Quick view

Paderborn/Lippstadt – a brief overview

Separated by just 30km in the east of North Rhine-Westphalia, the twin German towns of Lippstadt and Paderborn share a common airport. Smaller Lippstadt is a peaceful provincial town with a population of around 60,000. Paderborn is its bigger sister, with a population of around 150,000, and can trace its roots back to 795, when the city was founded by Charlemagne.

Paderborn arguably has more sights, more restaurants, and a livelier nightlife scene, bolstered by having a student population of around 15,000 and a long-established British army barracks nearby. But size isn’t everything, and Lippstadt can also surprise with its pleasantly half-timbered city centre and plentiful traditional bars.

Germany

General Information

Country overview

Once mockingly referred to as the “land of schnitzels and leather pants,” Germany has acquired a much more modern image in recent decades. International visitors are attracted to the big cities, especially the capital, Berlin. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, in particular, the city with its many cultural and entertainment attractions has become a major tourist destination. But other German cities also know how to celebrate and enjoy life.

Hamburg’s annual Hafengeburtstag port anniversary festival attracts around two million visitors every year, the Rhineland is famous for its carnivals, and Munich’s Oktoberfest is famous the world over.

Germany also has a variety of natural landscapes: for example, from the Wadden Sea and lowland plains of the northwest, the lakelands in the northeast of the country, numerous low mountain ranges and heathlands, to the central highlands and Alpine regions.

Geography

Germany borders Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland. The northwest has a coastline on the North Sea, while the Baltic coastline in the northeast stretches from the Danish to the Polish border.

The country is divided into 16 states (Bundesländer) and has an exceedingly varied landscape. In what was once known as West Germany, the Rhine, Bavaria and the Black Forest stand as the three most famous features, while in the east, the country is lake-studded with undulating lowlands.

River basins extend over a large percentage of the region, and some of Europe’s most prominent rivers flow through the country. These include the Elbe, the Danube and the Rhine.

The highest point in the country is the 2962m (9718ft) peak of Zugspitze Mountain in the Bavarian Alps. Cable cars run to the summit, which can also be climbed.
General Information

Key facts

Population: 82.79 million (2017)
Capital: Berlin.

Language
German is the official language. Regional dialects often differ markedly from standard German.

Currency
Euro (EUR; symbol €) = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Electricity
230 volts AC, 50Hz. European-style round two-pin plugs are in use.

Public holidays

The public holidays for the January 2019 – December 2020 period are listed below.

Note:
* In catholic regions only
** Sachsen only
*** Not in all Laender (Bundesländer)
**** Berlin only

2019
New Year’s Day: 1 January 2019
Epiphany: 6 January 2019*
International Women’s Day: 8 March 2019****
Good Friday: 19 April 2019
Easter Sunday: 21 April 2019
Easter Monday: 22 April 2019
Labour Day: 1 May 2019
Ascension Day: 30 May 2019
Whit Sunday: 9 June 2019
Whit Monday: 10 June 2019
Corpus Christi: 20 June 2019*
Assumption: 15 August 2019*
Day of German Unity: 3 October 2019
Day of Reformation: 31 October 2019***
All Saints’ Day: 1 November 2019*
Repentance Day: 21 November 2019**
Christmas: 25 and 26 December 2019

2020
New Year’s Day: 1 January 2020
Epiphany: 6 January 2020*
International Women’s Day: 8 March 2020****
Good Friday: 10 April 2020
Easter Sunday: 12 April 2020
Easter Monday: 13 April 2020
Labour Day: 1 May 2020
Ascension Day: 21 May 2020
Whit Sunday: 31 June 2020
Whit Monday: 1 June 2020
Corpus Christi: 21 June 2020*
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Christmas: 25 and 26 December 2020

All information subject to change.

Travel etiquette
How to fit in

Handshaking is customary in Germany, and it is considered rude to address people by their first name unless invited to do so. Normal courtesies should be observed. Before eating, it is normal to say “guten Appetit” to the other people at the table to which the correct reply is “danke, gleichfalls” (“Thank you, the same to you”). If you’ve been invited to eat at a German house, it is customary to present the hostess with unwrapped flowers (according to tradition, you should always give an uneven number, and it is worth noting that red roses are exclusively a lover’s gift).

In shops and other businesses, courtesy dictates that visitors should utter a greeting, such as “guten Tag” (or “grüß Gott” in Bavaria) before saying what it is that they want; to leave without saying “auf Wiedersehen” or “tschüss” can also cause offence.

