Travel Guide
Frankfurt
Much more than just a financial center

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Quick view

Frankfurt: Much more than just a financial center

The city of Frankfurt, the heart of the Rhine-Main metropolitan region with more than five million citizens, is a center of finance and industry with a world-class exhibition center as well as being an important air, rail and road transportation hub. Swathes of its medieval city center were destroyed in World War II, but many of the buildings have since been faithfully reconstructed, including the house in which Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born and the ensemble of half-timbered buildings on Römerberg, the historical city center.

In Frankfurt, visitors will find a variety of architectural styles and a vibrant culture and art scene, on the museum embankment Sachsenhäuser Museumsufer, for instance. The largely pedestrian-friendly downtown area and the New Frankfurt Old Town, which was officially opened in 2018, enhance the city’s appeal.

The new quarter extending between the cathedral and the Römer was built according to historical plans. With its 15 reconstructed old-town buildings, it offers an interesting insight into Frankfurt’s architectural history. With some spectacular high-rise buildings, such as the Main Tower (200 meters tall, open since 2000) and the brand-new European Central Bank building (165 and 185 meters tall, open since 2015), the skyline of “Mainhattan” offers a special perspective. While the people of Frankfurt are businesslike and efficient, they also know how to enjoy themselves in their free time. Fine days are spent in the Palm Garden or on the banks of the Main and Nidda, and the evenings in cafés, taverns serving the local apple wine, and restaurants specializing in regional and international cuisine.

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**
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**
Listed below are the public holidays for the period January 2020 to December 2021.

**Note:**
* In catholic regions only
** Sachsen only
*** Not in all Laender (Bundesländer)
**** Berlin only, 2020 only

**2020**
New Year’s Day: 1 January 2020
Epiphany: 6 January 2020*
Good Friday: 10 April 2020
Easter Sunday: 12 April 2020
Easter Monday: 13 April 2020
Labour Day: 1 May 2020
Liberation Day: 8 May 2020****
Ascension Day: 21 May 2020
Whit Sunday: 31 May 2020
Whit Monday: 1 June 2020
Corpus Christi: 21 June 2020*
Assumption: 15 August 2020*
Day of German Unity: 3 October 2020
Day of Reformation: 31 October 2020***
All Saints’ Day: 1 November 2020*
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

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.

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.

Getting around Frankfurt

Public Transport
Frankfurt is served by a highly efficient train (S-Bahn) and underground (U-Bahn) network, run by the Rhein-Main-Verkehrsverbund (rmv.de). There is also a mainline train station, served by high-speed ICE trains, as well as 42 bus lines operating across the city. Services run from 4am until 2am daily. Tourists should look out for the Frankfurt Card for discount travel.
Taxis
Frankfurt’s instantly recognisable cream-coloured cabs can be easily hailed in town, with plenty of taxi ranks at key sights such as Römerberg and Kaiserstraße. Tips of around 5% are expected. For those who want a more leisurely ride, VeloTaxis are also available.

Top 10 sights
Top 10 sights in Frankfurt

Städel Museum
One of Europe’s very best art galleries. The Städel houses classic German art by the likes of Holbein and Beckmann and old masters such as Rembrandt and Botticelli. Its modern art wing is full of classic works by everyone from Klee to Chagall.

Schaumainkai 63
60596 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/605 09 82 00
Opening times:
Tues-Wed and Sat-Sun 1000-1800
Thurs-Fri 1000-2100
www.staedelmuseum.de

Goethe-Haus & Goethe-Museum
The one-time home of Frankfurt’s most famous son, author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Although it was destroyed during WWII, the restored house and museum are a faithful recreation of the original, with an impressive library and collection of local art.

Großer Hirschgraben 23-25
60311 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/13 88 00
Opening times:
Mon-Sat 1000-1800
Sun 1000-1730
www.goethehaus-frankfurt.de

Palmengarten
A beautiful palm garden, this pleasant green space is home to glasshouses, hundreds of different tree species and a pretty boating lake. The place to be if you want a breather from city life for a few hours.

