

Facts at Your a quick guide to your *Fingertips* new environment



REGENSBURG

www.invest-in-bavaria.com

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,



The State of Bavaria is one of the strongest, most advanced and dynamic economic regions in the world. Considered by many as the Silicon Valley of Europe, Bavaria enjoys the reputation of a world-class high-tech center.

With over 1,400 foreign high tech companies from 30 countries located in Bavaria, international business has become an integral part of the Bavarian economy. These companies have chosen Bavaria for its excellent business environment, good infrastructure and a healthy mix of high-tech companies and traditional industries.

But there are even more very convincing reasons for coming to Bavaria. Apart from its beautiful scenery, Bavaria also offers culture of the highest international standard as well as enormous leisure and recreational value. Lederhosen, beer-gardens and Oktoberfest – all over the world Bavaria is synonymous with , hospitality and openness.

In order to make it as easy as possible for you and your family to live and settle in Regensburg, the Regensburg International School, in cooperation with the Stadtmarketing Regensburg GmbH and the City of Regensburg has produced this manual “Facts at Your Fingertips” with useful and important tips and advice, based on experience.

The more familiar you are with the nature and character of a country or a town, the more you feel at home.

We are glad to support this project and hope that this guide will offer you some valuable help in your daily life: Welcome to Bavaria!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Zeil". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Martin Zeil
Bavarian State Minister of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure
Transport and Technology



A very warm welcome!

The Regensburg location (city and region) is considered as a region of top chances for the future. The city of Regensburg situated on the Danube ranks among the top 5 industrial locations nationwide. A distinctly multisided state-of-the-art industry represented by such large and medium-sized international companies as Areva, Continental, Infineon, Kronen, Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen, Osram Opto Semiconductors or Siemens and the marked presence of biotechnological enterprises in the meantime demonstrate the distinct international character of the region. The University of Regensburg and the Technical University of Applied Sciences encompassing a total of 20,000 students are examples of the inextricable link with the seat of both science and knowledge that Regensburg embodies. We are glad that Regensburg and the region have and will continuously become the hometown of international mobile employees and their families for many years – a hometown that has much to offer....

The combination of Regensburg's appeal as an economic and scientific location plus the high quality of life is unparalleled. The marvellous, historical old city centre is a showcase of the World Heritage city Regensburg. St. Peter's Cathedral, the old stone bridge, a myriad of medieval towers and winding alleys characterise a city life that is simultaneously so close to nature. The term "Italy's most northern city" that is used to designate Regensburg or the palpable "southern flair" indicates a combination of urbanity and humanity that is so typical for Regensburg.

Cultural life here is also pulsating. A number of historical and modern museums, galleries, theatres and much, much more attract invitingly. Treating oneself to some culinary delights presents no problem, either in the city that boasts the highest "density of pubs and taverns" in Germany.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dieter Daminger'.

Dieter Daminger
Deputy Mayor
Councillor of Economic and Financial Affairs
City of Regensburg



The Regensburg International School scheduled to begin in the next school year 2009/2010 is based on the one hand on the needs of internationally oriented families living in Regensburg or in the region.

On the other hand an in particular RIS offers families for whom it is becoming more and more common to move abroad the security and quality of a school curriculum, which is accepted worldwide and enables their child/children to continue education after relocating.

Moving to another country with your family is a big challenge. We would like to contribute right now to help you make this challenge a good and unforgettable time for your family. As school, providing your child/children with professional education after changing school and creating opportunity for social contact are vital. Furthermore, Bavaria and particularly Regensburg offer many local and regional options and distinctions relating to culture, society, geography and sports. We hope "Facts at your Fingertips" will make it easier for you to approach them.

We are pleased to see you have decided to come to Regensburg and the region, respectively, and would like to give you a very warm welcome!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Stoll'.

Dr. Bettina Stoll
CEO RIS GmbH
Head of Coordination "Regensburg International School" at the
Stadtmarketing Regensburg GmbH

For supporting us in creating the „Facts at your Fingertips“ for Regensburg and the region of Regensburg we thank the PTO of Munich International School and of Bavarian International School, Invest in Bavaria and the Ministry of Economic Affairs!

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Chapter I. A Taste of Regensburg

Introduction

Welcome to Regensburg, the oldest city of Bavaria. Already in the Stone Age, there were some settlers at the bank of the Danube, near Regensburg. Today, Regensburg is a modern and open minded city: among the constantly growing number of students – currently, there are about 20,000 students in Regensburg – the number of industries, extending to innovative branches such as biotechnology, is in persistent growth. With its geographical position in central Europe, its historical uniqueness and its variety of cultural institutions, approximately 40 museums, cinemas, theatres and concert halls, Regensburg is a city with something for everyone.

As already mentioned, the first settlements in Regensburg date to the Stone Age. The Celtic name *Radasbona* was the oldest name given to a prehistoric settlement here. In the 6th century, after the Romans have founded the fortress *Castra Regina*, ‘fortress by the river Regen’, in 179 A.D. for the Third Italic Legion, it has become the first capital city of Bavaria. More than 1,000 years later, Regensburg is the seat of the Perpetual Imperial Diet, and again 1,000 years later, it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Regensburg climate is continental with warm, dry summers and foggy, rainy winters. In the region, periods with a closed snow blanket are rare. On average, it rains 646 mm a year, and the number of sunny hours is 1,836.

Over the centuries, the city has grown to 150,000 inhabitants, approx. 9.7 % of whom hold foreign passports. When walking through the medieval lanes, you will hear a mix of languages other than German and the distinct local dialect, Bavarian. Regensburg is very much its own type of town: you can’t prevent yourself of being captivated by its medieval atmosphere. Some even call it “the northernmost Italian city”. With its great number of big squares, bars and cafes you almost feel like being on holiday.

You will find people friendly, if you are able to see through their somewhat matter-of-fact appearance. When you see someone wearing the Bavarian national costume (*Trachten-kleidung*) with leather trousers (*Lederhosen*), jackets and hats for men (*Loden*), and a dress and apron (*Dirndl*) for women, they are not necessarily dressed up. For some this is normal attire, particularly in the time where a lot of folk festivals take place, e. g. the *Regensburger Mai- & Herbst-Dult*, the *Gäubodenfest* in Straubing and, of course, the *Munich Oktoberfest*. On these festivals, you will see many others who adopt this dress style. For further information about Regensburg look at www.regensburg.de.

1. The City

You can walk from one end of the old town to the other in about 15 minutes. The city’s character is affected by some parks, wide squares, medieval lanes and architecture. The gastron-

omy offers a huge variety of different coffee shops, beer gardens (*Biergarten*), restaurants and bars. Sure, there is the possibility of shopping, but there isn't just one big street, where you can find all shops side by side: the stores are spread all over the city.

South of the inner city, you find the University and the University of Applied Sciences. Close-by there are big wholesale-markets like *Sports Experts*, *Media Markt*, *Metro*, *Bauhaus* etc.

If you like to go shopping in a shopping mall or something near it, you can go to the *Donau-Einkaufszentrum* or *Alex-Center*, in the north-east of the city. The *Arcaden* are to the south of the town. In the western part of Regensburg, you will find some sports clubs and the *Westbad*, where you can go swimming, get massages or take a sauna.

2. The North

North of Regensburg, you have the possibility to discover the seascape of Upper Palatinate. Apart from going fishing, cycling and horseback riding, you can also do some waterskiing. At the *Steinberger See* there are even two lines at your disposal to shorten the time of waiting. If you prefer sand to water, then you will be sold on the *Monte Kaolino* in Hirschau – “sandskiing” isn't an everyday activity, but you will love practising every day.

3. The South

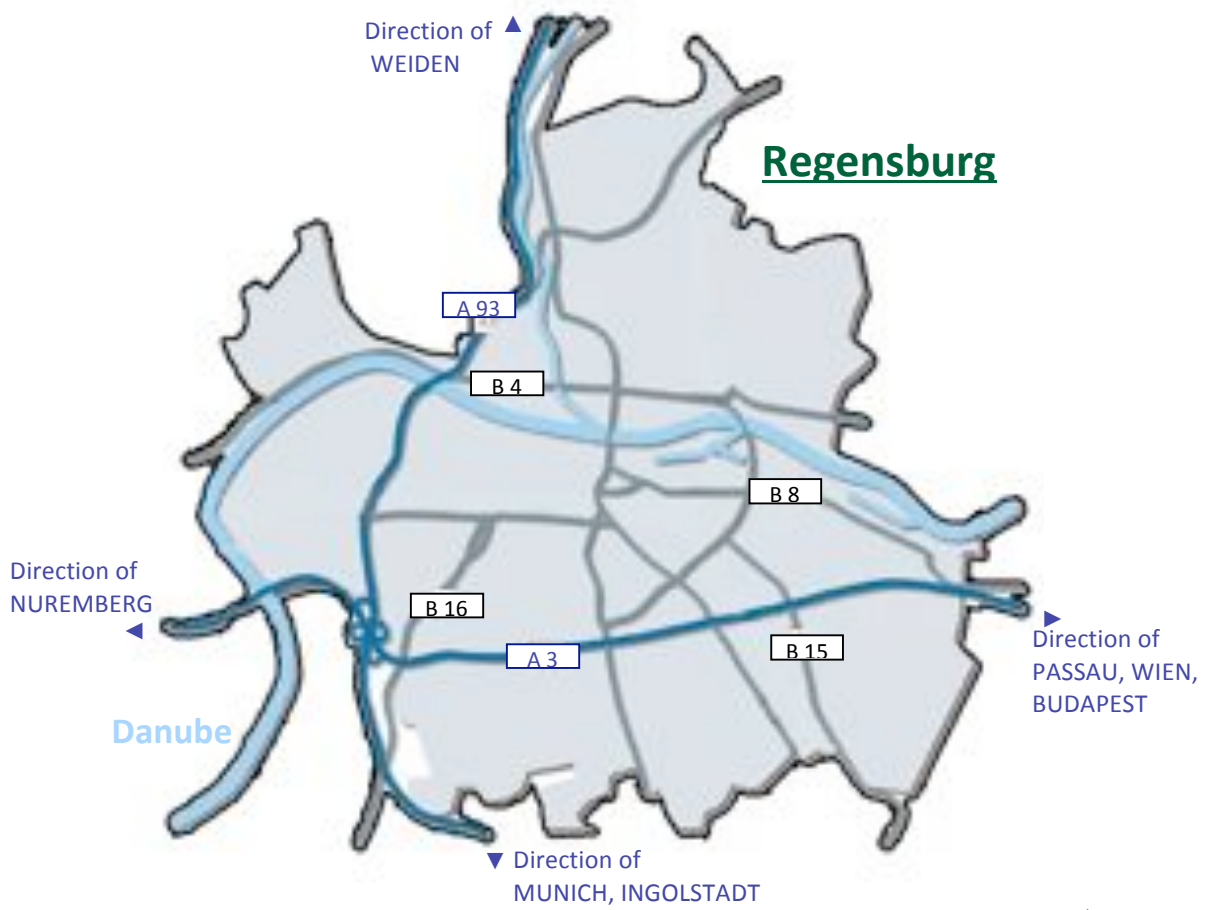
To the South of Regensburg you will find the therapeutic baths of *Bad Abbach* and *Bad Gögging*. The sulphur and mineral thermal springs and the regional marsh are unique natural cures. Beyond, this region has some cultural sights you shouldn't miss, e.g. the *Befreiungs-halle* in Kelheim. This “Liberation Hall” was founded by King Ludwig I in memory of the Bavarians killed in the wars against Napoleon in 1813 and 1815. Besides, the famous *Donaudurchbruch* is at close quarters: you can either walk through this nature reserve or you can take one of the daily cruisers, passing through the gorge from Kelheim to the *Weltenburg monastery*.

4. The West

The small towns and traditional villages are west of Regensburg. Going to Riedenburg for example means making a trip to the Middle Ages. In the Altmühl Valley Nature Reserve, where Riedenburg is situated, you will find lots of castles, a falconry (Rosenburg Castle) and a magnificent landscape.

5. The East

In the eastern part of the region you will find the biggest forest landscape of Central Europe – the *Bavarian Forest*. With its national park and natural parks, this landscape has impressive panoramic views to offer. But you have also the possibility to discover the multiple brooks and lakes that represent the lifeline of the biota.



Chapter II. Housing and Relocation

Introduction to Real Estate Market with Facts and Statistics

About 50 % of the German population lives in rented housing, and they spend on average 30-35 % of their available income (after taxes) on rent and utilities. Real estate is quite expensive in Germany due to the price of the ground and comparatively-high construction costs. Considering the additional cost when buying property (taxes, notary, fees) that can easily add up to another 10 % of the price, it is usually not worth buying, especially if the stay in Germany is limited to a short period.

1. What to Expect from Your Accommodations

An obvious difference for most expatriates (“expats”) will be the size. Americans will often consider German houses rather small, whereas they might seem bigger to someone coming from England, France, or a Scandinavian country. The overall quality of buildings is very high, even though styles may vary and facilities sometimes depend on the age of a property. Some terminology: The size of a house or an apartment is usually given in “square metres” and number of rooms. If you need two bedrooms plus living and dining space, you will have to look for a 3 to 4-Zimmer (four-room) apartment or house. Kitchen, bathrooms, halls, or basement rooms are not included in the number of rooms. A house with 150sqm of living space (*Wohnfläche*) and 80sqm of additional area (*Nutzfläche*) will offer 2-3 bedrooms, bathroom(s), kitchen, hall, and additional space, generally storage or hobby rooms in the basement or under the roof. Unfurnished accommodations are literally just that. There are no built-in cabinets, no light fixtures, curtains or curtain rods, and often no fitted kitchens (*Einbauküche* or *EBK*) – at least not in the bigger apartments or houses.

2. Practical Help in Finding a Place to Live

The most convenient approach will be to employ a relocation specialist. Companies offer a wide range of services from assisting with your housing needs, helping with registration, residence, and work permits, driver’s licence, registration of utilities, to finding doctors, cleaning help, or language courses. It is generally a good method to avoid frustration and ease your and your family’s relocation.

The *Immobilienmakler* is the German counterpart to a real estate agent. The disadvantage of using one to find housing is the high cost since these companies will charge you around two months’ net rent plus tax for the place they find. On the other hand, in a market as competitive as Regensburg’s, they are often your only chance. Relocation companies will also work with real estate agents.

Newspapers are a third and less expensive way to find a place. Ads appear in most bigger daily papers twice a week (usually Wednesdays and Fridays), but you have to be very fast to call

and available to visit, or the place will be gone before you even know where it is. An additional drawback may be the language problem.

3. The Contract

You have found your place to live; now you need to sign the lease (*Mietvertrag*), which will be difficult to understand even if you already know some German. It is advisable to go over the contract with someone able to explain all the details and some of the regulations not mentioned in the lease because they are part of the law.

Duration of contract and notice period: The legal notice period for an open lease which is now the norm is three months. Leases for a fixed term are no longer legal.

a. The Rent

The monthly payment to the landlord is due at the beginning of a month and consists of two parts, the rent (*Kaltmiete*) and the utilities (*Nebenkosten*). Whereas the rent is generally fixed for the duration of the lease (exception is a *Staffelmiete* with an annual increase built in the contract), utilities can vary from year to year. For apartments *Nebenkosten* usually include: water, heating, garbage collection, the landlord's share in property tax, insurance for the property, chimney cleaning, etc. For rented houses the *Nebenkosten* will usually include the landlord's property tax, landlord's insurance for the property, trash collection, chimney cleaning, etc. Be aware that there are additional payments for electricity, water, heat, etc. and your own insurances (see chapter II, 5. and 8.).

It is a landlord's obligation to provide the tenant with a balancing of these utilities once a year, (usually within the first six months of the following year) especially if they include consumable quantities/factors. According to the balance, you can expect a refund or may have to pay the difference.

b. The Deposit

As a security for any damage or unpaid rent, the landlord will ask for a deposit amounting to two to three months' rent. In some cases a bank guarantee will do the trick. The landlord must deposit cash received as a deposit into an interest-bearing savings account. After the lease ends and the property has been handed back without damages, the deposit plus the legal interest rate for the period of the lease must be paid back.

Handover statement (*Übergabeprotokoll*): This protocol is usually part of the contract and you should insist on one when taking over the property, as it is in the interest of both parties. Here the state of the property and any damages as well as any eventual inventory should be noted. It will also state the meter readings and the number of keys received.

c. Rights and Obligations as Tenant

Some of a tenant's rights and obligations will clearly be stated in the rental contract and the house regulations (*Hausordnung*) which are an integral part of the contract; others are covered by German law and not expressly mentioned in the contract. Because of the multitude, only the most important ones are listed below:

- An increase in rent may not be more than 10 % each year and the rent should be on an equal level to comparable properties in the area.
- Any construction changes to the property that are not necessary for security reasons require consent of the tenant.
- The landlord must be informed immediately of any damages or appliances that are not working.
- The tenant must take care of the property, keep it in a clean and proper state, and heat and ventilate it; he must make sure it is properly locked if absent for a long period. If the rental period exceeds three years or more, the tenant may have some obligations to renovate certain rooms, regardless of the final renovation. The tenant must take care of the garden (mowing, cutting bushes, and collecting fallen leaves). The tenant may also be responsible for the cleaning of halls or stairs as well as the front walk (leaves, snow, ice).
- Repairs: The tenant is responsible for minor repairs inside the house (excluding heating system, water pipes, or electrical installations) up to € 75-150 per repair (acc. to the lease) and a maximum of eight percent of the *Kaltmiete* per year.
- Quiet times: No loud noise between 13.00-15.00 and after 22.00 Monday-Saturday, and all day Sunday. Lawn mowing only until 19.00. (These hours may differ between towns, villages, and communities – just watch your neighbours!).
- Laundry washing and drying may be limited to certain areas.
- Storage of cars, bikes, and prams must be in designated areas.
- Pet ownership requires written permission from the landlord.
- The installation of satellite dishes requires permission from the landlord and must be in compliance with local laws.
- No open fires or grilling inside the house or on balconies.

In most cases, the relationship between landlord and tenant will work out just fine; should major problems arise, a good place to ask for advice is for example the tenants' organization (*Mieterbund*) www.mieterbund.de or one of the *Mietervereine* in Regensburg.

d. The Landlord's Obligations

- The landlord may enter the property with prior consultation.
- The landlord must take care of any repairs made known to him within an appropriate period of time. He is responsible for the proper working of the heating, water, and electrical systems.

e. Moving Out

The legal period of notice is three months. A tenant should let the landlord know of the actual move-out date well in advance. The tenant must hand back the property in a clean and proper state and with all keys. All damages must be repaired and renovation work completed by the move-out date according to the contract or the law. Generally, the walls and ceilings of the property have to be painted – often professionally – and carpets cleaned. In case of a longer lease, windows, doors, and radiators may have to be painted. Do not forget to read your meters (or have them read) so that utilities can be balanced accordingly. Also, cancel your TV and telephone registration, and arrange for your mail to be redirected. Within Germany the cost for this service is € 15 for up to six months; redirection to overseas is very expensive.

4. The Move

a. Parking

The actual day of the move-in will be hectic. It is a good idea to plan some things in advance. Confirm with your relocation or moving company that they have asked for “No-Parking” signs in front of the property and ask for some English-speaking workman (but do not expect him to be fluent!). Generally, heat, water, and electricity should be working, but check on it beforehand to avoid surprises.

b. Tips and Food for Movers

Have some necessities (toilet paper, soap, towel) ready, as well as drinks (water and soft drinks, and possibly coffee) for the moving people. It may be a good idea to treat the movers to some snacks or sandwiches at lunch, and do not forget to tip them at the end of the day (approx. € 10 per person). Obviously, the tip itself and the amount are up to you and your satisfaction.

5. Utilities: Obtaining Gas, Electricity, Water, TV, Radio, Telephone and Internet Services

Often, the relocation company or even the realtor will take care of all or at least some of your registrations with the companies providing gas, electricity, water, telephone, and other services. This will only give you an overview of the situation in Germany.

Gas, (Green) Electricity and Water: While there is still just one provider locally for gas and water, the market for electricity has been liberalized, and it is highly advisable to compare competitors; see e. g.:

www.test.de, www.verinox.de, or www.strom-guenstiger.de.

Once the meters are read, a call, fax, or card is sufficient to register. The providing company will send you a confirming letter with a payment plan. These will largely rely on empirical fac-

tors or estimated consumption. Once a year, you will be asked by card to read your meter, or somebody will come by to read it; and shortly afterwards you will get either an invoice or a refund. Your regular payments may also be adjusted based on consumption.

TV and Radio: The German broadcast standard is PAL B/G, which means that American NTSC system TVs will not work. You will need to acquire a PAL set or a multi-system one. In Germany there are still a couple of radio and TV stations run by public corporations (*öffentlich-rechtliche Anstalten*) funded mainly through fees that **any user** of radio or television **must pay**, regardless of whether an antenna, cable, or a satellite is utilized. The fee for private households is € 16,56 per quarter (only radio) and € 51,09 (radio and TV) respectively. Registrations and payments are made to the GEZ in Köln. Registration forms are available at banks or as a download from their website, www.gez.de, and need to be faxed (0180/582 10 10) or mailed to *Postfach 10 8025, 50656 Köln*. The number of terrestrially receivable TV stations is very limited; with a radio, one may be able to pick up quite a number and even some English ones. Most properties nowadays have access to cable with around 35 mostly-German programs, although CNN, NBC, MTV, Super Channel, and sometimes BBC World can be received. The initial cost for a cable connection will be between € 35-235 (depending on the work involved) and the monthly fees (usually paid as part of the utilities to the landlord) are between € 15-20. Another option for more channels is the pay-TV Premiere World (www.premiere.de). Customers must subscribe to the service for at least a year and need a digital receiver that can be bought or leased. The cost for the installation of satellite dishes can vary considerably, and, due to local regulations, it is highly recommended to hire a professional who can also be consulted on the choice of system according to individual needs.

Telephone & Internet Services: Since the liberalization of the German telephone market in 1998, prices have fallen dramatically, but the resourcefulness of a detective is necessary to determine the best arrangement for the individual need. As there is often some installation work involved as well – particularly if you want high-speed Internet access – the service of a professional might be a good solution. You can find companies in the *Yellow Pages* under *Telefon* or *Telekommunikation*. A great website to compare providing companies and prices is for example www.teltarif.de. For the actual connection to your house (*Anschluss*), *Deutsche Telekom* (www.telekom.de) still virtually has a monopoly. There are some local and regional competitors, but their offers are rather limited.

The first decision will be whether you want an analog line (one telephone line, modem for Internet, 56k speed), an ISDN-line (three lines of which two are usable at the same time, 64k/128kBit speed), or DSL in connection with either analog or ISDN (one/three lines plus independent line for Internet, speed depending on DSL version, but at least 256k, usually more). The initial cost for an analog or ISDN line is € 51,57 and € 100 for a DSL line (often with special offers). Special equipment adds to the cost and can easily be € 250 and more for the DSL, plus the cost for work. Telephones can sometimes be bought from the provider in a package with the line or in electronic shops.

The next step will be to decide on the tariff, regardless of which company provides your service. The tariff will usually consist of a monthly basic price plus fees per minute, the fundamental rule being: the higher the basic price, the lower the fees per minute. Weekdays between 9.00-18.00, calls are most expensive; they are cheaper late at night or on weekends. Tariffs for Internet access also vary considerably and are available from basic price plus “by call,” to basic price plus price for “xx” number of hours or MB, to basic price plus flat rate. As

in other countries, you can reduce costs enormously by using call by call numbers, call-back services, or calling cards. See e. g. www.teltarif.de for lists of providers and tariffs.

Mobile phones (*Handy*) are widely used and again there exists a multitude of companies and different tariffs. In principle, to use a mobile phone is comparatively expensive, regardless of whether you have a contract (monthly basic price plus fees per minute) or use prepaid cards (certainly the most expensive). Please check also for example www.teltarif.de or the web pages of the providing companies like e. g. *o2*, *Vodafone*, or *E-Plus*.

Tip: Yellow Pages (Gelbe Seiten):

You will receive the Yellow Pages for your area together with the telephone directory once you get a telephone line. They are an invaluable help to find shops, craftsmen, or just the proper German word.

6. Banks and Banking

Opening hours:

Mon–Fri 8.30/9.00 – 16.00*

Thursday 8.30/9.00 – 17.30/18.30

***smaller branches may close for lunch**

Setting up a bank account in Germany is fairly similar to the procedure in other countries, and usually someone will speak English. All you need is a passport and possibly your confirmation of registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*, see section 7. below). A current account is called *Girokonto*, a savings account *Sparkonto*. As an initial deposit, you can bring cash or a check from your overseas account, but any check deposit or transfer of funds from the home bank takes between three

and seven business days. It is important for a transfer in any direction to provide the sending bank with the Swift, IBAN and BIC codes and exact address of the recipient bank as well as your account number; otherwise, the clearance can take much longer. Fees for international transfers are still high.

