

7. General facts about Germany

In this section, you will find the most important facts and figures about Germany.

The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was founded on 23 May 1949 and lies in the heart of central Europe. At the end of the cold war, the border between the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the FRG was opened, and on 3 October 1990 the German reunification occurred after almost 41 years of separation.

Official Name:	Federal Republic of Germany
Government:	Parliamentary Federal Republic
Area:	357,023 km ²
Population:	approximately 82 million residents
States:	16 states (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hessen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein, Thüringen)
Capital:	Berlin
Neighboring Countries:	Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Czech Republic
Official Language:	German
Inhabitants:	With 82m inhabitants (of which 42m are women), Germany has the largest population of any EU member state. Around 7.1m foreigners live in Germany (8.7% of the total population).
Religions:	52m Christians (25m Catholics, 25m Protestants, 1.8m members of the Orthodox churches), 4m Muslims, 245,000 Buddhists, 107,000 Jews, and 97,000 Hindus. The Basic Law guarantees freedom of thought, conscience and religion. There is no national religion.
Currency:	1 € (Euro) = 100 Cents
Official Time:	UTC + 1 (winter), UTC + 2 (summer)
Climate:	Germany's climate is mostly temperate. Extreme lows and highs in temperatures are rare. Winter temperatures vary from east to west, with around freezing temperatures in the west and well below freezing in eastern Germany. Summer temperatures in Germany are typically between 20 and 30°C, with more rainfall during the summer months.



Berlin-climate overview

Month	Average Sunlight (hours)	Temperature				Relative humidity		Average Precipitation (mm)	Wet Days (+0.25mm)
		Average Min	Average Max	Record Min	Record Max	am	pm		
Jan	2	-3	2	-21	13	89	82	46	17
Feb	2	-3	3	-22	17	89	78	40	15
March	5	0	8	-14	22	88	67	33	12
April	6	4	13	-6	30	84	60	42	13
May	8	8	19	-3	32	80	57	49	12
June	8	12	22	3	35	80	58	65	13
July	8	14	24	5	37	84	61	73	14
Aug	7	13	23	6	37	88	61	69	14
Sept	6	10	20	1	34	92	65	48	12
Oct	4	6	13	-4	25	93	73	49	14
Nov	2	2	7	-9	17	92	83	46	16
Dec	1	-1	3	-18	15	91	86	43	15