Siesmayerstraße 61
60323 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/21 23 39 39
Opening times:
Daily 0900-1800 (Feb-Oct)
0900-1600 (Nov-Jan)
www.palmengarten-frankfurt.de

Römerberg
Frankfurt’s main square is the city’s central hub. Peer up at the beautiful Church of St Nicholas, marvel at the reconstructed half-timbered houses and take in the Rathaus Römer, Frankfurt’s town hall since 1405.

Römerberg
60311 Frankfurt
Germany
Frankfurt Zoo
Second only to Berlin in terms of size, this is one of Germany’s best zoos. Its breadth of species is impressive, but it’s the Grzimek Haus, with artificial darkness for observing nocturnal animals, which makes it an essential visit.

Bernhard-Grzimek-Allee 1
60316 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/21 23 37 35
Opening times:
Daily 0900-1900 (Apr-Oct)
0900-1700 (Nov-Mar)
www.zoo-frankfurt.de

Senckenberg Natural History Museum
With the largest exhibition of dinosaurs in Europe, this excellent museum is a must for anyone travelling with kids fascinated by prehistory. There’s also a huge array of stuffed birds and evening tours for those who want to delve deeper into German natural history.

Senckenberganlage 25
60325 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/754 20
Opening times:
Mon-Tues and Thurs-Fri 0900-1700
Wed 0900-2000
Sat, Sun 0900-1800
www.senckenberg.de

Historical Museum
This beautiful Römerberg building tells the fascinating history of Frankfurt. The museum was completely revamped in 2012 and houses a stunning 12th-century palace chapel. The museum café serves up some excellent apfelwein, even offering details on its history and tradition. The new exhibition house, which opened in 2017, boasts around 4,000 square metres of exhibition space across four floors.

Saalhof 1
60311 Frankfurt Main
Opening times:
Tues, Thurs, Fri 1000-1800
Wed 1000-2100
Sat, Sun 1100-1900
www.historisches-museum.frankfurt.de

Museum of Modern Art
Housing a peerless collection of post-war work, Frankfurt’s Museum Of Modern Art is one of Europe’s hottest cultural institutions. Once you’re done drinking in pieces from the likes of Joseph Beuys and Roy Lichtenstein, take some time to have a proper look at the exterior of this amazing building. It’s like nothing else in Frankfurt.

Domstraße 10
60311 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/21 23 04 47
Opening times:
Tues and Thurs-Sun 1000-1800
Wed 1000-2000
www.mmk-frankfurt.de
Jewish Museum

Found in the Rothschild Palais, this impressive museum looks at how the second largest Jewish population in Germany fared in Frankfurt from the 12th to 20th century. Often harrowing, but always vital, the story of the Jews in this city is something all visitors will find interesting. The second venue, Museum Judengasse, is open again after renovation.

*The Jewish Museum (Untermainkai) is closed until summer 2019 for construction works.*

Untermainkai 14-15
60311 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/21 23 88 05

Opening times Museum Judengasse:
Wed-Sun 1000-1800
Tues 1000-2000

www.juedischesmuseum.de

Cathedral Of St Bartholomew

Germany’s emperors were crowned in this magnificent sandstone cathedral between 1562 and 1792. Although much of it was destroyed during the war, some original facades remain. Clamber up the tower for some truly wonderful views of the city.

Domplatz 14
60311 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/297 03 20

Opening times:
Sat-Thurs 0900-2000
Fri 1300-2000 (cathedral)
Tues-Fri 1000-1700
Sat-Sun 1100-1700 (museum)

www.dom-frankfurt.de

Shopping in Frankfurt

Shopping in Frankfurt

Key Areas

Frankfurt’s international reputation means it’s every inch a shopper’s paradise. Gift hunters will find trinkets on Römerberg, with antiques found in the streets around the cathedral. Food lovers should head to Große Bockenheimer Straße for delis and wine merchants.