When setting up the account ask for the issue of a bank card (*EC-Karte*). This is invaluable today to get cash from ATMs, bank statements from special machines, and to pay in shops, gas stations, etc. The bank card is more widely accepted in Germany than credit cards! You will receive the card and personal identification number (PIN) separately in the mail. When getting cash at an ATM, make sure it belongs to your group of banks or one affiliated with your bank (indicated on the ATM) to avoid a fee of € 4. The limit for cash withdrawals per day/week varies from bank to bank and can be agreed upon individually.

Home banking via telephone and Internet is widely used, and many of the bigger banks have an English version for their Internet banking. It is secured by a system of transaction numbers (*TANs*). Bills can be paid in several alternate ways – but not with checks!

For recurrent payments of a set amount like rent, TV fees, etc., you can establish a standing order (*Dauerauftrag*), and the amount will be transferred automatically from your account into the recipient's. Another possibility for regular payments with varying amounts (e.g. telephone bills) is the direct debit (*Lastschrift*). Here the recipient deducts the respective amount from your account once you have given him the direct debit authorization (*Einzugsermächtigung*). The latter you can always cancel and you also have the right to recall any such payment within 90 days.

7. Registration

Dealing with any kind of bureaucracy in a foreign country is always a daunting experience, but it sounds worse than it is; often, your relocation consultant will take care of this, or you will get help from your employer.

a. Local Authorities

In Germany, every resident (any German and anybody staying for more than three months) must register with the local authority within a month of arrival. Depending on where you live, this will be the town hall (*Rathaus*) or, in big towns, the registry office (*Einwohnermeldeamt* or *Meldestelle*); for Regensburg, check:

http://www.regensburg.de/buerger/buergerservice/einreise_und_aufenthalt/01_meldepflicht_lohnsteuerkarte_fuehrerschein.shtml for addresses and opening hours. Any change of address must also be reported. Sometimes you will have to fill out and sign a form or just answer some questions, but your passport(s) is essential. Keep the confirmation of registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*) or a copy thereof accessible. It is necessary to obtain the residence permit for school registration of your children, for de-registration, or to take trash and/or recyclables to the local recycling center (*Wertstoffhof*, see chapter V, 4.).

When you register, you will be asked about your church affiliation. If you state one, you will automatically be submitted to pay German church tax, which amounts to eight percent of your payable income tax.

b. Residence Permit

All foreigners must obtain a residence permit (*Aufenthaltsgenehmigung*) from the office that issues residence permits (*Ausländerbehörde*). The registry office will provide you with the addresses and necessary forms. Do it early since it might take some time. For Regensburg, see (only German):

http://www.regensburg.de/buerger/buergerservice/einreise_und_aufenthalt/index.shtml or **www.landkreis-regensburg.de** (→ *Landratsamt* → *A-Z was erledige ich wo?* → *Ausländer* → *Aufenthaltsgenehmigung*) for the Regensburg region (*Landkreis*). The procedures are not the same for European Union members and other expatriates and may also vary from authority to authority. You will definitely need the following items:

- valid passport for each family member,
- two passport photos each (has to be a biometric photo!),
- a signed application form for each person (the registry office sometimes has to stamp this form),
- confirmation of registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*),
- proof that you can support yourself (confirmation of employer, independent means, pension),
- proof of health insurance if not employed, and
- sometimes proof that you are married.

EU nationals will receive a separate residence permit valid for at least five years whereupon it will have to be renewed into a permanent one. For non-EU nationals a preliminary three-month permit is issued until a work permit or required medical tests (in some cases) are completed. Then a one-year permit will be stamped into the passport. The renewal periods will get longer after that, but do not forget to apply in time. For non-EU nationals, the residence permit must state that a person is allowed to work. Residence permits for EU nationals are free of charge; otherwise, the fee for an adult is around € 50 and € 25 for a child.

c. Work Permit

Non-EU expatriates working in Germany will need a work permit (*Arbeitsgenehmigung*) from the local employment office (*Agentur für Arbeit*); for Regensburg this is located at *Galgenbergstr. 24, Phone (0941) 7808-0*. Again, this requires a form signed by the applicant and the employer, a confirmation letter from the employer, and the passport.

d. Tax Card

Once equipped with residence and work permit, anyone working as an employee must obtain a tax card (*Lohnsteuerkarte*) from the registry office that your personnel department will need. Initially, you will have to pick it up or phone for it to be mailed; after that it will automatically be sent to you every year.

e. Child Benefit (Kindergeld)

Every taxpaying resident with children in Germany is entitled to child benefit payments (*Kindergeld*, see section 9. below). The forms are available at the child benefit office (*Kindergeldstelle*) of the local employment office (*Agentur für Arbeit*) or online at: **www.arbeitsagentur.de**. They must be stamped by the registry office and sent to the office indicated on the form.

f. Parenting Allowance (Elterngeld)

In addition to the *Kindergeld*, parents are also entitled to benefits if they take care of their child/ren themselves. This parenting allowance will be paid for all children born on or after 1

January 2007. For a period of twelve months parents will receive 67 percent of the current net income of the parent that stays home with the child (not more than € 1,800 a month). Two additional months will be paid for the other partner to give fathers, in particular, an incentive take parental leave. To get this support, the parent staying at home with the child is not allowed to work more than 30 hrs. a week.

For more information please check www.arbeitsagentur.de or www.zbfs.bayern.de. You can also go to the regional office of the *Zentrum Bayern Familie und Soziales*, Landshuter Straße 55, 93053 Regensburg, Phone (0941) 7809-00 or E-Mail: poststelle.opf@zbfs.bayern.de.

g. Pets

There are certain rules to follow and certain documents required when bringing a pet from overseas to Germany. You can check with the German embassy in your home country or get in touch with the Munich Airport Veterinary, *Phone (089) 97 590 390, Fax (089) 97 590 396*. Also, communicate with your airline regarding its procedures for transporting animals. Once in Germany, dogs must be registered with the local authorities as well, and the owner must pay a yearly dog tax (*Hundesteuer*). Registration can be done in person at the town hall (*Rathaus*) or dog registry office (*Hundesteueramt*), or in written form stating your name and address as well as the details of the dog (race, age, gender, and colour). Once registered, the owner will receive a metal plate (*Hundesteuermarke*) that must be attached to your dog's collar (see sections 9. below and chapter V, 9.). Other pets, e. g., cats, hamsters, birds, do not need to be registered and do not incur any tax.

8. Insurance Coverage

Better to be safe than sorry! Insurance is a necessity of life, and often your company will help you find appropriate coverage. The pension scheme and the social security payments will frequently be an integral part of your contract with your employer.

Your own insurance will vary according to your circumstances.

Insurances

<i>Type of insurance</i>	<i>What it covers</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Health Insurance (<i>Krankenversicherung</i>)	See under Health, section IV	Mandatory
Nursing Insurance (<i>Pflegeversicherung</i>)	Nursing during sickness and old age. Contribution is 1,7 % of salary before taxes, paid 50/50 by employer and Employee.	Mandatory

Car Insurance		
<i>(Kasko or Teilkaskoversicherung)</i>	Insurance covering theft of or damage to the car caused by you either full insurance or part insurance.	Advisable
Liability Insurance		
<i>(Haftpflichtversicherung)</i>	Covers damage or personal injury caused by your or your family's negligence.	Highly advisable; often required for rental contract.
Liability Insurance for dog		
	Covers damage caused by your dog.	Mandatory
Accident Insurance		
<i>(Unfallversicherung)</i>	Covers in case you are injured or disabled AND pays beneficiaries case you die in an accident.	Consider in having one for your children too.
Disability Insurance		
	Covers in case you become disabled or chronically ill and cannot work anymore. Supplement to social security.	
Life Insurance		
<i>(Lebensversicherung)</i>	An opportunity to secure retirement financially better than the official social security plan or for your beneficiaries.	
Household Insurance		
<i>(Hausratversicherung)</i>	Covers the contents of your home against cases of fire, water damage, vandalism, theft, hail, etc.	Advisable, often required for rental contract
Glass Insurance		
<i>(Glasversicherung)</i>	Covers broken windows in case of accidents or nature catastrophes. Often part of the household insurance.	
Travel Insurance		
<i>(Reiseversicherung)</i>	A total package may cover loss of baggage, cancellation, medical care during travel, etc. However, each service can be bought individually.	
Legal aid Insurance		

(*Rechtsschutzversicherung*) Legal proceedings can be expensive, so this one may be worth considering.

Tenant Insurance

(*Mietrechtsschutzversicherung*) Covers costs of disputes with your landlord.

Look for example at the following websites for further information:

<http://service.gdv.de/gdv-productdb/user/control.php/start> gives an overview of insurance companies; www.test.de (the consumer organization that conducts tests downloadable for a fee of € 1 per test).

9. Taxes/Child Benefit Deduction (*Kinderfreibetrag*)

Anyone with a German source of income must pay taxes, whether a German citizen or not. The German tax system is complex so you are well advised to hire a tax consultant (*Steuerberater*) to help you.

Taxes from salaries (*Lohnsteuer*) are taken at the source, meaning that the tax will have been deducted by your employer before you see any money. Likewise, deductions are also made for payments into retirement funds and unemployment and health insurance programs. These programs are funded equally by employer and employee.

In case you have other income (fees, investments, and the like) or are self-employed, you must declare this income yourself to the financial authorities. You should submit an income tax return (*Einkommensteuererklärung*) by May 31; the tax authorities will then issue a tax assessment two to six months later. If you use the assistance of a tax consultant, the date for handing in your income tax return is extended until September 30. Based on what you paid in taxes last year, the tax authorities (*Finanzamt*) will estimate your tax for the current year, and you may be required to make prepayments (*Vorauszahlungen*). Adjustments will be made at the end of each year.

The church tax (*Kirchensteuer*) is at eight percent of the actual wages (*Lohn-/ Einkommenssteuer*). When you register with the local authorities, you will be asked which religion you practice; only if you wish to be officially registered as a member of one of the established churches will you be required to pay church tax.

If you pay taxes in Germany and have children, you are entitled to receive a child benefit (*Kindergeld*), which is a certain amount per month per child to secure the child's welfare. In 2006 this amount was € 154 per child, up to three children, and € 179 each for additional children. As from 2009 it is € 164 for the first two children, € 170 for the third child and € 195 for every additional child. This amount is granted until the child is 18 years old and can be prolonged until he/she is 25 under certain circumstances. Depending on your circumstances, you can get a tax deduction (*Kinderfreibetrag*) instead of the money. The net amount, though, will always be the same.

The value-added tax (VAT, *Mehrwertsteuer*) in Germany is 19 % on goods and services as of 1 January 2007. A reduced rate of seven percent applies to food and printed material, while postal, medical, and insurance services, exports of goods abroad, and services rendered abroad are exempt. An additional sales tax applies to items like gasoline, tobacco products, tea, and coffee.

Every dog owner is required to pay a dog tax (*Hundesteuer*). The dog must be registered. In Regensburg, contact the *Stadtkämmerei*, Dr.-Martin-Luther-Str. 1, Phone (0941) 507 2227 or one of the *Bürgerbüros*, Phone 507 1888, -2888 or -3333. In surrounding areas, contact the regional administration (*Landratsamt*). You are responsible for registering your dog yourself, and it should be done within two weeks after you have arrived/gotten a dog. The tax is payable once a year on January 15.

There are many other kinds of taxes, but those described above are the ones you are most likely to encounter.

Tip: Americans are required by law to file a US tax return every year with the IRS. Check the website <http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/irs.html> for information.

10. Driver's Licence

The office dealing with driver's licences is called *Führerscheinstelle* and part of the local authorities. For Regensburg it is situated in Johann-Hösl-Straße 11:

http://www.regensburg.de/buerger/rathaus/aemter_gegliedert/rechts_und_umweltreferat/strassenverkehr/index.shtml. For Regensburg region it is at Altmühlstraße 6:

<http://www.landkreis-regensburg.de/landkreis.asp?naviid={2213D1FB-B63B-4B75-AE0F-A2-541AA567DB}&OrgID={D4677DB7-6E25-4058-BE02-B49F0EA07741}>. For other areas it is the local office of the regional administration (*Landratsamt*). Please check the respective websites and also the one of the US consulate:

<http://germany.usembassy.gov/> for changes in the procedures or the lists below.

Licence holders from an EU or EEA country can use their home licence in Germany permanently. Only drivers with less than two years' experience or licences for trucks and buses must register with the driver's licence office (*Führerscheinstelle*). Check the websites mentioned above for the exact list.

Other expatriates are legally allowed to drive with their licence for six months once they have registered with the local authorities but may need a translation. The automobile club (*ADAC*), *Paracelsusstr. 1*, Phone (0941) 556 73, or a certified translator will do this; cost is around € 50. A person may prolong this period up to a year at the *Führerscheinstelle* prior to expiration of the six months, if he/she can prove that he/she will leave the country permanently within twelve months. Otherwise, a German licence is required and the process should be started **early**, since the paperwork itself can take two months. If a German licence is not acquired within three years after establishing residency in Germany, the licence holder must go through the whole procedure of lessons and testing as a first-time applicant.

Tip: Generally, the original licence will be collected, but it is possible to request keeping it by stating reasons such as no permanent residence in Germany, licence serves as identification document in home country, or even the hassle of acquiring a new licence again when moving back.

For licence holders from a country or US state with full reciprocity (see list below), the process of exchange is straightforward. The applicant will need the following documentation:

- signed application form (available at the *Führerscheinstelle* or the registry office, the latter might need to stamp form),
- official identification (passport),
- one passport photo (a biometric photo, please),
- confirmation of first registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*),
- original driver's licence and German translation (see above),
- statement by applicant giving valid dates of licence, and
- sometimes an eye test (*Sehtest*, available at a local optician for € 6).

The fee for the licence is around € 35 (payable in cash), and the applicant will be informed by mail when to pick up the new licence.

States, provinces, and countries with full reciprocity:

USA: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon.

Other: Andorra, Estonia, Fr. Polynesia, Guernsey, Hungary, Isle of Man, Israel, Japan, Jersey, Korea, Latvia, Malta, Monaco, New Caledonia, Poland, San Marino, Switzerland, Singapore and South Africa. For Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic, there are certain limitations; licence holders from Taiwan must take the practical test and those from Lithuania, the theoretical test.

Partial reciprocity agreements exist for the US states mentioned below. Applicants from these states follow the same procedure described above, but must register at the *Führerscheinstelle* for a theoretical written test. Registration for this test can be done via a local driving school. The test can be taken in English, including a test of German licence-related vocabulary. The questions are mostly multiple choice, but it is important to study. Preparatory books and learning materials are available through driving schools. The cost is around € 50.

States with partial reciprocity:

Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, and Tennessee.

Licences from countries not mentioned above are not accepted in Germany, and holders must take the theoretical and practical tests to acquire the German licence. The expected cost for the whole process is around € 450, depending on the number of practical lessons. Applicants should choose a driving school and prepare the same documentation as mentioned above. A good school will take care of at least part of the paperwork. Applicants need:

- signed application form (available at the *Führerscheinstelle* or the registry office, the latter might need to stamp form),
- official identification (passport),
- one passport photo (a biometric photo, please),
- confirmation of first registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*),
- original driver's licence and German translation (see above) and
- statement by applicant giving valid dates of licence.

In addition, the following may be required:

- eye test (*Sehtest*) (available from a local optician for € 6) and
- confirmation of first-aid course (*Teilnahmebescheinigung für lebensrettende Sofortmaßnahmen*). Any prior certification is not valid. Courses are offered by various institutions (the Red Cross, the *Johanniter*, the *Malteser*, the *Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund*); ask your driving school or check e.g.:
www.brk.de; www.malteser.de; www.johanniter.de; and www.asb-regensburg.de.
 They take place usually on a Saturday, 10.00 – 16.00, and are in German!

The driving school can provide the applicant with English books and sample tests to learn for the test. The questions are mostly multiple choice, but it is important to study. Equally recommended is a series of driving lessons in order to pass the practical test. Once the paperwork has been processed and the instructor feels the applicant is ready, the driving school will register him/her for the theoretical test (in English, if desired) and, as soon as this one is passed, for the practical test. The latter will be supervised by an examiner, will take about 40 minutes, and includes city driving, motorway (*Autobahn*) driving, and parking. If passed, the applicant will receive a form to pick up the licence at the *Führerscheinstelle*. Otherwise, the test will be rescheduled.

Beginners/First-Time Drivers/Adolescents with US licence: A German licence for a firsttimer (legal age is 18) can cost as much as € 1,500, since it entails a number of driving lessons as well as written and practical tests (driving in Germany can be obtained at 17 years of age but the driver must drive with an adult). Practice driving without a certified instructor and a car with dual controls is not permitted. Adolescents with foreign passports and driver's licences are permitted to drive for six months in Germany after taking up residency. After that, their licence will be suspended until they reach the legal age of 18. Then the licence can be exchanged for a German one according to the conditions described above.

It is also possible to get a driver's licence at the age of 16. This licence "S" applies to microcars and quad bikes limited to 40 km/h.

11. Vehicle Registration

Under German law, you are entitled to drive a car with foreign licence plates for one year as long as you have insurance coverage, e.g. a green card (a legal document issued by car insurance companies in a format accepted throughout Europe indicating that the holder is insured to drive the named vehicle). After this period, the car must be registered with the local authorities and carry German plates. This is done at the motor vehicle registry office (*Kfz-Zulassungsstelle*). In Regensburg it is at Johann-Hösl-Straße 11 and for the Regensburg region (*Landkreis*), it is at Altmühlstraße 6 (see homepage, section 10). Elsewhere, it is situated in the

local regional administration office (*Landratsamt*). As a foreigner in Germany, you will not be able to register a car until you have your proper residence permit.

Tip: It is strongly advised not to ship or drive a car to Germany if you come from outside the EU. It is a costly process and the problems arising are numerous, so you should get professional assistance before shipment.

General procedures for registering a second-hand car (non-imports):

When you buy a new car, the dealer will usually take care of the registration.

The documentation you must gather:

- title of ownership (*Fahrzeugbrief*),
- car registration (*Fahrzeugschein*),
- insurance papers (*Versicherungsdoppelkarte*),
- passport, including residency permit (*Aufenthaltserlaubnis*),
- confirmation of residence registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*),
- licence plates (*Autoschilder*), and
- confirmation of valid car inspection and exhaust tests (*TÜV* and *AU*).

Getting your registration:

- Take your documentation to the motor vehicle registration office (*Kfz-Zulassungsstelle*) and turn in your file for processing.
- You will be given a paper with your new licence plate number.
- Hand in your old car licence plates and buy new ones (usually in a separate shop/office nearby).
- Take the new plates back to the registration department. They will attach a *TÜV* and an *AU* sticker to them (see chapter VI, 1.). Note: Plate with circular sticker goes on back of the car.
- You will be asked to either pay directly or sign a direct debit authority for payment of the road tax to the tax office (*Finanzamt*) due immediately.

Tip: Should you move from one county (*Landkreis*) to another, you must re-register the car within one month and get new number plates again.

Procedures for registering an imported car:

The procedures differ from EU to non-EU countries and are complicated, expensive, and cumbersome in both cases. Besides getting the above-mentioned papers, you will also need:

- customs importation approval (*Zollrechtliche Unbedenklichkeitserklärung*) from the *Hauptzollamt*, approximately € 100,
- clearance declaration (*Unbedenklichkeitserklärung*) from the general vehicle registry office (*Kraftfahrzeugbundesamt*), approximately € 15, and
- the original invoice.

The car must be examined by a motor vehicle inspector (usually at *TÜV*, see chapter VI, 1c.) and usually entails a lot of costly changes.

Tip: Get professional help and advice if you are still set on importing a car.

Chapter III. Schools, Kindergartens and Day Care

Introduction to the German School System

The most obvious difference of the school system in Germany compared to almost any other country is the hours. The vast majority of children attend kindergarten and school only in the mornings and, depending on their age, will be home between noon and 13.30. Only all-day kindergarten (*Kindertagesstätten*), nurseries (*Kinderkrippen*), and some private and international institutions have all-day programs. The individual German states are responsible for the system of education and the school curricula, and the law requires that any child in Germany from the age of six/seven must go to school for at least nine years.

Playgroups (*Spielgruppen*) are usually organised privately by parents and use space provided by churches or the local community. Parents generally select the kindergarten according to personal preferences, convenience, or availability. When choosing a kindergarten, you should be aware that educational ideas and methods can vary according to the management, though all kindergartens must have some public approval or certification.

Kindergartens are generally run by communities, private or non-profit organisations, and have to follow state-set standards. Attendance is from 3 years to the beginning of compulsory educational aims at kindergarten level are personal development and to provide first learning experience.

1. German Schools

Bavaria offers widespread educational opportunities in a diversified formal education system, which includes vocational education. The following explanations refer to the diagram.

Primary education

Grundschule is normally attended by all children who have attained their 6th birthday by a given deadline in the year. In grade 4, parents wishing children to be enrolled in a *Gymnasium* or *Realschule* apply for a Transfer Report.

For further information, please contact the ministry of education (Staatliches Schulamt), Sedanstraße 1, Phone (0941) 4009-510, www.schulamt.regensburg.de, or the city of Regensburg's education office (Schulreferat der Stadt Regensburg), Von-der-Tann Str. 1, Phone (0941) 507-2407. www.schulen.regensburg.de.

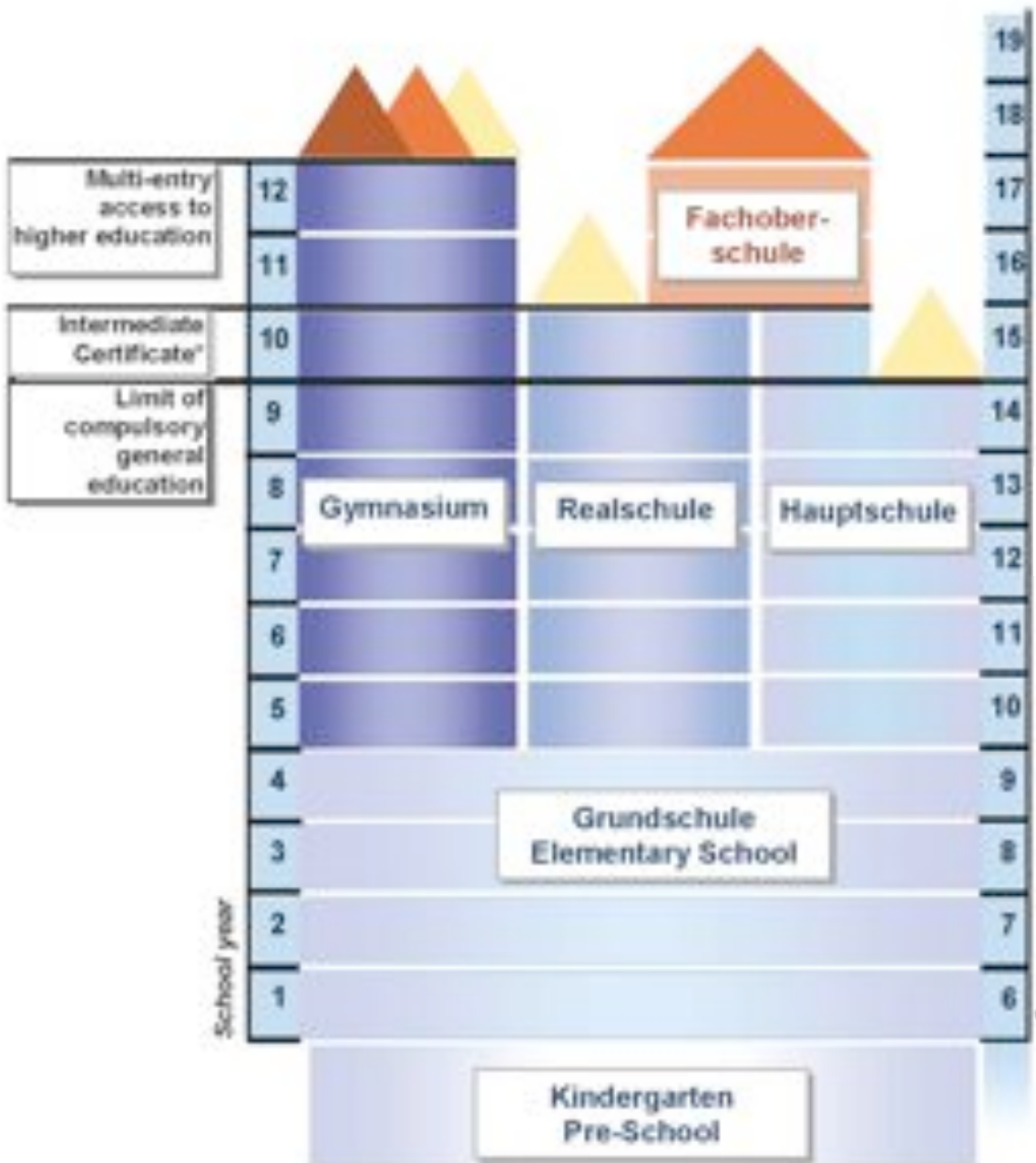
Secondary education

Secondary education offers streams for different educational aspirations and personal abilities. These streams are organized as separate schools with different educational approaches. Each stream features various subject group options internally.

