♡ Nature, Print 2-sided

Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Germany - Aachen

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Berlin
- ✓ **Language:** German
- ✓ **Population:** ± 246,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 160,85
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +49 (241)
- ✓ **Visa:** Schengen visa, info here!
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 110 / 122
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None

History Recap Over 1 Drink

800: Emperor Charlemagne: Frankish ruler France & Germany 843: breakup. 962: Otto I, Roman emperor. 1250: Independent territories. 1438: Albert I, Habsburg Dynasty. 1517: Luther→split Protestants & Catholics →Thirty Years War. 1806: Napoleon→'13: defeat, Battle of Leipzig. '71: Bismarck unifies Germ→Reichstach *(elected parliament),* Kaiser *(emperor)* still power. '88: William II, colonial expansion. 1914-18: WWI→Germ defeated. '19: Treaty of Versailles→Germ loses colony & land, pays reparations. '23: Hitler, head of National-Socialist *(Nazi)* Party, leads abortive coup in Munich. France & Belgium occupy Ruhr over failed reparation payments. Hyper-inflation. '24: Hitler's Mein Kampf. '29: Global depression. '33: Hitler chancellor→34: proclaims Third Reich→'35: re-arm, Nuremberg laws deprive Jews of citizenship. '36: Berlin Olympics. '38: annexation Austria & Sudetenland. Kristallnacht: attacks on Jews. '39: invasion Poland→triggers WWII: Holocaust. '45: Germ defeated. War crimes trials.'49: Germ divided→west: US/French/UK zone capitalist Federal Republic, east: Soviet zone communist Democratic Republic. '50s: Ec growth west. '55: west Nato, east Warsaw Pact. '61: Berlin Wall. '73: east & west join UN. '89: Wall down. '93: joins Maastricht treaty on EU. 2000: Merkel chancellor. '01: End nuclear energy. Troops to Afghanistan (US).

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 266m. Climate: Temperate Oceanic Climate (Cfb).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights *(can be discovered by Geocaching & tip-based tours):*** Dom *(cathedral),* Markt, Rathaus *(city hall)*, 'The Toaster' building, Elisenbrunnen, Ponttor, Kreislau des Geldes, Karlsbrunnen, Ludwig Forum, Spatzenbrunnen, Puppenbrunnen, Marschiertor, Frankenberger Park.

☺ **Free museums:** Kunsthaus NRW Kornelimünster, CHIO Aachen Museum / History Tour.

☺ **Nature / Hiking:** Aachener Wald, Eifelsteig, Grenzrouten, Grünmetropole, 'Dreilandereck' *(three-country point / Vaals),* Vennbahn *(cycling).*

Worth The Extra $€¥

👍 **Museums & sights:** Aachener Dom Schatz, Neues Stadtmuseum Aachen, Grashaus, Büchel Museum, NAK, St. Johann-Baptist Treasure, Couven Museum, Centre Charlemagne, Internationales Zeitungmuseum & Rathaus … *'Aufs in Museum pass'* costs €12 and incl. Ludwig Forum, Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum, Leopold Hoesch Museum & Papiermuseum Düren, Deutsches Glasmalerei, KUK, Begas Haus, IKOB *(with 2 visits it earned itself back). Also check '6 for 6' pass.*

👍 **Relaxation:** Freibad Hangeweiher, Carolus Thermen, Saunadorf Roetgen-Therme.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Rewe, Netto.

⌘ **Markets:** In front of the Rathaus *(Tue & Thu 7AM – 2PM).*

⌘ **Local food:** Aachener Printen *(gingerbread),* Bratwurst / Currywurst *(grilled sausage),* Rouladen *(meat),* Käsespätzle *(egg noodles with cheese)*, Eintopf *(stew),* Sauerbraten *(sour roast),* Bratkartoffeln *(potato),* Kartoffelknödel *(potato dumplings),* Schweinshaxe *(pork hock),* Maultaschen *(pasta dumpling),* Brezel *(bread)*, Leberkäse *(sort of meatloaf),* Schnitzel *(breaded meat)*, Sauerkraut *(fermented cabbage)*, Hasenpfeffer *(rabbit stew),* Apfelstrüdel *(cake),* Kaiserschmarrn *(German pancake)* & lots of beer.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe, and even more so in Germany. Vegan items are available in any supermarket, and there are various vegan restaurants. Check them on Happy Cow – Aachen.

Mama Said

☠ Europe in general, and also Aachen, is very safe.

☠ Boycott zoos or aquariums like Aachener Tierpark and Gaia Zoo, where animals are held in captivity.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

Next?

✈ **In Germany:** Düren, Cologne, Bonn, Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Essen, Wuppertal, Dortmund.

✈ **International destinations close by:** The Netherlands, France, Luxemburg.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are pretty pricey in Germany. Get a $15 discount via this Booking.com link! Wild camping is illegal. Paid camp sites are Jugendzelten & Hoeve de Gastmolen *(NL).*

❖ Go Couchsurfing or Housesitting (20% discount for Trusted Housesitters via this link!) Also check WorkAway or HelpX for work-exchanges.

Festivals

☼ Carnaval; Culture; Mar.

☼ Weinsommer: Wine; Aug.

☼ Christmas Market; Shopping; Dec.

More festivals here.

Nights Best Spent

♦ **Nightlife areas:** Downtown.

♦ **Theatres:** Theater Aachen, Grenzlandtheater, Black Table Magic Theater, Theater K, Das Da Theater, Theater 99.

Free-Riding?

■ Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Aachen, as the city centre is compact.

■ Bike rental is available.

■ Get around by bus is easy in Aachen and operated by ASEAG/AVV. Tickets can be bought on the bus. Buses stop running at 11PM/midnight. There are cheap buses to Maastricht, The Netherlands: The German Veolia 50 or the Dutch Limburger 350. Intercity buses stop at Hauptbahnhof, Aachen West, Aachen Hüls , Aachen Lichtenbusch Süd and Wilmersdorfer Strasse. Eurolines is a budget bus line that also serves Aachen. Trains are operated by Deutsche Bahn (DB), Aachen has 4 stations: Aachen Hauptbahnhof, Aachen Schanz, Aachen West & Aachen Rothe Erde. The Moovit app is helpful to plan public transport routes.

■ Airport: Maastricht-Aachen Airport.

■ Hitchhiking is relatively safe and quite common. You can also use apps like Blablacar for a cheap ride.