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Everyday life and Leisure Activities

Are you new in Germany?! Moving to a foreign country brings with it a lot of questions and a lot of work. Everyday life or some German ways of life must be foreign to many refugees and migrants. To make it little easier to get around in your everyday life, here are a few practical tips.

Mobility / transport

All relevant places in [Stadt] and the surrounding areas can be easily reached by public transport ([verfügbare Verkehrsmittel in der Stadt, Bus, U Bahn etc.]). A healthy, economical and environmentally friendly alternative to getting from A to B is by bicycle.

Public transport

Bus

The bus is available to everyone. You need a valid ticket for every journey. Travelling without a ticket (fare dodging) is punished and you will have to pay a fine (minimum € 60.00). You buy your bus ticket directly from the bus driver. Have small change and coins ready.

The timetable for  [buses in the district and town of Bad Kissingen](#)

Information about  [bus connections](#)

Fare:


The district of Bad Kissingen is divided into so-called honeycombs. You can use this to determine your journey and the fare yourself.



""Fare information

Offer for school pupils and trainees: (""Flyer)

All pupils, vocational school students or trainees who use the bus to get to school (weekly or monthly ticket). Also pupils travelling on the exempted school transport service. Pupils can travel as often as they like on all public buses in the district of Bad Kissingen. The student ticket is only valid on presentation of the student's authorisation card. The student card cannot be passed on to other students.

Further information can be found at  [""here](#)

Multilingual information on the use of public transport can be found at  [""here](#)

The leisure buses in the district of Bad Kissingen

Operate from May to October (sometimes all year round).

They run at weekends and on public holidays (sometimes also during the week).

You can take the leisure buses to the highlights of the Bad Kissingen district. You need a valid ticket for the journeys, which you can buy from the bus driver.

"Bäderlandbus"

The Bäderlandbus takes you through the Bavarian Rhön spa region, between Bad Brückenau and Bad Königshofen. I

"Saale valley bus"

The Saale valley bus takes you to the most beautiful places and highlights between Hammelburg and Bad Kissingen.

"Sinntalbus"

The Sinntalbus connects the villages of the Sinntal with the Kreuzberg.

"Kreuzberg shuttle"

The Kreuzberg shuttle takes you to the most beautiful places and highlights between Diebach and Hammelburg, right up to the Kreuzberg.

Railway

There are two railway lines in the district of Bad Kissingen. Route **803** from Gemünden via Bad Kissingen and Ebenhausen to Schweinfurt. Route **815** from Meiningen/Grimmenthal via Ebenhausen to Schweinfurt.

Information on fares and tickets can be found on the following pages:

 [\(BEG\) Bayerische Eisenbahngesellschaft mbH](#)

 [Deutsche Bahn AG](#)

 [Erfurter Bahn GmbH](#)

Mobility App "WOHIN DU WILLST"

With the mobility app "Wohin-Du-Willst" you can find all transport connections in the district of Bad Kissingen quickly and easily. The app helps you to digitally plan your personal travel route in the district. Bus and train connections to other regions can also be easily displayed. You can book rides via an interface to Blablacar. In "Wohin-Du-Willst" you are also shown the fares and can book call buses.

You will also find information on fares and on the citizens' buses.

The app is free of charge. You can choose between nine different languages. After installation, select "Landkreis Bad Kissingen" as the region and off you go.

>>Here you can get to the app.

Bicycles

Buying a bicycle makes sense for traveling shorter distances and also as a leisure activity.

Traffic regulations must be respected, as otherwise the police can impose a fine. In addition, the bicycle must be safe and roadworthy.

Important road rules for cyclists (excerpt):

- Always cycle on the right-hand side of the road
- Do not cycle side by side, but one behind the other
- If there is a cycle path, you must ride along the cycle path (only 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
- It is forbidden to cycle while using a mobile phone.

More information for cyclists

[»»German](#)

[»»English](#)

[»»Arabic](#)

[»»Farsi](#)

[»»Russian](#)

You can find the **basic traffic rules** in this brochure (German, English and Arabic):

[»»Travelling in Germany - what do I need to look out for?](#)

Bicycle repair workshop

Flat tyre? Broken brakes?

You can repair your own bicycle and make it roadworthy again under the supervision of an expert.

