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Everyday life

Advice service for new immigrants

The following PDF provides you with an overview of the counseling centers and services for new immigrants in Herne:

[Übersicht Beratungsangebote in Herne NEU.pdf](#)

Case Management KIM

„Kommunales Integrationsmanagement (KIM)“ is a program to promote the integration of people with a migration background.

The program is funded by the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration.

Goals:

- Improving migrants' access to education and work as well as to urban society
- Improving prevention work in the area of integration

The consultants (case managers) work with you to develop perspectives for your life in Herne.

The offer is voluntary and near you.

Locations:

District Herne-Sodingen:


AWO Ruhr-Mitte (www.awo-ruhr-mitte.de)

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Caritasverband Herne e.V. (www.caritas-herne.de)

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📍 **District Herne-Eickel:**

DRK Kreisverband Herne and Wanne-Eickel e.V. (www.drk-herne.de)

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📅 Monday - Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Thursday 08:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

📍 **District Herne-Wanne:**

PLANB Ruhr e.V. (www.planb-ruhr.de)

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Mobility

Bus, tram and train



Herne has many types of public transport that operate throughout the city. They include buses, trams, underground trains, an urban rail network and intercity trains.

Please remember at all times that you must buy a valid ticket and have it on you when you travel.

If you intend to travel by bus and rail regularly, you can save money by buying monthly tickets instead of individual tickets. People on low incomes and those who receive state benefit can purchase a discounted welfare ticket in Herne. You can obtain your authorisation here:

- **Social Services**, 📍 Hauptstraße 241, 44649 Herne, 🕒 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-12 p.m

or if you make use of Job Centre services, here:

- **Integration Point**,  Heidstraße 2, 44649 Herne,  Monday to Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.

With your authorisation, you can then visit one of the customer centres and buy a ticket every month. You can find the addresses of the customer centres [here](#).

Please note that you have to pay for the welfare ticket yourself, as it is already discounted.

Plus, also note that the welfare ticket is valid throughout the urban region of Herne. So if you wish to travel to a neighbouring city, you have to buy an additional ticket.

Bicycle

In the long term, buying a bicycle is much cheaper compared to the use of public transport. Used bikes can be purchased cheaply, for example on online portals such as “[Ebay small ads](#)” or “[dealmywheel](#)”.

Important traffic regulations for cyclists:

- Always cycle on the right side of the road
- Do not cycle side by side, but one behind the other
- If available, bicycle lanes must be used (also on the right side of the road in the direction of travel)
- Only children up to 11 years old are allowed to cycle on footpaths
- Be careful not to get your tires caught in the tram rails

When making a purchase, make sure that your bicycle has the following equipment and is thus roadworthy, otherwise you may be subject to fines in the event of an inspection by the police:

- Lights at the front and rear
- Reflectors at the front and rear
- Reflectors on the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- A bell
- Two independent brakes

Housing

Living in an apartment

1. Information for those using Job Centre services

As soon as you have obtained a residence permit, you can move out of the communal accommodation. For that, you will need to find your own place to live. There are restrictions if the Integration Point is paying for your accommodation. The accommodation may not exceed a certain size and must not be too expensive.

Once you have found somewhere to live, you should conclude a written lease. You should not sign the lease immediately. The Job Centre always has to check and approve the agreement before you sign it. It is essential that the Jobcenter checks and approves the rental contract before it is signed. Before you start looking for an apartment, find out from the Social Office or the Job Center which requirements you must fulfill.

2. General information

The **rental contract** must include the following points:

- "Cold" monthly rent: The rental costs for the living space per month, including running costs
- "Warm" rent: "Cold" rent plus service and utility costs
- Service and utility costs: These include the costs for your share of the ground rent, the costs for the water supply and heating, together with other operating costs such as cleaning of the stairwells, refuse collection charges, caretaker costs and cable connection (note: electricity bills have to be paid by yourself).
- Size of apartment, number of rooms, address, landlord or landlady

Once you have found somewhere to live, you should sign a written rental contract.

 **Please remember to notify the following institutions of your change of address:**

- Integration Point/Job Centre (if you receive money from the Job Centre)
- Citizens' Centre
- Immigration Office
- Your bank and insurance company, if you have one
- Health insurance
- If you have children: school and kindergarten

Apartment search:

You can look for apartments on the following sites, for example:

- [ImmobilienScout24](#)
- [Immonet](#)
- [Immobilien Welt](#)
- [Ebay small ads](#)
- [WG-Gesucht](#): Here, in addition to apartment offers, there is also the possibility to search for a room in a shared apartment (WG). In a shared apartment, several people live together. Each person usually has their own room, while areas such as the kitchen and bathroom are shared.

But rental offers are also published in **newspapers**:

- Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ): The Saturday edition contains many rental offers
- Wochenspiegel: Free newspaper in Herne that comes out on Wednesdays and Saturdays and also includes rental offers

Alternatively, [housing companies](#) also have a large stock of apartments in Herne. Offers can also be accessed online.

