

USEFUL INFORMATION IF GOING TO **GERMANY** AS A TOURIST IN A PLEASURE CRAFT.



Topic	Comment
Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats)	83 million inhabitants; Approx. 1,250 clubs affiliated to the German Sailing Federation (DSV), 136 clubs in Schleswig-Holstein, 122 clubs in Lower Saxony, 71 clubs in Hamburg, 68 clubs in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, 32 clubs in Bremen, unknown number of other clubs not affiliated. Approx. 190,000 members in all DSV clubs. For further information see: http://www.dsv.org/
Currency with link for exchange rates	EURO exchange calculator http://www.x-rates.com/calculator/ See also https://www1.oanda.com/lang/de/currency/converter/
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	<p>Entry requirements: No requirement for EU/Schengen citizens arriving from EU/Schengen countries, although all crew members should carry their passport/ID. Random checks are carried out by the border police. Non-Schengen citizens might require a visa, e.g. Russia. Sailors arriving/bound directly from/to a non-EU/Schengen member state have to arrive/depart from a port of entry. www.bundespolizei.de</p> <p>Customs: Vessels with dutiable goods on board have to declare those in a port of entry orally, in writing or electronically. Funds of more than €10.000 in cash have to be declared. Travellers' allowances entering Germany from a non-EU country, from special territories (such as the Canary Islands), or from the Island of Helgoland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 cigarettes or - 100 cigarillos or - 50 cigars or - 250 grammes tobacco - or a proportionate combination of these goods. <p>1 litre of spirits of an alcohol strength by volume exceeding 22% or higher or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 litres of alcohol and alcoholic beverages of an alcohol strength by volume up to 22% or - a proportionate combination of these goods and - 4 litres of non-sparkling wine and - 16 litres of beer <p>- Medicinal products the quantity required for the traveller's personal needs</p> <p>1 litre of undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% or higher</p> <p>Travellers' allowances for goods on which EU tax has already been paid entering Germany from an EU country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 800 cigarettes - 400 cigarillos - 200 cigars - 1 kg smoking tobacco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 litres spirits (for example brandy, whisky, rum, vodka) - 10 litres sweetened beverages with alcohol (alcopops) - 20 litres fortified wines (for example sherry, port, marsala) - 60 litres sparkling wine - 110 litres beer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 Kg coffee or products containing coffee <p>www.zoll.de</p>