Hauptschule (grades 5-9 of 5-10 with option M) is the compulsory stream of secondary education. Pupils with vocational orientation reach the Dual System through grade 9. Those attaining the intermediate school certificate through course M (7-10) enjoy the same educational mobility as *Realschule* graduates.

Realschule (grades 5-10), aims at the intermediate School Certificate. It has an important distribution function for upper secondary education, especially for the *Fachoberschule*. Students entering the work force with this certificate often prefer office-related careers.

Gymnasium (grades 5-12), aims at the General Higher Education Entrance Certificate (*Allgemeine Hochschulreife*), which provides access to higher education, normally without further entrance exams. The upper secondary level (grades 11-12) allows students to set individual priorities when selecting their courses.



* Different kind of examinations and certifications

2. International Schools

The Regensburg International School (RIS) will follow the frameworks of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) for students aged 3-18. In the first few years, the RIS can only accept children for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades, but it will expand upward with the gradual addition of further grade levels.

- The **Primary Years Programme (PYP)** for pupils aged 4-12 focuses on the development of the whole child in the classroom and in the world outside.



(Source: www.ibo.org)

- The **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** for Grades 6-10 provides a framework of academic challenge and life skills through embracing and transcending traditional school subjects.



(Source: www.ibo.org)

- The **Diploma Programme** for grades 11 and 12 is a demanding two-year curriculum that meets the needs of highly motivated students and leads to a qualification that is recognized by leading universities around the world.



(Source: www.ibo.org)

International schools like RIS have English as the language of instruction. English as a second language is offered to serve students who come with little or no English language skills.

International Schools

English as language of instruction

1 Franconian International School
Marie-Curie-Straße 2
D-91052 Erlangen
Phone +49 (0) 9131 – 940 390
Fax +49 (0) 9131 – 940 393 01
info@the-fis.de
www.fis.ecis.org
Graduation: International Baccalaureat

2 Regensburg International School
Current contact address:
Jahnstr. 1a
D-93059 Pentling/Großberg
Phone +49 (0) 9405 – 918 918 0
Fax +49 (0) 9405 – 918 918 29
info@ris-school.com
www.ris-school.com
Graduation intended: International Baccalaureat

3 International School Augsburg
Ziegeleistraße 22
D-86368 Augsburg
Phone +49 (0) 821 – 45 55 60-0
Fax +49 (0) 821 – 45 55 60-10
info@isa-augsburg.com
www.isa-augsburg.com
Graduation: International Baccalaureat

4 International School Ulm/Neu-Ulm
Schwabenstraße 25
D-89231 Neu-Ulm
Phone +49 (0) 731 – 379 353-0
Fax +49 (0) 731 – 379 353-50
info@is-ulm.de
www.is-ulm.de
Graduation: International Baccalaureat

5 Bavarian International School
Schloss Haimhausen
Hauptstraße 1
D-85778 Haimhausen
Phone +49 (0) 8133 – 917 0
Fax +49 (0) 8133 – 917 135
admissions@bis-school.com
www.bis-school.com
Graduation: International Baccalaureat

6 International School Mainfranken
Hermasweg 1c
D-97506 Grafenrheinfeld
Phone +49 (0) 9723 – 93 42 50
Fax +49 (0) 9723 – 9 342 52
www.international-school-mainfranken.de

7 Munich International School
Schloß Buchhof
Percha
D-80995 München
Phone +49 (0) 8151 – 366-0
Fax +49 (0) 8151 – 366-109
admissions@mis-school.de
www.mis-school.de
Graduation: High School Diploma/
International Baccalaureat

8 European School
Elise-Aulinger-Straße 21
D-81739 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 62 816-0
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 62 816-444
www.esmunich.de
Graduation: Baccalaureat Certificate

Country-specific Schools

9 Greek Lyceum München

Schatzbogen 29
D-81829 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 14 86 9676
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 12 02 0612
Graduation Apolitirio

10 Japan International School München

Bleyerstraße 4
D-81371 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 74 85 730
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 78 92 63
info@jism.de
www.jism.de
Graduation: Basic School (Grades 1-9)

11 Lycée Français Jean Renoir

Berlepschstraße 3
D-81373 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 721 007-0
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 721 007-30
contact@lycee-jean-renoir.de
www.lycee-jean-renoir.de
Graduation: Abitur/Baccalaureate

12 International Montessori School München

Lerchenstraße 14
D-80995 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 35 47 4990
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 35 46 6880
info@montessori-muenchen.com

13 Phorms Schule München

Maria-Theresia-Straße 35
D-81675 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 1299-8850
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 1299-8874
muenchen@phorms.de
www.muenchen.phorms.de
Graduation: MSR/IGCSE; International Baccalaureate

14 Deutsch-Russische Schule

Selma-Lagerlöfstraße 40
D-81829 München
Phone +49 (0) 89 – 45 222-661
Fax +49 (0) 89 – 45 222-663
info@deutsch-russische-schule.de
www.deutsch-russische-schule.de
Graduation: primary school

15 Greek Lyceum Schweinfurt

Wirsingstraße 7
D-97424 Schweinfurt
Phone +49 (0) 9721 – 80 46 26
Fax +49 (0) 9721 – 80 46 26
Graduation: Apolitirio

16 Greek Lyceum Nürnberg

Glogauer Straße 27
D-90473 Nürnberg
Phone +49 (0) 911 – 89 88 89
Fax +49 (0) 911 – 817 82 85
Griechische-schule@freenet.de
www.griechische-schule.de
Graduation: Apolitirio

17 Greek Lyceum Nürnberg

Philipp-Kettler-Straße 24
D-90480 Nürnberg
Phone +49 (0) 911 – 864 370
Fax +49 (0) 911 – 803 770
Graduation: Apolitirio

18 Greek Lyceum Augsburg

Philippine-Welser-Straße 13
D-86150 Augsburg
Phone +49 (0) 821 – 57 62 26
Fax +49 (0) 821 – 25 28 592
Graduation: Apolitirio



There are also some private Chinese schools in Bavaria, but they do not offer any state-recognized final qualification. Contact Invest in Bavaria, Ms. Jun Luo (jun.luo@invest-in-bavaria.de) and ask for the current addresses.

To get a detailed briefing, please contact the school information service in your district. To find out when the service is open and where it's located, please contact a school in your vicinity — or visit www.schulberatung.bayern.de.

Higher Education in Bavaria

Bavaria's dynamic tertiary sector features international comparable standing throughout all its institutions. There are 11 universities (9 state-run and 2 private). The 19 universities of applied sciences cooperate closely with the private sector. Academies of the arts and various other colleges (for philosophy, theology, political science etc.) complete the academic institutions.

Regensburg has one university (www.uni-regensburg.de), one university of applied sciences (www.fh-regensburg.de) and an academy for catholic church music and music education (www.musikakademie-alteglöfshaus.de).

The **University of Regensburg (UR)** was founded in 1962 and is a modern campus university. Initially planned to be a regional college, it has become a known centre of research and apprenticeship, not only in Germany but also beyond its borders. The UR has 12 faculties with more than 180 chairs and at present, it has more than 16,000 students of whom approx. 7.7 % (1,230) come from abroad. One of the essential missions of the UR is to convey key qualifications like the ability to communicate and to cooperate, and the cross-cultural competences which are trained by appropriate courses. Besides, the cultural facilities of the UR like the university's orchestra, band and choir, the 12 student theatre companies and the numerous sports groups contribute to the perpetual development of some significant key qualifications. Furthermore, value was placed to consider the needs of disabled persons by the planning and construction of the UR, so that all buildings are accessible for handicapped persons.

With its 8 faculties, 17 bachelor and 11 master courses, the **University of Applied Sciences (UAS)** offers its almost 6,000 students a wide pallet of study paths: from architecture, mechanical engineering and microsystem technology to social work. The numerous course specializations including language courses, as well as softskills and further trainings, provide opportunity to form an individual study profile corresponding to the proper talents and likings. The UAS also extends its offer of dual system studies and cooperates at present with 19 regional enterprises. Furthermore, the UAS is a successful platform to a study trip abroad. About one third of the students manages a longer study trip in one of over 30 countries worldwide. The foreign students' office provide the appropriate contacts. Contractual connections with more than 50 universities worldwide form the backbone of the international network. At present, about 350 students from over 50 countries enrich the study atmosphere at the UAS.

If you want to study at either university, you must meet certain requirements. These vary according to which country you come from, but one applies to all: you should be able to speak German! As a non-native speaker you have to pass the German language examination for University Admission of Foreign Students (*Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber – DSH*). The certificate is issued upon successful passing of the examination and is recognized by all German universities for enrollment as evidence of sufficient German-language skills. The DSH test can be taken at the university twice a year and at the Goethe Institute (see "Language Schools" above). Note that EU citizens can take the test without prior admission to the university, but US citizens need to be enrolled first.

The foreign students' office gives information on matriculation and problems encountered by students from EU and non-EU countries. Go to the respective homepage and search for *Auslandsamt* www.uni-regensburg.de or www.fh-regensburg.de.

Chapter IV. Health

Introduction

No matter whether you are an experienced expat or whether this is your first time abroad, you will never feel more “foreign” as when you are sick and in need of medical treatment. Language may become a seemingly insurmountable problem in a situation where you already feel helpless and possibly frightened. It is reassuring to know that the standard of the German medical service is very high and favourably compares with those of the United States or other European countries. Regensburg has a university hospital with a couple of affiliated teaching hospitals and a number of public and private hospitals.

1. The German Health System

It is imperative to have health insurance in Germany, either within the public system or with a private insurance company. When not covered by your “home” insurance, you are obliged to take out insurance in Germany, which is tax-deductible. The major difference between the two systems is that anybody insured in the state health system is not billed for a visit to the doctor, hospital, or routine dental treatment but has to pay a practice charge of € 10 per quarter. Certain medical treatments (massages, physiotherapy and some medication) are obliged to a 10 % own contribution. Within the private system, you must pay for all medical services in full and request reimbursement (*Rückerstattung*) from your insurance provider. If you are working under contract and your income does not exceed a certain amount, you will automatically join one of the more than 300 state health insurance companies. The current contribution is around 14 % of one’s salary, 50 % of which is paid for by the employer. The whole family will then be covered. Employees with an income exceeding the limit have the option between the public system and a private insurance for each family member. Again, the employer will pay 50 %. The cost and coverage can vary depending on the individual need. To find suitable insurance coverage, you can for example look at the websites of international health insurers covering expats overseas or those comparing German insurance programmes:

www.bupa.com
www.ppphealthcare.co.uk
www.compare24.de
www.test.de
www.privatekrankenversicherung.de
www.comfortplan.de

2. Visiting a Doctor

It is very advisable to choose a general practitioner/family doctor (*Hausarzt, Allgemeinmediziner*) at an early point. Embassies or consulates may be able to provide you with a list of

English-speaking doctors or you could ask the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers for their directory (www.IAMAT.org). Alternatively, refer to the Yellow Pages or ask a colleague or friend for a recommendation. Principally, you have a free choice of doctor, but since some doctors only treat private patients, anyone insured in the state health system should look for a sign outside the practice saying “*Alle Kassen,*” meaning all insurances are accepted.

Always call in advance for an appointment (*Termin*). The wait is usually shorter – up to 20-30 minutes – compared to sometimes an hour if you just turn up during consultation hours (*Sprechstunde*). Obviously, hours will be up to the individual doctors, but practices are usually open on weekdays from 8.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.00, though closed on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Also, whenever you see your general practitioner or another doctor, take along your insurance card. If you need to see a specialist (*Facharzt*), your general practitioner (*Hausarzt*) will recommend someone and give you a referral (*Überweisungsschein*) if you are in the state health system. For any medication needed, you will receive a prescription (*Rezept*), which you have to take to the pharmacy (*Apotheke*, see chapter VII, 5.).

- Make a list of all the necessary details the doctor will need to know about you (past illnesses and operations, accidents, medication, vaccinations, etc.) as well as questions you have for the doctor. Getting answers later by phone incur another charge for telephone consultation (*Telefonberatung*).
- Make sure you understand the diagnosis and suggested treatment, including possible side effects, and persevere if you do not understand.
- Keep in mind that the doctor has to treat/keep conversations confidential and has no right to any moralistic judgment or derogatory remark.

3. Emergencies (Notfälle)

Should you find yourself in need of medical attention after opening hours or on weekends, there are several possibilities of finding help.

**For life-threatening emergencies, call 112 for the emergency doctor (Notarzt).
The number of the ambulance is 19 222.**

In less urgent cases, you can check your local weekly newspaper (distributed to all households free of charge) for the emergency call section where doctors and pharmacies on duty are recorded as well as important telephone numbers. Otherwise, call the medical emergencies service (*Ärztlicher Bereitschaftsdienst*) at (01805) 19 12 12 (0,14€ /min. from German landline). Depending on the situation, they will either send the doctor on duty or ask you to see the doctor on duty in your area.

To receive immediate attention in Regensburg you can either go to the medical emergency service (Ärztlicher Notdienst) in the University Hospital: Franz-Josef-Strauß-Allee1, phone 0941-9440. Service hours are every day from 0.00-24.00, or the Krankenhaus Barmherzige Brüder, Prüfeninger Str. 86, phone (0941) 369 35 25. Service hours are:

**Wed/Fri 15.00-21.00
Sat/Sun/Publ.Hol. 08.00-21.00**

Alternatively, all major cities and the university clinics as well as some of the private clinics have emergency rooms open 24 hours a day. When arriving at the clinic, please follow the signs for “Notfallambulanz” or “Bereitschaftspraxis.” Whereas the emergency room (*Notfallambulanz*) is open 24 hours, seven days.

Hospitals

Universitätsklinikum Regensburg		
Franz-Josef-Strauß-Allee 1	<i>emergency centre</i>	Phone (0941) 944 0
Bezirksklinikum – Fachklinik für Psychiatrie und Neurologie		
Universitätstr. 84		Phone (0941) 941 0
Caritas-Krankenhaus St. Josef		
Landshuter Str.65	<i>hospital</i>	Phone (0941) 782 0
	<i>emergency admission</i>	Phone (0941) 782 5000
Evangelisches Krankenhaus		
Emmeramsplatz 10		Phone (0941) 5040 0
Krankenhaus Barmherzige Brüder		
Prüfeninger Str. 86	<i>emergency admission</i>	Phone (0941) 369 3501
	<i>acceptance station</i>	Phone (0941) 369 3119
	<i>doctor on duty</i>	Phone (0941) 369 3525
Tagesklinik für Gefäßchirurgie		
Bahnhofstr. 24		Phone (0941) 58547-0
Augen-Beleg-Klinik		
Prüfeninger Str. 86		Phone (0941) 5043-0
Klinik St. Hedwig (Kinder- & Frauenklinik)		
Steinmetzstr. 1-3	<i>emergency admission for children</i>	Phone (0941) 369 95420

Dental emergencies (*Zahnärztlicher Notfall*):

Even a toothache in a foreign country in the middle of the night can be helped. Call the dental emergency service (*Zahnärztlicher Notdienst*) on (0941) 944 0; outside Regensburg call 01805 191212, which will direct you to the dentist (*Zahnarzt*) on call in your area.

Poisoning (*Vergiftung*):

It is a 24-hour service that will provide you with instructions on how to deal with the immediate situation and send help. Ask for someone who speaks English and try to keep calm to follow instructions and answer questions. Recommendations will often include that the patient drinks large quantities of water (no milk) to flush out the

The emergency number of the poison control centre (*Giftnotruf*) is:

- (089) 192 40 in Munich and

- (0911) 398 2451 in Nuremberg.

poison or take charcoal tablets (*Kohle-tabletten*) to bind poisons or neutralize acids. If the inducing of vomiting is necessary, the doctor will give you instructions how to do it. (Syrup of ip-eac to induce vomiting is not available in Germany because it is itself a poison, does not always work, and can cause more damage.)

4. Temperature Conversion Table

37.5 °C	= 99.5 °F
38.0 °C	= 100.4 °F
38.5 °C	= 101.3 °F
39.0 °C	= 102.2 °F
39.5 °C	= 103.1 °F
40 °C	= 104.0 °F

German thermometers give the temperature in centigrade. Normal body temperature is 37.0 degrees Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit).

5. Glossary of Health / Medical Terms

Glossary

Accident	<i>Unfall</i>	Headache	<i>Kopfschmerzen</i>
Allergy	<i>Allergie</i>	Heartburn	<i>Sodbrennen</i>
Asthma	<i>Asthma</i>	High Fever	<i>Hohes Fieber</i>
Bee sting	<i>Bienenstich</i>	Infection	<i>Entzündung</i>
Big cut / wound	<i>Große Schnitt-/ Platzwunde</i>	Influenza	<i>Grippe</i>
Blisters	<i>Blasen</i>	Itching	<i>Juckreiz</i>
Broken Bone	<i>Knochenbruch</i>	Measles	<i>Masern</i>
Burns	<i>Verbrennungen</i>	Migraine	<i>Migräne</i>
Chicken Pox	<i>Windpocken</i>	Nausea	<i>Übelkeit</i>
Cold / Flu	<i>Erkältung</i>	Rubella	<i>Röteln</i>
Constipation	<i>Verstopfung</i>	Scrape / Abrasion	<i>Abschürfung</i>
Cough	<i>Husten</i>	Sore Throat	<i>Halsschmerzen</i>
Diarrhea	<i>Durchfall</i>	Sprain	<i>Verstauchung</i>
Dizziness	<i>Schwindel</i>	Stomachache	<i>Bauchschmerzen</i>
Earache	<i>Ohrenschmerzen</i>	Sunburn	<i>Sonnenbrand</i>
Gas / Flatulence	<i>Blähungen</i>	Toothache	<i>Zahnschmerzen</i>
Gum soreness	<i>Zahnfleisch- entzündung</i>	Unconsciousness	<i>Bewusstlosigkeit</i>
Hayfever	<i>Heuschnupfen</i>	Vomiting	<i>Erbrechen</i>
Head Injury	<i>Kopfverletzung</i>		

Aspirin	<i>Aspirin</i>	Injection	<i>Spritze</i>
Band-Aid	<i>Pflaster</i>	Plaster	<i>Gips</i>
Bandage	<i>Verband</i>	Suppository	<i>Zäpfchen</i>
Birth Control	<i>Empfängnis- verhütung</i>	Syrup	<i>Saft</i>
Condom	<i>Kondom</i>	Tablet, pill	<i>Tablette</i>

Dentist	<i>Zahnarzt</i>
Dermatologist	<i>Hautarzt</i>
Ear-Throat-Nose Specialist	<i>HNO-Arzt</i>
Family Doctor / General Practitioner	<i>Hausarzt</i>
Gynecologist	<i>Gynäkologe</i>
Nurse	<i>Krankenschwester</i>
Oculist	<i>Augenarzt</i>

Orthodontist *Kieferorthopäde*

Orthopedist *Orthopäde*

Pediatrician *Kinderarzt*

Radiologist *Radiologe*

Receptionist *Sprechstundenhilfe*

Surgeon *Chirurg*

I would like an appointment.

Do you take medication?

My stomach hurts.

Aches / pains

I would like to take your blood pressure.

Ich möchte gerne einen Termin.

Nehmen Sie Medikamente?

Ich habe Bauchschmerzen.

Schmerzen

Ich möchte Ihren Blutdruck messen.

Chapter V. Around the House

Introduction

When you start living in your new home, you will find that many things are different from what you are used to. German society is well regulated and rules apply in many fields; it is only a matter of knowing them!

1. Common Conversations

Measurement

The following measurements are approximate. There are many conversion websites that can help you with any type of conversions, from measurement to clothes sizes. This is just one that you can check out: www.onlineconversion.com.

Distance

To convert Miles to Kilometers, multiply by 1.6093

To convert Kilometers to Miles, multiply by 0.6214

Height/Length

To convert Inches to Centimeters, multiply by 2.54

To convert Centimeters to Inches, multiply by 0.3930

Weight (Dry measure)

To convert Ounces to Grams, multiply by 28.35

To convert Pounds to Kilograms, multiply by 0.454

To convert Kilograms to Pounds, multiply by 2.2

To convert Grams to Ounces, multiply by 0.0353

Volume (Liquid Measure)

To convert Ounces to Milliliters, multiply by 29.5

To convert Milliliters to Ounces, multiply by 0.0339

Temperature

To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade, subtract 32 and multiply by 0.555

To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit, multiply by 1.8 and add 32

Oven Temperatures

°F	°C	Gas Mark
225	110	1/4
250	120	1/2
275	135	1
300	150	2

325	160	3
350	170	4

2. Electricity and Electric Appliances

The electricity in your German home is a standard 220 Volt, AC 50 cycles, 2 phase.

It is not usually worthwhile for those of you from North America to bring your own household appliances. The voltage and the cycles are different, and, unless your appliance conforms to the DVE standard (the German equivalent to the UL marking in USA),

you cannot use it in Germany without a transformer.

You will need different transformers depending on the appliance, e. g. a shaver will not need as heavy a transformer/converter as a TV set. Furthermore, transformers are fairly expensive in Germany and if you use more than one or two in your home, you will continuously blow your fuses. The least cumbersome and perhaps also the cheapest solution might be to buy your machines here. In the classified ad section of the local newspapers, you can find many ads for used appliances.

Plugs and sockets are invariably of the 2-pin “Schuko” variety. Note that your electricity is not normally part of your rent and must be paid for separately.

Washing/Drying machines:

Washing machines are connected to the cold water tap and heat their own water while washing. Bringing one that needs to be connected to the hot water will cause problems since there is usually no hot water tap to fit it on. Machines in Germany are built to conserve water and therefore use much longer washing cycles and have less capacity than US machines. Try to avoid using bleach as this is an environmental issue in Germany. Instead, use standard soaps and whiteners.

Drying machines are a great help, especially during winter. Many Germans hang their clothes outside on a line when the weather permits. You may want to use a softener (*Weichspüler*) in the final washing cycle if you do not use a dryer. Dryer sheets are not commonly used but can be found if you look hard enough!

Caution: Kalk!

The water supply in the Regensburg area is loaded with natural calcium deposits (*Kalk*), which builds up over a short time and can damage washing appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, and other appliances that use water, such as coffee machines or water heaters. Expect to find *Kalk* deposits also in your sinks, toilets, on chrome, etc. To counter and eliminate this problem, use detergents loaded with “*Antikalk*” substances (most often lemon or vinegar). *Essigreiniger* is one of the best cleaning materials for bathrooms and lemon acid (*Citronensäure*) is cheap and efficient when you need to remove calcium from your coffee machine. Dishwashers need to have special salt (*Spezialsalz*) added at regular intervals. Decalcifiers are necessary and available for washing machines as well (e.g. *Calgon*) though some laundry detergents already include them.

Washing Instructions / Symbols

Cycles	<i>Programm</i>	Pre-wash	<i>Vorwäsche</i>
Dry Clean	<i>Reinigen</i>	Rinse	<i>Spülen</i>
Dryer	<i>Trockner</i>	Rinse	<i>Weichspülen</i>
Fast wash - colours	<i>Kurzwäsche</i>	Spin	<i>Schleudern</i>
Hot wash	<i>Kochwäsche</i>	Synthetics	<i>Pflegeleicht</i>
Regular - colours	<i>Buntwäsche</i>	Spin	<i>Schleudern</i>
Main wash	<i>Hauptwäsche</i>	Woolens / delicates	<i>Wolle / Feinwäsche</i>

Television, radio, and video equipment and systems:

Modification is very expensive so be prepared to purchase a TV in Germany. Some good news: a UK video player will work with a German TV. Video players from the US, however, will not unless they are multi-system players (also available in Germany), which are equipped with both NTSC and PAL formats. Since movies are put out in the USA earlier than in Europe, the US DVDs have special codes and can only be played on US DVD players.

Neither UK nor American TVs work in Germany because of the different systems.

