

DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

O C T O B E R 3rd

A statue of Elector Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg at the Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin.
PHOTO BY INGO SCHULZ



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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2021

The message of German Ambassador Ute König on the occasion of the Day of German Unity on October 3 2021: "Shaping the future together"

Due to the current pandemic situation the Embassy has to refrain from celebrating its 31st national day with a reception inclusive of local friends and partners. We cannot congregate, but we are happy to continue the tradition of the media supplement in the three national newspapers to mark this day.

On this very day – with our national elections completed a few days ago – Germans are watching the negotiations on which parties will form their new government. After the last elections in 2017 this process took six months. At this point it is only clear that, with her decision not to run again, incumbent Chancellor Angela Merkel's term in office as head of our government will come to an end soon. Just how long her caretaker role may last, nobody knows yet. But some people have started putting bets on whether she might still deliver another new year's speech.

Angela Merkel's stellar career which put her at the helm of German government for 16 years was a result of and only possible due to Germany's unification. This process started with the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 and the peaceful revolution of East Germans which climaxed in German unification on October 3 1990.

Angela Merkel, a physicist by profession, only entered the East German party politics in the final stages of the GDR (German Democratic Republic). Born in then West Germany, her parents moved east in 1954, when she was still a baby. She was raised and educated in the GDR. She joined the government after unification in 1991 as German minister for women affairs under her mentor, then Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

She moved up the ranks of the Christian Democratic Party, serving in government as environment minister or in the opposition as party secretary general, chief whip and, from April 2000, first female leader of a major German party. Many ambitious male party



German Ambassador Ute König.

Angela Merkel says farewell to leadership
Dawn of a new era for a united Germany

opponents had to give way over the years. Merkel was first elected Chancellor in the German parliament in November 2005, since then she has led four coalition governments, testimonial of her ability to build consensus.

Over the years her face has become well known all over the world representing Germany and our core values: we are strong supporters of democratic values, freedom, human rights, a rule-based order and the conviction that we are stronger together.

In her 16 years in office Chancellor Merkel had to master several crises: financial, refugees, climate change and, since 2020, the covid pandemic. Her stance, "We can do this" in 2015 and her humanitarian

approach towards the refugees were praised internationally. Germany and its political, social and economic achievements are much admired worldwide.

Merkel's departure from the national and international fora, her role and her legacy are currently much discussed in the media around the world. She has been named the most powerful woman of the world 14 times by Forbes Magazine. A recent survey by PEW Institute concluded that a majority of people worldwide held her in high esteem and trust her to do the right thing on a global stage.

Thirty-one years have passed since our unification during which Germany has worked to overcome the divisions of our past of two

opposing political systems. For 16 of those years the government was led by a female scientist from the East. She brought to the table her own clear, analytical and pragmatic style of governing and negotiating as well as her formative experiences in overcoming a dictatorship. The young generation in Germany has never known a different chancellor. Many in Germany, the world and here in Trinidad and Tobago are sad to see her go. But change remains the essence of any democracy.

A new German government will continue to work closely with our partners in TT, in Latin America and the Caribbean. We share values and convictions. The last 18 months of living in a pandemic have taught us all that we are stronger together. As German ambassador I am proud that one of the first effective vaccines was developed in Germany by BioNTech first and later produced jointly with Pfizer. A German virologist was the first to share the information on how to detect the virus via PCR-tests. Germany has contributed to Covax first financially and later donated spare vaccines from our national supplies.

It will take a long time to overcome the economic and social consequences of this ongoing pandemic. Germany will stand together with its partners in a spirit of solidarity, engage in a close exchange and work together on internationally coordinated solutions. Germany and TT are linked by bonds of friendship and by people to people contacts. Our embassy is at your service to strengthen our bilateral, regional and multilateral relations. Germany will be an ambitious international partner in the EU, the United Nations, at the COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow and in all international fora. We will have to face together the challenges of building back better in order to achieve the sustainable development goals for a healthy future and for a better world.

My team and I wish all Trinbagonians all the best on the occasion of this joyous day. We do hope that in 2022 we can meet again in person to celebrate our national day.

In the meantime: stay healthy and consider getting vaccinated!

German climate ambitions

Germany has already achieved a great deal in the field of climate action and is very committed to more ambitions for the COP 26 Climate Conference in Glasgow in November 2021. In 2020 about 45 per cent of German electricity was generated from renewable sources, such as wind and solar power. The German government has made a binding undertaking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65 per cent by 2030. We are phasing out the use of coal to generate electric power. Germany intends to refurbish more buildings to enhance energy efficiency. We are forging ahead with climate-friendly mobility, and we intend to get everyone on board.

Here is an overview.

Germany has made international commitments to take climate action.

Since 1990, Germany has reduced its emissions of greenhouse gases by 35.7 per cent. At the heart of the programme is a new CO2 pricing scheme for the transport sector and for heating buildings. Germany is thus making it more expensive to emit carbon dioxide in these sectors. We are fostering the use of renewables, energy-saving buildings, and alternative engine technology in the transport sector.