Banned Substances	Restrictions concerning medicinal products and narcotics also when travelling within the EU. If in doubt visitors should advise customs of what they have on board (list of drugs). Restrictions concerning private import of food and animal feed from non-EU states Restrictions concerning animals and plants, products containing animal or vegetable substances from non-EU states
Boat's documents required	EU-owners of privately used vessels are not obliged to provide proof of value added tax (VAT) payment. However, the customs authorities may ask for proof, that the vessel has EU goods status (e.g. purchase contract, harbour contract, VAT-receipt, maintenance bills, etc.), otherwise import tax for EU-flagged vessels has to be paid. It is useful to have registration papers from own country, but not mandatory. If arriving with coloured diesel a receipt from the bunker-station must be on board in case of inspection. In Germany no coloured (tax free) diesel is sold to pleasure craft.
Insurance	Insurance is not compulsory, but highly recommended. Hull insurance is approx. 1% of the insured value.
Legislation certificate of competence	The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, implementing the decision by the German Bundestag entitled "A new impetus for recreational shipping" (Bundestag printed paper 17/7937), has raised the propulsion power output limit from 3.68 kW (5 hp) to 11.03 kW (15 hp) for the operation of pleasure craft (both maritime and inland) by a person not holding a skipper's licence. This new regulation has been embodied in the Recreational Shipping Requirements (Maritime and Inland) (Amendments) Ordinance (promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette I, No 47, p 2102) and entered into force on 17 October 2012. The following régime now applies to the licence-free operation of power-driven pleasure craft with a propulsion power output not exceeding 11.03 kW: On maritime waterways , pleasure craft with a maximum propulsion power output not exceeding 3.68 kW (5 hp) may, as before, be operated by persons of any age without holding a Pleasure Craft Licence (Maritime), provided that such craft is not used for commercial purposes. Where the propulsion power output ranges between 3.69 kW and 11.03 kW, the skipper must be aged 16 or above to be allowed to operate pleasure craft without a licence, however, only for private purposes. As before, there is no length restriction for pleasure craft on maritime waters. On inland waters , with the exception of maritime waterways and the River Elbe in the port of Hamburg, persons aged 16 and over may operate pleasure craft of less than 20 metres in length without holding a licence, provided that such craft is not used for commercial purposes and that the propulsion power output of its engine does not exceed 11.03 kW (15 hp). However, the latter regulation does not apply on the River Rhine; this is because, by virtue of obligations under international law, no national exemptions from compulsory licence-holding may be granted for the navigation on the River Rhine of craft with a propulsion power output exceeding 3.68 kW. Skippers from abroad entering German waterways must hold their respective operators' licence. If coming from a country where no such licences exist skippers have the right to operate a pleasure boat up to max. 1 year. For further information see: http://www.dsv.org/ausbildung/sportbootfuehrerscheine/
Alcohol limits – on the water and on the road	Alcohol is limited by 0.5/ml, tested with a breathalyser. Having a higher concentration is defined as a legal offence, having more than 1.1/ml can lead to a (temporary) loss of licence. If found acting suspiciously 0.3/ml is sufficient to be punished. (N.B.: Being at sea means also being at anchor.) https://www.bundespolizei.de/Web/DE/01Sicher-auf-Reisen/03Mit-Schiff-Boot/01Informationen-fuer-die-Sportschiffahrt/Alkohol-an-Bord/alkohol-an-bord_node.html
Legislation re life jackets	A legal requirement to wear life jackets does not exist but all German authorities (water police, German lifeguard and pilot association) recommend to wear life jackets.
TSS, esp. new ones	All TSS areas are marked on charts. Rule 10 of Collision Regulations applies but some of these areas are not monitored as strictly as others. German Bight is strictly controlled and yachts not complying with Rule 10 are fined. A vessel not using a Traffic Separation Scheme shall avoid it by as wide a margin as practicable. (According to information from the German shipping administration the distance should be not less than half a nautical mile). www.elwis.de (official site competent authority) See also https://www.elwis.de/DE/Seeschiffahrt/Verkehrs-und-Sicherheitsmanagement/Verkehrssicherungskonzept-Deutsche-Kueste/Verkehrstrennungsgebiete/Verkehrstrennungsgebiete-page.html#:~:text=Die%20Verkehrstrennungsgebiete%20sind%20ein%20Teil,und%202006%20in%20Kraft%20trat.