Markets

Sachsenhausen’s Saturday flea market, held every other week, is a great place to rummage for bargain vintage clothing and cool presents for friends back home. If you’re a foodie, the Konstablerwache square produce market, held on Thursdays and Saturdays, will leave your tummy rumbling.

Shopping Centres

Wander down Zeil, the main shopping street which runs from Hauptwache to Konstablerwache, to shop for major brands. If you’d rather do it all under one roof, NordWestZentrum and Schillerpassage are both excellent malls. Both are perfect days out for the shopaholic.
Restaurants

Restaurants in Frankfurt

Thanks to an internationally diverse crowd flocking to Frankfurt to do business, the city’s restaurant scene is buzzing. Whether you want Michelin-starred cuisine or a jug of apfelwein and a plate of sauerkraut, Frankfurt delivers. Foodies will not struggle to find something to please their demanding palates.

Oosten – Realwirtschaft am Main

Trendy bar, café and beer garden at the historical Ruhrorfer Werft shipyard site with an unbeatable view of the Main River and the Frankfurt skyline.

Mayfarthstraße 4
60314 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/94 94 25 68 14

Tiger-Gourmetrestaurant

The Tigerpalast variety theater’s own restaurant has for many years been one of the top addresses in town for light, creative gourmet cuisine. The independent Palastbar restaurant in the theater’s cellar vaults also serves very good food.

Heiligkreuzgasse 20
60313 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/920 02 20

Apfelweinwirtschaft Proletariat

Brown stucco, bright red floorboards, and abbey pews from Gotha: This young offshoot of the traditional Schreiber-Heyne apple wine tavern looks an impressive blend of rustic and modern.

Dreieichstr. 45
60594 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel. +49-69/62 39 63

Kleinmarkthalle

At his bustling indoor market, you can grab the local staple Weck, Worscht un Woi (bread roll, sausage and wine) to eat on the go – but also any number of delicious specialties from all over the world.

Hasengasse 5-7
60314 Frankfurt
Germany

Der Fette Bulle

This burger joint close to the central train station is popular with a trendy young clientele. Definitely worth a taste: the fries made from sweet potatoes or with rosemary and thyme.
Nightlife in Frankfurt

Frankfurt definitely knows how to let its hair down after a long day at the office. Cocktail bars, super clubs and relaxed pubs can be found everywhere, so whether you want a quiet beer or a big night out, you won’t struggle to find the right place for you.

Die Rote Bar

A riverside cocktail joint that you’ll need to sweet talk your way into. Well worth it for the excellent array of drinks.

Mainkai 7
60311 Frankfurt
Germany

Fleming’s Club

This roof-terrace bar may “only” be on the seventh floor of Fleming’s Selection Hotel Frankfurt-City, but it boasts a wonderful view of the Eschenheim Tower and the city skyline. Important extra: To get to the bar, you have to take the paternoster elevator.

Fleming’s Selection Hotel Frankfurt-City
Eschenheimer Tor 2
60318 Frankfurt
Germany
Show on map

Silbergold

This is the closest you’ll find to a super club in Frankfurt. Big crowds and big beats.

Heiligkreuzgasse 22
60313 Frankfurt
Germany

Gibson Club

This live music club is housed in the former Zeil cinema on Frankfurt’s best-known shopping mile. It stages live gigs on weeknights, and invites big-name DJs to man the consoles on weekends. Top sound system, show technology and LED wall are all powerful arguments in favor of a visit to the Gibson, as are its three bars and lounge area.

Zeil 85-93
60313 Frankfurt
Germany
Jazzkeller
The heart of the live jazz scene in Frankfurt, Jazzkeller attracts big names to its small basement space.

Kleine Bockenheimerstraße 18A
60313 Frankfurt
Germany

Calendar of events

Ambiente
Open to trade visitors only, this fair showcases products in the areas of Dining, Giving and Living – think tables, gifts, home furnishing and decorations.

February 7 - 11, 2020
Venue: Messe Frankfurt

Spring Dippemess
A traditional folk festival dating back to the 14th century, Spring Dippemess began as a medieval market for domestic items such as pottery. While it still features a market today, it also offers a fairground, firework displays and other family-oriented attractions too.

