



Good To Know for Pleasant Travelling

Exchanging and Caring For Money

Germany and most European countries use the Euro. The Euro comes in many denominations. The symbol used is € . The larger the denomination, the larger the size of bill and each denomination is in a different color.

It is a good idea to travel with some cash foreign currency. So you might want to exchange \$100 into Euro before you leave, which you can generally do at the airport if you arrive early enough. You can also change your currency into Euro at the airport in Berlin when you land. In most cases, using the ATM will lead to the best exchange rate, but there may be a fee for using the machine; and that fee varies.

Don't bring cash Dollars, don't use Traveler's Checks – use Credit Card and ATM! The easiest way to get money is using an ATM. ATM's are available all over Europe even in small villages as well as in shopping malls and at gas stations. To use an ATM you need a debit or credit card, but make sure you bring your PIN. Consult your debit/ credit card company before leaving home. Let your bank know you will be traveling in Europe and confirm whether or not they require a different PIN number for European machines. Check to see what your limit is for daily withdrawals. Using a debit card will get you the best rate each day. Credit Cards are accepted in Europe like in the U.S or Canada. Be sure, however, to ask your bank about additional charges when you use your card outside your country. Letting your credit-card company know you are traveling to Germany will also prevent your fraud-protection services from kicking in and placing a hold on your card!

In Wittenberg, there are some national stores which accept credit cards, as do the hotels and most restaurants. But there are also small local shops and snack stands that only accept Euro. So, please do not plan to rely solely on credit cards. You'll need some Euro whether you get them from the ATM or from a cash-exchange place at the airport.

In Germany checks are not in use at all anymore. Traveler's checks can only be exchanged in some major banks or special traveler banks at train stations or airports. Businesses and local banks will generally NOT accept them! Same for non-Euro cash money: You would need special exchange offices, since local bank branches do not exchange cash currency.

In case they are lost have a photo copy of all of your debit cards, credit cards, and passports.

Emergencies / To be contacted by relatives

We have a 24/7 HOTLINE set up. It is a German landline number which connects your call to the cell phones of Michael Bridges, Christian Utpatel, and others. From a U.S. phone (also from your U.S. cell being used in Germany) call

PHONE 01149 56 81 80 99 89 5

It might be a good idea to save this number in your phone. If you plan to use your cell phone in Germany, for calls or for texting, speak with your service provider before you leave home. Some phones simply cannot be used in Europe. Other phones need either a special card or a service activation, which sometimes involves a fee.

If your family or friends need to contact you while you are at the festival they can also send a FAX. The fax will be received right at the reception desk of the main Festival hotel. Also, with a fax no one has to worry about different time zones or the occasional German who does not speak English answering the phone. Leave this FAX number with your family:

FAX 01149 34 91 50 52 06

Electricity and Electronics

You will need a transformer (converter) for all electrical appliances because European current is 220 volts. Buy a transformer and a set of adapters before you leave home. Be sure to get adapters that go with the transformer because many European receptacles are recessed. An "adapter" will not suffice. An adaptor will allow you to plug your device into the outlet, but it will not convert the voltage. Unfortunately, speaking from experience, we can tell you that this mistake can cost you a camera, even a computer. In some cases, your electrical cord includes a large box in the middle of it, as is the case with many computers. Before you leave, check with your local expert to find out if that box converts voltage. In many cases – but not all – it does. Then you only need the adapter to plug in, not the heavier and more expensive voltage transformer.

As mentioned above, check with your phone carrier regarding phone cards, use of cell phones in Europe, etc. Watch the rates, however, because they can get very pricy.

Free WIFI is available in the Luther Hotel as well as the Conference Center.

What's The Scoop On Jet Lag?

If you have traveled through several time zones you know how hard jet lag can be on your body. Here are some suggestions for dealing with jet lag:

- Try to get some sleep in the plane when you are traveling. Use ear plugs and a sleep mask.
- If you arrive during the day, do not go to sleep when you arrive – go to bed at your usual time.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid heavy foods.

It is important to relax and let your body catch up with the time differences. Within a day or so you will find that your body has adjusted.

Time

Europe uses twenty-four hour time for official appointments, public transportation, schedules, and so forth. So, noon is 12:00 hours, 1 p.m. is 13:00 hours, 3 p.m. is 15:00 hours. If something is at 2:00, that means it is at two in the morning! Two in the afternoon would be 14:00.

Time difference from North America to Germany is: EST + 6 hrs. This means that 5 pm in New York is 11 pm in Germany. And, then, 5pm in Los Angeles is two in the morning (which the Germans would call 2:00).

If your family in Seattle wants to reach you on the phone in Wittenberg at 9:00, they would have to stay up until midnight in Seattle to make the call. But, you would be at Morning Prayer then, so they might as well go to sleep early and just send a fax for you to read at breakfast!