Germany intends:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65 per cent by 2030
- To phase out the use of coal to generate electric power
- To restructure our mobility.
- To become climate-neutral in 2045.

What has been achieved so far?

CO2 pricing for fossil fuels

Companies trading in heating oil, gas, petrol or diesel are required to pay a CO2 price in Germany as of January 2021. This will rise from an initial price of 25 euros per tonne of CO2 to 55 euros per tonne in 2025. In 2026 prices are to be between 55 and 65 euros. The additional revenue will be re-invested in climate action measures and returned to citizens to offset higher costs.

In its climate action, Germany is phasing out the use of coal to generate electricity, and putting its faith in renewables – this move to put Germany's energy mix on a more sustainable footing is known as the energy shift or energy transition.

In 2020, about 45 per cent of electric power was generated from renewable sources including wind and solar power – thanks to the wide range of state assistance available. Wind energy was also able to expand its position as the most important energy source in the German electricity mix. By 2030, renewables are to account for 65 per cent of gross electricity consumption. Before 2050 all electricity generation and consumptions is to be greenhouse-gas-neutral.

According to calculations by the German Environment Agency, the use of renewable energies avoided around 227 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Of these, 181.1 million tonnes of CO2 equivalents were attributable to the electricity sector, 36.3 million tonnes of CO2 equivalents to the heating sector and 9.3 million tonnes of CO2 equivalents to the transport sector.

With the Hydrogen Strategy for Germany, we want to ensure that green hydrogen becomes marketable swiftly, in order to provide an alternative sustainable source of power that can be used by the steel industry, for instance, or in air traffic.

Restructuring mobility

The German government is supporting the introduction of electric mobility, promoting alternative engine technologies and expanding local public transport and rail transport. At the start of 2020 we reduced value added tax on long-distance rail travel,

and increased the levy on air tickets.

The environmental bonus on the purchase of electric vehicles until 2025 was extended and the sum increased. By 2030 a nationwide, user-friendly charging infrastructure is to be installed for up to ten million electric vehicles. Germany has put in place the legal framework for developing privately owned charging structure.

We are working to ensure that electric vehicle manufacturers can produce their vehicles on attractive terms. That is why we are working to have battery cells manufactured in Germany.

And this is what we will do next

Climate policy

We intend to cut national greenhouse gas emissions by 65 per cent of the 1990 levels by 2030. Basically, we pursue the goal of Germany and Europe becoming climate neutral by 2045 (Germany) and by 2050 (Europe). Europe wants to act as a trailblazer in the field of climate action. In July 2021 the European Commission launched the first "Fit for 55" measures that will put the EU on track for a 55 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2050.

Climate action is the urgent issue to shape the world's future.

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Remembering Brother Resistance

Soca, one of the many evolutions of calypso, is considered the premier musical style to come out of Trinidad and Tobago. It is the music of our most loved festivals, it is the prompt to get the party started. But it is rapso, another of calypso's children that offers space for reflection, both in and out of the party.

Rapso records of the '70s, '80s and '90s are distinct treasures sought after by DJs and music collectors across the world. This style of music that celebrates the many forms of storytelling that exist in our folk and Carnival oratory was birthed by the late Lutalo Masimba, known in the music world as Brother Resistance.

In his heyday Resistance toured the length and breadth

of Europe, visiting Germany on a number of occasions. Like so many musicians of the calypso tradition, Resistance broke through language and culture barriers with music.

A student of history, he embedded his learnings in his songs, reminding us even as we danced that we had survived the ravages of colonialism to create many forms of joyous transcendence.

In later years he served as president of the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation.

He chose to stay in East Port of Spain, the birthplace of the steelpan and many of the traditional Carnival forms – confronting the challenges, standing as an example to his community.

In the aftermath of his death in July,

I heard an endless number of stories about his openness, his generosity with information. These stories from others were a reflection of our own experience with him. He was an instrumental part of Wajang Diskothèque – an evolving curatorial project between myself, German creative director and music enthusiast Merten Kaatz and artist Peter Doig.

This project began in 2019 with the support of the German Embassy, starting with the first episode of I Belong to the House of Music featuring Earl Lovelace in a music based interview featuring some of his favourite selections of local music.

Our collaboration with the Embassy also included Beyond Barriers events for the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin



Atillah Springer chats with Brother Resistance during an interview for the I Belong to the House of Music podcast.

security, black power, prang music and the philosophies of Shadow. Additionally we continued to seek out other makers and creators to document their thoughts and the music they were listening to in an effort to make sense of the time.

We frequently turned to Resistance for advice both from him and his music.

He had so much information, information that we should be more aggressively trying to save.

Part of the terror of our colonial legacy is the still-lingering belief in the absolute untruth that we have no civilisation worth documenting.