“Tinkering with our bikes together brings us together as friends”

Every 2 weeks, on Wednesday, from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM at JuKuZ (blue room)

You can get more information here:

Mehrgenerationenhaus

Von-Hessing-Straße 1

97688 Bad Kissingen

Tel.: 0971 / 699 33 81

Housing


Housing benefits

If you and the people you live with in the household don't make a lot of money, you can get a subsidised property. You need an accommodation entitlement certificate to be eligible for this. Under certain conditions, you are also entitled to housing benefits. If you get money from the state for yourself and your family, you usually do not have to apply for a housing allowance.


[Einfügen: Adresse, Link zum Sozialamt oder ähnlichem, Wohnungsvermittlungen, andere Hilfen zum Thema Wohnen in der Region]

House hunting

Sometimes it takes a few months to find a suitable flat. It is important to be patient when looking for a flat.

You can get **support** in your search for accommodation from the  "[Integrationslotsin](#)".

Contact and appointments:

 Caritasverband für den Landkreis Bad Kissingen e.V.
Hartmannstr. 2a
97688 Bad Kissingen

 [+49 \(0\) 9717246300](tel:+49(0)9717246300)

 [@integrationslotsin@caritas-kissingen.de](mailto:integrationslotsin@caritas-kissingen.de)

You can search for flats, for example, in the regional newspaper or at the following addresses:

 [Saale Zeitung](#)



[Immobilienscout24](#)



[Immowelt](#)



[ebay classifieds](#)

Important abbreviations in an advert

Whg. = flat

WG = shared flat

App. = Apartment

Zi. = room

ZKB = room-kitchen-bathroom

EBK = Fitted kitchen

KM = basic rent

incl. = inclusive

NK = additional costs

Deposit = deposit

Moving into your own home

As soon as you have a residence permit, you are usually obliged to move out of your community accommodation/decentralised accommodation. You need to pay a fee for further accommodation.

You will need to find your own place to live. If you don't have a job and thus aren't earning money, the [»»Job Centre](#) will pay your rent. But it will only do this if you need help paying your rent and the rent is no higher than a predefined amount.

Important: Once you have found an apartment, and are receiving benefits from the Job Centre, you must not sign the lease immediately. **The Job Centre must check and approve the lease before you sign it.**

The tenancy agreement must include the following points:

- "Cold" monthly rent: The rental costs for the living space per month, excluding service and utility costs such as heating
- Additional costs: this includes operating costs like stairwell cleaning, waste collection charges, janitorial costs, cable connection, etc.
- Heating costs: Costs for heating and hot water

(Please note: you always have to pay electricity and heating costs yourself! For this reason, pay particular attention to how much electricity/heat you consume.)

- Size of apartment, number of rooms, address, landlord

Many landlords also require [»»personal liability insurance](#).

Please remember to re-register – in other words, you need to register your new address (in person) at the Residents' Registration Office (Einwohneramt).

Security deposit

The deposit is a security payment for the landlord. The amount for the deposit is a maximum of 3 months' rent. When you move out of the property, you get the money back.

Qualifying as a renter

Volunteer Coordination offers courses on "Qualifying as a renter – Ready for your own apartment" for refugees. In this course, you will learn about your rights and duties as a renter, as well as gain skills in communicating with landlords independently and applying for a flat.

More information is available from [»»Volunteer Coordination \(Ehrenamtskoordination\)](#).

House regulations

House regulations list specific rules about living together with others. They apply to anyone who lives in communal accommodation or in a flat.

The most important ones are:

- **Noise:** Everyone living in the building is responsible for keeping noise levels low as much as possible. You need to be particularly attentive to this between 1:00 and 3:00 PM and between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM – these are the “quiet hours” (Ruhezeit). On Sundays and public holidays, quiet hours last the entire day.

Waste disposal: Waste must be disposed of in the designated bin. There are different bins for plastic, paper and cardboard, fruit and vegetables (organic waste) and other waste. Please adhere to the waste separation rules, because the majority of rubbish is recycled and this is important for protecting the environment.

You can find a multilingual overview of which types of waste belong in which bins in the [»»Recycling](#) flyer.

- **Ventilation:** You should open the windows frequently to let in fresh air. This prevents mould from forming, for example.

Private personal liability insurance

The most important insurance for you and your family is a private personal liability insurance. You will need this from the beginning in Germany!

In principle, you must pay for any damage you cause in Germany. This may be minor damage such as, for example, if you scratch a parked car with a bicycle or if your child breaks a window when throwing a ball. However, it also includes damage that is so severe (for example, if you are responsible for causing an accident that injures people) that you have to pay money for the rest of your life.