3. Help / Repairs

The best way to get good help in the house is by word of mouth. When you have just arrived, you may not know who to ask, so you may look for or place an ad (*Anzeige*) in the local newspaper: "Putzhilfe gesucht, einmal pro Woche, [your neighbourhood]. Tel. [your telephone number]." You should expect to pay between €8–15 per hour. A window cleaner (*Fensterreiniger*) is found in the Yellow Pages. Help in the garden is best found by asking your neighbours or you may look in the directory under *Gartenpflege*.

When you move into any new house or apartment, you will need to install appliances, connect telephones and fixtures, or even have repairs done. A relocation service can be of great help to find these contacts and make appointments. Your landlord, too, can be of assistance, especially if he/she lives in your area. Another option is to look in the Yellow Pages, look up the German word for your need, and locate the company nearest you. Not all companies are listed in the Yellow Pages so use the telephone directory and look under the brand name of the appliance for which you need service. You can find ads for services in your area in the local newspaper delivered weekly to your mailbox. See chapter VII, 11. for a glossary of terms for repairmen and services in German.

Approaching Someone For Help

Could you help me?	<i>Könnten Sie mir helfen?</i>	KU(R)N-ten zee meer HEHL-fen?
Do you speak English?	<i>Sprechen Sie Englisch?</i>	SHPREHK-en zee EHN-glish?
Yes.	<i>Ja.</i>	Yah
No.	<i>Nein.</i>	Nine
I'm sorry.	<i>Es tut mir leid.</i>	Ehs toot meer lite
I don't speak any German.	<i>Ich spreche kein Deutsch.</i>	Ikh SHPREHKH-eh kine doych
I don't understand.	<i>Ich verstehe nicht.</i>	Ikh fehr-STAY-eh nikht.
I understand a little.	<i>Ich verstehe ein wenig.</i>	Ikh fehr-STAY-eh ine VEH-nikh
Repeat, please.	<i>Wiederholen Sie, bitte.</i>	Vee-de(r)-HOH-len zee BIT-teh
Please speak more slowly.	<i>Bitte sprechen Sie langsamer.</i>	BIT-teh SHPREKH-en zee LAHNG-zaam-me(r)
Okay./Agreed.	<i>In Ordnung.</i>	In ORT-nung
That's right.	<i>Das stimmt.</i>	Dahs shtimmt
Where is ...?	<i>Wo ist ...?</i>	Voh ist ...?
Thank you very much.	<i>Vielen Dank.</i>	FEE-len dahnk

4. Waste and Recycling

Germany has an excellent system for separating and recycling garbage. There is a company incentive to use less packaging resources, resulting in less waste being produced. Citizens are expected to follow the guidelines, which seem overwhelming at first, but you will soon learn. There are minor differences between local areas, so regard the description below as a general one.

The key word is SEPARATING! Most waste is collected at your doorstep at regular intervals, so it is a question of knowing which bin or sack to put out when. You will get a calendar from the municipality with the collection dates, but you can also look to your neighbours and see what they are putting out. What is not collected, you will have to dispose of yourself into containers in your area (found all over and very visible) or at your local recycling center (*Wertstoffhof*). You will have bins in different colours at your home: a black container for household waste (*Restmüll*), a brown or green one for biological waste (*Komposttonne*), and, in some cases, a blue container for paper (*Altpapier*). Some areas provide special plastic bags instead of bins, e. g. a white bag for paper and a yellow bag for plastics, aluminium, and recyclable packing material.

Waste Handling

<i>Description</i>	<i>Goes where?</i>	<i>Will be recycled / reused as ...</i>
Household Waste		
All remains after you have separated your waste.	In black bin.	Energy
Paper		
Newspaper, magazines, packaging, cardboard.	In blue bin, special white plastic bag provided by the area, or you place the paper in your own plastic bag or carton.	New paper
Biological		
Household scrapes (no prepared/cooked food), peels, coffee- and tea filters, old flowers, garden waste.	In brown/green bin (you are allowed to put in tissues and crumpled up newspaper to absorb fluids). You can also make up a compost heap in your garden for bio waste.	Compost or energy
Packing Material		
- Aluminium, tinplate and cans	- In green bag	Energy, new plastic and new cans
- Plastic, polystyrene and "composite" materials like beverage cartons made of a mixture of materials.	- In yellow bag	
	Both bags are provided by the area.	
	The bags are put either in front of your house or in containers, located in the neighbourhood.	
Glass		
Bottles which you have not paid a deposit on, glass jars.	In containers located in your neighbourhood. Note that you should separate according to colour of glass (white, green, brown).	New bottles
Batteries		
Used, non-rechargeable.	In small container to be found in shops where you can buy ones.	

Hazardous Waste

Fluorescent tubes, batteries and acids, cans still containing paint, thinners, adhesives, corrosives, disinfectants, insecticides, etc.	Will be collected by a toxic collection vehicle. See your collection calendar for dates.
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Other Salvageable Waste and Bulky Refuse

Polystyrene foam, wood, scrap metal, defective electrical appliances, textiles, construction materials, old furniture etc.	Bring it yourself to the local recycling centre (<i>Wertstoffhof</i>).	Much will be re-used.
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Bulky Refuse

Items too large to transport to the recycling depot yourself.	Contact the authorities to arrange for pick-up. It will cost you around € 25 per 15 minutes of loading time.	Much will be re-used.
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In case you produce more household or biological waste than you have room for in your bin, you can buy extra bags at the local recycling center. Prices vary between € 2.50 and € 5 per bag. Place the bags next to the bin and they will be collected when the bin is emptied. Extra white and yellow bags are available here too; in some areas they are free, in others there is a fee. Another option could be to apply for a bigger bin at the municipality. Note: If you are a tenant, you should make the application through your landlord. If you get a bigger bin, you will pay more to have it emptied.

The *Wertstoffhof* is generally well organized with marked containers for various kinds of waste and ample help to guide and direct you. Though the workers seldom speak English, they are friendly and helpful. Note that you may be required to show your confirmation of registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*) at some centers as they are designed for local use only. Opening hours vary from area to area so check with the city hall (*Rathaus*) or your local newspaper. In the *Gelbe Seiten* you will find addresses of the local recycling centres (type *Abfallentsorgung* into the search-field).

5. Meter Readers and Chimney Sweeps

Once a year, there will be a card in your mailbox or a knock on your door to announce the reading of gas, electricity, or water meters. It could also be the chimney sweep. The electricity and water consumption are recorded to find out if your prepayments should be adjusted (see section 2. above). Do not worry if you do not know where the meter is located as the reader will probably know. The chimney sweep will check your exhaust and sweep your chimney clean as required by law. In most housing contracts the compensation is included in the utili-

ties (*Nebenkosten*) you pay in addition to your rent to your landlord. Your heating system is also usually checked once a year and the cost included in the *Nebenkosten*.

6. How to Telephone (Inland and Abroad)

To phone your family and friends at home you must dial 00 to get an international line and then add a country code to the number of the person you want to call. Below is a short list of some country codes. Likewise, they must dial a set of numbers for an international line (usually 00, but sometimes different, e. g. from the US it is 011) and then add the country code for Germany (49) to your number.

From GB you dial **0049 941...**
From the US you dial **011 49 941...**

When you phone someone in Germany, start with the area code (*Vorwahl*), which begins with 0, but if you make the phone call from abroad, you omit the 0, e.g. a Regensburg number will be + 49 941 ...

Great Britain **0044**
USA **001**
New Zealand **0064**
Australia **0061**
South Africa **0027**

For more information, go to the website:
www.countrycallingcodes.com

When you need to find a telephone, fax or a mobile number or maybe an address or postal code, dial 11837 for information in English. To find a number abroad, dial 1834 (cost € 0.557 per 20 seconds). If you wish, you can be connected directly.

For calls from telephone booths, you need a telephone card that you can buy at post offices, newsstands, and a variety of other shops. They have a value of € 5 and € 10. You can even make international calls with a card. Booths that take coins still exist but are rare.

Collect calls to the USA can be made through three providers. Call the number and you will get directions: AT&T 0800 888 0010, Sprint 0800 888 0013. For collect calls to New Zealand, call 08000 8000 64 and Australia through the provider Telstra 08000 8000 61.

Tip: Remember that it is prohibited to use a mobile phone while driving, unless using an earpiece!

Telephoning in Germany has become cheaper than it used to be; however, it can still weigh heavily on the budget. To find the cheapest way to phone, look at e. g.: **www.teltarif.de**. Some suppliers you have to register with, while with others you just dial a prefix before the telephone number.

Telephone etiquette: In Germany, you will not just hear a “Hello” or “Grüß Gott” when the phone is answered. The customary answer will be the person giving his/her last name: “Smith.” As the caller, you should identify yourself by name, “Grüß Gott” or “Guten Tag, hier ist (Mike) Jones,” or “Grüß Gott” or “Guten Tag, Mike Jones.” Then proceed with your conversation as well as you can. At the end of the call, it is customary to say “Auf Wiederhören” which means “Hope to hear from you again.” If you dial the wrong number say “Entschuldigung, ich habe die falsche Nummer gewählt” or “Entschuldigung, ich habe mich verwählt.”

7. Neighbours

As the newcomer to your town or building, you are expected to greet your new neighbours. Whether you go door-to-door and introduce yourself or hold an informal open house and invite those in your immediate surroundings, both serve to help you make new acquaintances quickly.

Quiet time: German law prohibits disturbance of the peace on Sundays and holidays. This means work such as mowing the lawn or using noisy gardening tools, playing loud music, or allowing children to play noisy games is prohibited (*verboten*). Every area (*Gemeinde*) has its own rules, so it is best to get yourself a copy of the village/community regulations (*Gemeindestatuten*) or ask your neighbour. On all other days, quiet hours have also been established by law and must be maintained.

In most areas, loud noises are not permitted between 12.00 and 13.00 or between 22.00 and 7.00 though this may be different in your neighbourhood.

This means no loud music, television, or noisy children. Some neighbours may ignore the noise, some may ask for quiet in a friendly way, and others may call the police!

Tip: It is not allowed to wash your car in the street or on your own property.

Every individual and family in Germany takes responsibility for keeping both private and public property clean. Trash, dirt, and other garbage must be put in appropriate containers. Bicycles, baby carriages, and articles should be stored in out-of-the-way places. Snow removal on walkways and sidewalks is also a personal responsibility; should someone fall on your property, you may be liable under German law. Note the expression *Blattglätte* that refers to the slippery sidewalks and streets during autumn. You are just as responsible for removing dead leaves as snow.

8. Social Customs

Germans use polite greetings often. “Guten Tag” or “Grüß Gott” (in Bavaria only) is the greeting for hello, and you will hear it and use it everywhere. Similarly, “Auf Wiedersehen” is obligatory when taking leave of a person or establishment. Don’t forget to use “Bitte” (please or

“you’re welcome”) and “Danke” (thank you). Should you step on someone’s foot or need to pass through a crowd, use “Entschuldigung” (excuse me) or “Verzeihung” (forgive me). It’s very impolite in Germany to snap your fingers to get someone’s attention. Instead, raise your hand or, if close by, say to the person “Bitte” or “Entschuldigung”.

The customs associated with meeting people are very formal in Germany. It is better to be introduced by someone, although you can introduce yourself by saying, informally, “Guten Tag. Ich bin ...” (“Good day, I am ...”) or, more formally, “Darf ich mich vorstellen?” (“May I introduce myself...”). Last names are given, as this is very common in German introductions. Women are called *Frau* (in no case *Fräulein* anymore, as it was reserved for very young women and girls).

The response would be, “Freut mich, ich bin Frau Jones” or “Angenehm, Jones” (“Good to meet you. My name is Mrs. Jones”). “Wie geht es Ihnen?” should only be used after you know a person, and is usually taken to mean interest in their well being. It means “How are you doing?”

Handshakes are a must! Shake hands on arriving and leaving and never keep one hand in your pocket while doing it. The custom of handshakes might become a habit for life after spending some time in Germany.

Germans do not take or give compliments easily. They are very outspoken about giving their opinions, sometimes in a rather blunt or seemingly rude way. The Bavarians are known for their peevishness (*granteln*) and may give you the impression that they are in a bad mood. Do not be affronted; make a retorting joke as they do, in fact, have a lot of humour.

It is customary to bring flowers, chocolate, or wine when invited for a meal. Germans tend to be punctual so never arrive more than 10 or 20 minutes late (or you might find the dinner has already started without you). Dress for the occasion, and if you are in doubt call your host and ask. When do you leave? You will be expected to make the first move, but play it by ear. The host always makes the first toast and you all drink together. Clinking of glasses is generally reserved for special occasions or luck, and only with alcoholic beverages. After the party, a call of thanks or a card is a nice gesture.

Use of **Sie** and **du**: The Germans only use the intimate *du* and first names when they know each other well and have agreed “*sich zu duzen*,” to say *du* to one another. Otherwise, they use *Sie* which indicates manners and courtesy. Among young people you will find a tendency to say *du* even when they have not known each other for long. *Du* and first names are seldom used in a working environment.

Many Germans give their mail and newspaper carriers a gift for Christmas. Often it will be money and the amount is up to you (a suggestion is € 10). You may experience that the carrier calls on you to ask if you are satisfied with his/her services just before Christmas. This is a way of asking for this token.

Do not hesitate to bring your dog along. Most Germans love dogs – they are welcome everywhere, restaurants, shops, on local transportation, but not in food shops (most of these have a tie-up outside). You will have to pay the dog tax (*Hundesteuer*); failing to do so can result in a fine (see chapter II, 7.). Do not forget to take out insurance on your pet and the possible damage he/she might cause during your stay in Germany! (See chapter II, 8.)

When you are off on vacation and cannot bring your cat or dog, you will need either a petsitter or a kennel. Search the Internet under “*Hundepension & Regensburg*” or “*Hundehotel & Regensburg*” to find options. It is advisable to call the kennel and make an appointment to see it prior to making a commitment since they vary considerably. All are approved by the “*Tierschutzverein*” (the German SPCA): Pettendorfer Str. 10, 93059 Regensburg, Phone (0941) 85 271.

Regensburg has its own emergency service for animals.

Call the Tierärztlicher Notdienst on (0941) 794 174 or Tierheim at Pettendorfer Straße on (0941) 85 271 if you need to see a veterinarian outside office hours.

10. Help with Children

A nanny is called a *Kinderfrau*, *Erzieherin* or *Tagesmutter*. To find one, check the local newspapers or place an ad yourself. The cost will depend largely on the education and experience of the nanny and whether she comes to you or you bring your child to her. Some *Tagesmütter* take more than one child. The Department of Youth and Family in Regensburg (*Amt für Jugend und Familie*) offers basic education for *Tagesmütter*.

For further information in English, look for example at www.au-pair-box.com and at www.au-pair-agenturen.de to find a list of agencies in your area.

An *au-pair* is an excellent way of getting an extra pair of hands to help you in the house. Note, however, that an *au-pair* agency is usually not allowed to place an *au-pair* into a non German-speaking home, because one of the objectives of the stay is to learn German. Talk to the agency (who will speak English) and they might help you find a solution. Getting an *au-pair* through an agency is preferable since they will also help you with the red tape.

The *au-pair* should have his/her own room and pocket money (€ 205 per month). Moreover, there will be additional costs for transportation in the local area, a language course, insurance, and extra expenses for food, electricity, etc. The *au-pair* should only do light housework and look after children. The weekly working hours should not exceed 30, and he/she should be granted at least one day off a week.

The employment office (*Arbeitsamt*) also offers helpful information at www.arbeitsagentur.de.

Chapter VI. Driving and Public Transport

1. Driving a Car

a. Some General Information

Germany has wonderful roads and is famous as one of the few countries without a general speed limit on highways (*Autobahnen*). In general, Germans drive in a very disciplined fashion. However they are also known to become impatient when others do not follow the rules.

Depending on your country of origin, you may be able to drive with your current driving licence or you may need to acquire a German driving licence. The best way to find out which applies is to contact the local "Registration Authority" (*Zulassungsstelle*). If you need a German driving licence, you may be required to take a theoretical and/or driving test. The best way to find out the requirement is to contact a driving school (*Fahrschule*). Most of the learning material is available in English. German driving licences are valid in all European Union (EU) Countries.

Many road signs may differ from the road signs of your country. Familiarize yourself with them before driving a car. Yellow directional signs indicate normal roads and blue directional signs indicate the direction to the highway (*Autobahn*).

When driving, you must carry your driving licence (*Führerschein*) and the Licencing Certificate Part 1 for the car (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil 1*; previously *Fahrzeugschein*) with you at all times.

Legal liability insurance (*Haftpflichtversicherung*) is mandatory. It is also advisable to carry collision insurance (*Vollkaskoversicherung*). It is not mandatory to carry the vehicle insurance document in your car. If you drive to other EU countries, it is advisable to obtain and carry the so called "green insurance card" (*Grüne Versicherungskarte*) since this facilitates the settlement of any damages or losses if there is an accident. This card is available from your insurance company.

The use of seat belts is mandatory. Children under 12 or shorter than 1.50 m, have to have approved child seats.

The best place for a child is in the back seat. Child seats installed on the front passenger's seat and facing opposite to the driving direction (reboard systems) may only be used if there is no front seat air bag or if the front seat air bag is deactivated.

The use of handheld mobile phones during driving is forbidden. The use of an earpiece is a good alternative.

Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear an approved helmet while driving. Motorcyclists must use their dimmed headlights even during daytime.

Children up to an age of 8 years must use and children up to an age of 10 years may use the pedestrian paths for cycling.

Pay particular attention to bicyclists and pedestrians when turning right. They have priority in the absence of a sign or traffic light giving right of way to you. There are many bicycle paths and lanes parallel to the

roadway and some bicyclists may also ride on pedestrian pathways.

b. The Car

If you intend to buy a used car make sure that the car has more than 12 months to the next TÜV Inspection. When buying a car (new or used) you will receive the Licensing Certificate Part II (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil II*; previously *Fahrzeugbrief*). The Licensing Certificate Part II is proof of ownership of the car.

Cars for use on public roads need a licence. This licence is issued at the local “registration office” (*Zulassungsstelle*). You will need to provide the Licensing Certificate Part II and an insurance card proving liability coverage. Licensing Certificate Part II will be filled in with your name. You will then be given the Licensing Certificate Part I and the licence plates for the car with an official sticker of the City.

You should always have the following in your car:

- a first-aid kit (*Verbandskasten*) and a red warning triangle (*Warndreieck*) for use in case of accidents. These are a legal requirement. (Rental cars carry them in the trunk.) New regulations also specify a special insulation cover to warm injured persons. From time to time, it is good to check the expiry date and replace any items past their shelf-life.
- a blue parking disc (*Parkscheibe*). These are available at most gasoline stations and are used in parking spots where there is no parking fee but the allowable parking time is limited. Set the time on the parking disc to the half hour that follows the time you stopped and place the disc inside the car in a visible position. This allows the parking warden to check how long you have parked. Parking times are in most cases limited to one or two hours (indicated on the road sign).
- a disposable camera in your car is also strongly recommended in order to be able to take pictures in case of an accident. The pictures can be used as evidence for insurance purposes, especially if the police are not involved.
- you should have tires on your car which are suitable for weather and road conditions. It is not yet mandatory to have winter tires in winter; however, if it can be proven that a danger was posed to others, or that an accident was caused due to not having proper tires, you could be punished. You should have winter tires (so called “*M&S Reifen*”) mounted on your car during the winter time. Please note: you must not exceed the maximum speed permitted for these tires.
- a reflective safety vest for drivers to wear in case of a breakdown (this jacket is mandatory in Austria and Italy).

c. Regular Inspections (TÜV)

Every car needs a certificate of roadworthiness and an emissions certificate. These certificates are issued by the official organizations TÜV (*Technischer Überwachungsverein*) and DEKRA and also by authorized garages. Together the inspections cost between € 67 and € 80 depending on the age of the car.

For a new car, the first inspection is due three years after the first registration. Thereafter inspections are required every two years.

The length of the validity of the official inspection HU (*Hauptuntersuchung*) can be seen on the coloured sticker on the rear licence plate and the validity of the emissions inspection AU (*Abgasuntersuchung*) can be checked on the coloured hexagonal sticker on the front licence plate. The inner number indicates the year and the outer number the month when the next inspections are due. The car will be thoroughly examined to certify its roadworthiness. This includes checking the general state of the body (rust), brakes, lights, glass, tires, exhaust pipe, horn, and emergency equipment. When the car has been found roadworthy, new stickers will be glued onto the licence plates and you receive a new stamp in your Licensing Certificate Part I (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil I*).

Tip: Should your car fail, you will be given a detailed assessment of the deficiencies. It is your responsibility to have the deficient items repaired. If your car is older, it is advisable to ask the garage for a cost estimate (Kostenvoranschlag) beforehand. Repairing older cars may be costly and not worthwhile.

What to do if:

- Licencing Certificate Part I (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil I*) is lost or stolen: You need to apply for a new one at the *Zulassungsstelle*. You must bring the following documentation: passport, Licencing Certificate Part II (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil II*), proof of last AU and TÜV inspections, and a statement from the police that you have registered the loss or theft (*Verlust- or Diebstahlsanzeige*).
- Licencing Certificate Part II (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil II*) is lost or stolen: Again you have to apply for a new one at the *Zulassungsstelle* with the following documentation: passport, confirmation of registration (*Anmeldebestätigung*), Licencing Certificate Part I (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil 1*), and a statement from the police that you have registered the loss or theft (*Verlust- or Diebstahlsanzeige*).
- Licence plate, TÜV or AU sign is damaged: You will get new plates or stickers at the *Zulassungsstelle*. The following documents are required: Licencing Certificate Part 1 (*Zulassungsbescheinigung Teil I*), damaged licence plates, and last TÜV and AU reports.