It is why Wajang Diskothèque is on a mission to not just document artists in the present but also to reconnect a digital generation to our rich and extensive archives. It is why we are excited about the continued creative collaboration with the German Embassy.

So that we can dip into the past to have some assistance with charting the future.

Resistance understood this, he lived for this.

And so he was always on hand – as audience member, as participant, quietly advising us as we looked for records, for interviewees, for poems and essays to include in our podcasts.

One of the last times I saw him he was a guest of I Belong to the House of Music. It was a conversation full of laughter and reflection.

He had a library's worth of knowledge and I am so happy that we had the time and access to resources to record him.

Covid19 continues to remind us that life without music, film, the arts in general, we cannot make it through endless days of uncertainty and loss. It is also a reminder that we have to aggressively preserve our stories, as a mark of respect for those who are our past and as a service to those who are our future.

Wall in 2019.

As the pandemic continues to stretch unfathomably beyond a two-week

inconvenience to a two-year confrontation with our ideas of humanity, the isolation of distance, we

search our archives for inspiration. What has come is a series of podcasts exploring food

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Atillah Springer
Think. Write. Do.

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A shipment of Covishield vaccine arrives at Mumbai airport with shipment for Ivory Coast under the Covax scheme. The COVAX Facility, co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO, together with UNICEF, aims to provide at least 2 billion doses of approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021, enabling participating economies to protect frontline health care and social workers, as well as other high-risk and vulnerable groups. PHOTO BY © SUBHASH SHARMA/ZUMA WIRE

Germany donates vaccines

Fighting covid19 together in a spirit of solidarity

The German government is working to ensure the fair and efficient distribution of vaccines and is supporting the global efforts to fight the pandemic to the tune of 2.2 billion euro. What is more, Germany is providing third states with 100 million vaccine doses.

2.2 billion euro for vaccines, diagnostic tools and medicines

The pandemic can only be overcome if it is brought under control all over the world. Germany thus opted early on to focus on finding joint responses to the pandemic in a spirit of solidarity. In keeping with the principle "nobody is safe until everybody is safe", Germany co-founded the access to covid19 tools accelerator (ACT Accelerator) last year. As the second largest donor to the ACT Accelerator at present, Germany has provided 2.2 billion euro to date. Most of this support is going to the international vaccine platform Covax, while some is being used for diagnostic tools and medication to treat covid19. By early September, a total of more than 250 million doses of the AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and BioNTech vaccines had already been sent to 140 states.

Germany is providing 100 million vaccine doses

As Germany has sufficient vaccines to cover its needs and is keen to tackle supply shortages in global vaccine production, the German government has been donating vaccines from its own stocks since the end of August. Germany will pass on 100 million vaccine doses to countries in transition and developing countries, mostly via Covax. Germany will thus help ensure better access to vaccines throughout the world.

All in all, Germany has already donated more than eight million doses of AstraZeneca to Covax. In addition to Mauritania, Tajikistan, the Sudan, Uzbekistan and Ghana have received vaccines. Deliveries to Botswana, Namibia and Viet Nam are planned, and further are to follow. The recipient states are selected by Covax. The deciding factors are whether they need the vaccines particularly urgently and are in a position to use them immediately in their vaccine rollouts.

The EU is planning to provide at least 200 million vaccine doses, while the United States has donated around 110 million doses so far. The G7 intend to supply a total of at least 870 million doses by the end of 2022.

The majority of these donations are to be given to Covax, which knows conditions in the recipient countries best and can therefore distribute the vaccines fairly around the world. AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and BioNTech vaccines are currently being supplied via Covax. It has also concluded a preliminary contract for 350 million doses of the Novavax vaccine. Novavax intends to apply for a licence in the autumn.

The German Government is also providing a smaller amount of covid19 vaccines from German stocks via bilateral channels. These doses are going to countries including Ukraine, Namibia and Western Balkan states. On August 21, 1.5 million doses arrived in Ukraine. The German government is preparing to send another 5.8 million vaccine doses to Namibia, Viet Nam, Egypt and Ghana.

Multilateral solutions instead of vaccine nationalism

Germany and the EU are committed to finding a multilateral solution to the pandemic and to ensuring fair, transparent and affordable access to covid19 vaccines, medicines and diagnostics around the globe. Ensuring that this access is not tied to political conditions represents a joint approach which stands in contrast to the bilateral pledges and vaccine nationalism of some states. However, donations and financial support alone are not enough. Germany and the EU are therefore actively working to promote the production of vaccines in Africa in particular. Germany wants to secure regional healthcare in the long term and will provide funding to help set up vaccine production in countries including South Africa and Senegal.

The Covax Manufacturing Taskforce was established in order to increase the supply and production of vaccines. The aim is to increase the number of doses which can be produced at short notice, ensuring that Covax has priority. The 92 poorest countries are the particular focus of attention. In addition, vaccine production in the global South is to be expanded. Germany and South Africa are the co-chairs.