April 2- 26, 2020
Venue: Festplatz am Ratsweg.

Wäldchestag (Forest Day)
Wäldchestag is Frankfurt's very own folk festival. This event has been taking place for centuries and features a combination of funfair, live music concerts and a variety of food and drink stalls - notably Frankfurt's distinctive apple wine. On the days of the festival, Frankfurters traditionally leave their work at midday to head for the forest for the celebrations.

June 2, 2020
Venue: Stadtwald (city forest, Am Oberforsthaus).

Opernplatzfest
The Opera Square Festival is a celebration of food and culture, featuring stage productions, music and a mouth-watering array of international gastronomic delights. Expect Frankfurt's Opernplatz to come alive with everything from jazz to pop music.

June 24 - July 3, 2020
Venue: Opernplatz, Frankfurt city centre.

Ironman European Championship
3,000 triathletes from all over the world fight for the Ironman European Championship title. The race involves a 3.8km swim event, a 180km bike course that goes through the city centre and the surrounding regions, and the final...
marathon running goes on both sides of the River Main. There is also an Ironkids race for children aged five to 13 years old.

**June 28, 2020**

Venue: Langener Waldsee, city center

**Mainfest (Main Festival)**

At the height of summer the Römerberg old town and the banks of the river Main are transformed into a huge festival site for four days. What began as an event for fishermen and boatmen as a thanksgiving for the river and its riches, now attracts thousands of visitors from far and near for wine, fairground rides, fireworks and many other attractions.

**July 31 - August 3, 2020**

Venue: Römerberg and Mainkai (Main Quay).

**Museumsuferfest (Museum Embankment Festival)**

Frankfurt’s Museumsuferfest is a celebration of the city’s many museums and one of Europe’s largest cultural events. The festival attracts some three million visitors each year as both sides of the River Main are packed with arts and crafts stalls, music and theatre from around the world.

**August 28 - 30, 2020**

Venue: Museum Embankment (Schaumainkai)

**Rheingau Weinmarkt (Rheingau Wine Market)**

In Freßgass, a lovely district in the city centre filled with restaurants, hip bars, rustic taverns and delicatessen stores, visitors can enjoy over 600 wines and sparkling wines from the Rheingau region, including the fame Rheingau Riesling.

**September 2 - 11, 2020**

Venue: Grosse Bockenheimer Strasse and Opernplatz.

**Autumn Dippemess**

The largest folk festival in the Rhine-Main region, this popular event offers great rides and stalls with delicious food on the Festplatz at the Ratsweg.

**September 11 - 20, 2020**

Venue: Festplatz at the Ratsweg.

**Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)**

One of Germany’s biggest traditional Christmas markets, Frankfurt’s Weihnachtsmarkt runs for a month in the lead up to the holiday period. Hundreds of elaborate stands offer all manner of gifts, decorations and food and drink amid the historic buildings of the Römerberg and Paulsplatz.

**November 23 - December 22, 2020**

Venue: Römerberg.
Hotels

Hotels in Frankfurt

Frankfurt’s hotel scene stretches from glamorous, five-star city centre spots to cosy, locally run pensions. Being a business-minded town, options are plentiful and all budgets are wellcatered for. If you want top-end luxury or a place to crash after a day’s sightseeing, you won’t struggle to find somewhere decent.

Jumeirah Frankfurt

This luxurious hotel boasts a central location and 218 rooms and suites, many of them with a fine view of the Frankfurt skyline and the Taunus Mountains. Shopping opportunities, the central train station and the airport are all within easy reach. The hotel also has two excellent restaurants on site.

Thum-und-Taxis-Platz 2
60313 Frankfurt
Germany
Category: Luxurious
Show on map

Hilton Frankfurt Airport

This hotel is located in the futuristic The Squaire building at Frankfurt Airport, where a pedestrian bridge provides direct access to Terminal 1. Reception is open round the clock to welcome guests. The hotel also offers wellness and conference facilities.