Military exercise areas	In Germany there are areas where entry is prohibited as well as firing practice areas. All such areas are marked on charts. For a list of all areas see annex 1 of the following link (search for "Sperrgebiet"): www.elwis.de (official site competent authority) See also https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Shipping/Navigational_information/Warnings_and_notices/shooting-areas/shooting-areas_node.html;jsessionid=672B145D02403853A290FACDFFFE3033.live21324 For firing and practice areas warnings are given on Navtex. NAVTEX is available online. See: www.dwd.de/navtex
Major construction sites	Fehmarn link: Since 2021 the construction of the Fehmarn fixed link is in progress between Puttgarden (Fehmarn GER) and Rødbyhavn (Lolland DEN). Restricted areas are marked by AIS-ATON and a VTS have been implemented. The restricted areas move along with the construction site, up to date positions are broadcast through Notice to Mariners. https://femern.com/ Windfarm: Wikinger and Arkonabecken Südost - Offshore windpark construction sites NE of the island of Rügen, entry prohibited. www.elwis.de
Windfarms/ wave and tidal energy projects	In general, it is forbidden to navigate within wind farms while they are under construction. Vessels under 24m can navigate in wind farms under certain conditions. For Baltic I and Baltic II the following restrictions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visibility below 500m, entry prohibited - wind speed of 8 Bft. and more, entry prohibited - fishing prohibited - mooring at constructions prohibited - anchoring prohibited www.elwis.de (search for "Offshore Windparks") www.erneuerbare-energien.de/EE/Navigation/DE/Technologien/Windenergie-auf-See/Vorhaben/Intro/intro.html
Bridges	For bigger yachts Fehmarnsund bridge with a clearance of 22.10 m might be too low.
Fishing equipment	Nets must be marked with red flags 40cm x 40 cm in size, 1.5 m above the water line. The beginning and the end must be marked with two red flags. Lobster pots ought to be marked with black flags 40cm x 40 cm in size. If the fishing equipment is closer than 3NM to the shoreline a radar reflector must be attached. Fishermen are not allowed to place any fishing equipment into fairways. Special vigilance is required when sailing at night in coastal areas.
Habitats and other protected areas	Some areas have been designated as Marine Protection Areas or Conservation Zones. Consult up-to-date charts.
Flag traditions/ application of flag rules	Pleasure crafts fly their national ensign. Whilst there is a tradition of raising and lowering flags morning and evening, this is not strictly adhered to except in naval circles.
Weather forecast	Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) www.dwd.de (official), via: Navtex, radio broadcast stations Plus several commercial and free websites and apps.
Harbours including approx number of natural harbours	No records for number of harbours. A good free source is sejlereis: http://www.sejlereis.com/de/haefen/ The internet offers a database of harbours: See also https://www.ostsee-charter-yacht.de/yachthaefen.php
Mooring booking facilities	This is starting only slowly in Germany, for expl. see www.dockspot.com/#/
Swinging mooring buoys for pleasure yachts	There are no mooring buoys allowed in coastal waters. The net of harbours is so dense that there is no need for mooring buoys. Anchoring could be an alternative (see next item).
Anchoring and free access ashore	Anchoring in fairways, military exercise areas, offshore windparks and marine protection areas is prohibited. Anywhere else it is generally permitted, please check updated charts.
Good harbour manners	It is necessary to raft out in some harbours i.e. boats lie alongside each other. It is courteous to ask permission before tying alongside but this should never be refused unless the maximum number of boats permitted to raft out in a particular harbour has been reached.
Safety in harbours	Life rings and safety ladders are normally provided and there may be restrictions on the use of BBQs. Speed limits apply where marked.

Rescue services	Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Rettung Schiffbrüchiger (DGzRS), Phone No.: +49 (0) 421 / 536 87 0 VHF-Channel 16 and 70 (DSC), SW („border wave“) 2187,5 kHz (DSC) via BREMEN RESCUE RADIO (24 h), Callsign: Bremen Rescue. Futher information at: https://www.seenotretter.de
Pyrotechnics - legislation re carrying - if flareguns (Very pistols) permitted - if so is licence required? - procedure for disposal	Not compulsory but an official recommendation for everyone. If taking part in a race it is compulsory according to the WS OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS. German gun laws are very strict and acc. to the German legislation very pistols are considered as firearms and the owner needs a valid licence for its possession. As a foreigner you need your national licence and a European Firearms Passport which allows you to transport your gun within countries of the EU. Furthermore you need on board a special locker or safe for your gun. This is why the use of flares and parachute rockets is recommended instead of very pistols.
Staying during the winter	EU flagged boats may stay as long as they wish. Numerous marinas, boat yards and boat clubs offer winter storage ashore. Non-EU-vessels may stay up to 18 months. UK owned boats which were in the EU on 31 st December 2020 retain EU VAT-paid status and may remain in the EU indefinitely.
Antifouling regulations	The use of antifouling containing biocide is prohibited on certain lakes. Otherwise no specific legislation. In accordance with EU legislation.
Fuel availability	All white diesel contains biodiesel. Biodiesel is added in accordance with EN590 2010 (7% biodiesel). Very few fuel stations in marinas offer diesel without bio ingredients. To avoid growth of bacteria add an additive like GROTAMAR 82. These additives are not sold publicly since 01.12.2018, nevertheless harbour masters or boat technicians are allowed to buy it for professional reasons and put it into your fuel tank. For stations selling fuel without biodiesel see: https://klabauterkiste.de/tankstellen-fuer-diesel-ohne-biozusaeetze/ Petrol is available from most alongside fuelling points.
Gas and electricity systems available – necessity for adapters	Mostly propane gas. Also Camping Gaz (Butane) widely available. It is recommended to buy an adapter set consisting of the most frequently used adapters in Europe (set costs approx. 20 Euros).
Repair and maintenance facilities	All harbours offer services of sailmakers, shipyards, engine service or electricians. The best and easiest way is to ask the local harbour master or to search on google.com
Pump out stations for sewage and oily water	Stations for sewage pump out exist in a few harbours. Please look at http://www.sejlerens.com/de/haefen/ or ask local harbour master.
Pump out stations – type(s) of nozzle used in the country	Nozzles should conform to ISO8099 Small craft - Toilet waste retention systems
Public transport	Train and bus service covers most of the country. Services often limited in rural areas. For an excellent overview with all schedules and prices on German Railway (Deutsche Bahn): https://www.bahn.com
Major source of charts/pilot books in the country with link	Leisure boat charts are distributed by three publishers: N. V. Kombipacks (Nautischer Verlag), Delius Klasing Sportbootkarte, BSH-Karten. A good overview for all publications and online distribution can be found at: http://www.hansenautic.de/seekarten/seekarten.html
Shopping hours	Opening hours in supermarkets vary, but generally 0800-2000.
Important phone numbers, home pages and useful links	National Lifeboat organisation: DGzRS SEENOTLEITUNG (MRCC) BREMEN in Emergency (24 h): Tel.: +49 (0) 421- 536 87-0 Fax: +49 (0) 421- 536 87 14 Mobile: 124 124 (works only in German net coverage) Bremen Rescue Radio VHF Ch. 70 (DSC) or Ch. 16 The DGzRS (German Lifeboat Association) charges for technical assistance the operating expenses at a rate of €200 per hour, maximum €400 per operation. The rescue of men overboard is free of charge according to the order of the DGzRS.