It will also remain a priority to distribute not only vaccines but medicines and testing materials, too. Healthcare systems weakened by covid19 must be strengthened for the future.

Germany is engaged – worldwide

Germany is helping with more than just vaccines. It also receives requests for ventilators, masks and medical equipment from all over the world. Germany has provided support to around 100 countries and has launched three major relief packages. Among other things, 1400 ventilators have been donated. At present, around 24 million KN95 masks and 197 million surgical masks are being supplied as relief goods. Furthermore, Germany has made available 450 million euro for humanitarian assistance in the context of covid19 in order to help people in humanitarian emergencies.

With a view to learning from the pandemic and making use of the experience that has been gained in the future, Germany is also calling for the WHO to be strengthened. A special WHO session in November will discuss possible measures to this end, including the idea of an international pandemic treaty.

© German Foreign Office, Berlin

German nationality

a new law has entered into force to rectify previous gender-discriminating legislation

On August 20 2021 the Fourth Act Amending the German Nationality Act entered into force, creating a legal claim to naturalisation within the framework of reparations for persons who were affected by National Socialist persecution and therefore lost or did not obtain German citizenship but who have no entitlement to the restoration of German citizenship pursuant to Article 116 (2) sentence 1 of the Basic Law, and for their descendants.

The Act also includes a ten-year right of declaration, under which children born to a German parent after 23 May 1949 who, due to the regulations in force at the time of their birth, were excluded in a gender-discriminating manner from acquiring German citizenship by descent at birth have the option of obtaining German citizenship by making a simple declaration.

If either applies to you, check out the detailed information on website <https://port-of-spain.diplo.de/tt-de/service/-/1019696> and do not hesitate to contact your nearest German embassy.

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Schwerin Castle is now the seat of the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. PHOTO BY JENS BÜTTNER



The Stahleck castle PHOTO BY TORSTEN BECKER

16 Highlights:

Notable German palaces and castles

Some 25,000 castles, palaces and mansion houses bear witness to Germany's history: from splendid, perfectly preserved landmarks to ruined reminders of former glory.

Splendid palaces of great rulers

Germany is home to a great variety of castles and palaces, from simple mansion houses to the prestigious residences of great ruling dynasties, such as Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam. Known as the Prussian Versailles, this castle was constructed on the orders of the Hohenzollern King Friedrich II. Together with its park, this Rococo building has been a Unesco World Heritage Site since 1990. Another favourite place of the Hohenzollern dynasty was Berlin's Charlottenburg Palace.

Situated close to the Saxon state capital of Dresden, the moated castle of Moritzburg was the emblem of the noble Wettin dynasty. The Baroque

estate also includes the Little Pheasant Castle, visible from Moritzburg Castle 2.5 kilometres away.

Cultural heritage and architectural jewels

As well as Sanssouci Palace, other German castles and palaces are also Unesco world heritage sites, including Augustusburg and Falkenlust Palaces located in Brühl (North Rhine-Westphalia) and boasting gardens and parks that transport visitors back to the 17th century. One Unesco site in Hesse is Wilhelmshöhe Park, a landscape park above Kassel with the Classicist Wilhelmshöhe Palace at its centre. Wartburg Castle occupies an elevated position above the Thuringian city of Eisenach. This world heritage site is renowned as the place where the reformer Martin Luther sought refuge and translated the New Testament into German.

Some castles and palaces are perfect examples of their respective architectural

eras. Ahrensburg Palace near Hamburg, for example, is regarded as one of the major works of Renaissance architecture in Schleswig-Holstein. Occupying a central location in the city, Saarbrücken Castle is a fine example of Baroque style, while the far smaller Schönebeck Castle in Bremen-Vegesack combines Baroque with a typical north-German half-timber construction. Jenisch House in Hamburg is a Classicist gem. Set in extensive landscaped gardens, this country house enjoys far-reaching views over the River Elbe.

Fairytale palaces and knights' castles

The Romantic era was the real heyday for castles, with the most emblematic example being Neuschwanstein Castle. This splendid white construction is perched on a hilltop near Füssen in the Bavarian Allgäu. Somewhat less well known is the Neuschwanstein of the North: Schwerin Castle was once a residence for grand dukes and is

now the seat of the state parliament of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Romantic historicism was also the inspiration for the construction of Marienburg Castle. The Guelph family's Neo-Gothic-style summer residence is a striking landmark, perched high on Marienberg hill around 20 kilometres south of Hanover in Lower Saxony. Further to numerous conversions over the years, Wernigerode Castle in Saxony-Anhalt is now another fairytale castle.

But what later constructions strived to replicate can be still be admired in their original form today: storybook-style Medieval castles. The most famous example being perhaps Eltz Castle. This 12th century hilltop castle in the Eifel mountains in Rhineland-Palatinate has been owned by the same noble family for over 850 years. And for many generations, the romantic appeal of ancient ruins has been attracting international tourists to Heidelberg Castle in the town by the Neckar in the north of Baden-Württemberg.