The Squaire
Am Flughafen
60549 Frankfurt
Germany
Category: Luxurious
Show on map

Roomers

A swanky design hotel with plush rooms and an excellent spa, luxury fiends will love this spot.

Gutleutstraße 85
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Category: Moderate

mk|hotel Frankfurt

Modern accommodation that won’t break the bank. Rooms are simple, but comfortable.

Kaiserstraße 63
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Category: Moderate

Turm Hotel

The rooms of this friendly, modern budget hotel follow five distinct design themes: Oriental Hip, Mona Lisa, Little Gym, Avantgarde and Fresco.
GEO Tip
Culinary paradise

Good food galore at the Kleinmarkthalle

Kleinmarkthalle indoor market on Hasengasse, just a few steps from Zeil, Frankfurt’s main shopping street, is one of the city’s culinary centers. As multicultural as Frankfurt itself, the Kleinmarkthalle offers visitors the chance to sample international delicacies in a classic market atmosphere. Around 60 traders ply their trade inside the market’s somewhat unremarkable brick building, where it is standard to let customers taste the wares. The wine terrace (accessible via the gallery) is open for business in the summer.

Mehr auf GEO.de

Best of ...
... historical Frankfurt

Following six years of reconstruction, Frankfurt celebrated the grand opening of its New Old Town in September 2018. In the new quarter occupying the area between the cathedral and the Römer, 15 reconstructed old town buildings now reveal much of the city’s architectural history. The historical building elements are typically constructed in red Main sandstone that was originally used in the former old town and rebuilt here.

The museum of history (Historisches Museum)

Franconofurd, the “ford of the Franks” – the official history of Frankfurt begins with the first recorded mention of that name in 794. The events that took place since then are documented at the Historisches Museum: royal elections and imperial coronations, the exhibition center and the stock exchange, civic pride and an
almost capital city, banks and squatters – and also the birth of German democracy with the first parliament, the national assembly held in St. Paul’s Church in 1848. A model of the old town as it was in 1945 leaves a deep impression – an expanse of debris flanked by the cathedral on the one side and a single remaining half-timbered building on the other. For a long time, the future of the old town was unclear. An answer has now been found in its reconstruction.

Haus zur Goldenen Waage

The Haus zur Goldenen Waage (House of the Golden Scales) is the showcase building in Frankfurt’s new old town. Just a few steps from the cathedral, as you enter the new quarter, you find yourself in front of the brightly colored, half-timbered facade of the House of the Golden Scales. Originally erected in 1618/1619 as a merchant’s house in the best part of town, it was destroyed in an air raid in March 1944. Its reconstruction became one of the most important projects in the new old town, and for it, the architect Jochem Jourdan traveled to Belgium to compare the surviving parts of the building with other 17th-century buildings. The colorful corner pillar with its intricate carvings and suspended golden scales stands out particularly. A branch of the Historisches Museum will soon be moving into this spectacular building.

Balthasar Ress Weinbar & Vinothek

Open: daily 1100-2200
www.balthasar-ress.de/

Hühnermarkt (Chicken market)

Since the 1970s, Hühnermarkt square had been the site of the Technical Town Hall, a Brutalist concrete structure you only had to walk past to feel a shiver running down your spine. Now, the historical Hühnermarkt is the beating heart of Frankfurt’s old town. Framed by reconstructed and newly erected old-town buildings, a fountain plays in the middle of the square, at its center, the bust of a bearded man, who looks reminiscent of Karl Marx, but is, in fact, the Frankfurt-born dialect poet Friedrich Stolze. The fountain is a popular selfie spot, as is the giant plush giraffe right next door, at the entrance to the Steiff stuffed toy store. The Ress wine bar is a good place to take time out to relax and watch the comings and goings on Hühnermarkt over a glass of riesling, pinot blanc or pinot noir.