A private personal liability insurance is used in these instances and pays for any damages. There are insurance policies that can cover your whole family.

If you have caused damages, you must report it within one week of your insurance.

You can find **more information** here

[»»German](#)

[»»English](#)

[»»Arabic](#)

[»»Dari and Farsi](#)



Taxes and tax returns

You must pay tax on your income in Germany. If you are employed, you will receive the net amount of your salary from your employer. This means that your taxes have already been

deducted. If you are self-employed, you must pay tax on your income yourself.

Tax identification number

The **tax ID is an 11-digit number** and is used for income tax purposes. The place of work requires this number. If you do not have this number in your documents, you can ask for it in person at the registration office or in writing at the Federal Tax Office.

Do you need help with your tax return? It is best to contact your [local income tax association at](#) . If you have any further questions, the [tax office](#)  can also help you.

Current account

A current account is an account for people who want to make payments via the bank. Your money is available in your current account at all times.

With a current account you can:

- Make transfers
- Receive cashless payments (payments from public offices / authorities (social benefits) are often made cashless, i.e. transferred to a personal current account)
- Set up standing orders
- Participate in direct debit procedures
- Cashing cheques, making cashless payments with the EC / Maestro card
- Withdraw cash at bank counters or ATMs
- Print out your account statements

Important: Make sure that you have enough money in your account for all withdrawals and payments.

Tip: Different banks offer current accounts with different conditions. Find out exactly how much a current account costs each month and what services the bank offers in return.

Opening an account:

Decide which bank you would like to have an account with. Make an appointment to open an account. Please bring one of your identification documents with you: Proof of arrival, residence permit, identity card. If no current address is noted on the identification document, please also bring a registration certificate or a comparable document.

Important: If you do not speak German or English, please bring an interpreter with you.

Important information:

- After opening the account, you will receive an EC card with a four-digit PIN code. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise the PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and for withdrawing money from ATMs. **Be sure to keep your card and PIN code separate!**

- If you want to withdraw cash, it is best to use the ATMs of the bank where you have your account. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the debit card will be cancelled and blocked. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- If your debit card is lost or stolen, have it blocked immediately. State your sort code and account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card.
Telephone number: 116 116 (around the clock)

Further information about your current account

[""German](#)

[""German](#)

[""English](#)

[""English](#)

[""Ukrainian](#)

Telephone and Internet

Mobile phone

Mobile phone:

There are basically two different mobile phone contracts in Germany: Prepaid contract and fixed-term contract (fixed contract).

- **Prepaid contract:**

With a prepaid contract, there is no fixed contract term. There are no regular monthly costs. You decide for yourself when you load new credit onto your mobile phone.

- **Fixed-term contract:**

A fixed-term contract has a minimum contract term. This is usually 12 or 24 months. The contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel it on time. With a contract, you receive certain services for a total monthly amount. So pay close attention to the content of the contract when you sign it! Contracts are binding. If you are not sure whether you have understood everything correctly and can pay the running costs over the entire term of the contract, then do not sign a contract (this also applies to all other contracts, e.g. at the gym). Failure to honour a contract can have serious consequences!

We strongly advise against concluding contracts on the Internet! You will not receive personalised advice and often misunderstand the content. Nevertheless, contracts cannot be cancelled!

If in doubt, ask someone for help.

10 important questions for signing a contract:

- How high is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period of time?
- Is there a minimum monthly turnover?

- How long is the contract for? (e.g. 12 or 24 months)
- If I do not cancel the contract, will it be automatically renewed?
- When do I have to cancel if I don't want to extend the contract?
- How much does it cost to set up, switch and deactivate?
- What is the billing cycle?
- How much does a minute of telephoning cost (external / own network)?
- How much does a mobile phone with a contract cost and how much does a mobile phone without a contract cost?
- How much does the Internet cost?
- How much do international calls cost?

Important considerations before signing a mobile phone contract

[""German](#)

[""English](#)

["" French](#)

["" Ukrainian](#)

Internet

Asylum seekers in Germany have **no legal right** to internet in their accommodation. Therefore, there is usually no internet in the accommodation centres. If there is a telephone connection in the accommodation, it is possible for the residents to buy a contract for internet themselves. You will have to pay for this yourself. Talk to the management of your accommodation first and **ask** whether internet is technically possible at all and how you can give the technician access **before signing the contract**. The contract has a minimum term (usually 24 months) and you must be able to ensure that you can pay the running costs for the entire term of the contract. Please note: You may have to move out of your accommodation before the end of the contract period!