An aerial view of the Neuschwanstein castle. PHOTO BY MARKUS MAINKA



The Augustusburg castle in Brühl is one of the most important Baroque and Rococo buildings in Germany. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984. PHOTO BY RALPH GOLDMANN



Neuschwanstein Castle PHOTO BY MARCO WOLF

DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2021

The first vaccine approved by the US and other countries against covid19 was developed by the German company BioNTech in cooperation with the US company Pfizer, the result of combining forces and resources across continents that showcases Germany as a country of innovation.

In the year 2020 that had been more than challenging for all of us, this was the best news so far: the US and an increasing number of other countries had approved the first vaccine against the novel coronavirus that causes covid19. And Europe followed soon. As German Minister for Education and Research, I shared the enthusiasm of so many of my countrymen about the development of this vaccine by the German company BioNTech in co-operation with the US company Pfizer.

This is a truly remarkable achievement for two reasons: the vaccine is the result of international cooperation in science combined with the pooling of forces and resources across continents. This should be the "new normal". Only if we stand shoulder to shoulder can we tackle the challenges facing humankind. Moreover, this breakthrough shows the outstanding ability of Germany as a country of innovation – with researchers in the key role at all times, of course.

BioNTech is yet another example of Germany's broad science and innovation landscape. Germany has long been one of the most innovative countries in the world. We have many talented people brimming with creativity and bold transformative ideas. Across Germany, established companies, start-ups, research institutions, universities and schools are generating new ideas, technologies, products and services that will help us increase our quality of life and make progress.

Germany is a global leader in many future technologies, including in areas such as industrial applications of AI, sensors, batteries, quantum technology, digital medicine and climate technologies. In the current pandemic,



Cologne honors BioNTech founders, doctors Ugur Sahin (right) and Özlem Türeci. PHOTO BY HORST GALUSCHKA

emissions in heavy industry. Our success will depend in no small part on comprehensive government funding for fundamental and applied research. BioNTech is a prime example in this context. Past and sustained support of the German Research Ministry put BioNTech in such an excellent position to start developing an mRNA-based vaccine immediately at the beginning of the covid19 pandemic. My ministry co-funded the research that led to the development of the vaccine with a funding programme of unprecedented scale and scope. A total of 750 million euros are being made available in 2020 and 2021 to support the vaccine development work of three German companies – BioNTech situated in Mainz, CureVac in Tübingen and Dessau-based IDT. The primary purpose of this funding is to boost the scale-up of development and production capacity in Germany, and to increase the number of participants in clinical trials. This enables a more reliable forecast of the vaccine efficacy in particular groups such as the elderly already during the experimental trial phase.

The story of BioNTech is even more special because the founding couple, Drs Türeci and Sahin, both have immigrated to Germany. In Germany, people from all walks of life and origins can put down their roots and be successful in life. Germany is a country that is open to the world. We are happy to welcome motivated and ambitious people, who come to Germany to expand their knowledge and play an active role in our science and business community.

We are continuously working to attract the brightest minds to Germany – a country of innovation, which has its eyes on the future.

Germany – country of innovation

ANJA KARLICZEK, German Federal Research Minister

it was the Berlin-based professor Christian Drosten, who delivered the PCR test that continues to be the best test available for coronavirus infection, making it possible to take effective measures to curb the spread of the pandemic.

We have a vision in Germany. Like the other European countries, we are currently setting the future course for our society and the economy. Our primary focus is to increase our prosperity while, at the same time,

delivering on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and climate targets in particular. For decades, we have been talking about reconciling economic growth with environmental protection. Now, the time has come for us to finally walk the talk. This will be the central topic for the coming years. For our future. And we are achieving this through innovation on a broad scale. Particularly, by pushing for green hydrogen as future energy carrier and way to avoid carbon

Deutsche Staatsangehörige aufgepasst

Attention German citizens

Krisenvorsorgeliste (Elefant)

Crisis prevention

Sie sind deutsche Staatsbürgerin oder Staatsbürger und leben in Trinidad und Tobago oder halten sich längere Zeit hier auf?

Nutzen Sie unser Angebot, Ihre Kontaktdaten in der elektronischen Deutschenliste Elefant (<https://elefant.diplo.de>) zu hinterlegen. So können wir Sie im Ernstfall schnell kontaktieren. Die Speicherung Ihrer Daten erfolgt nach den strengen deutschen Datenschutzvorschriften.

All German citizens living abroad can register in a list at the German Foreign Office in order to be informed in case of a crisis situation. By means of this list the Embassy also knows who to look for in case normal communication channels are disrupted.

You can register online now at Krisenvorsorgeliste (Elefant).