Haus zum Esslinger

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe also left his mark on the old town, of course. While his family home on nearby Großer Hirschgraben was being rebuilt, he moved for a time to the Esslinger House of his Aunt Melber, whom he later immortalized in the
work Poetry and Truth. The house on Hühnermarkt burned down in World War II. For the new old town, it has now been rebuilt with a Late Baroque facade and Gothic arcades with pointed arches. A portrait of Aunt Melber herself can be seen on the facade, along with her dates of birth and death. Appropriately, the building with the wonderful address Hinter dem Lämmchen 2 (Behind the Little Lamb) will in the future be a home for literature, if not for Goethe’s works: In 2019, the Struwwelpeter Museum is set to move in here.

Haus zum Esslinger
Hinter dem Lämmchen 2
60311 Frankfurt

Römer

The Römer was once the undisputed star of Frankfurt tourism. The ancient city hall with its striking three-gabled facade suffered heavy damage in World War II, but was rebuilt as early as 1952 and is one of the city’s landmarks. It is chiefly famous for the Kaisersaal, or Imperial Hall hung with paintings of all 52 emperors and kings of the Holy Roman Empire, in which the city received its guests of honor. These days, the beautifully reconstructed old town right next door is also attracting a great deal of attention. But there’s one thing you cannot take away from the Römer, namely that its balcony is probably the most famous in the country. It is where the boxer Max Schmeling celebrated his victory over Joe Louis in 1936 and where later, in 1990, World Cup winners were cheered by fans. Since 2006, German national soccer team receptions have been held in Berlin, but that hasn’t stopped people from celebrating at the Römer – most recently when Eintracht Frankfurt won the German Football Association Cup in 2018.

Römer
Römerberg 23
60311 Frankfurt
Tel. +49-69/212 01

Open Kaisersaal:
Mon–Sun 1000–1300 and 1400–1700
www.frankfurt-tourismus.de/

Haus Wertheym

With sensational and equally controversial reconstructions, replicas and new buildings springing up in Frankfurt’s old town, it’s easy to forget that only a single half-timbered building still remains of the historical old town, Wertheym House. It survived virtually unscathed the raging infernos of the 1944 air raids and is now a heritage-listed building. On the ground floor, the Haus Wertheym restaurant boasts being “the most traditional inn in the city of Frankfurt.” And it truly is, both historically and atmospherically: Its dark, wood-paneled interior is dimly lit by weak, yellowish lantern light, and its walls and ceilings are littered with old pitchers, pots, plates, pictures and signs with sayings extolling the virtues of cultivated comforts – in other words, the aura is authentic old-town.

Haus Wertheym
Fahrbr 1
60311 Frankfurt
Tel. +49-69/28 14 32

Open:
daily 1100–2300
www.haus-wertheym.de/

Lohrberg hill

Had enough of ancient buildings, narrow streets, informative museums and hordes
of visitors? Then try a relaxing break from the noise of the city on Lohrberg hill – and tour the only vineyard within Frankfurt’s city limits. Vines have been grown here, 180 meters up, at the latest since the 9th century CE. You can also taste the Lohrberg wine – Riesling Kabinett and Riesling Spätlese – while you’re there, either at the MainÄppelHaus, a nature discovery garden with its own farm shop and bistro, or in the traditional Hessian ambience of the Lohrberg-Schänke accompanied by small, regional Handkäse cheeses, spare ribs or the local specialty, green sauce.

Lohrberg-Schänke
Auf dem Lohr 9
60389 Frankfurt
Tel. +49-69/90 47 67 85

www.lohrberg-schaenke.de/ www.mainaeppelhauslohrberg.de/

City tour

The new station district in Frankfurt

Kaisermarkt

A trip to the station district ought to begin with a visit to the street market on Kaiserstraße, where singing vendor Gisela Paul, a local legend, serves the Frankfurt specialty Grie Soß (a green sauce made with seven different herbs) to bankers, creatives from the area and visitors alike; the home-produced apple wine at the next stand will quench your thirst and lighten your mood.

With 26 market stalls to choose from, however, you will find a wealth of other goodies from the Rhine-Main region to give your tour a culinary warm-up.