Similarly, when making a telephone call, asking for the person you want to speak to without stating first who you are is impolite. Casual wear is widely acceptable, but more formal dress is required for some restaurants, the opera, theater, casinos and important social functions. Smoking is prohibited where notified, on public transportation and in most public buildings.

Health

Health

Main emergency number: 112

Food & Drink
There’s nothing to mark out German products as particularly risky to general health (although it has a partly founded reputation for being high in fat). Tap water is safe to drink.

Other Risks
Tick-borne encephalitis is present in forested areas of southern Germany; vaccination is advisable. Rabies is present; look out for ‘Tollwut’ signs. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered.

During the summer months, sunburn can be a problem. The southwest generally has the highest temperatures. The usual precautions apply: Use a generous amount of sunscreen and be sensible about how long you spend in direct sunlight. Be aware that a breezy day can sometimes mask high temperatures.

If walking over a long distance in warm weather, it’s advisable to drink – and carry
plenty of water and wear appropriate clothing, including a sun hat. Blisters can be another problem for hikers. These can often occur if new walking shoes are being worn over a long distance. Ideally, footwear should be worn in before the trip.

As a counterpoint to the balminess of the summer, German winters can be fairly severe. This is generally truer the further east you travel. If you’re arriving during the coldest months of the year, make sure you have adequate clothing. At any time of year, in fact, temperatures can be unpredictable – even in July and August it makes sense to have a sweater (and maybe an umbrella, too) to hand.

Other health problems that inexperienced travelers might reasonably encounter are the various knock-on effects of consuming too much alcohol. The risk, unsurprisingly, is particularly prevalent among those attending Munich’s Oktoberfest. Be aware that some beers have ABV levels of as much as 6 or 7% and should therefore be treated with respect.

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**Phone calls & Internet**

**Telephone**

Country code: +49

**Mobile telephony and Internet**

Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking credentials entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.

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**Top 10 sights in Paderborn/Lippstadt**

**Paderborner Dom**

Paderborn’s Romanesque-Gothic cathedral dates mainly from the 13th century, and the building is dominated by its 93m tower. Partially rebuilt following war damage in 1945, it contains several interesting modern windows, as well as the Hasen Fenster, a famous window featuring the city’s symbol: three intertwining bounding stone hares.

Domplatz 33098 Paderborn Germany
Tel: (05251) 125 1630

Opening times:
Various
Public tours Wed 1500 and Sat 1045

www.erzbistum-paderborn.de(dom)
The world's largest museum dedicated to computers and Information and Communications Technology tells the story all the way from ancient Mesopotamian clay tablets, via Morse code, to today’s switched-on digital world.

**Furstenallee 7**

33102 Paderborn  
Germany  
Tel: (05251) 306 600

**Opening times:**  
Tue-Fri 0900-1800  
Sat-Sun 1000-1800

www.hnf.de

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**Schlosspark Neuhaus**

The imposingly moated Schloss Neuhaus castle is around 5km northwest of central Paderborn. The building hosts temporary exhibitions, but the real star is the 42 hectares of formal gardens surrounding it, particularly beautiful when the summer flowers are in bloom.

**Im Schlosspark 10**  
33104 Paderborn  
Germany  
Tel: (05254) 80192

www.schlosspark-paderborn.de

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**Lippesee**

This 90-hectare lake 8km northwest of Paderborn is a great place for hiking, sailing, or sunbathing. There’s an artificial beach, or the more energetic can follow the 7km looping trail around the water’s edge.

**Off A33**  
Paderborn  
Germany  
Tel: (05254) 80192

www.schlosspark-paderborn.de

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**Marktkirche**

The high point of the palatial Jesuit Marktkirche basilica with pink walls and a gilded interior is its astonishingly detailed wood and gold baroque altar. The 17th-century original was destroyed in WWII, but the one in place today is an exact replica.

**Kamp 1**  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany

**Opening times:**  
Daily 0900-1800

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**Rathaus**

Paderborn’s magnificent town hall, dating from 1616, has an ornate triple-gabled white Renaissance facade and other decorative touches that make it one of the most photogenic buildings in the region.

**Rathausplatz**  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany

www.paderborn.de

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**Marienplatz**
Close to the town hall is this beautiful old square, surrounded by some impressive buildings. The Heising'sche Haus is an elaborate 17th-century patrician’s house, while the square is dominated by the more austere twin-towered Romanesque Abdinghofkirche, a 19th-century Protestant church.