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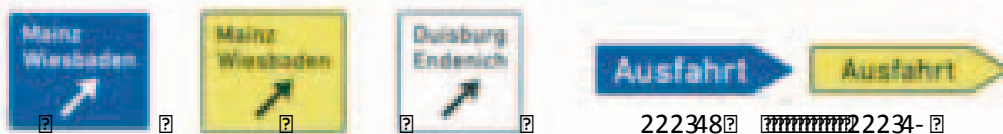
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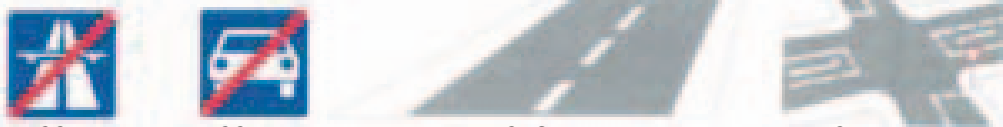
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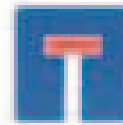
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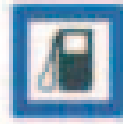
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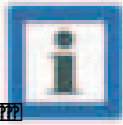
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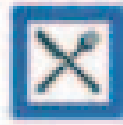
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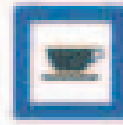
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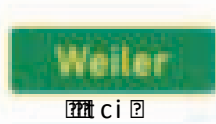
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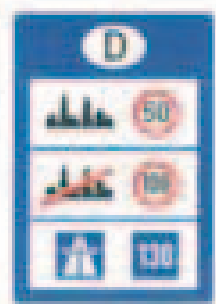
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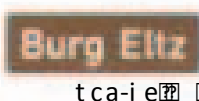


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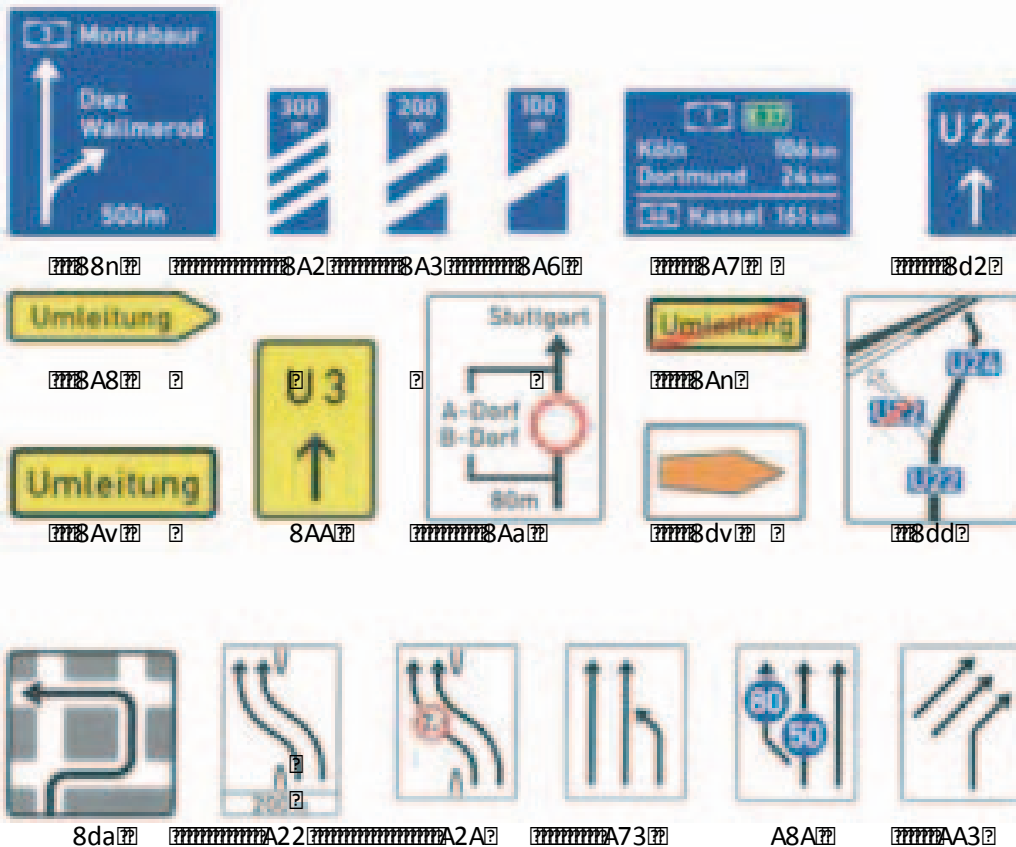
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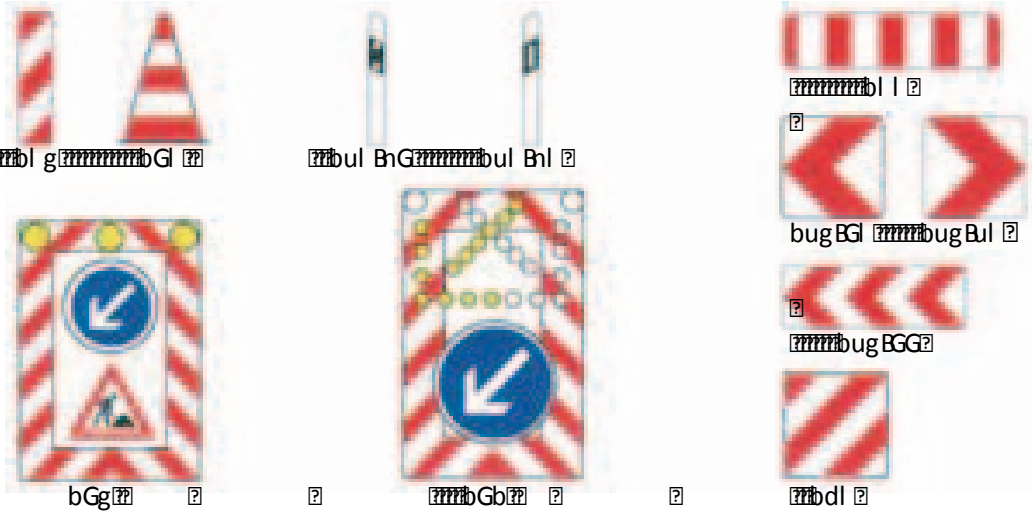
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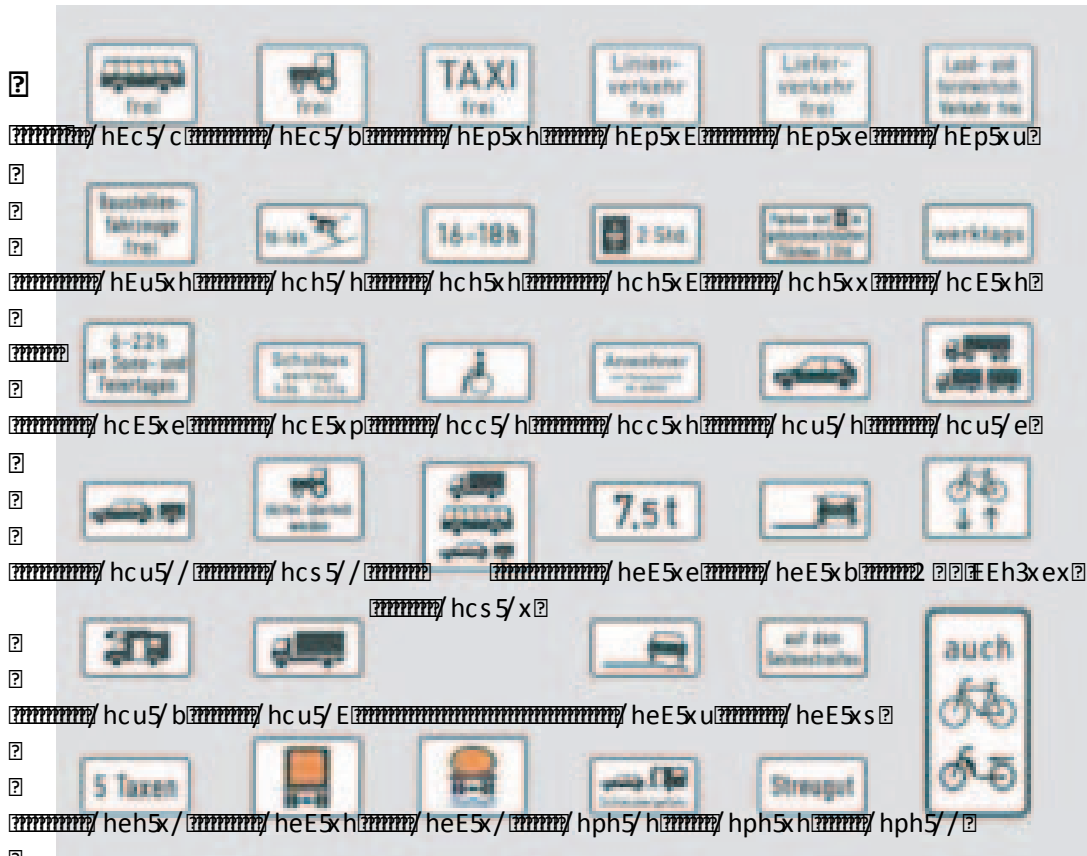
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 30. Einbahnstraße

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Source: www.adac.de

e. Some Important Road Rules

Priority (*Vorfahrt*)

- As long as priority is not determined by road signs or traffic lights, the rule that applies is give-way-to-the-right; that is, the car on your right has priority. Unlike the US or Canada, many intersections in Germany, especially in residential neighbourhoods, do not have a traffic light, stop sign or yield sign. In this situation, you must give way to the right. You have priority on T-junctions or intersections only if it is indicated with traffic lights or road signs. In case there is no such sign, the give-way-to-the-right rule comes into force, regardless how wide your road and how small the road from the right may be.
- Traffic lights overrule road signs.
- If at an intersection with a traffic light, there is also a sign with a green arrow to the right on black ground, you can turn right on the red light after stopping at the white stop line and providing traffic is clear and there is no danger to other road users (including pedestrians).
- There may be a priority for vehicles turning right or left. This is indicated with an additional road sign in square form with thick and thin lines. The thick line indicates in which direction one has priority while the thin lines show the directions from where other road users have to give priority.
- On white-striped zebra crossings, pedestrians have priority. You must stop for pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross at a zebra crossing.
- You must give way to buses which are pulling out from bus stops with their indicator flashing.
- Traffic in roundabouts has priority. When leaving the roundabout, you should signal with your indicator light.

Use of lights (*Lichter*)

- Driving with only parking lights at night is prohibited.
- While driving during daylight, lights are not necessary. It is however advisable to use dimmed head lights. In Austria and Italy, use of headlights is mandatory at all times.
- A red ring on a street lantern indicates that the lamp will be switched off during the night; parking light is therefore required.
- Rear fog lights may be used if visibility is less than 50 m.

Overtaking (*Überholen*)

- On highways (*Autobahnen*), overtaking is allowed only on the left side. Overtaking on the right side is strictly forbidden and heavily fined. The only exception occurs if there are queues in several lanes. In this case, cars in the right lane may drive up to 20 km/h faster than the ones in the left lane, if the maximum speed does not exceed 80 km/h.
- You may not overtake a bus or school bus which is approaching a bus stop with the hazard warning lights on.
- If a bus or school bus is waiting at a bus stop with the hazard warning lights on, you can pass, but only at a walking pace.
- At zebra crossings, overtaking is forbidden.

Speed and distance (*Geschwindigkeit und Abstand*)

- Where the speed limit is not indicated by road signs, the following default speed limits apply for cars and light trucks up to 3.5 t GVW:

- 50 km/h in built-up areas
- 100 km/h outside of built-up areas
- no speed limit on Highways (*Autobahn*); there is however a recommended maximum speed of 130 km/h
- 80 km/h for vehicles towing a trailer outside built-up areas and on highways
- 50 km/h with snow chains.
- If visibility is restricted (less than 50 m), the maximum allowed speed is 50 km/h.
- As a general rule, the distance between your car and the car in front of you should not be less than half of your speed in meters; for example, when traveling 100 km/h, the distance between you and the car ahead should not be less than 50 m. This is especially important on highways. The distance between guide posts on highways is 50 m. This may help in estimating your distance to the vehicle in front of you.

Exceeding the speed limit can result in heavy fines and in severe cases the loss of the driving licence; for example, driving 31 km/h above the speed limit in cities or 41 km/h on highways will cost € 100, the loss of your driver's licence for a month and 3 points.

Parking and stopping (*Parken und Halten*)

Road signs indicate if parking or stopping is forbidden. Everything below 3 minutes is considered as stopping while a stop beyond three minutes is considered to be parking.

In addition to the road signs, parking is not allowed in the following areas:

- Within 5 m before and after intersections.
- Within 5 m before zebra crossings for pedestrians.
- Within 15 m before and after bus stop signs.
- On highways; you may only stop in an emergency.
- Within 5 meters inside built-up areas and 50 m outside of built-up areas before and after level crossings between roads and railways.

Tip: For street parking, you will often have to use the parking disc (Parkscheibe). In addition, in many areas, you must pay for curbside parking by getting a ticker from a Parking Ticket Machine (Parkscheinautomaten). Check the signs and do not overstay your time limit; parking controllers check frequently.

Finding street parking in Regensburg and other large towns can be difficult, so be prepared to use available public parking lots. Take a ticket from an automatic machine upon entering. There will be no attendant at the exit to collect the parking fee. You must feed your ticket into a payment machine (*Automat*) and pay the shown amount before returning to your car. After paying the required amount, feed it into the exit gate opener when leaving the parking lot.

f. Alcohol and Drugs

Driving a vehicle in an unfit condition (due to alcohol or drugs) is a criminal offense. The law distinguishes between the following limits:

- Alcohol levels of less than 0.3‰ are allowed.
- Driving with an alcohol level of 0.3‰ or more, but less than 0.5‰ will be punished if this results in a direct danger to others or an accident.

- Driving with an alcohol level between 0.5‰ and 1.1‰ is a breach of administrative rules and will result a fine of up to € 1,500, the loss of your drivers licence for up to three months and four penalty points in the Central Traffic register.
- Driving with an alcohol level of 1.1‰ or more is a criminal offense. Consequences are a heavy fine and/or imprisonment up to 5 years, the loss of the driving licence and 7 penalty points.

Evidence of certain drugs in blood tests will result in heavy fines, penalty points in the Central Traffic Register and a ban on driving. In addition, you may be liable for a breach of the German Narcotics Law (*Betäubungsmittelgesetz*).

g. Accidents

Procedures in case of minor accidents without injuries:

- Turn on the car's hazard warning lights and place the red warning triangle far enough away to warn traffic (outside cities approx. 150 m before the accident).
- Never leave the scene of an accident; doing so is illegal. If another party is involved, always obtain the other party's name, address, licence number, and the name/number of his/her insurance company and provide your data in return. Calling the police is not necessary as long as there are only minor damages and no injuries. However, many leasing companies require a police report for all accidents.

Emergency Number: 110 for police and 112 for ambulance or the fire department. On the Autobahn, emergency telephone pillars (Notrufsäule) are placed every 2,000 meters.

- In case of uncertainty as to responsibility for the accident, try to obtain the names and addresses of independent witnesses. These may help establish your innocence. In Germany, witnesses have a legal duty to stop and, if needed, to testify (*Zeugenpflicht*), so you are not asking for a favour.
- If you should bump and damage a parked car, simply leaving a note with your name and address is illegal. It will be treated as a hit and run (*Fahrerflucht*). If the owner of the car does not arrive within an hour, call the police and register the accident. If you cannot wait, call the police immediately.
- Police are entitled to impose an immediate fine on the guilty party. They will ask if you accept the guilt and pay the fine. Refuse to accept guilt and refuse to pay the fine if you do not believe you are at fault. German insurance companies regard the acceptance of a fine as an admission of guilt that cannot be retracted later.

Procedures in case of serious accidents and accidents with injuries are the same as above but in addition, you must:

- Call police and ambulance (*Polizei 110; Rettungsstelle 19 222, when calling from a mobile phone you must dial the area code*).
- Look after anyone who has been injured. In Germany, penalties for not administering aid are heavy. Mark the position of the vehicles. If necessary individuals who are involved in the accident must help to clean the road from broken glass, car parts, and related debris.

h. Other

- On highways, there are road signs indicating exits to gasoline stations and motels and the distance to the next one. Gasoline stations and motels on highways are in general open 24 hours per day. You can stay overnight in Autobahn parking lots if you do not engage in camping-like activities; for example you cannot set up tables and chairs.
- The police are authorized to collect fines on the spot. If you are unable to pay the fine immediately, a ticket will be mailed to you for payment by bank transfer.
- Insulting remarks or gestures when driving are punishable by law and may result in a heavy fine or even in a suspension of your driving licence.
- As in other European Countries, Germany has speed-monitoring installations. These check your speed and take a picture of the driver and licence plate if you are speeding. You then receive notification of the speeding violation by mail and the required action (often payment of a fine). At certain intersections, cameras also record violations such as crossing an intersection on red traffic light.
- German law allows citizen reporting. A report can be filed against you for any traffic violation if there is more than one independent witness.
- In case of a car breakdown, roadside assistance may be needed. ADAC service centers are available by phone 0180 / 2 22 22 22 everywhere in Germany. On all highways, you may also use the emergency call phones. The distance between these phones is around 2,000 meters and a black arrow on the guide posts shows you the way to the nearest phone.

Some German Automotive Terms

Accelerator	<i>Gaspedal</i>	Fog Lights	<i>Nebellampe</i>
Accident	<i>Unfall</i>	Foot Brake	<i>Fußbremse</i>
Air conditioning	<i>Klimaanlage</i>	Front-Wheel Drive	<i>Frontantrieb</i>
Auto Transmission	<i>Automatik</i>	Fuel Tank	<i>Benzintank</i>
Back-up lights	<i>Rücklichter</i>	Gasoline	<i>Benzin</i>
Battery	<i>Batterie</i>	Gears	<i>Gänge</i>
Bumper	<i>Stoßstange</i>	Hazard Warning Light	<i>Warnblinkleuchte</i>
(Snow) Chain	<i>Schneeketten</i>	Heater	<i>Heizung</i>
Clutch	<i>Kupplung</i>	Hood	<i>Haube</i>
Cylindres	<i>Zylinder</i>	Ignition	<i>Zündung</i>
Dashboard	<i>Armaturenbrett</i>	Jack	<i>Wagenheber</i>
Dent	<i>Beule</i>	Lights	<i>Scheinwerfer</i>
Engine	<i>Motor</i>	Luggage Rack	<i>Gepäckträger</i>
Exhaust pipe	<i>Auspuffrohr</i>	Maintenance	<i>Wartung</i>
Fender	<i>Kotflügel</i>	Manual Transmission	<i>Schaltgetriebe</i>
Flat Tire	<i>Reifenpanne</i>	Muter	<i>Schalldämpfer</i>

Oil	Öl	Seat Belt	Sicherheitsgurt
Oil Change	Ölwechsel	Service Station	Tankstelle
Outer Mirror	Außenspiegel	Ski Rack	Skiträger
Parking Brake	Handbremse	Spare Tire	Ersatzreifen
Power Brake	Servobremse	Spark plug	Zündkerze
Power Steering	Servolenkung	Steering Wheel	Lenkrad
Premium (Gas)	Super (Benzin)	Speedometer	Geschwindigkeitsmesser
Radiator	Kühler	Stop Light	Bremslicht
Rear Wheels	Hinterräder	Sun Roof	Schiebedach
Rear Window	Heckscheibe	Tachometer	Tachometer
Rearview Mirror	Innenspiegel	Tires	Reifen
Rearwheel Drive	Heckantrieb	Truck/Lorry	Lastwagen
Registration	Zulassung	Trunk	Kofferraum
Regular Gas	Normalbenzin	Turn Indicator	Richtungsanzeiger
Reserve	Reserve	Window	Fenster
Reverse Gear	Rückwärtsgang	Windshield Wiper	Scheibenwischer

2. Riding a Bicycle

Regensburg and its surroundings are best suited for bicycling. The city is situated in the very centre of some popular long-distance cycle paths. You can make a tour on one of the three rivers that flow in Regensburg into the Danube or on the banks of the Danube itself. The cycle tracks are in good condition and the relatively plain landscape makes a bicycle tour always worth it.

If you have no bike of your own, you can rent a bike either at the Bikehouse by the railway station, Bahnhofstr. 18, (0800) 460 2460 (freecall), at Eberle Ludwig Fahrradverleih, Amberger Str. 148, (0941) 64 79 76 or at the Fahrradverleih Zweirad Ehrh, Am Protzenweiher 5+7, (0941) 85 124.

Children up to 8 years old must use and children up to 10 years old may use pedestrian paths for cycling.

Before going on a bike ride, please instruct your child/children about the specific rules for bicyclists. Make sure your children understand hand signs for turning, and ensure they wear protective gear, particularly a helmet. Some schools provide lessons for children.

Bikes must have a bell or horn, two front and rear reflectors, head and rear light. It is advisable, to take a photo of your bike and to keep the serial number. This may help in case of theft or loss.

3. Public Transportation – RVV

The Public Transportation System in Regensburg is fairly easy having only buses as public service vehicles in the city.

The homepage of the RVV (*Regensburger Verkehrsverbund*) www.rvv.de gives detailed information about the transport network, the updated timetables and the tariffs. You can also buy a booklet with all the bus lines and their schedules at the RVV customer centre, Hemauerstr. 1, open Mon-Fri from 8.00 – 18.00.

The ticket system:

Tickets may be purchased from machines at the bus stations and at the RVV office. Single trip tickets may be purchased from bus drivers.

Be sure to validate your ticket before starting the trip. You validate the ticket by having it time-stamped. To do so, you insert the ticket in the slot in a validator – the orange box which is in every bus. The ticket is good on the day it is validated so it may be easier to buy and keep a few tickets in advance instead of always needing to find a machine just before you go.

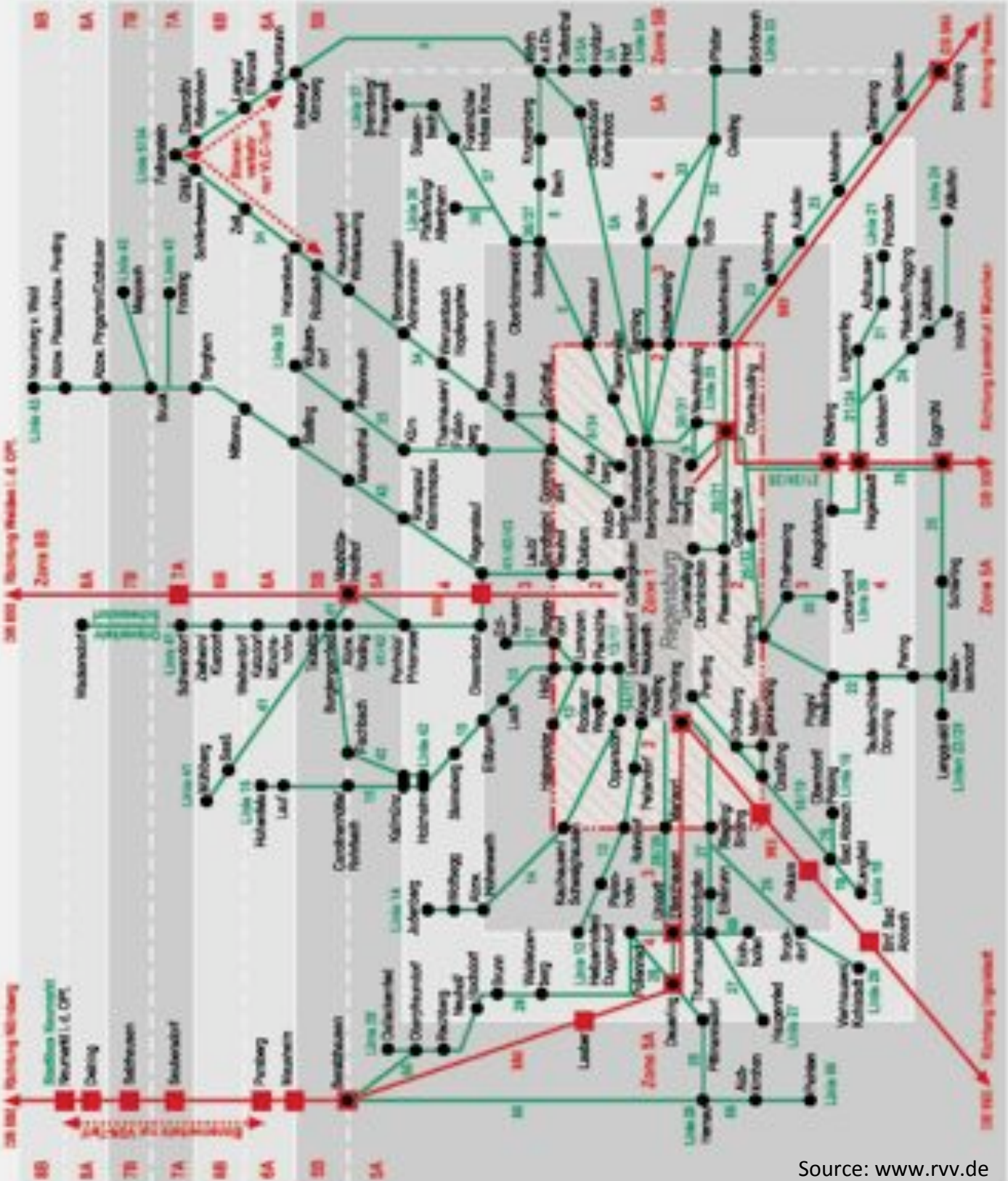
RWV-Tarifzonenplan / Streckenplan Region (Hauptnetz)

Stand: 13.09.2006



- City-Ticket-Bereich
- Schienenstrecke
- Bahnhof
- Buslinie
- Buschaltstelle
- Zonen- und Endzonen
- Eisenbahnknoten

Die Linien 1-4A, 6-7, 8A, 8B, 10-11, 91B, 70-73, 75 und die Linie D verkehren ausschließlich in der Zone 1



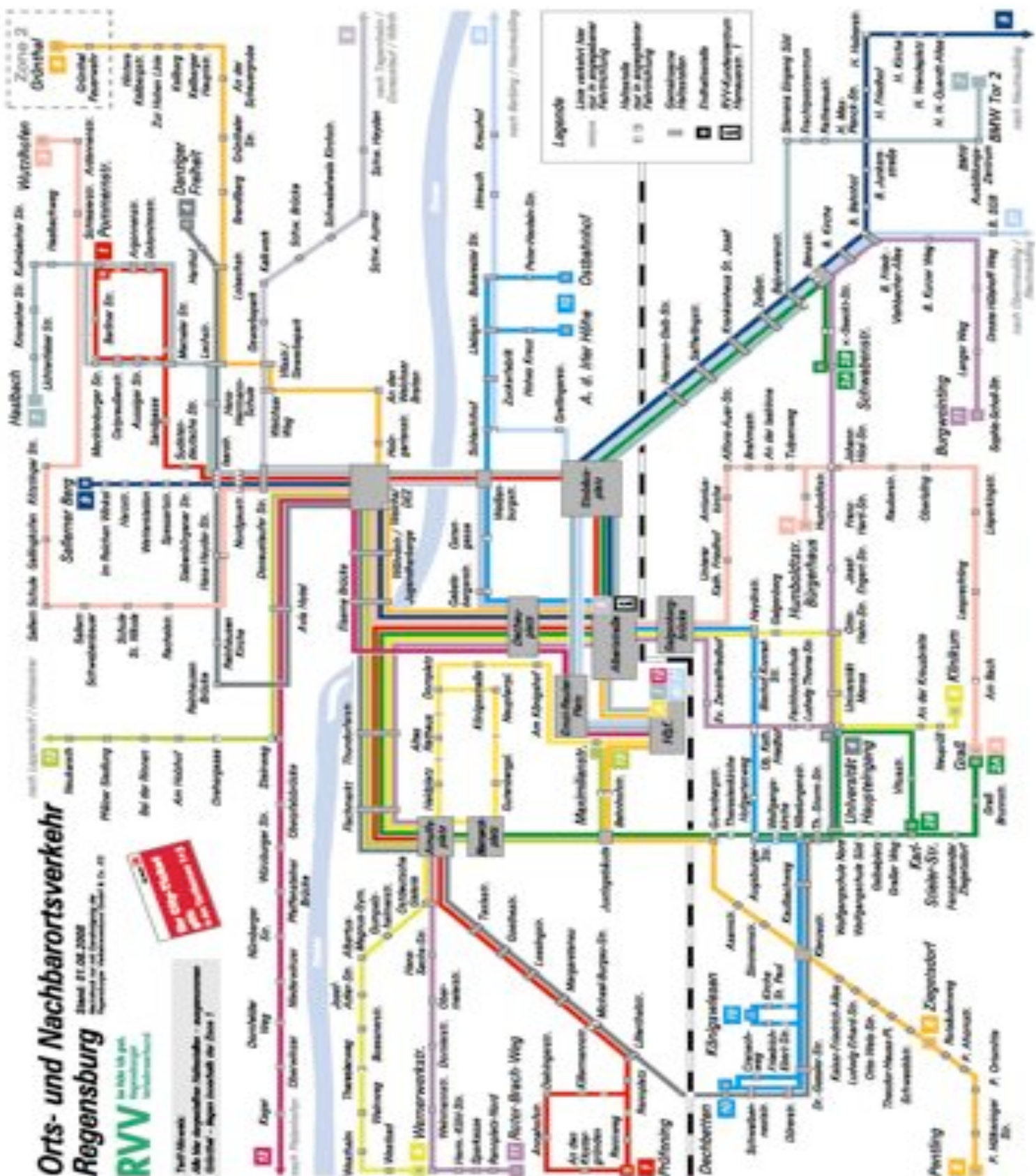
Source: www.rvv.de

Orts- und Nachbarortsverkehr Regensburg

Stand: 31.08.2008
 Regensburg ist ein
 Verkehrs- und
 Wirtschaftszentrum
 mit 130.000 Einwohnern
 und 1.500 Unternehmen
 (Stand 2007)



Teilweise
 Alle hier angegebenen Nebenorte - eingetragene
 Nebenorte - liegen innerhalb der Zone 1



Source: www.rvv.de

Make sure to validate your ticket: Unlike the US, Canada or England, no one checks your ticket as you enter the Bus, S-Bahn or U-Bahn. However from time to time, a group of plain-clothed officers, who often look nothing like officials, will board the train or bus and ask everyone to show their ticket. If you do not have a valid ticket, you will be fined (generally the fine is payable then and there) and suffer a great deal of embarrassment. Being a visitor and not speaking German do not get you off the hook! So make sure that you have a valid ticket.