Explanation of important abbreviations used in German apartment advertisements:

- Whg. = "Wohnung", apartment
- App. = apartment
- WG = "Wohngemeinschaft", shared apartment
- Zi. = "Zimmer", room
- ZM = "Zwischenmiete", intermediate rent
- ZKB = "Zimmer-Küche-Bad", room-kitchen- bathroom
- EG = "Erdgeschoss", ground floor
- 1. OG = "1. Obergeschoss", first floor
- Wohnfl. = "Wohnfläche", living area
- EBK = "Einbauküche", fitted kitchen
- teilmbf. = "teilmöbliert", partly furnished
- inkl. = "inklusive", including
- MM = "Miete pro Monat", monthly rent
- NK = "Nebenkosten", additional costs
- HK = "Heizkosten", heating costs
- Kaut. = "Kaution", deposit

Electricity and water supply:

Usually, the landlord or landlady is not responsible for the electricity and gas supply. For this you have to conclude a contract with an electricity/gas supplier yourself. To do so, you should contact an electricity supplier with the number of your electricity meter and the current meter reading.

💡 Please note:

- If you do not know which electricity meter belongs to your accommodation, ask your landlord/landlady or the previous tenant.
- If you do not know which number on the meter is the device number, take a photo of your meter and ask for advice on the spot.
- Contacts for electricity and water supply: [Customer Centre Herne Municipal Services](#)
- You can also choose an electricity supplier other than Municipal Services. You will find comparison sites on the internet.

Quiet times, house rules and waste

People from a wide variety of countries live together in Herne. And where large numbers of people live together, it is particularly important for every individual to show consideration for others. Therefore, there are certain rules and obligations that make living together easier:

Quiet times

Everyone needs peace and quiet. Comply with the mandatory “quiet hours” between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. During this time, you are not permitted to carry out any noisy work, for example, and music should be played at room volume.

House rules

There are usually house rules for apartment buildings. These regulate, for example, the cleaning of the hallway, attic or cellar. Find out when you are responsible for the cleaning.

Please do not leave objects in the hallways or stairwells. This disturbs the neighbors, obstructs the passage, and, in the worst case, can cause injury.

Do not store any highly flammable substances like gas or petrol in storage rooms or basements. Never light fires in enclosed spaces to ensure that no one comes to harm!

In the event of defects and leaks in water and gas pipes, inform your landlord or landlady immediately, as he or she must repair the damage. If you have questions about tenancy law, tenants' associations, for example, are good contacts. However, in some cases they may charge for their advice.

Waste

Household waste is collected regularly by the municipal waste collection service. Throw your garbage only into the designated garbage bins. Do not leave your garbage open or loose in other places, for example at the roadside, in the courtyard or the hallway. Also, please make sure that you do not continue to fill garbage containers that are already full. If the containers are full, please call your landlord or landlady. Overfilled garbage containers cans where the lid does not close properly will not be emptied. Also, garbage that is placed next to the containers will not be taken!

You can find your waste collection day [here](#).

Shopping

In Germany, you can buy food for your daily needs in discounters and supermarkets. Discounters are usually somewhat cheaper. Supermarkets may be a little more expensive, but often have a wider range of products. Food from special countries or regions of the world can be found in a well-stocked supermarket or in smaller stores in the district. In drugstores you can hardly find any food, but various things for the bathroom and household. Most supermarkets open between 7:00 am and 8:00 am and close between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Smaller stores in the city center are usually open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. On Sundays and holidays, the stores are closed.

The best places to get affordable consumer goods for daily life are “Kleiderkammer” (clothing stores) and “Sozialkaufhäuser” (social department stores). Here you can buy clothing, tableware, furniture and electrical devices. Please bring your ID as proof of identity. There are also numerous second-hand shops.

Where to go:

- [Clothing store \("Kleiderladen"\)](#), Herne: 📍 Schulstraße 16 and Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Friedgrasstraße 16d (clothing, textiles)

- [Brockenhaus 1](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Corneliusstraße 19 (furniture and household goods)
- [Brockenhaus 2](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Hauptstraße 295 (furniture and household goods)
- [Möbelhof Wanne-Eickel](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Friedgrasstraße 16d (furniture and household goods)
- [Social department store "Kauf.net"](#), Herne: 📍 Westring 123 (clothing, furniture and household goods)

Post



Source: Post

If you want to send letters or parcels in Germany, a stamp is required to cover the postage. Stamps are available at every post office or in many newsagents and kiosks, which are marked with the official postal logo. Further information can be found on the [Deutsche Post](#) website.

Sport and leisure

1. Sports

Sports facilities in Herne include:

- Swimming pools: There are three swimming pools in Herne: Lago, Wananas and Südpool. You can find more information, prices and opening times [here](#).
- [Sports centres](#): These are public and open to everyone. There is a charge for some facilities, such as mini golf and tennis. You can see which sports centres are in your area [here](#).
- [Running and walking routes](#): Herne municipal council provides an online [running and walking](#) map.
- Ice skating: there is an opportunity to go ice-skating in autumn and winter in the [Hannibal Arena Herne](#). You will find further information about opening times and prices [here](#).

