



## **Germany Travel Planning Podcast**

Episode 2: Your Germany Travel Questions Answered

Transcript

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Cate (00:00)

Welcome to episode two of the Germany travel planning podcast. In this episode, I'm answering frequently asked questions about traveling in Germany, from hotels to train tickets to what to expect when using a public toilet.

So you're gonna wanna stick around for these practical tips that will make both your trip planning and your travels in Germany smoother and more enjoyable. Let's dive in.

Cate (00:22)

If you're dreaming of traveling to Germany, you're in the right place. Hey, I'm Cate co-founder with my husband Aaron of MyGermanyVacation.com and host of this podcast. Our goal is to help you plan and enjoy a meaningful and unforgettable trip to Germany and surrounding countries. So let's dive in.

Cate (00:40)

As you've probably already figured out, I love talking about all things Germany travel. So today I thought I would answer seven questions that we are often asked in a one-on-one travel planning consults and also in our Facebook group. Question number one, do German hotels have air conditioning? Yes and no. Air conditioning isn't a given in Germany. So not all hotels have it and especially the smaller, older or budget options, they're less likely to have air conditioning.

So if having air conditioning is important to you, I highly recommend specifically looking for a hotel that states that it has air conditioning in the guest rooms. And



here's a couple of things to note. Even if a hotel says it has air conditioning, it might not be as strong or as cold as you're used to. And you might not have access to the thermostat in your room. So we've actually found a couple of times that we booked a hotel with air conditioning but we couldn't adjust it and it just wasn't really that cold. Like not as cold as we are maybe used to when you go to a hotel in the US or even in our own home. So sometimes at the hotels we've stayed at in Germany, the air conditioning wasn't quite as cold or strong as we would like. And we actually ended up just opening the window and it was actually cooler that way.

So that leads me to the next thing to note, which is German windows are awesome. You can tilt them in. So now it's just nice at night if you just want a little bit of air, but you can actually open them all the way open. So we've been in hotel rooms where we just open the windows all the way and let in a lot of cool air and then just tilt them open at night. And that's been fine.

Personally, I prefer having air conditioning, but unless there's a heat wave going on in Germany, we actually have found that just opening the windows and letting the hot air out, letting some cool air in at night, and then especially if we have a fan, that helps tremendously. Then it's okay to not have air conditioning. But I know for a lot of people, they just don't sleep very well if they aren't in a cooler room. So if that is important to you, definitely look for hotels with air conditioning.

And we do have guides on our website, hotel guides, and we do specifically mention whether they have air conditioning or not. So I will link to those in the show notes. You can go check those out and use those as a jumping off point if you're looking for accommodations in Germany. And if you have our Germany travel planner, you can also take a look at our interactive planning map because we show you the best hotels in various locations all over Germany.

And that'll also help you narrow down the hotels that have air conditioning, other amenities you're looking for, and are close to the sites that you want to see.



The second question is, can you recommend a good restaurant? Yes, we can. There's a couple of places where you can look. In the show notes, I'll link to a list of restaurants that have been recommended by our travel community.

These are restaurants that people in our travel community have really enjoyed for locations all over Germany. And we also have recommendations on that digital planning map that I've mentioned earlier, that's in our DIY Germany travel planner. And just a side note, if you're going to be going to Berlin or Munich and you have our Germany travel planner, keep an eye out for our updated guides to both of those cities because we're creating new maps.

specifically one for Berlin and one for Munich and we're going to show you a lot more really delicious places to eat and have ice cream and go for a coffee and cake and have beer and these are places that that we have been to so keep an eye out for that. Question number three can I use credit cards in Germany or is cash still king?

These days, you can use credit cards in many places all over Germany, much more than even just a few years ago. And we've actually started seeing places that only accept credit cards and no cash. But it's still a good idea to have cash on you no matter where you are in Germany, especially when you're traveling in smaller towns or rural areas. Some stores, restaurants, sites, and parking lots do still only accept cash.

And sometimes you'll find that your specific credit card isn't accepted or that the machine just won't process your card for some reason. That's happened to me a few times. So our rule of thumb is to have enough cash on us so that we can cover a meal or tickets or a purchase that we're planning to make just so we're never stuck without a way to pay for something.



Question four, is it hard to drive in Germany? Driving in Germany is different than, driving in the US, but it's not necessarily hard, especially if you come from a country like the US that drives on the right side of the road because in Germany they also drive on the right side of the road. But there are some differences in laws, approach to driving, and road signs.

And that's why we always highly recommend Tripiamo's video tutorial all about driving in Germany. It's only about an hour or so and it is so well done. And I'll link to that in the show notes. We wish we had had this tutorial years ago and our clients have used it have also said they found it super helpful and it's helped them feel very confident and prepared from day one. So definitely check that out.

if you're a little nervous about driving in Germany or you've never driven in Europe and you just want to have that peace of mind that when you land after flying, you get in your rental car that it will be smooth from there on out.

Question five, where should I buy train tickets and make seat reservations? We buy all of our tickets from the Deutsche Bahn website or the DB Navigator app because that's the official German rail website and they don't charge any additional fees when booking through that website. And on that website or through the app, you can purchase tickets for train travel within Germany.

