff members are always happy to answer any questions.

■ MEDICINES

Medicines are only available at pharmacies in Germany, which are to be found in every town. For emergencies, there is also a 24-hour emergency dispensing service: www.aponet.de

■ EMERGENCY SERVICES

112 is the phone number for emergency assistance in Germany. When calling, please always explain your disability.

■ CAR PARKS

Across Germany, disabled parking spaces (designated by a picture of a wheelchair) are usually free of charge. When using them, ensure you display the blue EU parking permit or similar document visibly inside the vehicle. In the event of difficulties, the local police will be glad to assist you.

■ WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS / MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REPAIRS

Most repairs can be carried out quickly by healthcare specialists. Replacement parts, if needed, are usually obtained quickly; however for minor repairs (flat tyres, missing screws), bicycle shops can often help.

■ VISUAL AIDS

For the replacement or repair of visual aids, an optician can be found in nearly every German town.

■ CONFERENCES

The national coordination agency 'Koordinationsstelle Tourismus für Alle e.V.' holds a list of accessible conference facilities in Germany at www.natko.de (under the menu option 'Projects 2012').

■ TOILET KEYS

The Euro key gives physically disabled people independent use of many public toilet facilities, free of charge. The Euro Key can be obtained at the cost-price of 20 euros from CBF (Club for Disabled people and their Friends) in Darmstadt upon presentation of proof of disability. www.cbf-da.de

■ TRANSPORT AND LUGGAGE

To request luggage transport please enquire ahead of time with your travel company (plane / train / bus). They will give you details of the support available before, during and after your journey. Please note that many operators have special rules regarding battery-powered aids.

■ COMMUNICATION

In Germany, German is principally spoken. However, in almost every situation English will also be understood.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE WEBSITES OF THE INDIVIDUAL GERMAN FEDERAL STATES

- Baden-Württemberg
www.tourism-bw.com
- Bavaria
www.bavaria.by/accessible-tourism
- Berlin
www.visitberlin.com
- Brandenburg
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