

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



Topic	Comment
Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats)	82 million inhabitants; Approx 1,360 clubs affiliated to the German Sailing Federation (DSV). Unknown number of other clubs not affiliated. In DSV Clubs app. 185,000 members. For further information see: http://www.dsv.org/
Currency with link for exchange rates	EURO exchange calculator http://www.x-rates.com/calculator/
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	No requirement for EU citizens coming from EU countries although all crew members should carry their passport. Customs and immigration required for anyone arriving from outside EU. Visas required for visitors from Russia.
Banned Substances	In all cases visitors should advise customs of what they have on board (list of drugs).
Boat's documents required	Proof of VAT payment. Useful to have any registration papers from own country but not mandatory. If arriving with coloured diesel a receipt from the bunker-station must be on board in the case of inspection. In Germany no coloured (tax free) diesel is sold to pleasure craft.
Insurance	Insurance is not compulsory. 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 has 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. (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 like the 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 our shipping administration the distance should be not less than half a nautical mile). https://www.elwis.de/DE/Seeschifffahrt/Verkehrs--und-Sicherheitsmanagement/Verkehrssicherungskonzept-Deutsche-Kueste/Verkehrstrennungsgebiete/Verkehrstrennungsgebiete-page.html
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: https://www.elwis.de/DE/Schifffahrtsrecht/Verzeichnis-Rechtsverordnungen-Gesetze/SperrWarngebV-pdf.pdf?_blob=publicationFile&v=1 For firing and practice areas warnings are given on Navtex. NAVTEX is available online. See: www.dwd.de/navtex
Major construction sites	At present (2017) only associated with wind farm construction. Construction areas are rather located in the North Sea than in the Baltic Sea. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Offshore-Windparks
Windfarms/wave and tidal energy projects	Many are planned only a few are already in operation; fully operational to date is only Baltic 1 (16km N of Darß/Zingst) Baltic 2 and Wikinger. See website www.erneuerbare-energien.de/EE/Navigation/DE/Technologien/Windenergie-auf-See/Vorhaben/Intro/intro.html It is forbidden to navigate within wind farms while they are under construction. Vessels under 24m can navigate wind farms as soon as they are fully operational with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visibility below 500m (former reg. 1000m) - wind speed of 8 Bft. (former reg. 8 (Bft) and more) - fishing - mooring at constructions - anchoring
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 3 nm 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 boats 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	For all available German forecasts see: https://de.windfinder.com
Harbours including approx number of natural harbours	No records for number of harbours. A good free source is sejlrens: http://www.sejlerens.com/de/haefen/ The internet offers a data base of harbours: http://www.mein-ostseehafen.de/seegebiete.html
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 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 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 Nr.: +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. Further 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.
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). To avoid growth of bacteria add an additive like GROTAMAR 82. 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, ship yards, 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 für die Klein-und Sportschiffahrt. A good overview for all publications and online distribution can be found at: http://www.hansenautic.de/seekarten/seekarten.html
Shopping hours	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 at the coast of Germany in single cases - see chart www.zecken.de/gefahr-durch-zecken/fsme-in-europa.html
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 a European pet passport which must be filled in by a vet in the owners' country.

<p>Practical advice and miscellaneous information</p>	<p>Tidal information: www.bsh.de/de/Meeresdaten/Vorhersagen/Gezeiten/index.jsp</p> <p>Instructions for pleasure crafts on the Kiel-Kanal: http://www.wsa-kiel.wsv.de/Service/Publikationen/Anlagen/engl_Merkbl_Sportbootfahrer.pdf (updated June 2017) Kiel-Canal</p> <p>Due to construction work on the locks payment of canal fees is suspended. The necessary infrastructure will be completed during the sports boat season 2018. Also planned is an internet application / app to pay the fees. Until start of operation of the new payment options, the payment of the fees for pleasure boats is suspended.</p> <p>Carry a small amount of cash in local currency. Euro banknotes are available at all cash dispensers. Although credit cards are commonly accepted, in Germany still "Cash is King".</p>
---	---

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.

BSCN/Useful Information/GER-JF-OK First version 2008. Updated Feb 2018



**DSV KREUZER-
ABTEILUNG**

DSV Kreuzer-Abteilung
 Gründgensstraße 18
 22309 Hamburg
<http://www.kreuzer-abteilung.org/>