You will find an overview of current sporting events and regular sports courses in Herne [here](#).

For questions about sports clubs, contact the sports club or sports association directly:

Sports Association, 📍 Bahnhofstr. 143, 44623 Herne,



[02323 53693](tel:02323 53693),



hernebewegt@ssb-herne.de

You can also search for specific sports clubs and facilities on the [homepage of the sports association](#). The way in which club sports work in Herne is explained [here](#).

2. Leisure activities

General leisure facilities in Herne:

- [Parks, green spaces and woodland](#)
- [Revierpark Gysenberg](#): Here you can take part in various leisure activities, such as beach volleyball, basketball, football, mini golf and climbing. There are also playgrounds, a zoo, a children's railway and much more,
- Leisure facilities from other providers, e.g. the [GFI](#) and [Plan B](#).
- Playgrounds: These are open to everyone. You will find an overview of the playgrounds in Herne [here](#).

General information about leisure options are available [here](#). An overview of the services for all age groups in Herne can be found on the [Herne event calendar](#).

Supervised children's and young people's facilities with numerous leisure activities for those between the ages of 6 and 26:

- Municipal children's and young people's facilities: information about the individual facilities can be found [here](#).
- Leisure centres:
 - Wanne: [Pub à la Pub](#) and [HOT-Juengerbistro](#)
 - Herne centre: [CVJM-Haus](#) and [Lighthouse](#)
 - Baukau: [Sportjugendhaus](#)
 - Horsthausen: [Begegnungsstätte](#)

If you have any questions about leisure facilities for children and young people, you can consult the facility itself or the [Stadtjugendring](#):

Stadtjugendring, 📍 Von-der-Heydt-Straße 26, 44629 Herne,



[02323 988850](tel:02323 988850),



info@stadtjugendring-herne.de

Cultural facilities

There is a wide range of cultural facilities in Herne. These include:

Museums and exhibitions

- [Emschertal Museum](#) (Wasserschloss Strünkede, the town gallery and the local history museum in Wanne-Eickel)
- [Museum of Archaeology](#) (Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Archäologie)

Music, dance and theatre to watch and take part in

- Gospelsprojekt-Ruhr (support for singing, dance and sport)
- [theaterkohlenpott](#) (performances, young people's clubs, workshops for young people aged 10-23)
- [pottporus](#) (street dance, HipHop dance, film, photography, graffiti, videographics, poster art)
- [Circus Schnick-Schnack](#) (circus with participation)
- [Rock Büro](#) (concerts, events, workshops)

Cultural locations offering various events

- [Flottmann-Hallen Herne](#) (theatre, dance, cabaret and shows, music and exhibitions)
- [Künstlerzeche Unser Fritz](#) (exhibitions and events)
- [Kulturbrauerei Hülsmann](#) (concerts and cabaret)
- [Herne Cultural Centre](#) (theatre, concerts, comedy, among other things)
- [Literaturhaus-Herne Ruhr](#) (readings and concerts)

Cultural services

- [Municipal library](#) Herne Centre and Wanne-Eickel (loan of books and media in many languages, meeting place for study and sharing experiences)
- [Music school](#) (opportunity to learn various instruments, also to join bands, orchestras and choirs)
- [Culture for kids](#) (courses for children and young people, some free of charge)
- [Youth art school](#) (courses and projects in the fields of music, dance, theatre, the visual arts, media art)

Open meetings

- [Sternstunde - Rom-Café](#) Wanne-Eickel (Tuesdays from 10-12h)

The [Herne event calendar](#) also provides an overview of current cultural and leisure services. There is more information here, too:

- **Herne Municipal Council Marketing**, 📍 Kirchhofstr. 5, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 919050](tel:02323 919050)
- **Herne Cultural Centre**, 📍 Willi-Pohlmann-Platz 1, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 161641](tel:02323 161641)

Voluntary work

Volunteering is a commitment to do good for others. It is done voluntarily and no money is paid. Volunteers are also active in helping refugees. Refugees can also volunteer.

Volunteering is a good opportunity for you to learn German, practice language skills, participate in everyday life, take responsibility and make new contacts. What you learn can help you when looking for a job. Write in your application where you are volunteering.

In Herne, there are already refugees who do volunteer work, for example at the Technical Help Organization [Herne](#) and [Wanne-Eickel](#) (THW), [German Red Cross](#) (DRK) Herne and Wanne-Eickel e.V. and the [Herner Tafel e.V.](#)

Volunteers with a refugee background receive support in their volunteer work and can also take part in training courses.

If you are interested:

Volunteer Office, ☎ [02323 162924](tel:02323 162924), @ehrenamt@herne.de

Link to the homepage of the [volunteer office](#)