Kaiserstraße 81
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Opening times:
Tue and Thu 9:00–19:00

Cream-Music

Elvis Presley bought his guitars at Cream Music, so other musicians can’t really go wrong here. What Heinrich Hummel started in 1904 with zithers, his great-great-grandson Bernhard “Bernie” Hahn now keeps going with guitars, basses, drums and pianos.

Taunusstraße 43 & 49
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Opening times:
Mo–Fri 10:00–19:00
Sat 10:00–18:00
Moseleck

Ex-boxer Harald “Harry” Statt took over the cult bar in 1995 after driving out the dealers with some help from his old sports comrades. These days, life is pretty quiet at this station district bar, which is now over a hundred years old.

If a drink that won’t cost the earth and stories about the area’s tougher past sound appealing, you’ll like the Moseleck with its 1970s decor.

Moselstraße 21
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/23 66 40

Opening times:
daily 6 a.m.–4 a.m.

moseleck ffm.de

Alim Market

The already pungent smell of Oriental spices on Münchener Straße reaches its climax outside Alim’s exceedingly popular Turkish supermarket. Inside the store, rare fruit and vegetables, a huge selection of freshly baked flatbreads, and meat and poultry can all be had at a fair price.

If you prefer fish, you can pick some up at the fish takeaway right next door: Alim Fischimbiss (Münchener Straße 35, Mon–Fri 1000–2130).

Münchener Str. 37
60329 Frankfurt
Deutschland
Tel. +49-69/27 13 46 90

Opening times:
Mon–Sat 7:30–20:00

Changó

There’s still space for Latin America among the many Oriental snack bars and food stores on Münchener Straße: On weekends, the Latin Palace Changó, one of Europe’s best-known Latin clubs, pulls in as many as 1400 dancers with its salsa, merengue, bachata and reggae rhythms. That makes Ferdinand Hartmann, who runs the Changó, a busy man, but not too busy to do his bit for the station district.

Every Friday, he opens up the now defunct pick-up joint Maier Gustl’s Oberbayern to the Frankfurter Tafel, which organizes food donations for needy people from the area.

Münchener Straße 57
60329 Frankfurt
Germany
Tel. +49-69/27 22 08 08

Opening times:
Fri and Sat from 20:00

latinpalace-chango.de

Plank

This trendy bar on the corner of Moselstraße and Münchener Straße has become a symbol of the change that has taken place in the station district: This is where the
photographers, filmmakers, advertising people and other creatives, who are increasingly moving into the area, come for their after-work bottle of Tannenzäpfle beer from High Black Forest.

The chairs out front make a great vantage point for watching the world go by in the vibrant station district.

Elbestraße 15  
60329 Frankfurt  
Germany  
Tel. +49-69/26 95 86 66  
barplank.de/

Maxie Eisen

Skyline, banks and big-city bustle – the people of Frankfurt like to regard their city as a miniature version of New York. So Maxie Eisen, named for a Jewish Mafioso, fits the bill perfectly. Brothers David and James Ardinast serve the kosher New York specialty pastrami here – that’s prime, cured brisket, traditionally served in a sandwich.

Münchener Straße 18  
60329 Frankfurt  
Germany  
Tel. +49-69/76 75 83 62

Opening times:  
Mon–Wed 11:30–23:00  
Thu–Sat 11:30–midnight  
Sun 14:00–20:00

maxieeisen.com

Orange Peel

This little club on Kaiserstraße soon fills up once its doors open. On regular days, DJs play choice rock, jazz, rockabilly, funk, soul and blues at the Orange Peel, while on special days, live bands devote themselves to those same musical genres. The club is a real must for guitar fans.

But if your tastes are more sedate, we recommend concerts given by the Hessische Rundfunk radio symphony orchestra and readings – both of which also take place at the Orange Peel.

Kaiserstraße 39  
60329 Frankfurt  
Deutschland  
Tel. +49-176/63 72 96 29

Opening times:  
Tue and Thu from 21:00  
Fri and Sat from 23:00  
Sun from 20:00

orange-peel.de