Marienplatz
33098 Paderborn
Germany

**Marienkirche**

Lippstadt’s St Mary’s Church dominates the centre of town. The imposing white building was founded in 1222, but has had to be restored several times since, most recently in the early 1970s.

Marktstrasse
59555 Lippstadt
Germany
Tel: (02941) 58579

**Opening times:**
- Mon 1500-1700
- Tue-Fri 1000-1200 and 1500-1700
- Sat 1000-1200 (Apr-Dec)

**Old Town**

Lippstadt’s old town centre is a peaceful and picturesque place to wander around, with many of the streets containing some surviving examples of medieval half-timbered houses.

Altstadt
Lippstadt
Germany

**Abbey ruins**

The abbey ruins in Lippstadt are regarded as some of the most beautiful and best-preserved church ruins in Germany. Founded in 1185, the abbey was destroyed during the Reformation, and the site has been protected and preserved since the 19th century.

Stiftspark, Stiftstrasse
59555 Lippstadt
Germany

**Shopping in Paderborn/Lippstadt**

**Key Areas**

The old centres of both Lippstadt and Paderborn are filled with shops. In Paderborn you can find whatever you are looking for in the area from the main station to Gierstrasse. Many roads here are pedestrianised, making strolling a pleasure. In Lippstadt, the main shopping drag is the pedestrianised Lange Strasse, where most chain and department stores are located.

**Markets**

On Wednesday and Saturday mornings in Paderborn a general market sets up around the Dom tower, mainly selling fresh local
produce. The main market in Lippstadt takes place on the same days around Marktplatz and Rathausplatz. An organic farmers’ market takes place every Friday afternoon on Paderborn’s Marktplatz.

**Shopping Centres**

Paderborn’s main shopping centre is the Südring Center (Pohlweg 110), with 45 outlets towards the southern edge of town. Smaller but more central is the Libori Galerie (Kamp 32). Lippstadt’s most central mall is Lippe Galerie (Kahlenstrasse 2-4), with around 15 outlets.

**Restaurants**

**Restaurants in Paderborn/Lippstadt**

Lippstadt and Paderborn both boast plentiful dining choices in every budget range, although the choice in Paderborn is arguably slightly better at the top end of the refinement scale.

**Balthasar**

Classic Michelin-starred cuisine served in a refined and spacious dining room.

Warburger Strasse 28  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
Price: Expensive

**Fellini**

Excellent Italian food produced in an open kitchen, housed in an 18th-century half-timbered building.

Cappelstrasse 44A  
59555 Lippstadt  
Germany  
Price: Moderate

**La Petite Galerie**

An eclectic blend of French, German and international classics served in a romantic old dining room.

Bachstrasse 1  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
Price: Moderate

**Campesino Tapas Bar**

Modern café serving individual tapas portions at rock-bottom prices.

Kisau 11  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
Price: Budget

**Dean & David**

Dean & David has branches all over Germany, and there’s one conveniently situated between the train station and the town center in Paderborn. All salads,
bowls, sandwiches and smoothies can be ordered to eat in or take out.

Am Westertor 6  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
Price: Budget

Nightlife
Nightlife in Paderborn/Lippstadt

Paderborn’s nightlife is bolstered by its student population that tops 15,000, and by having a British army barracks nearby, guaranteeing a good night out. Lippstadt’s nightlife is quieter, but there’s no shortage of bars for those heading out on the town.

Sappho

Popular, trendy bar and disco with DJs playing everything from indie, via soul, to techno.

Marienstrasse 20  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany

Café Extrablatt Lippstadt

Bright, popular gastropub and part of a German chain.

Lange Strasse 17  
59555 Lippstadt  
Germany

Paderborner Brauhaus

Large brewpub boasting an even larger beer garden in the centre of Paderborn.

Kisau 2  
33098 Paderborn  
Germany

Tivoli Lippstadt

All-in-one pub, lounge bar and waterside beer garden, on an island in the middle of the River Lippe.

Lipperfor 2  
59555 Lippstadt  
Germany

Havana Bar

Buzzing cocktail bar and restaurant that also serves Cuban food.

An der alten Synagoge 1  
33098 Paderborn
Calendar of events

Spring Festival
Jugglers, acrobats and other street artists draw huge numbers to this lively four-day festival celebrating the arrival of spring. Musical acts perform on a huge outdoor stage and festival goers can tuck into all manner of regional food and drink from the surrounding stalls.