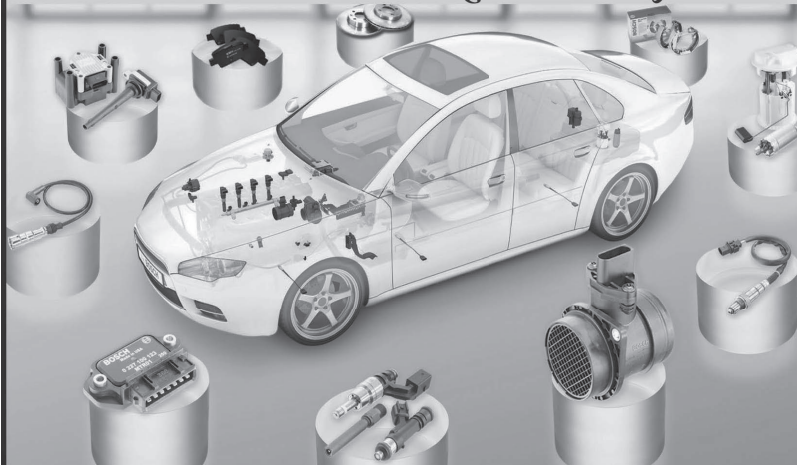
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The German Foreign Office advises all German citizens, even if they are in the region only temporarily, to make use of this feature to enable the German Embassy in Port-of-Spain to contact them in case of an emergency situation.

Find more under: <https://port-of-spain.diplo.de/lt-del/service/15-Elefant>

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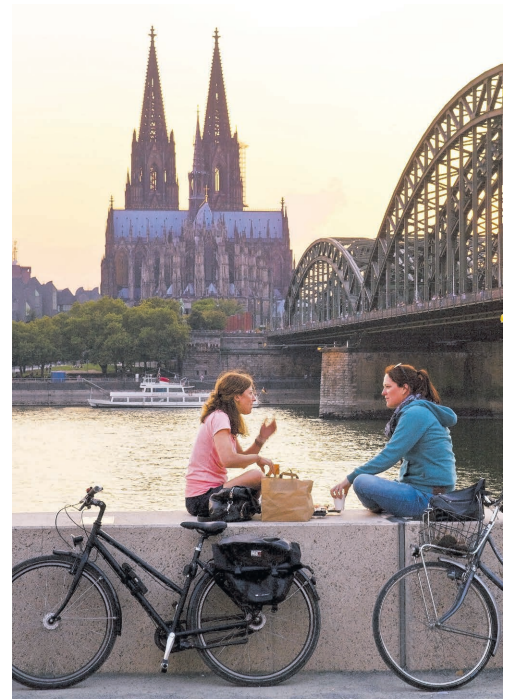
Take a gondola ride and witness the panoramic view of the Allgäu Alps, Oberstdorf, Allgäu, Bavaria. PHOTO BY WILFRIED WIRTH



The summit of the Teufelstättkopf mountain in the Ammergau Alps, in Bavaria. PHOTO BY FOTOSTAND / WAGNER



Christmastime in Hamburg. PHOTO BY Christian Ohde



Two women on the Rhine near the Cologne Cathedral at sunset, in North Rhine-Westphalia. PHOTO BY STEFAN ZIESE

Holidaying in Germany

Is the travelling bug biting you after so many months of closed borders? Then why not choose Germany as your next travelling destination.

Since June 2021 fully vaccinated persons are once again allowed to enter Germany for tourism and other visits.

What do tourists in Germany want to see?

Though the figures differ somewhat depending on their country of origin, visiting cities is in first place, followed by tours of the country, holidays in the mountains, and finally visits to events, rural holidays and spa breaks.

Which German cities are the most popular destinations?

Must-see cities for visitors from Europe are Berlin, Munich and Hamburg. Düsseldorf and Frankfurt am

Main are also popular. Bavaria is the favourite state destination by far, ahead of North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony.

Has the pandemic had an impact on tourism?

Yes, an extreme impact. Worldwide, tourism and the associated hospitality industry were probably the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, and this also applies to Germany. This is clearly illustrated by the comparative figures for the month of April: 8.5 million overnight stays by German and foreign guests were registered in 2021 – nearly twice as many as in April 2020. In 2019, however, the figure totalled around 42.5 million.

However, since end of June 2021 travelling to Germany for tourism, business, family visits etc is once again allowed for fully vaccinated persons irrespective of their nationality, country of residence or previous stay. Just the regular pre-pandemic entry rules apply. To find

out whether you will be considered a fully vaccinated person, check the website of the Paul-Ehrlich Institute www.pei.de or more specifically <https://www.pei.de/EN/newsroom/hp-news/2021/210819-information-travellers-coronavirus-abroad-vaccination-status.html>

The rules of who is considered a fully vaccinated person depends on the brand(s) as well as the batches of vaccine you received. In all recognised combinations, however, it takes two weeks after the last shot to be considered fully vaccinated.