4. Taxis

Taxis are all painted in a pale yellow colour. You can stop one on the street if the light on the cab's roof is lit or go to the nearest taxi stand. The meter currently starts at € 2.80. Fares are € 1.45 per km. The fare from Regensburg to the Munich or the Nuremberg airport will be around € 139.

The telephone number for Regensburg Taxi Headquarters is (0941) 194 19 or 520 52. There are also other taxi companies available and you may also call at the next taxi stand.

5. Deutsche Bahn

Using the German railway system is highly recommended. It is efficient, mostly on time and can take you almost anywhere in Germany with connections to European destinations. Go to a travel agency or the ticket counter at a station and ask for information. You can also look at the site www.db.de which has information available in German, English and French. Good offers are available through *Deutsche Bahn* for travel to other large German cities or European capitals. For example, a *Schönes Wochenende* ticket allows five people (who do not have to be related!) to travel in all of Germany quite cheaply; you are in second class and restricted to the slower local trains (*Regionalzüge*).

Look into the *BahnCard* program if you plan to take more than one train trip per year. The system favours those who can plan their trips in advance, who travel together, and who travel far. Savings are at least 25 % and in some cases as high as 73 % off regular prices!

Booking a place on the car train (*Autozug*) is a great idea if you would like to have your car on vacation but do not want to drive it there yourself. You and your car can reach selected cities in Europe by train. Check www.autozug.de for details.

6. airportLiner

As a less expensive alternative to the taxi, Regensburg has a special service for those wanting to get to the airport in the most stress-free way. The Regensburg airportLiner is a pre booked door

to-door service serving the airports Munich (MUC) and Nuremberg (NUE).

You can choose if you want to have an individual transfer, means you are booking the complete vehicle and avoid every delay that might occur. Or you can choose the standard transfer, that means a shared ride shuttle. In both cases, the liner will pick you up wherever you want and will bring you to the airport or vice versa. For more information about the fares and special conditions check **www.airportliner.com**.

*The two nearest airports are Munich and Nuremberg. Both cities are just about 1.5 hrs. from Regensburg. For more information about e.g. which airports they approach please check **www.airport-munich.de** and **www.airport-nuernberg.de**.*

Chapter VII. Shopping

Introduction to the German Shopping Pattern

Your first shopping trip might confront you with a couple of surprises. The following pages will give you some insights, answer some of your questions, and assist you in finding what you need!

Keep in mind that opening hours are limited compared to the United States or other European countries. Usually shops open between 8.00 and 9.00, though department stores and shops downtown might not open until 10.00. On weekdays, supermarkets and department stores are open until 20.00. Smaller shops, especially if not downtown, often close for lunch between 12.30 and 14.00 and will close in the evening between 18.00 and 18.30. Shops are allowed to remain open on Saturdays until 20.00. But again, apart from downtown, smaller shops may close a lot earlier, around 12.30 or 13.00. On Sundays and public holidays **all** stores are closed, so be sure to get your food shopping done in time!

	Big stores	Smaller shops
Mon-Fri	8.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 13.30 14.00 – 18.00
Sat	8.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 12.00/14.00

"Variety is the spice of life". Germans often buy their groceries in specialized shops, e. g. bread in a bakery (*Bäckerei*), meat in a butcher shop (*Metzgerei*), and produce in a fruit & vegetables market (*Obst- und Gemüseladen*). Many go shopping almost every day, which might be explained by – or might explain – the size of German refrigerators! On entering any of the smaller shops, customers will often greet anybody present with "Grüß Gott" or "Guten Tag".

In Regensburg there are two shopping malls: the *Donau-Einkaufszentrum (DEZ)*, Weichser Weg 5, open Mon-Sat from 9.30-20.00, and the *Regensburg Arcaden*, Friedenstraße 23. Wherever you live, in the vicinity of your home will be supermarkets and specialized shops catering to all your needs. If you like to get your vegetables directly from the farmer, you can go to the market at the *Donaumarkt* every Saturday.

When going to a supermarket, always keep a € 1 coin ready for the trolley/cart, or a reusable plastic coin. Customers in Germany also bag their own groceries (at considerable speed, so do not be slow!) at the cash register and there is a charge for plastic or paper bags (10-15 cents per bag). Ask for one saying, "Eine Tüte, bitte." Many shoppers bring their own re-used plastic bags, baskets (*Einkaufskorb*), cloth bags, or plastic boxes, which might be a good investment. At the larger grocery stores, if you cannot bag everything in a timely way (fast!) at the cash, it is expected that you will put everything loose into your trolley and, after paying, move to one of the counters available to finish bagging your groceries. Most supermarkets accept a bank card, but only a few will take your credit card.

Sales:

Laws regarding sales used to be very restrictive in Germany, allowing only two regular ones at the end of January (*Winterschlussverkauf*) and another at the end of July (*Sommerschlussverkauf*). Due to recent changes in the law, these restrictions do not apply anymore.

Returning merchandise:

Merchandise purchased can be returned for a refund, exchange, or credit, as long as you can provide the sales receipt when returning the item. Remember to ask for and keep the receipt (*Quittung* or *Kassenbon*) when paying for your goods. If you want to return something, look for customer service (*Kundendienst*) or ask a store employee where to return or exchange goods (*Warenrückgabe* or *Umtausch*). The customer has the right to return any defective item within a certain time limit, the period being longer for electrical appliances than grocery products. For these items you can get a full refund, exchange it, or keep it but receive a partial refund. Many shops will refund you only in the way you have paid, e.g. if you paid with a credit card, they will reimburse you with a credit to your credit card account.

1. Grocery Shopping

Two of the things you will love most about food shopping in Bavaria are breads and cakes; the assortments are endless and delicious. Bread, rolls, the famous pretzels (*Brezn*), and some sweet pastries are found in the bakery (*Bäckerei*), cakes, cream tarts, *gâteaux*, chocolates, and so on in a pastry shop (*Konditorei*). When shopping for meat, try out different butchers (*Metzgereien*), and do not miss their wide selection of sausages, cold cuts (*Aufschnitt*), salami, ham, etc. Germany is well known for the quality and taste of these products. In a supermarket you will be required to select and bag your fresh vegetables and fruit in small plastic bags provided and they are either weighed and priced at the check-out or you will have to do it yourself. Remember the number listed for the product to match it on the scale and put the sticker on the bag. If you shop in a fruit and vegetable market (*Obst- und Gemüseladen*), the vendor will usually pack the produce you want. Be careful not to touch items you are not going to buy! The gourmet in you will enjoy one of the many delicatessen (*Feinkostgeschäfte* or *Delikatessengeschäfte*) that cater for any occasion.

For drinks you can shop in supermarkets or at a drink shop (*Getränkemarkt* or *Getränk Laden*). Some of the bigger ones will also deliver drinks to your door. Please note that almost all soft drinks, juices, mineral water, and beer in glass or plastic bottles as well as tins are refundable: you pay a charge for each container/crate and will get your money back once you return them. The same procedure applies to most of the glass containers for dairy products. For wine and other alcoholic drinks, a good place to go is a specialty wine shop (*Weinladen*). Wine bottles are not refundable; for disposal see chapter V, 4.

The trend towards organic and “*bio*” products has increased in the last couple of years. Most supermarkets offer a range of these items, but you will also find them in the health food store (*Bioladen* or the *Reformhaus*). The assortment includes produce, dairy products, bread, meat, cheeses, cosmetics, drinks, etc.

For ethnic food items like tortillas, peanut butter, or Asian herbs check out the bigger supermarkets as they carry at least a limited range of these imported items. Also, many Asian, Italian and Turkish food shops are in the area, particularly downtown.

Frozen food can be delivered to your house. Two well known companies are for example Bofrost (www.bofrost.de) and Eismann (www.eismann.de).

Household goods like washing liquid, toiletries, and cosmetics can be found in supermarkets, but also in drug stores (*Drogerien*); *Parfümerien* will offer only cosmetics. There are some chains specializing in these goods (e. g. dm, Müller), but if you need a very specific item or assistance, try your *Drogerie* around the corner.

Tipp: Sell-by-date: Always check your food articles for their sell-by-date printed on top, bottom, or side of an article. Some shops tend to leave products in the shelves until quite late.

Glossary of Grocery and Household Items

Fruit (Obst)

		Citrus Fruit	Zitrusfrucht
Apple(s)	<i>Apfel, Äpfel</i>	- Grapefruit	- <i>Grapefruit, Pampelmuse</i>
Apricot	<i>Aprikose</i>	- Mandarine / Clementine	- <i>Mandarine / Klementine</i>
Avocado	<i>Avocado</i>	- Orange	- <i>Orange</i>
Banana	<i>Banane</i>	- Lemon	- <i>Zitrone</i>
Berries	<i>Beeren</i>	Peach	<i>Pfirsich</i>
- Cranberries	- <i>Preiselbeeren</i>	Cherry	<i>Kirsche</i>
- Gooseberries	- <i>Stachelbeeren</i>	Dates	<i>Dattel</i>
- Raspberries	- <i>Himbeeren</i>	Fig	<i>Feige</i>
- Black currants	- <i>Schwarze Johannisbeeren</i>	Grape	<i>Traube</i>
- Red currants	- <i>Rote Johannisbeeren</i>	Melon	<i>Melone</i>
- Strawberries	- <i>Erdbeeren</i>	Pineapple	<i>Ananas</i>
		Plum	<i>Pflaume</i>
		Rhubarb	<i>Rhabarber</i>

Vegetables (Gemüse)

Artischoke	<i>Artischocke</i>	Kohlrabi	<i>Kohlrabi</i>
Asparagus	<i>Spargel</i>	Leek	<i>Lauch</i>
Beans	<i>Bohnen</i>	Lentils	<i>Linsen</i>
Beetroot	<i>Rote Beete</i>	Lettuce	<i>Kopfsalat</i>
Broccoli	<i>Brokkoli</i>	Mushroom	<i>Pilz</i>
Brussel sprouts	<i>Rosenkohl</i>	Button mushroom	<i>Champignon</i>
Cabbage	<i>Kohl</i>	Onion	<i>Zwiebel</i>
- Chinese Cabbage	- <i>Chinakohl</i>	Parsley root	<i>Petersilienwurzel</i>
- White cabbage	- <i>Weißkohl</i>	Pea	<i>Erbse</i>
- Red cabbage	- <i>Rotkohl</i>	Pepper	<i>Paprika</i>
Carrots	<i>Möhren/Karotten</i>	Potato	<i>Kartoffel</i>
Cauliflower	<i>Blumenkohl</i>	Radish	<i>Radieschen</i>
		Scallion	<i>Lauchzwiebel</i>

Spices/Herbs (Gewürze/Kräuter)

Allspice	<i>Piment</i>	Mint	<i>Minze</i>
Anise	<i>Anis</i>	Marjoran	<i>Majoran</i>
Basil	<i>Basilikum</i>	Peppermint	<i>Pfefferminz</i>
Bay Leaves	<i>Lorbeerblätter</i>	Mustard	<i>Senf</i>
Capers	<i>Kapern</i>	Nutmeg	<i>Muskat</i>
Caraway seeds	<i>Kümmel</i>	Orange peel	<i>Orangenschale</i>
Cayenne pepper	<i>Cayennepfeffer</i>	Oregano	<i>Oregano</i>
Celery salt	<i>Selleriesalz</i>	Paprika	<i>Paprika</i>
Chervil	<i>Kerbél</i>	Parsley	<i>Petersilie</i>
Chili powder	<i>Chilipulver</i>	Pepper	<i>Pfeffer</i>
Chives	<i>Schnittlauch</i>	Poppy seeds	<i>Mohn(samen)</i>
Cinnamon	<i>Zimt</i>	Rosemary	<i>Rosmarin</i>
Cloves	<i>Nelken</i>	Saffron	<i>Safran</i>
Coriander	<i>Koriander</i>	Sage	<i>Salbei</i>
Cumin	<i>Kreuzkümmel</i>	Salt	<i>Salz</i>
Curry	<i>Curry</i>	Savory	<i>Böhmekraut</i>
Dill	<i>Dill</i>	Sesame seed	<i>Sesam</i>
Fennel seeds	<i>Fenchelsamen</i>	Sugar	<i>Zucker</i>
Garlic	<i>Knoblauch</i>	Tarragon	<i>Estragon</i>
Ginger	<i>Ingwer</i>	Thyme	<i>Thymian</i>
Horseradish	<i>Meerrettich</i>	vanilla	<i>Vanille</i>
Juniper berry	<i>Wacholderbeere</i>		

Dairy Products/Chees (Molkereiprodukte/Käse)

Milk	<i>Milch</i>	Cottage cheese	<i>Hüttenkäse</i>
- skim	<i>- Magermilch</i>	Cream cheese	<i>Streichkäse/ Frischkäse</i>
- condensed	<i>- Kondensmilch</i>	Butter	<i>Butter</i>
Cream	<i>Sahne</i>	Margarine	<i>Margarine</i>
- whipping cream	<i>- Schlagsahne</i>	Egg(s)	<i>Ei(er)</i>
Sour cream	<i>Sauerrahm/ Schmand</i>	Egg white	<i>Eiweiß</i>
Yoghurt	<i>Joghurt</i>	Egg yolk	<i>Eigelb</i>
Curd cheese	<i>Quark</i>		

Meat/Poultry/Game (Fleisch/Geflügel/Wild)

Cold cuts	<i>Aufschnitt</i>	Sausage	<i>Wurst/Würstchen</i>
Bacon	<i>Frühstücksspeck</i>	Ham	<i>Schinken</i>
- boiled	<i>- gekocht</i>	- smoked	<i>- roh geräuchert</i>
Beef	<i>Rindfleisch</i>	Filet, tenderloin	<i>Filet, Lende</i>
Pork	<i>Schweinefleisch</i>	Minced meat	<i>Hackfleisch</i>
75 Veal	<i>Kalbfleisch</i>	Stew	<i>Gulasch</i>
Mutton	<i>Hammelfleisch</i>	Roast	<i>Braten</i>
Lamb	<i>Lammfleisch</i>	Leg of lamb	<i>Lammkeule</i>
		Con	<i>Kotelett</i>

Fish (Fisch)

Anchovies	<i>Sardellen, Anchovis</i>	Perch	<i>Barsch</i>
Caviar	<i>Kaviar</i>	Pike	<i>Hecht</i>
Cod	<i>Kabeljau</i>	Pike perch	<i>Zander</i>
Crab	<i>Krebs</i>	Plaice	<i>Scholle</i>
Cuttlefish	<i>Tintenfisch</i>	Prawn	<i>Garnele</i>
Eel	<i>Aal</i>	Red snapper	<i>Rote Dorade</i>
Flounder	<i>Flunder</i>	Salmon	<i>Lachs</i>
Haddock	<i>Schellfisch</i>	Sardine	<i>Sardine</i>
Halibut	<i>Heilbutt</i>	Sea Bass	<i>Seebarsch</i>
Herring	<i>Hering</i>	Shrimp	<i>Krabbe</i>
- Smoked Herring	<i>- Bückling</i>	Sturgeon	<i>Stör</i>
Lobster	<i>Hummer</i>	Trout	<i>Forelle</i>
Mackerel	<i>Makrele</i>	Tuna	<i>Thunfisch</i>
Mussels	<i>Muscheln</i>	Turbot	<i>Steinbutt</i>

Miscellaneous (Diverses)

Flour	<i>Mehl</i>	Oil	<i>Öl</i>
Baking Powder	<i>Backpulver</i>	Olive oil	<i>Olivenöl</i>
Semolina	<i>Grieß</i>	Sunflower oil	<i>Sonnenblumenöl</i>
Corn meal	<i>Maisgriess</i>	Vinegar	<i>Essig</i>
Corn starch	<i>Maisstärke</i>	Raisins	<i>Rosinen</i>
Bread crumbs	<i>Semmelbrösel</i>	Prunes	<i>Backpflaumen</i>
MSG	<i>Glutamat</i>	Nuts	<i>Nüsse</i>
Pasta/Noodles	<i>Nudeln</i>	- Almonds	<i>- Mandeln</i>
Rice	<i>Reis</i>	- Hazelnuts	<i>- Haselnüsse</i>
Oatmeal	<i>Haferflocken</i>	- Peanuts	<i>- Erdnüsse</i>
Yeast	<i>Hefe</i>	- Walnuts	<i>- Walnüsse</i>
stock	<i>Brühe</i>	- Pine nuts	<i>- Pinienkerne</i>

Household Supplies (Haushaltswaren)

Ammonia	<i>Ammoniak</i>	Iron	<i>Bügeleisen</i>
Soap	<i>Seife</i>	Ironing board	<i>Bügelbrett</i>
Washing-up liquid	<i>Spülmittel</i>	Broom	<i>Besen</i>
Rinse agent	<i>Klarspüler</i>	Brush	<i>Bürste</i>
		Bucket	<i>Eimer</i>

2. The Building Supply/Do-It-Yourself Store (Baumarkt)

Once you have moved into your house, an important place to shop for the first weeks will be the building supply or do-it-yourself store (*Baumarkt*) like e.g. *Bauhaus*, *Praktiker* or *OBI*. Here you will find anything you need to hang shelves or lights, things for the bathroom and kitchen, extension cords, ladders, tools, etc. Other places to shop for these products are your local electrician (*Elektrogeschäft*) or hardware store (*Haushaltswaren*, *Farbengeschäft*).

3. Furniture/Kitchen Stores

You need some cupboards or shelves in order to unpack and store all your things? Your house/apartment did not come with a kitchen? Visit a furniture store (*Möbelgeschäft*), a home furnishing store (*Einrichtungshaus*), or a kitchen specialty shop (*Küchen-fachgeschäft*). Department stores and building supply stores (*Baumärkte*) will offer a small range of items and also prefabricated kitchen parts, although they will not be fit to measure. On the outskirts of Regensburg you will find larger stores like *hiendl XXXL* and *Ikea*, Sulzfeldstr.1+7. Besides furniture, these stores offer almost anything you need in the house: lights, lamps, curtains, kitchen- and glassware, carpets, bedding, etc. You will be able to take some furniture items home immediately or have them delivered within days. If the item you want is not in stock, be sure to ask for the delivery time, which is often more than a month.

To get a kitchen installed, go to one of the bigger furniture stores or one of the many stores specializing in kitchens. Prices vary a lot, so it is always advisable to get more than one quote. Expect a delivery time of four to six weeks and two days' work to have the kitchen installed in your home.

For special needs, like built-in cupboards and shelves, or repairs, you will need a carpenter (*Schreiner*). There will certainly be one in your area, but again shop around for prices.

4. Electronic Goods

Telephones, washers, dryers, TVs, computers – you need to replace those appliances you might have had to leave back home, because they do not work in Germany. There is no shortage of electrical appliance stores (*Elektro- or Elektronikgeschäften*) throughout Regensburg. Sometimes manuals are not available in English, but you can order them from the manufacturer or check on-line. Your local *Elektrogeschäft* will usually be helpful in setting up your TV channels or telephone. If you want to install a satellite dish, check the Yellow Pages for stores offering satellite dishes (*Satellitenanlagen*) or ask in one of the electronic stores.

5. Pharmacies

No medicine – not even an aspirin – will be sold outside of a pharmacy (*Apotheke*). Drug stores (*Drogerien*) or health food stores (*Reformhäuser*) will carry some vitamin products, homeopathic medication or herbal teas. Pharmacies are probably a lot smaller than you are used to and you must ask for over-the-counter items. You should also note that in Germany a lot more medications require a prescription, compared to other countries and prices are comparatively high.

Depending on your insurance (public or private), you will pay just a small fee (public insurance provides medication for children at no charge) or the full price (private insurance). (See also chapter IV)

Alternatively, go to the *Apotheke* around the corner and check a small sign on their window or door that will tell you where to go. The *Apotheke* on duty in your neighbourhood will also be published in the local newspaper.

If you need a medicine outside the normal opening hours, you can call (0941) 9440 or ask the doctor you saw for the closest pharmacy (*Apotheke*) that has night or emergency service (*Nacht- or Notdienst*).

6. Clothing and Shoes

Even if Regensburg is a rather small city, compared with Munich, you will find here everything you wish for, e.g. souvenir shops and specialty stores, boutiques and sport outfitters. Besides Regensburg there are many other cities worth a visit accompanied by a shopping trip, e. g. Ingolstadt (1 h), Nuremberg (1 h), Munich (1.5 hrs.), Bamberg (1h 45 min), Passau (75 min). These cities have beautiful inner cities with great buildings and many shops. They are also worth a visit at Christmas time when they set up the Christmas markets.

What size do you wear?

Clothes (*Kleidung*)

Women			Men		Children	
US	UK	D	US & UK	D	US & UK	D
10	32	38	34	44	2 yrs	92
12	34	40	36	46	3 yrs	98
14	36	42	38	48	4 yrs	104
16	38	44	40	50	6 yrs	116
18	40	46	42	52	8 yrs	128

Men's shirts are sized by neck measurements: size 14 (in) becomes 36 (cm), etc. Women's panty hoses are measured in dress sizes. For men there are short and tall sizes; for women you will find this only for trousers.

Shoes (*Schuhe*)

Women			Men			Children		
US	UK	D	US	UK	D	US	UK	D
4	2	35	7	6 ½	41	8	7	24

For traditional Bavarian costumes (*Tracht*), which is worn especially around the time of the fairs, the most famous is probably the Oktoberfest, check the department stores for their *Trachtenabteilung* or look for a specialty shop in your neighbourhood (*Trachtengeschäft*). There are a couple in Regensburg and the suburbs, but also look for shops when you visit the countryside. There, the traditional costumes are worn more often, and you might find a bigger and different selection.