Tick borne diseases	Tick borne diseases occur along the German coast and inland - see chart https://www.zecken.de/de/fsmerisikogebiete-deutschland														
Legislation re visiting with pets aboard	Pets must be vaccinated against rabies and the most common dog/cat diseases. Pets must be chipped with an identification chip and should have an animal health certificate which must be filled in by a vet in the owners' country. It is prohibited to import certain breeds of dogs.														
Practical advice and miscellaneous information	<p>Tidal information: https://www.bsh.de/DE/DATEN/Gezeiten/gezeiten_node.html</p> <p>Instructions for pleasure craft on the Kiel-Kanal: https://www.wsa-kiel.wsv.de/DE/schiffahrt/01_seeschiffahrt/nord-ostsee-kanal/Sportboot-NOK/Flyer/PDF_Merkbl_Spobo_eng.html?nn=1907558 (updated April 2018)</p> <p>Kiel-Canal Since April 2018 pleasure craft have to pay for the passage of Kiel-Kanal https://www.wsa-kiel.wsv.de/DE/schiffahrt/01_seeschiffahrt/nord-ostsee-kanal/Sportboot-NOK/Flyer/PDF_Flyer_Spobo_eng.html?nn=1907558 Fees: (April 2018)</p> <table> <tr> <td>boat of 10m</td> <td>12 Euros for full passage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>boat 10-12m</td> <td>18 Euros for full passage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>boat 12-16m</td> <td>35 Euros for full passage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>boat 16-20m</td> <td>41 Euros for full passage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>boat above 20m</td> <td>43 Euros for full passage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>every additional m</td> <td>1 Euro extra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kajak, canoes</td> <td>6 Euro for full passage</td> </tr> </table>	boat of 10m	12 Euros for full passage	boat 10-12m	18 Euros for full passage	boat 12-16m	35 Euros for full passage	boat 16-20m	41 Euros for full passage	boat above 20m	43 Euros for full passage	every additional m	1 Euro extra	Kajak, canoes	6 Euro for full passage
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This document does not claim to include all known information on the subjects covered but the compilers and the Baltic Sea Cruising Network (BSCN) believe that the information contained represents a useful aid to those visiting the country by boat. Visitors should make prudent use of the information available on the websites quoted. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication is accepted by the compilers or the Baltic Sea Cruising Network.

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