And then often you can purchase tickets for train travel that starts in Germany but ends in a different country or vice versa, starts in another country and ends in Germany. Not always, but most of the time you can buy those tickets on the Deutsche Bahn website. Some of our clients have preferred to purchase tickets through another site like Omio or Trainline, especially if they're planning to buy tickets for multiple countries. So if you're doing a trip where you're going to be traveling by train in Germany,



Austria Switzerland Italy and France then you might just want to buy all of your tickets through Omeo or train Trainline because You can buy tickets to all those countries at once Train travel in Germany is something that causes a lot of our clients and community confusion and anxiety and things are a little bit More chaotic in Germany when it comes to train travel right now, then it used to be you're in years past

And I'm actually planning on doing an episode about train travel and our experiences, you know, to share all that with you. And I'll be doing that in the future. but if you have our DIY Germany travel planner, you already have access to a whole section that is dedicated to making train travel easy. So if you have that and you will be traveling by train, definitely check out the resources there.

that section will help you find the right tickets and shows you how to buy the tickets, how to make seat reservations and how to navigate train stations, what to do if your train is late and all sorts of things like that. Question number six, do I really need to pay to use public toilets? Yes, you do in most cases.

This is something that surprises so many travelers, but yes, it's true. You can find free toilets here and there, but in most cases it does cost money to use the toilet in Germany. It typically costs 50 cents or 70 cents or sometimes a euro, but I have actually been seeing even a euro 50 or two euros at some train stations, which I think is a little bit ridiculous, but I have seen that.

Sometimes there will be a dish where you can just leave your change and other times you'll have to pay like you have to put coins into a turnstile and You have to pay before going in younger kids typically do not have to pay to use the toilet and the upside to paying is that the facilities are usually clean and well stocked and There is often somebody there who is you know keeping everything clean and there's monitoring the bathroom. So you know, you are paying for that service.



Okay, our last question, question number seven. What castle should I visit? This is an important question because in Germany there are so many castles. I think I've heard there's at least 25,000 castles in Germany. Neuschwanstein Castle in southern Germany is probably the most popular castle and maybe even the most popular tourist destination in all of Germany.

It's an easy day trip from Munich. the Alps are right behind the castle. So I mean, it's absolutely beautiful. It's a dreamy castle for people, especially coming from the U.S. This is what we think of when we think of German Castle. So that one is beautiful. But there are so many amazing castles and castle ruins all over Germany. And then also palaces. There's a whole ton of palaces. But when we're just talking about castles or castle ruins.

Some of my favorites are Hohenzollern Castle near the Black Forest, Castle Liechtenstein is near Hohenzollern, Burg Eltz which is up near the Rhine River, Heidelberg Castle which is a castle ruin in Heidelberg and those are just a few.

If you want to visit a lot of castles in a short amount of time, I highly recommend going to the Rhine River area between Bingen and Koblenz. And especially if you have a car, you can stop at several castles on both sides of the river. We've actually now been to almost all the castles in that area. And we actually really liked a lot of the smaller castles like Castle Sooneck and Stolzenfels...there weren't very many people visiting when we were there, so it was like we have the castle basically to ourselves.

If you're wondering which castles are in the area you'll be in, we have some castle guides on our website. I'll add the link to the show notes. So be sure to go take a look at that.

If you have our DIY Germany travel planner, take a look at that interactive digital map we have because we show you the best castles all over Germany and we also show you our photos and our tips and info so that you can see which castles are close to



the area you want to go and we also have some that are kind of off the beaten path so you can find the castles that are close to where you are going to be and then you can take a look at them and we'd really try to give you the context of the castle so you can kind of see what it's like not to see not just the inside and the outside but like what's around the castle and and also our tips for visiting.

Okay, we made it through all seven frequently asked questions. If you would like to read more FAQs, in the show notes, I'll link up a blog post we have on our website where we answer several more questions about transportation and accommodations and preparing for your trip and more.

Cate (11:48)

Thanks so much for listening to the Germany Travel Planning Podcast.

If you enjoyed today's episode, please leave us a review. Leaving a review is a fantastic way to support the podcast because it helps others discover our Germany travel content and trip planning tools. We also encourage you to share this podcast with your fellow travelers. Be sure to check out the show notes for the links and resources I mentioned in today's episode and visit our website, [mygermanyvacation.com](http://mygermanyvacation.com).

for expert travel resources that make planning your Germany trip easier and stress-free, including free travel guides, our step-by-step DIY Germany travel planner, and personalized services like custom itineraries, one-on-one trip planning consults, and itinerary reviews

to ensure that you make the most of your time and enjoy the best of Germany. Until next week, happy travel planning.



## Helpful Links

- [Restaurant recommendations](#)
- [DIY Germany Travel Planner](#)
- [Tripiamo Germany driving tutorial](#)
- [Deutsche Bahn](#)
- [Omio](#)
- [Trainline](#)
- [Our castle guides](#)
- [More Germany travel FAQs](#)
- [Custom itinerary service](#)
- [One-on-one trip planning consult service](#)
- [Itinerary review service](#)