7. Magazines and Newspapers

If you like reading a magazine or newspaper in English and other languages you'll be well advised to search them in some kiosks or bakeries. Most international daily, weekly, or monthly papers and periodicals are available through subscription as well.

8. Books, CDs, Videos, DVDs, and Computer Games

The place to find books, including audio-books, is called *Buchhandlung*. Most of these bookshops are in the inner city or the two malls. They usually carry a considerable selection of international books and all bookstores can order any English book available in the German wholesale business for you, usually within 24 hours; for other books, you might have to wait up to two weeks.

The place to go for CDs, Videos, DVDs or computer games is one of the big electronic stores such as Saturn or Mediamarkt, a department store or one of the few shops specializing in these items.

If you buy a DVD, always check on the back for the languages, and remember that code two DVDs will not play on an American machine.

Ordering an English video or DVD takes between one to four weeks, depending on whether it is available in the German wholesale business.

Alternatively, you can order almost any book, CD, video, or DVD through one of the Internet businesses like for example:

**www.amazon.de
www.bol.de
www.buch.de or
www.buecher.de**

9. Outlet Shopping

Listing all the outlet shops (*Fabrikverkauf*) in and around Regensburg and Bavaria would exceed the scope of this book. Please refer to any of the following publications, which are updated on a regular basis e. g.: “*Schnäppchenführer Deutschland 2009/10*” and “*Schnäppchenführer Bayern*” or “*Fabrikverkauf in Deutschland 2008/ 2009.*” Also available are special publications for children’s items, furniture, handy-men and fashion & beauty outlets.

10. Souvenirs

There are various shops spread all over the inner city which offer any kind of beer mug or tin figure, T-shirt, or pin to take home as a souvenir. Go to the Tourist Information or to the smaller shops near the Stone Bridge (*Steinerne Brücke*) to find most of them. A good place to shop for souvenirs is certainly one of the many Christmas markets all over Bavaria where many handcrafted items are available.

For a list of Christmas markets, check www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk or www.regensburg.de/weihnachtsmaerkte for the Regensburg “Christkindlmarkt”.

11. Services

A dry-cleaner (*Reinigung*) will usually also offer washing and/or ironing and pressing services. The *Reinigung* will wash your duvet or comforter that does not fit into your washing machine; alternatively, go to one of the self-service laundry centres (*Waschsalon*) where you will find bigger machines. The dry-cleaner will clean rugs as well. For delicate or expensive rugs, carpets, sofas, etc., use a specialized *Teppich-reinigung* or *Teppichwäscherei* or a *Polsterreinigung*. They will also come to clean the carpeting in your house, if you do not want to rent a machine in a *Reinigung* or *Drogerie*.

In case of an alteration or torn clothes take the items to a *Schneiderei* (tailor) or *Änderungsatelier* (alteration service shop).

The shoe repair shop (*Schuhmacher*) will repair your broken heels or replace the soles of shoes. Often, he will also be able to make simple new keys, though for any kind of security key (numbered key), you will have to go to a special locksmith (*Schlüsseldienst*). You can also call them when you have locked yourself out.

If your television or bell does not work, call the electrician (*Elektriker*), for trouble with your heating, a heating system technician (*Heizungstechniker*). If you have problems regarding water or clogged pipes call a plumber (*Sanitäre Anlage/Klempner*). If you have problems with shutters or blinds, look under “*Rollladenbau.*”

Services

Dry-cleaner	<i>Reinigung</i>	Electrician	<i>Elektriker</i>
Carpet cleaner	<i>Teppichreinigung</i>	Plumber	<i>Klempner, Sanitäre Anlagen</i>
Shoemaker	<i>Schuhmacher</i>	Heating	<i>Heizungstechniker</i>
Other leather repair	<i>Sattler</i>	Blinds/Shutters	<i>Rollladenbau</i>
Tailor	<i>Schneider/ Ände-</i>	Painter	<i>Maler</i>

12. Postal Services

German postal services (*Deutsche Post*) can be recognized by the yellow cars, bicycles etc. The mail will usually be delivered in the morning; parcels or packets are delivered separately, but other than around Christmas time, also in the mornings. The mail carrier (*Briefträger/ Postbote*) will not take any mail you want to send; you must drop it in the yellow mail boxes located outside the post office and at various locations around town. If you are not at home to accept a registered letter (*Einschreiben*) or packet, you will find a note asking you to pick up the item at your local post office. It will be stored there for about a week, so do not order anything if you are leaving town. Be sure to take some piece of identification with you when you pick up your letter or parcel at the post office. By sending back the notification card or calling the hotline, you can also ask for a second delivery on a specified day, but not for a certain time.

The post offices in Regensburg or other big cities are now open all day from 8.00 – 18.30, but some of the smaller ones in the suburbs or farther out will close for lunch. In order to send a parcel (*Päckchen*, max. 2 kg), you must fill out a *Päckchenkarte*, for packets, a *Pakete-* or *Paketkarte*. In addition to providing postal services, *Deutsche Post* is also a bank.

Postal Services

	National	Europe	International (Air)
Postcard	0.45	0.65	1.00 (also letter under 5 g)
Small Letter up to 20 g	0.55	0.70	1.70
Small Letter up to 50 g	0.90	1.00	2.00
Letter up to 500 g	1.45		
Letter up to 1 kg	2.20		
Big Letter up to 50 g		1.90	3.00
Big Letter up to 100 g		2.50	4.00
Big Letter up to 500 g		4.50	8.00
Big Letter up to 1 kg		6.00	12.00
Parcel up to 2 kg – Land	4.30	8.60	12.90
Parcel up to 2 kg – Air		12.90	25.80

While letters are still in the monopoly of *Deutsche Post*, you can send parcels and packets with competitors, e.g.:

DHL	Phone (01805) 345 22 55*
DPD	Phone (01805) 373 200 *
Fed Ex	Phone (0800) 123 0800
German Parcel Service	Phone (01805) 25 2700 *
TNT	Phone (01805) 900 900 *
UPS	Phone (0800) 882 6630

World Courier

Phone (089) 9698 9290

*14Ct./Min. from German landline

Tip: Before you go on longer holiday, make sure a friend or neighbour will empty your mailbox. Alternatively, you can ask for your mail to be stored at the local post office (forms at the post office or at www.deutschepost.de/lagerservice). The cost for up to one month is € 8.20 and € 10.20 for three months.

Chapter VIII. Reaching Out

1. Language Schools: "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?"

Life in any country is more full and fulfilling when you can understand and express yourself to people in their language. Although many Germans speak English rather well, they tend to do so in the corporate/professional settings rather than in shops or markets where most of you will also have to get along. Besides, this is an opportunity to enrich your time in Germany by developing your language skills.

It is very likely that as part of being transferred to Germany, you will receive some sort of family language training as a benefit. A private teacher is expensive but definitely the most efficient way for a beginner to learn German. Look in the Yellow Pages to find names or, better still, try to get recommendations from friends or colleagues.

The cheapest way is finding a course through the adult education program (*Volkshochschule*, in short *VHS*). You may choose a German language course or a cooking or painting class where you will be among other Germans and learn German conversation from them. The courses vary much in quality. If you are not happy with a course, it is possible to switch to another one. As these programs are subsidized by the city, tuition is quite reasonable. To enroll or get information, you need the program; In Regensburg you can pick it up free at local stores and banks. To register for a course, you should appear in person at the office of the *VHS*, register via phone, or send in a registration form authorizing the *VHS* to withdraw the course fee from your account. Note that in Regensburg many courses are popular and queues are not uncommon on the first day of sign-up. You may choose from a variety of class times: mornings, evenings, and weekend courses.

2. Churches

The Regensburg area is predominantly Catholic. You will, however, find churches of many other denominations too; check:

www.regensburg.de/buerger/leben/kirchen_und_religion/index.shtml and you will get a list of all the churches in Regensburg.

3. Libraries

At the public libraries you can borrow books and electronic media. All you need is a lending card (*Bibliotheksausweis*), which in Regensburg is free for children and adolescents and costs € 17 per year for adults (over 18), € 10 reduced tariff. The Regensburg Stadtbücherei, the main library is situated in the very city centre at the Haidplatz 8. To see where the local branches are in Regensburg, look at:

http://www.regensburg.de/buerger/rathaus/aemter_gegliedert/kulturreferat/buechereien.shtml.

Videos and DVDs

Nowadays, many of the local video rental shops have at least a small range of English videos. Be aware that videos from England will not necessarily work with an American VCR. At the same time, DVDs from the US that are sometimes available in the video rental shops are not compatible with European DVD players. These videos are usually marked with a specific country code. (North America is region one; Europe is region two.)

Try out for example one of the following places to rent videos and DVDs.

Videothek Megamovie

Hofgartenweg 10
93051 Regensburg
Phone: 0941/942 5674

Mega Movie 24

Taubengässchen 1
93047 Regensburg
Phone: 0941/586 1714

Hörnlein Mario Videothek

Dr.-Gessler-Str. 12
93051 Regensburg
Phone: 0941/971 42

MegaMovie Michael Vogt

Kirchmeierstr. 22
93051 Regensburg
Phone: 0941/3077 9130

You can also rent some DVDs at the public library (*Stadtbücherei Regensburg*), *Haidplatz 8*, *Tel. 0941/507 2470*.

4. Sports

Germans are keen on sports in both individual and organized environments. Group sports for all age groups are organized in a sports club (*Sportverein*) at a local municipality level. Look in your local telephone directory for contact numbers and addresses. The *Vereine* are funded partly by fees, partly by the municipality. Programs are printed in the local newspapers a couple of times a year or they are distributed via mail in the area. The offer is huge and includes team sports like soccer, handball, basketball, group gymnastics, etc., all with trained instructors. Prices are very reasonable. For offers in Regensburg, see www.sport-regensburg.de.

The offer of individual sports is comprehensive too. Golf is becoming very popular! Also, Regensburg has two golf courses to offer (see www.sport-regensburg.de under **A bis Z – Sportarten → Golf**), they are so beautiful, they compensate the small number of courses. The fairways are in the midst of a gently waved forest landscape and at sunny days you can even see the spurs of the Bavarian Forest.

And if you are a real golf lover, there is one of the most famous Golf Museums in Regensburg, *Tändlergasse 3*, *Phone: 0941/510 74*, www.golfmuseum.de.

Chapter IX. Leisure

1. Eating Out

Restaurants are abundant in Regensburg, varying from traditional Bavarian and ethnic food to the most elaborate and fancy imaginable. In short, everyone can find a restaurant to suit his/her taste in Regensburg. Look for restaurants in the Yellow Pages under “*Gaststätten und Restaurants*,” where you will find the establishments listed according to type of cuisine. The selection is enormous and, of course, the quality varies so you are wise to get recommendations from friends or colleagues. For further ideas and inspiration, check for example the website www.regensburg-regensburg.de under “*Restaurants*” in the left bar.

In Bavaria it is always time for a small bite (*Brotzeit*). This warm or cold snack can be eaten anytime. But a true Bavarian would never eat white sausage (*Weißwurst*) afternoo! Other favourites include the local version of meatloaf (*Leberkäs*), which is NOT made of liver and cheese, but meat, and is eaten with bread or the Bavarian soft pretzels (*Brez'n*); or a mixture

Many restaurants regularly close one day per week (*Ruhetag*), often a Monday, so it is advisable to phone in advance.

of soft cheese, onion, butter and caraway seeds (*Obatzda*) spread on dark bread (*Schwarzbrot*). Dumplings (*Knödel*) accompany many of the dishes, including the starters, where they are made of liver (*Leberknödel*) or semolina (*Griessnockerl*) and are served in a clear broth. Main

courses (*Hauptgerichte*) are rich and huge. Choose from poultry (*Geflügel*), game (*Wild*), mushrooms (*Schwammerl*), or fish (*Fisch*). If you are up to it, end the meal with a dessert (*Süßspeise*), which could be steamed sweet dumplings filled with fruit (*Topfenknödel*) or apple strudel with vanilla sauce (*Apfelstrudel*).

When on the phone, ask if they take credit cards since not all do. Tipping is five to ten percent or rounding up the bill by three to five Euros. Restaurants are allowed to stay open until 2.00 during the week and until 3.00 on Fridays, Saturdays, and holidays.

The beer gardens (*Biergärten*) are a Bavarian landmark, outdoor restaurants under chestnut trees, where you can bring your own food or order a *Brotzeit*, and enjoy a stein of Bavarian beer, which is among the best in the world. Most of the beer gardens also have a section with table service. You will find beer gardens everywhere, from the city center to the remotest mountaintop, a common feature being the simple wooden tables and benches combined with a lively atmosphere. Beer gardens in residential areas have to close at 23.00.

Here are the Traditional Biergärten in Regensburg

Gaststätte Spitalgarten

St. Katarinenplatz 1
Phone: 0941/847 74
daily 09.00 – 24.00

Alte Linde	Müllerstraße 1		
	Phone: 0941/880 80		
	1. April – 30. Sept.:	daily	11.00 – 24.00
	1. Okt. – 31. Dec.:	Mon – Fri	17.00 – 24.00
		Sat – Sun	11.00 – 24.00
	1. Jan. – 31. March:	Tue – Fri	17.00 – 24.00
	Sat	11.00 – 24.00	
	Sun	11.00 – 21.00	

Kneitinger Keller	Galgenbergstraße 18
	Phone: 0941/766 80
	daily 09.00 – 24.00

A Brief Guide to German Beer

<i>Helles</i>	Pale gold, lager, “normal” beer
<i>Dunkles</i>	Dark beer
<i>Pils, Pilsner</i>	Pale gold beer contains more hops than <i>Helles</i> , named for the Czech town of Pilsen
<i>Export</i>	Beer with higher alcohol content and longer lagering period
<i>Märzenbier</i>	A strong, bottom-fermented beer
<i>Weizenbier, Weißbier</i>	A pale, top-fermented beer brewed with more wheat, low in hops and containing less alcohol. A popular summer drink served in a vase-like glass.
<i>Alkoholfreies Bier</i>	Contains 0.5 % alcohol or less
<i>Radler</i>	Mixture of beer and citrus-flavoured soda or lemonade, shandy

Tip: Look out for the sign *Stammtisch* on one of the tables! This table is reserved for regulars, and you should not sit down there before asking the waiter even if it is unoccupied and the other tables are full.

2. Entertainment: Cinemas, Theaters, Concerts

Regensburg has, as many other big cities in Germany, a quite large number of cinemas. In addition to the multiplex cinema *CinemaxX*, you will find a lot of smaller ones such as the so called *Altstadtkinos*. In these smaller cinemas, movies are relatively often shown in the original version. Since 1994 every year in November a film festival of the special kind takes place: the SHORT FILM WEEK. It is one of the most important shortfilm festivals in Europe and is known and popular far abroad. At this international competition only shortfilms (from all over the world) are shown that are not older than two years.

Some other highlights in the cinematic scene of Regensburg are the REGENSBURG SILENT FILM WEEK (in August), the FRENCH and SPANISH CULTURE AND FILM FESTIVAL (in May) and the open-air cinema during summer.

Tip: When you look at the programme note the abbreviations *OV* and *OmU*! *OV* stands for ‘Original Version’ (the film has not been dubbed and there are no subtitles) whereas *OmU* stands for ‘Original mit Untertitel’ (meaning the film is in the original language but has German subtitles).

Cinemas in Regensburg:

CinemaxX Located in the immediate vicinity of the main station next to the *Regensburg Arcaden*. This cinema mostly shows the latest Hollywood films and one in OV.

Friedenstraße 25, 93053 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/7802 0
www.cinemaxx.de/regensburg

Regina Compared to the *Altstadtkinos*, which have just one little screen, this one has two (screens). Although it is not located in the very city centre, you can easily get there by bus in about 10 min. from the centre.

Holzgartenstraße 22, 93059 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/416 25.
www.reginakino.de

Filmgalerie This small cinema mostly shows small debut performances from all over the world. Tuesday and Wednesday is normally reserved to the classical authors of the film history or to some film series.

Bertoldstraße 9, 93047 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/560 901
www.filmgalerie.de

Wintergarten This is probably the youngest cinema in Regensburg. It was opened with the intention to “fight” against the continuous tendency that films are quickly set down in bigger cinemas (because of queuing re-starts) by a prolongation of these films.

Andreasstraße 28, 93059 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/298 4563.
www.filmgalerie.de

The *Altstadtkinos*:

GARBO This cinema is the oldest one in Regensburg (over 80 years in use).

Weißgerbergraben 11a, 93047 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/575 86.
www.altstadtkinos.de

Ostentor-Kino This is one of the first repertory cinemas in Germany. After the film you can let the evening gently fade away by a glass of wine or beer in one of the two pubs that are just next to the cinema.

Adolf-Schmetzer-Straße 5, 93055 Regensburg, Phone: 0941/79 19 74.
www.altstadtkinos.de

But the cultural life of Regensburg has still more to offer: the theatres! There is something for almost everybody's taste. If you like ballets or oper-and-musical theatre you are best advised to go to one of the *Regensburg Theater*, means either the **Velodrom**, the **Theater am Bismarckplatz** or the **Theater am Haidplatz**. The following three theatres, the **Bauerntheater**, the **Statt-Theater** and the **Turmtheater**, play for the most part funny pieces and cabaret, whereas the last one also plays some thrilling pieces. There is another theatre at the University of Regensburg where you can see all kinds of play. Besides local theatre groups/ensembles you can enjoy concerts and performances from international known artists and symphony orchestras. Therefor please check the websites:

<http://www.stwno.de/standorte/regensburg/campus/veranstaltungen/index.html> and **www.regensburg-kultur.de** where you will find everything concerning the cultural life of Regensburg.

3. Exploring Regensburg: Tourist Information

You will get a good impression of Regensburg just by strolling along the streets. Pick up the "Stadtführungen/Guided tours Regensburg" (in German and English) from the tourist information or "Regensburg At a Glance" (*Regensburg Tourismus GmbH (Tourist Information)*, see below). Please check for guided tours in different languages **www.kulttouren.de**. You can also check the city's website:

<http://www.regensburg.de/tourismus/international/index.html> and choose from a variety of interesting tours. And don't miss the event-tours with the **STADTMAUS www.stadtmaus.de** where you will dive into the past, medieval world. Once you have become familiar with the streets, it may be time to move indoors and see some of Regensburg's museums. For a good overview go to the just mentioned website and click on "Guided tours in museums (German information)" where all museums and collections are listed with addresses, telephone numbers, and opening hours.

Your local tourist office can provide information on what there is to see in your area, although much is available only in German. For English guides try one of the larger bookstores in Regensburg. Below is a list of some of the tourist offices in and around Regensburg:

Prospectservice Allgäu		
Allgäuer Str. 1 87435 Kempten	Phone 01805 12 7000	www.allgaeu.de
Tourismusverband Franken e.V.		
Postfach 44 04 53 90461 Nürnberg	Phone (0911) 941 51-0	www.frankentourismus.de
Tourismusverband Ostbayern e.V.		
Luitpoldstraße 20 93047 Regensburg	Phone (0941) 585 39-0 Fax (0941) 585 39-39 Free-Call 0800 121 2111	www.ostbayern-tourismus.de

Tourist Information

Regensburg Tourismus GmbH
Rathausplatz 4 Phone (0941) 507-4410 www.regensburg.de/tourismus
93047 Regensburg Fax (0941) 507-4418

Tourismusverband München-Oberbayern

Postfach 60 03 20 Phone (089) 941 51-0 www.muenchen-oberbayern.de
81203 München Fax (089) 8292 18-28
Radolfzeller Str. 15
81243 München

Bayern Tourismus Marketing GmbH

Sendlinger Straße 1 Phone (089) 2123 97-0 www.bayern.by
80804 München Fax (089) 2123 97-99

4. Exploring Bavaria: Museums

Regensburg has a wealth of museums

Some of the most popular are:

Historisches Museum www.museen-regensburg.de

Dachauplatz 2-4 Phone (0941) 507-24 28

Reichstagsmuseum www.museen-regensburg.de

Altes Rathaus Phone (0941) 507-3440 (office)
-3444 (tours)

document Neupfarrplatz

www.regensburg.de/museumportal/museen/document_neupfarrplatz.html

Dachauplatz 2-4 Phone (0941) 507-1442

Document Schnupftabakfabrik

http://www.regensburg.de/museumportal/museen/document_schnupftabakfabrik.html

Gesandtenstraße 5 Phone (0941) 507-3442

Naturkundemuseum Ostbayern www.naturkundemuseum-regensburg.de

Am Perbrunnertor 4 Phone (0941) 507-3443

Kunstforum Ostdeutsche Galerie (KOG) www.kunstforum.net

Dr.-Johann-Maier-Straße 5 Phone (0941) 297 14-0

Golfmuseum www.golfmuseum.de

Tändlergasse 3 Phone (0941) 510 74

Brückturm-Museum	www.dsmr.de
Weißer-Lamm-Gasse 1	Phone (0941) 507-5889
Thurn & Taxis Museum	www.thurnundtaxis.de
Emmeramsplatz 5	Phone (0941) 5048-242
Donau-Schiffahrts-Museum	www.dsmr.de
Thundorfer Straße	Phone (0941) 507-5888
Domschatzmuseum	www.bistumsmuseen-regensburg.de
Krauterermarkt 3	Phone (0941) 576 45

5. Exploring Bavaria: Sports and Outings

Bavaria invites you to do outdoor activities – partly because the weather is often good, partly because of the wonderful nature just at your doorstep. Take a beautiful drive through the countryside and stop at a beer garden somewhere to try the local beer. Or buy yourself a good pair of hiking shoes, take the car or train, and go for a day trip into the mountains. Every season has its charming options, and once you have settled in you will find several more yourself.

Skiing:

Whether downhill, cross-country or snowboarding, Upper Palatinate can satisfy all kinds of likings. Winter in this region means a lot of snow, so winter sports are a matter of course. In about one or two hours you are already in the heart of the *Bayerischer Wald* where the *Hoher Bogen* or the *Großer Arber* offer great downhill skiing conditions for beginners and experts alike. But if you prefer alpine skiing, you can make great day trips to many resorts that can be reached within three hours. At www.oberbayern.de, you can click your way to the resorts and check out how the snow and slopes are on the day you want to go. The “ADAC Skiatlas” available in all bookshops informs you of ski resorts in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and France and is a wonderful source of inspiration and consultation. If you are a beginner, get some lessons before you go on your own. You will save yourself a lot of pain and worries. Skiing equipment can be expensive so you may want to rent it in a sports shop or buy second hand before you decide whether this sport is for you. Most areas have secondhand markets in October so keep your eyes open. Skiing is a great family sport! But remember: On sunny weekends everyone else – not only from Regensburg – wants to go skiing too, so be prepared for traffic jams (*Stau*).

Cross-country skiing (*Langlauf*) is another popular sport. You need not travel far (if there is snow!) since many areas in the Bavarian Forest have prepared trails (*Loipen*) that you can follow. For trails in Upper Bavaria, choose the website www.oberbayern.de, and click on an area to see whether trails are available. For more books on trails in Bavaria, visit a book store.

Skating:

Many of the smaller lakes in the countryside freeze over soon after the frost sets in. You will find open restaurants where you can get hot cocoa and cake by the shore. If you prefer to go

skating in a ice (skating) rink, the **Donauarena**, *Walhalla Allee 22 in 93059 Regensburg* is open from October-March (Phone 0941/601-2988). For more information about tariffs please check www.donau-arena.de under "Eislauf" in the left bar.

Swimming:

In summer there is no doubt about it: take a swim in one of the lakes like Roither See, Guggenberger Weiher, Sarchinginger Weiher or Klausensee, which is about 20 minutes from Regensburg, or a dip in the river Danube (*Donau*) in between sunbathing on the stony shores. If you prefer proper swimming facilities you best go to the **Westbad** in *Messerschmittstraße 4* (0941/285 77), with its variety of pools and its water slide, or to the **Wöhrdbad** in *Lieblstraße 26* (Phone 0941/601-2922), which impresses during the summer with its idyllic sunbathing area, surrounded by great trees. The kids will certainly enjoy waterpark-like pools such **Therme Erding** in Erding, www.therme-erding.de.

Biking:

Since the countryside is full of bicycle paths and quiet roads where cars are rare, biking is extremely popular. If you don't have your own bike, you can always rent one in a shop. Maps are available in tourist information centers and in book shops. The website www.adfc-regensburg.de gives access to the Regensburg branch of the German Bicycle Club. If you check the website www.oberpfalz.de you will find under "Enjoy and Experience Nature" → "Action and Movement" → "Cycling" a map with different cycle tours.