Tempted to choose Germany as your next holiday destination? You will find great tips, lots of suggestions and much more information at Germany Travel: <https://www.germany.travel/en>

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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2021



Enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride from Cuxhaven-Duhnen through the North Sea Watt to Neuwerk Island in Lower Saxony, Northern Germany. PHOTO BY WOLFGANG DIEDERICH



Front view of the reconstructed Berlin Palace, which houses the Humboldt Forum museum. PHOTO BY DANIEL KALKER



The Brandenburg Gate on Pariser Platz. PHOTO BY JENS KALAENE



The original opera house in Frankfurt is now the Alte Oper (Old Opera), a concert hall and former opera house in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. PHOTO BY BORIS BREYTMAN



The Frauenkirche church in Munich, Bavaria. PHOTO BY JOKO



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How to pretzel the German way

In Germany, soft pretzels enjoy indisputable popularity especially in the southern areas of the country. They are best when fresh out of the oven, and are enjoyed plain or with a large variety of food to go with it, the most popular being the weisswurst.

Why not try to bake some for yourself and your loved ones:



Boiling pretzels... the most important step.

German Pretzels Brezeln

Preparation of the dough

Mix and knead:

- 500g strong white wheat flour
- 250g milk
- 30g butter
- 15g sugar
- 10g salt
- 7g dry yeast

Allow to rest in a warm place for about one hour until the volume has doubled.

Cut the dough into 10 to 12 pieces. Roll them into strings of about 30 cm length with a "belly" and tie them into pretzels. Use water or milk to

fix the loose ends to the belly part.

Let them rest for about 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 200 °C. Meanwhile prepare the alkaline solution to boil the raw pretzels. This is the most important step that gives the genuine colour and taste!

- 2.5 litres boiling water
- 50g sodium bicarbonate
- 20g salt

Put some pretzels into the boiling solution for about one minute, turn once.

Place on a baking tray, which has been covered with baking paper, score the belly, sprinkle with coarse salt and bake until they turn golden brown (about 15 minutes).



Soft pretzels are very popular in Germany.

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Scan to discover more

New screening avenues for European Film Festival

The annual cultural event where European films are showcased, always in May and mostly for free.

While the pandemic has changed so much about how and where we interact, thanks to streaming technology, fans of the Festival could still enjoy the annual recurrence in 2021

The European Film Festival offers, through the vehicle of cinema and entertainment, a peek into the culture, values and lives of the people of Europe and serves up stories of our shared human experiences. It spotlights a diversity of films from countries across the EU, and in a variety of genres to ensure there is something to fit everyone's tastes.

This year, 25 feature films from countries including Latvia, Romania, Finland, Hungary and Greece as well as from the EU member states with diplomatic missions in TT – France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain – were presented via the streaming platform festival scope.

In addition, for the first time since it started 25 years ago, the EFF collaborated with the local TV station TTT to bring European movies even closer to movie lovers in TT.

The German movie comedy Welcome to Germany screened on TTT showcased the cultural differences in the story about



Promotional artwork for German comedy Welcome to Germany.

a refugee from Nigeria and his integration into his German middle class host family.

Using culture to raise more understanding and to provide good old fashioned entertainment continues to be one of the motives behind the yearly EFF.

More information about the European Film Festival is available via the EFF's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/tnteff/>) and Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/eff_tt/) pages. Watch out for our 2022 edition next year in May.

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DAY OF GERMAN UNITY 2021

What are the advantages of studying in Germany?

German universities have an excellent reputation throughout the world. They produce significant and internationally applicable advances in research and innovation. Many pioneering inventions were created in Germany. The list of German Nobel Prize winners is long, especially in the field of science and medicine. These include Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, Robert Koch, Max Planck, Albert Einstein, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard and Harald zur Hausen.

And Germany isn't called the "land of poets and thinkers" for nothing. It has produced great philosophers like Kant, Hegel and Adorno, poets like Goethe, Heine and Brecht, and renowned composers, such as Bach, Beethoven and Brahms.

There are more than 400 nationally accredited universities located in almost 170 cities and towns in Germany. These universities offer a wide range of opportunities to study and research with more than 19,000 degree programmes, more than 1,700 of which are internationally oriented.

Your child will find optimal conditions for gaining a successful education in Germany. The facilities at universities and research institutes are well-equipped. Students receive intensive academic advising, but are also taken seriously as future scholars and scientists. And, of course, German is one of the most important scientific languages and is shared by over 100 million native speakers and more than 15 million learners worldwide.

How much German will my child have to know?

To feel at home in a foreign country, it usually helps to have a good grasp of the native language. And the same goes for Germany. Naturally, it would be ideal if your child could already speak some German before entering university in Germany. One way to improve one's German skills is to sign up for an online language course offered by Deutsch-uni Online (DUO; www.deutsch-uni.com) or Deutsche Welle (www.dw.de), for example.

That being said, nobody at a German university expects international students to speak perfect German when they arrive here. The level of language proficiency required for studying at a German university depends entirely on the degree programme your child chooses.