Public, free WLAN hotspots

Free WiFi is available at several locations (hotspots) in Bad Kissingen. There you can surf the internet with your own device.

Examples of public hotspots:

@BayernWLAN

BayernWLAN offers free WLAN at many locations in the district of Bad Kissingen. For example:

- City of Bad Kissingen: Around the district administration office (Obere Marktstraße and Eisenstädter Platz), Ludwigsbrücke, Luitpoldbad, tax office, Erhard Straße, market square
- Bad Brückenau: "Zeit.Raum" in the Elisabethenhof
- Hammelburg: Market square, Bürgerspital retirement home (Josef-Schultheis-Str. 1)
- Münnerstadt: Market square, railway station
- Oerlenbach: Town hall

Opening hours and public holidays

In Bavaria, most large shops are usually open from Monday to Saturday from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. The smaller shops usually close earlier in the evening. Public holidays and Sundays are days of rest on which all shops and public authorities are closed. Restaurants, cafés and some bakeries are nevertheless open from time to time.

The following public holidays are on the same date every year:

01.01. New Year
06.01. Three Wise Men
01.05. Labour Day
15.08. Assumption Day
03.10. Day of German Unity
01.11. All Saints' Day
25.12. 1st Christmas Day
26.12. 2nd Christmas Day

Other public holidays shift slightly throughout the year.

You can find an overview of all public holidays in Bavaria [""Here](#)

Leisure activities and sport

Having fun when moving is one thing. But sport offers you another chance: it is a good and proven way to settle in and integrate into a new environment. The rules of sport do not know any cultural or national boundaries and are usually understood without a common language. Sport offers a good and informal possibility to make contact with locals through personal contacts.

[Sportservice, öffentliche Sportparks, Bäder etc. einfügen]

Libraries and museums

Libraries

Libraries are places where you can borrow a variety of materials. There's a lot on offer: Books for children, teenagers and adults, learning aids, cassettes, CDs, and DVDs.

In order to borrow something, you need a library card. You need to bring your identification card to the library to get this, and pay a small fee every year.

Materials can be borrowed for 2 or 4 weeks (depending on the medium). After this time has passed, you have to return everything.

Important: If you do not bring the items back in time, you will have to pay high fees!

You can find an overview of which towns in the district of Bad Kissingen have libraries»»[here](#)

Museums

There are many museums in the district of Bad Kissingen where you can learn about the history of the region or the Rhön area. You usually have to pay for admission.

You can find an overview of which towns have museums»»[here](#)

Swimming pools

In Germany, men, women and children go to the swimming pool together. There are no bathing times for women only.

If you cannot swim, you should not go into the water because it is very dangerous. You can learn to swim in courses at the swimming pools.

There are the following swimming pools in the district of Bad Kissingen:

- [""Terrassenschwimmbad Bad Kissingen](#)
- [""KissSalis Therme](#)
- [""Saaleetalbad Hammelburg](#)
- [""Natural pool Aura an der Saale](#)

Bathing rules

You must adhere to the bathing rules in the swimming pools.

""[German](#)

""[English](#)

" [French](#)

""[Russian](#)

Clubs

People with the same hobby usually come together. There are sports clubs, music clubs and animal welfare societies, to name just a few. When you join a club, you can pursue your hobbies and interests, get to know people and make new friends.

The district of Bad Kissingen has many different clubs. Every citizen can become a member of a club.

Normally, you must pay an annual membership fee to be a member. However, for more precise information, you should contact the club directly.

Sport

Having fun when exercising is one thing. But sport offers you another benefit, too: It is a great and proven way to settle in and integrate into a new environment. The rules of sport do not know any cultural or national boundaries and are usually understood without a common language. Sport offers a good, informal possibility to make contact with locals through new friends.

The district of Bad Kissingen has more than 100 sports clubs.

You can find more information and contact addresses on the [»»Bayerischen Landes-Sportverbandes e.V. website.](#)

Music

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument?

There are many music clubs, choirs and music schools that would love to have you get involved. Each community has many options for making music. It is best to ask your local help centre or check with your local city/town administration.