Hiking:

From May to October hiking is popular among old and young. You will see people of all ages hiking in the mountains on narrow, steep paths and wide forest roads. Cabins with food are found at regular intervals so there is no need to go hungry or thirsty. And if you are thirsty in between, take a drink from one of the many mountain streams; they are tasty and not at all unhealthy. On the website www.oberpfalz.de you can click your way to the area you want to hike in and find suggestions for your trip. In every book shop you can find detailed maps, e. g. from *Kompass Wanderkarte* or *Bayerisches Landesvermessungsamt*, for the required areas.

If you want to embark on this sport remember to buy a good pair of hiking boots for your safety and comfort. Do not let the heights dissuade you! In most places you can take a cable car up and maybe – or maybe not – walk down.

Climbing:

This sport is becoming very popular in Germany and Regensburg recognized the rising enthusiasm regarding the rock or indoor climbing. For those aiming high the immediate surroundings of Regensburg have two very modern climbing gyms to offer, one in *Obertraubling*: www.megasports-regensburg.de, and one in *Lappersdorf*: www.kletterzentrum-regensburg.de which just opened a month ago.

On clear days, balloons look tempting against the clear, blue sky just as paragliding does, while the lakes invite you to embark on rowing. Do let yourself get tempted!

Outings:

There is plenty besides sports to keep you busy. Many towns in Bavaria are worth a visit and many have interesting museums, e.g. Murnau with the **Kandinsky-Münter** museum. At Glentleiten near Murnau is an open-air museum with old farm houses. We owe a number of fabu-

lous fairytale castles to King Ludwig II who spent fortunes building and decorating them but never spent much time in them himself. At Chiemsee is **Herrenchiemsee**, near Oberammergau you will find **Schloss Linderhof**, and near Schwangau the well-known **Neuschwanstein**. Towns with old, beautiful city centers are Nürnberg, Landsberg am Lech, Augsburg, and scores of others. The children will enjoy a visit to the newly opened **Legoland** amusement park in Günzburg. Visiting the salt mines in Berchtesgaden can be combined with a visit to Hitler's summer residence, **Eagle's Nest**, and a boat ride on **Königssee**, one of the most beautiful lakes in Germany. Bavaria has so much to offer that you will only have seen part of it after many years of residency.

6. Holidays

German and Bavarian Holidays (*Feiertage*)

January 1	New Year's Day (<i>Neujahr</i>)	Public Holiday
	Custom: People greet each other with the phrase " <i>Ein gutes neues Jahr!</i> " or " <i>Frohes neues Jahr!</i> ".	
January 6	Epiphany (<i>Heilige Drei Könige</i>)	Public Holiday
	In Christianity, it is the 12th day after Christmas, commemorating the visit of the Magi to Jesus and marking the end of the Christmas season. Custom: Children, dressed as the three Magi and called star singers (<i>Sternsinger</i>) go from house to house singing and collecting money for poor people. They will write "C+M+B," which both stands for <i>Christus mansionem benedictam</i> (Christ, bless this house) and the initials of the king's names (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) with the year above your door, which supposedly brings good luck.	
February 14	Valentine's Day (<i>Valentinstag</i>)	
	This is a new tradition adopted from USA several years ago to celebrate love and friendship.	
February	Carnival (<i>Fasching</i>)	Public Holiday
	The <i>Fasching</i> actually starts on November, 11 at 11.11 with the inauguration of the <i>Faschings</i> princess and prince (every city/area has its own <i>Prinzenpaar</i> , as well as a children's pair). The <i>Faschingssaison</i> reaches its peak in January and February with many balls. (In other areas of Germany, there will be <i>Faschings-sitzungen</i> and huge parades.) The fun ends with parades and dancing in the streets on the following days:	
	Crazy Thursday/women's carnival (<i>Weiberfastnacht/Unsinniger Donnerstag</i>)	
	Custom: In the offices, women will cut off the ties of their male colleagues (this custom is more prominent in the Rhine area).	
	Rose Monday (<i>Rosenmontag</i>)	
	Shrove Tuesday (<i>Faschingsdienstag</i>)	
	No school, shops close at noon	

Custom: At Munich's *Viktualienmarkt* the famous dance of the sales women (*Tanz der Marktfrauen*) is held annually at around 11.00. Everyone dresses up, and the crowd gets very large. Many villages or towns have parades organized on Monday or Tuesday.

Shrove Tuesday evening (*Kehraus*), literally the sweeping out, marks the end of *Fasching* and the beginning of lent. This is also known as "pancake day" in England.

Ash Wednesday (*Aschermittwoch*)

This is the beginning of the 40 days of Lent before Easter.

Custom: Many Germans enjoy delicious fish dishes at home or in restaurants.

March 20 Beginning of spring (*Frühjahrsanfang*)

End March Beginning of summertime (*Sommerzeit*)

On the last Saturday night in March, clocks are changed to „summertime“ in Europe, one hour forward.

March/April Palm Sunday (*Palmsonntag*)

A Christian holiday, observed on the Sunday before Easter and the first day of the Holy Week. It commemorates Christ's entry into Jerusalem, as relayed in the Bible in which palm branches were spread in his path.

Custom: People carry bunches of willow tree branches and catkins (*Weidekätzchen*) in processions. These bunches are consecrated at the church and are supposed to provide a blessing for people's homes.

March/April Easter (*Ostern*)

Custom: People place willow or forsythia branches in vases and hang colourfully painted eggs on them.

Maundy Thursday (*Gründonnerstag*)

Commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples.

Good Friday (*Karfreitag*)

Public Holiday

Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus. Custom: People eat fish.

Easter Sunday (*Ostersonntag*)

Feast of Jesus' resurrection, Sunday after the first full moon after the start of spring, ends the 40 days of Lent.

Custom: Easter egg hunts are very popular with children.

Easter Monday (*Ostermontag*)

Public Holiday

White Sunday (*Weißer Sonntag*)

The Sunday after Easter, when people who were baptized at Easter wore their white baptismal robes for the first time. Today it is often the day for the First Communion.

April 1	April Fool's Day (1. April)	
		Custom: On this day people play jokes on each other. Afterwards they say "April, April!".
April 30	Witch's Night (Walpurgisnacht)	
		Custom: In the evening children and youths will go around their neighbourhood emptying trash bins, rolling toilet paper around cars, and/or playing other pranks. Some clubs (Vereine) offer a "Dance into May" (<i>Tanz in den Mai</i>) to celebrate and welcome the arrival of spring.
May 1	May Day (Maifeiertag)	Public Holiday
		Folk Holiday welcoming the spring, saying farewell to the winter. Custom: In Bavaria Maypoles are raised and there are lots of festivities.
		Also Labor Day – honouring the working people.
May	12-15 Ice Saints Day (Die Eisheiligen)	
		<i>Pankratius, Servatius, Bonifatius and Kalte Sophie.</i> In Bavaria one does not plant summer flowers before this date, because until then you still can expect frost at night.
May	Mother's Day (Muttertag)	
		Always the second Sunday in May.
May	Ascension Day (Christi Himmelfahrt)	Public Holiday
		Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven 40 days after his resurrection. It always falls on a Thursday. This is also the German Father's Day. Custom: Traditional men's outing for a hike or just a bike ride to a beer garden. Fathers do not get presents, their present is the outing.
May/June	Pentecost Whitsunday (Pfingsten)	Public Holiday
		<i>Pfingstsonntag and Pfingstmontag</i> 50 days after Easter, it is the commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Christian church. Also called Whitsunday by Anglicans from the custom of baptizing white robed believers on this day.
May/June	Feast of Corpus Chirsti (Fronleichnam)	Public Holiday
		In Bavaria, it is also known as <i>Anlasstag</i> , old German for the Body of the Lord (<i>Fronleichnam</i>). It is the festival in honor of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Custom: Processions through the streets in which the Corpus Christ (consecrated bread) is carried on the way to morning mass. The streets are decorated with fresh greens from birches and other trees. On Staffelsee near Murnau and on Chiemsee, there are colourful boat processions.
June 21	Beginning of summer (Sommeranfang)	

June 24	Midsummerday (<i>Johannistag/Mittsommernacht</i>)	
	Commemorating the birthday of St. John. Custom: bonfires in some areas.	
June 24	Seven Sleepers of Ephesus (<i>Siebenschläfer</i>)	Public Holiday
	Custom: Belief that if it rains on that day, it will rain for the next seven weeks, meaning a very wet summer.	
August 15	Maria's ascension (<i>Mariä Himmelfahrt</i>)	Public Holiday
	Commemorating Mary's ascension into heaven. Custom: Candle-procession to church in the evening.	
September 22	Beginning of autumn (<i>Herbstanfang</i>)	
Sept/Oct	Thanksgiving Day (<i>Erntedank</i>)	
	Harvest festival, dates differ in various Catholic churches; Protestants celebrate it in October. Custom: Altar in church is decorated with flowers and harvest goods.	
October 3	German Unification Day (<i>Tag der Deutschen Einheit</i>)	Public Holiday
	Commemorating the day when the contract for the reunification was signed.	
End October	Consecration day of church (<i>Kirchweihsonntag</i>)	
	Custom: The season for roasted goose starts, one of the favourite meals from now until christmas; the other special day for eating goose is St. Martin's Day.	
End October	End of summertime	
October 31	Reformation Day (<i>Reformationstag</i>)	
	Anniversary of the day in 1517 when Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation.	
November 1	All Saint's Day (<i>Allerheiligen</i>)	Public Holiday
	Commemoration of all saints. In medieval England this festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween, which has only recently begun to be celebrated in Germany. Custom: Catholic graveyards are decorated and blessed.	
November 2	All Soul's Day (<i>Allerseelen</i>)	
	In Catholic churches, commemoration of all the faithful, those baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory because they died with guilt of lesser sins on their souls. Supposedly, the prayers of the faithful on earth will speed the cleansing of these souls allowing a swifter entry to heaven.	
November 11	St. Martin's Day (<i>Martinstag</i>)	Public Holiday
	Commemoration Day of St. Martin of Tours, patron of the poor and the soldiers. Custom: Little children parade through the streets carrying self-made lanterns and singing seasonal songs. The parade is often led by an adult on horseback,	

dressed as St. Martin, in a red coat and wearing a helmet. In some areas the parade ends with a bonfire and children are given a baked St. Martin's figure or *St. Martin's Brezel*. This day is also the official beginning of the *Fasching*.

November	National mourning day (<i>Volkstrauertag</i>)	Always on the second Sunday before first Advent. German national mourning day since 1952, commemorating the victims of the two World Wars and the Nazi Regime.
November	Day of Repentance and Prayer (<i>Buß- und Betttag</i>)	Protestant holiday, Wednesday before the last day of the church year, which starts on the first Sunday of Advent.
Late November	Totensonntag/<i>Ewigkeitssonntag</i>	Last Sunday in November. Protestant holiday, commemorating all departed relatives and loved ones by visiting their graves and decorating them with flowers.
Nov/Dec	Advent (<i>Advent</i>)	Beginning of the church year, fourth Sunday before Christmas, followed by second, third, and fourth Advent. The Advent season is a four-week period of penitence and preparation for Christmas. Custom: Advent wreaths made of fir tree branches are decorated with four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent. Each Sunday another candle is lit, until all four are burning. Also a symbol for light in the middle of winter. Another custom is to make or buy an <i>Adventskalender</i> with 24 doors, one for each day from December first until Christmas.
December 6	St. Nicolas Day (<i>St. Nikolaus</i>)	Patron of the children and sailors. Custom: <i>St. Nikolaus</i> , dressed in red like a bishop comes into people's houses and states what a child has done – good and bad – throughout the year and hands out little presents. Sometimes he is accompanied by a rather wild creature in furs carrying a rod (<i>Knecht Ruprecht</i> , also called <i>Krampus</i> in Bavaria). Usually, the Nikolaus is played by a family member or friend; he can also be hired! Another custom is to put out a shoe/boot the night before. This is secretly filled with sweets and small presents by <i>St. Nikolaus</i> during the night. For naughty children, <i>Krampus</i> will leave a birch branch and lumps of coal.
December 21	Beginning of winter (<i>Winteranfang</i>)	
December 24	Christmas Eve (<i>Heiligabend</i>)	shops close at noon In Germany people start celebrating Christmas in the early evening of this day. They will attend religious services either in the late afternoon or at midnight (<i>Mitternachtsmesse</i>). In the evening, the <i>Christkindl</i> comes to the house and leaves presents for everybody. When the family comes back, the candles on the Christmas tree (<i>Weihnachtsbaum</i>) are lighted and the celebration starts. Custom: Merry Christmas in German is " <i>Frohe Weihnachten</i> ," or " <i>Fröhliche Weihnachten</i> ," or " <i>Frohes Fest!</i> ".

December 25	Christmas Day (1. Weihnachtstag)	Public Holiday
December 26	Boxing Day (2. Weihnachtstag)	Public Holiday
December 31	New Year's Eve (Sylvester or Neujahrsnacht)	<i>shops close at noon</i>

The day when Pope Sylvester died.
 Custom: Dropping molten lead into cold water and reading a person's future from the form the shape of the results. Fireworks shortly after midnight. To wish a Happy New Year, people say "Pros(i)t Neujahr!" and "Gutes neues Jahr" as they raise their glasses.

7. Bavarian Festivals

Bavaria is a region with many traditions and customs of which its people are very proud. The Oktoberfest is probably the best known, but there are a multitude of others that guarantee as much fun and a lot of insight into the Bavarian and German way of life. For a (more) complete list of festivals and events check www.oberpfalz.de → "Kultur und schöne Künste (Culture and Fine Arts)" → "Veranstaltungen, Festivals und Festspiele".

Almabtrieb/Alpabtrieb/Viehscheid **mid Sept. to mid Oct.**

Cows are taken down from (alpine) pastures, often beautifully decorated, and sometimes transported in boats on the Königssee, Schliersee, Oberstdorf, etc.

Christkindlmarkt **four weeks in Advent**

Regensburg: Neupfarrplatz, Haidplatz, Kohlenmarkt, Schloss Thurn & Taxis
 There are many other Christmas markets nearby, e.g. Nürnberg, München, and Schloss Guteneck or Gut Löweneck to name a few. Check <http://www.germany-christmas-market.org.uk> for a more complete listing. Almost any town or community will have at least a weekend market during the Advent season.

Fasching **February/March**

This is a time of revelry, humor and satire which goes back to ancient pagan times. During this time there are lots of carnival processions, particularly in the country.

Fronleichnamsprozession **May/June**

Very interesting Corpus Christi processions held in Regensburg 9.00, and in many other cities.

Further Drachenstich **August**

The oldest festival in Germany with a 500-year-old tradition. During the procession about 1,400 participants and 250 horses will provide an insight into former life.

Hussenkrieg in Neuburg v. Wald

This historic open-air theatre with its 150 actors, its wild rider's fights, its sweeping dialogues and its medieval music takes you to the past.

Kaltenberger Ritterturnier **three weekends in July**

Medieval festival with Knights' jousting tournament.

Kornthener Karpfenkirchweih in Tirschenreuth **October**

This festival is the highlight of the “*Erlebniswochen Fisch*” where the carp is in the centre of interest. Many attractions are taking place, e.g. demonstrations of how to fillet a carp and free excursions on ponds. Besides, warm and cold fish specialities are offered.

Kötzinger Pfingstritt **Whit Monday**

A traditional horse-ride-procession with more than 900 horsemen and beautiful decorated horses.

Landshuter Hochzeit **three weeks in July**

Commemorates the wedding of a Bavarian prince with a Polish princess, performed by the people of Landshut every four years (next performance in 2009).

Maibaum **May 1**

Custom: Every year a new maypole (*Maibaum*) must be erected in a community. This is usually done by manpower with lots of Bavarian music and beer. The pole will be delivered to the community a couple of weeks before (a lot of communities leave their pole unmoved for the hole year), will be painted and decorated, and is guarded all the time. Neighbouring communities will try to steal the maypole before its erection; then it has to be bought back with lots of beer and a *Brotzeit*.

Maidult in Regensburg **two weeks in early May**

Oktoberfest/Wies'n **third Saturday Sept. to first Sunday Oct.**

Biggest beer festival and funfair of the world, huge beer tents and lots of spectacular rides. Saturday morning the “*Einzug der Wirte*” takes place, and on the following unday the “*Trachten- und Schützenverein*”; both processions will pass through the inner city. First *Oktoberfest* was in 1810 on the occasion of the wedding of crown prince Ludwig I.

Passionsspiele in Oberammergau **every 10 years, May to Sept.**

The world famous Passion Play, with the next performance in 2010, a religious play about the crucifixion of Jesus, lasts almost a whole day. Residents of Oberammergau are the actors. Supposedly, the origin lies in the 17th century, when the people of Oberammergau pledged to hold *Passionsspiele* in order to escape the Black Death.

Perchtenlauf in Kirchseeon **first three weekends in Dec., Jan. 6**

Parade with grotesque masks and costumes; starts at 4.00.

Sonnwendfeuer **June 24**

In Regensburg, a bonfire takes place at the *Schloss Pürkelgut*.

Starkbierfest in Adlersberg (near Regensburg) **Palm Sunday**

Known as the „fifth season“, the *Starkbierfest* is a beer festival where strong, dark beer should sustain you throughout the fasting period of Lent. It is celebrated at the different brewery restaurants for two weeks each. The most famous one is the Nockherberg (Salvator beer). The beer is very high in alcohol. Politicians beware: your performance of the last 12 months will be ridiculed.

In Adlersberg, you can enjoy another world famous beer which is brewed to a traditional recipe since 1838 in the former Dominicans’ monastery: the *Palmator*.

Chapter X. Literature

Magazines

Magazines

How to Germany

See www.howtogermaany.com for subscription information.

InRegensburg

See www.inregensburg.de (in German).

Der Große Restaurant und Hotel Guide

Restaurant guide in German. See www.der-große-guide.de, also available as Print Guide for € 29,00.

Expatica

Online magazine dealing with life in Germany. See www.expatica.com.

Regensburg Travel

See www.regensburgtravel.com.

Visit newspaper stands and kiosks for inspiration and to discover other publications.

Suggested below are helpful books for your first few months in Germany and Bavaria

Susan Stern <i>These Strange German Ways</i>	from Atlantik Brücke or amazon ISBN 3-925744-08-8
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Richard Lord <i>Culture Shock! German</i>	from amazon
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Dan Finlay <i>Living and Working in Germany</i>	ISBN 1901130576
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Newspaper, Books in English

Newspapers

Well-stocked newspaper stands will have newspapers and magazines in English, especially at the train station. Some also have home delivery services so check their websites. Selections include the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, to name a few.

Books in English

As mentioned in the section on Shopping, in recent years, availability of books in English has increased greatly. Most bookshops, even in smaller towns, will have a section of English books. Prices are often not much higher than in the U.S. Try also **www.amazon.de** (englische Bücher) and **www.amazon.co.uk**. The variation in price can be enough to justify the extra postage.

Chapter XI. Appendix

1. Important Telephone Numbers

Police		Phone	110
Fire Department/Paramedics		Phone	112
Doctor Emergency Number		Phone	(0941) 19 222
Poison Control Centre	in Munich	Phone	(089) 192 40
	in Nuremberg	Phone	(0911) 398 2451
ADAC (Emergency Road Service)		www.adac.de	
		Phone	01802/222 222 (landline) 222 222 (mobile phone)
DB (Deutsche Bahn)		www.bahn.de	
		Phone	118 61 (1,80€ /Min.)
RVV (Regensburger Verkehrsverbund)		www.rvv.de	
	Service Centre	Phone	(0941) 601-2888
	Tariff and time table information	Phone	(0941) 46319-0
Tourist Office		www.regensburg.de/tourismus	
		Phone	(0941)) 507-4410
Telephone Information (English)		www.telefonbuch.de	
		Phone	118 37 (0,99€ /min. + 0,25€ /call)

2. Consulates

Source and most up-date information: **www.konsulate.de**.

Australia	Wallstraße 76-79, 10179 Berlin	Phone (030) 88 00 88-0
Belgium	Pacellistraße 16, 80333 München	Phone (089) 21 04 16 03
Canada	Tal 29, 80331 München	Phone (089) 21 99 57-0
China	Romanstraße 107, 80639 München	Phone (089) 1730 1611

Denmark

Sendlinger-Tor-Platz 10/IV, 80336 München Phone (089) 54 58 54-0

Estonia

Gut Keferloh 1a, 85630 Grasbrunn bei München Phone (089) 46 23 14 30

Finland

Ismaningerstraße 75, 81675 München Phone (089) 91 07 22 57

France

Heimeranstraße 31, 80339 München Phone (089) 41 94 11-0

Georgia

Ottostraße 1 (2nd floor), 80333 München Phone (089) 517 029 84

India

Widenmayerstraße 15, 80538 München Phone (089) 21 02 39-0

Ireland

Denninger Straße 15, 81679 München Phone (089) 20 80 5990

Israel

Auguste-Viktoria-Straße 74-76, 14193 Berlin Phone (030) 89 04 55 00

Italy

Möhlstraße 3, 81675 München Phone (089) 41 80 03-0

Japan

Karl-Scharnagl-Ring 7, 80539 München Phone (089) 41 76 04-0

Netherlands

Nymphenburger Straße 20a, 80335 München Phone (089) 206 02 67-10

Norway

Promenadenplatz 7, 80333 München Phone (089) 22 41 70

Russia

Seidlstraße 28, 80335 München Phone (089) 59 25-03, -28

Saudi-Arabia

Kurfürstendamm 63, 10707 Berlin Phone (030) 88 92 50

South-Africa

Sendlinger-Tor-Platz 5, 80336 München Phone (089) 23 11 63-0

Spain

Oberföhringer Straße 45, 81925 München Phone (089) 99 84 79-0

Sweden

Brienner Straße 9, 80333 München Phone (089) 54 52 12 15

Switzerland

Brienner Straße 14, 80333 München Phone (089) 28 66 20-0

Turkey

Menzinger Straße 3, 80638 München Phone (089) 17 80 31-0

United Kingdom

Bürkleinstraße 10, 80538 München Phone (089) 21 10 90

United States

Königinstraße 5, 80539 München Phone (089) 28 88-0

Chapter XII. Invest in Bavaria



Invest in Bavaria – Investor Support and Location Marketing

Invest in Bavaria is the division for foreign direct investment and location marketing within the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology. It provides free and confidential information, advisory and support services to investors from Germany and abroad on setting up or expanding business operations in Bavaria. Our location marketing activities for the State of Bavaria and the extensive support we offer to companies make the team of Invest in Bavaria an important pillar of the State of Bavaria's active economic policy.

Comprehensive One-Stop Shop

Our services range from the initial steps to set up a branch, the identification of the optimal location in Bavaria to arranging contacts with potential employees and customers. We provide interested companies with business data and information on public support and incentive schemes. Invest in Bavaria facilitates initial contacts to relevant public administration departments, industry and business associations as well as key networks.

International Outlook for the Benefit of our Customers

One indicator for Invest in Bavaria's international outlook are our language capabilities: aside from German, the team offers fluency in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic. Our multilingual website provides information and data in German, English, French, Japanese, Chinese and Korean. Moreover, 19 Bavarian representative offices worldwide, from Moscow to São Paulo, from California to Tokyo, assist Bavarian companies abroad and foreign companies interested in Bavaria (www.invest-in-bavaria.com/international).

Promoting a Strong Location

Aside from the acquisition of and support for inward investors, Invest in Bavaria also promotes and markets Bavaria as a top business location. With participation in trade fairs and conferences, organisation of seminars for investors and company visits as well as targeted PR and advertising campaigns we promote Bavaria – and the free services offered by Invest in Bavaria. And with some success: major inward investment projects such as the establishment of its European Research Center by General Electric (GE) or the new corporate headquarters of Sandoz are testimony to the team's competence and commitment.

Notices

Facts at Your a quick guide to your *Fingertips* new environment

Disclaimer:

Any and all company names used throughout this manual are provided solely as examples and do not and are not intended to represent all the providers in a particular sector. Goods/services of equivalent quality can also be procured from other sources. The Yellow Pages of the Telephone Directory can always be used to find alternative addresses that may even be closer. Absolutely no guarantee is made for the content or for the services offered by these companies. Inclusion in the manual does not imply any recommendation or valuation of the provider. No conclusions can be drawn from a company not being included. This collection is, of course, also available to other companies offering appropriate services.

V.i.S.P.

Tatjana Setz
Editor

Dr. Bettina Stoll
Consulting Editor

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Regensburg International School
Bruderwöhrdstraße 15b
93055 Regensburg | Germany