- Those who choose an international degree programme require English first and foremost. German universities currently offer more than 1,400 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programmes in English. For more information about international degree programmes, visit www.daad.de/international-programmes.

- Those who wish to enter a German-language degree programme must prove they



Women in a study group in the library of the University of Oldenburg (Lower Saxony). PHOTO BY MARKUS HIBBELE

Studying in Germany

A good choice for your child

have attained a certain level of German language proficiency. There are several types of examinations and standardised tests which universities accept as proof of language proficiency, eg the TestDaF.

There are many opportunities to learn German in Germany. In addition to language instruction offered in combination with degree programmes, many universities organise language courses in the summer so that foreign students can improve their German proficiency before their studies commence (www.daad.de/sommerkurse). There are many other German courses available outside the university, for example, at Goethe-Instituts based in Germany, adult education centres and numerous private language schools.

Where and what should my child study?

Universities in Germany offer degree programmes for all interests and levels of education. International students may:

- Enter an undergraduate degree programme as a first-semester student.
- Gain foreign experience through a university exchange programme.
- Pursue a master's or doctoral degree.

With more than 400 nationally accredited universities and over 19,000 degree programmes in Germany, it may be difficult to decide on where and what to study. The list becomes more manageable once a student chooses one of three types of institutions to attend:

- Universities (scientifically-oriented study)

- Universities of applied sciences (practice-oriented study)

- Colleges of art, film and music (artistic study)

Most universities in Germany are publicly financed. Around 75 per cent of all students are enrolled at almost 120 private universities. Everyone else is registered at public universities, the reason being that private universities tend to charge high tuition fees. The quality of instruction at both types of universities, however, is comparably high. To help you decide on the right degree programme, we recommend visiting www.daad.de/deutschland and www.studienwahl.de. And, of course, the highly qualified staff at the DAAD regional offices and information centres, as well as the German embassies, would be happy to consult you further.

How long should my child stay?

There are a number of short-term study opportunities in Germany which can enhance students' academic careers at home and make their CVs look even more impressive.

German universities offer summer courses each year usually between June and September. They offer a wide range of language courses, along with specialised courses in numerous disciplines. Summer courses allow students to get to know the country and the people, and become acquainted with life at a German university. For a list of upcoming summer courses in Germany, visit www.summerschools.de.

Your child's university might have an exchange programme for short-term study visits to Germany. Such programmes frequently allow participants to spend just one semester (= half year) in Germany. Your child may wish to gain some international work experience, for example, by completing an internship. Many students supplement their degree programmes with an internship to gain professional experience and familiarise themselves with the international labour market. It might turn out that a summer course, semester abroad or internship will lead to a longer stay.

For example, within four semesters your child could receive a top-rate German master's degree that is recognised around the world. On a personal level, staying longer is more rewarding, as your child will become more familiar with Germany and have the chance to polish his/her German language skills.

How much does it cost to study in Germany?

Compared to other European countries, the cost of living in Germany is quite reasonable. The prices for food, accommodation, clothing, cultural events, etc are generally equivalent to the EU average. In addition to living expenses, the cost of studying in Germany includes a health insurance premium, semester contribution and possible tuition fees. Most students in Germany attend public universities, which usually charge no or low tuition fees for undergraduate programmes and many master's programmes. However, there

are certain master's degree programmes which come with higher tuition fees.

Private universities charge relatively high tuition fees as well. All students at university have to pay an additional fee called a semester contribution. This fee generally covers the cost of a public transport ticket, called a Semesterticket, which can be used on all modes of public transportation in and around the city. The semester contribution varies depending on the university, but generally costs around 150 to 350 euros per semester.

It's difficult to determine exactly how much money a student in Germany needs every month. As a rule, students can live on less money in smaller cities than in larger ones. According to recent statistics, students in Germany live on an average of 920 euros per month, the largest portion of which are accommodation costs. Remember – every international student must show they have adequate financial resources at their disposal by submitting what is called "proof of financial support": You will have to certify that your child has 10,332 euros at his/her disposal for one year.

We recommend contacting the German embassy in Port-of-Spain (info@ports.diplo.de) to find out what forms of proof are recognised. International students are subject to restrictive labour laws in Germany. A part-time job is good for extra spending money, but will surely not suffice to cover all of your child's living expenses.

What kinds of scholarships are available?

There are many opportunities to secure funding for short and long-term study visits in Germany. International students can apply for scholarships offered by a variety of organisations and institutions. We recommend contacting one of our DAAD regional offices or information centres, or your child's university at home to learn more about what kind of financial aid your child may be eligible for. The DAAD scholarship database (www.funding-guide.de) is a convenient tool for researching various types of scholarships online. The database not only contains scholarships offered by the DAAD, but other funding organisations, as well. Please keep in mind that German funding organisations rarely offer full scholarships and generally do not award grants, to first-time students.

Study in Germany in social media

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