May 2019
Venue: Various venues, Paderborn

Old Town Festival (Altstadtfest)
Four days of fun activities make this one of Lippstadt’s most popular festivals. An open-air stage in the Rathausplatz (Town Hall Square) hosts a whole medley of musical acts. Kids and adults can each rummage for gems at their own flea markets, and food stalls serve up yummy local specialities.

30 May - 2 June 2019
www.lippstadt.de
Venue: Old Town, Lippstadt

Shooting Festival (Schützenfest)
Paderborn’s shooting club, one of Germany’s oldest, brings a little pomp and circumstance to the city in July. Colourfully dressed marching bands parade through the streets, while shooting demonstrations, speeches and rousing singing also pull big crowds.

12 - 15 July 2019
www.pbsv.de/18-Termine.html
Venue: City centre and Schützenplatz, Paderborn

Libori Festival
A heady mix of religious and secular activities combines to create Paderborn’s biggest festival. It’s one of Germany’s oldest folk celebrations, involving over a week of solemn church processions alongside a huge amount of partying. There’s a massive funfair, tons of food stalls, a beer fountain and fireworks.

27 July - 4 August 2019
www.libori.de
Venue: Various venues, Paderborn

Rathausplatz-Festival
Lippstadt’s Town Hall Square plays host to a cracking line-up of musical acts during the height of summer. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday for three weeks, different bands take to the stage covering a huge range of musical genres and keeping audiences on their feet.
August 2019
www.rathausplatz-festival.de

Venue: Rathausplatz, Lippstadt

**Lippstadt Culinaire**

Local restaurateurs set up stall beneath huge open marquees in the Town Hall Square and whip up an enormous array of tasty dishes in this late-summer foodie fiesta. Diners can pull up a chair at one of the many tables in the tents and listen to live music.

September 2019
Venue: Rathausplatz, Lippstadt

**Paderborn Challenge**

Top-level international horse riders compete in this prestigious DKB-Riders Tour showjumping competition in the leafy Schützenplatz ground. Friday is family day, with special games and attractions plus a chance to meet the riders, while the Sunday Grand Prix is the event no one wants to miss.

September 2019
www.engarde.de

Venue: Schützenplatz, Paderborn

**Autumn Week (Herbstwoche)**

A colourful carnival takes over Lippstadt each October, when illuminated, stomach-churning rides fill the streets. Fair-goers party late into the night with live bands and DJs playing tunes in outdoor tents, and there's always a spectacular fireworks show on the Tuesday night.

October 2019
Venue: Throughout Lippstadt

**Paderborn Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt)**

In the run-up to Christmas, twinkling stalls are crammed with toys, crafts and decorations in Paderborn’s historic centre. Shoppers munch on fresh potato pancakes, liverwurst sandwiches and roasted almonds while children (and big kids) whirl on wooden horses aboard a 100-year-old carousel.

November - December 2019
Venue: Rathausplatz and Westernstrasse, Paderborn

**Lippstadt Christmas Market (Weihnachtsmarkt)**

Cinnamon wafts through the air at Lippstadt’s bustling Advent market, where visitors can stock up on wooden toys, knitwear and jewellery, do a twirl on the ice or tuck into freshly baked apples. Choirs and bands entertain shoppers, and the Town Hall’s windows are transformed into a giant Advent calendar.

November - December 2019
Venue: Rathausplatz and St Mary’s Church, Lippstadt
Hotels

Hotels in Paderborn/Lippstadt

Neither Paderborn nor Lippstadt have any 5-star hotels. Both do however have a good selection of mid-range choices, as well as budget options. As with many cities in Germany, room rates are often reasonable.

Waldhotel Nachtigall

A romantic retreat in a northern Paderborn suburb, this 17th-century house has been a family-run hotel since 1891.

Hatzfelder Strasse 45
33104 Paderborn
Germany
Category: Expensive

Welcome Hotel (Lippstadt)

A modern business-oriented hotel with 4-star comforts, across the river from the Altstadt.

Lipper Tor 1
59555 Lippstadt
Germany
Category: Moderate

Welcome Hotel (Paderborn)

New-build hotel with spacious rooms and suites decorated in warm colours.

Fürstenweg 13
33102 Paderborn
Germany
Category: Moderate

Drei Kronen

Small guest house with comfortable rooms in a house dating from 1845.

Marktstrasse 2
59555 Lippstadt
Germany
Category: Moderate

Road House

Super-modern, comfortable hotel offering unbeatable value on the southern edge of town.

Borchener Strasse 322
33106 Paderborn
Germany
Category: Cheap