

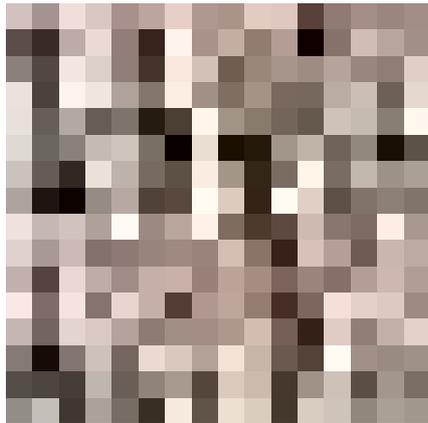
German society

A diverse and cosmopolitan culture

The impression Germany leaves on many visitors is cosmopolitan, culturally diverse and attractive true during major events, such as the 2006 FIFA World Cup. The official motto back then was "A ti friends". Many of those who visited during the World Cup were genuinely surprised at how friendly outgoing the people are in the European Union's most populous country. They saw that Germans i just economic success; they also place a high priority on family, friends, and time away from work. realised that the vast majority of German people, both young and old, continue to reflect upon Ger Socialist past and the country's division until reunification in 1990. This process of coming to terms given rise to a living culture of remembrance and to deep-rooted values such as social solidarity a diversity.

It's little wonder that Germany has long been a country of immigration. Some may find it surprising demographics paint a picture of a vibrantly diverse society. Around 83 million people live in Germa million of them hold a foreign passport – more than in any other of the 27 member states of the Eu Including those who have subsequently acquired German citizenship – although born abroad or to in Germany – over 20 million people in Germany have a migrant background. In other words, prac the people living in Germany have foreign roots.

Although this growing cultural diversity poses certain social and political challenges for Germany, i opportunity to forge a new and auspicious form of coexistence in the very heart of Europe.



Germany's appeal and its opportunities for advancement

Why does Germany attract such a large number of immigrants? Evidently, word has spread of the opportunities, good prospects and interesting jobs on offer here.

Practically all of the larger German cities feature a rich and vibrant mix of nationalities – a veritable different cultures, languages, and religions. In 2015, the German capital Berlin was the most popul foreign immigrants, followed by Munich and Hamburg. The international financial centre of Frankfu place. Nevertheless, scientific centres also attract people. For example, Karlsruhe, one of Europe' centres of information and communication technology, attracts a continuous flow of immigrants fro

Immigrants to Germany play a major part in the country's achievements and its improved image. M migrant background have become highly successful in Germany, pursuing careers as managers, € entrepreneurs, lawyers or doctors. Others are employed as skilled labour in industry or in the resta have gone into film, like Fatih Akin, a famous director of Turkish descent, or have entered politics, i from the Greens. In the world of football, too, a multicultural generation has now come to the forefr being of exclusively German origin, the players in today's national team have Polish, Swedish, Tur Brazilian, Ghanaian, Nigerian or Tunisian roots.

One of the reasons why Germany has become pluralistic in so many areas of life is that opportunit participate in society are better than ever before. This is also a reflection of Germany's rigorous im equal rights and participatory rights, and the high respect that these values enjoy here. These righ groups and are explicitly stated in Article 3 of the Basic Law.

Wealth, legal security and freedom of religion

In a list of the "world's top 10 most liveable cities", compiled by the consulting company Mercer, the German entries: Düsseldorf, Munich, and Frankfurt. The ranking is based on the criteria of political economic conditions, individual freedom, press freedom, healthcare, the schooling system, housin

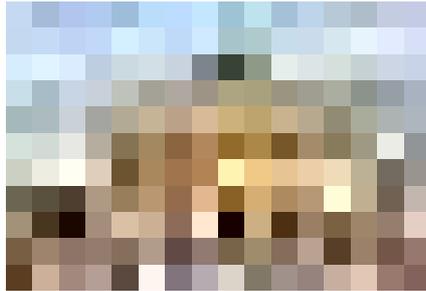
leisure facilities.

Germany can lay claim to being a host of social achievements, and these are prized by many people of all genders, ages or origins. Such achievements include the country's political and economic stability, its range of social safety nets, its respect for freedom of opinion and religion, its system of comprehensive and affordable healthcare, its maintenance of the rule of law, the powerful role played by nongovernmental organizations and trade unions, and the great importance attached to education. At the same time, Germany is a peaceful country worldwide. The country has seen no social or political unrest for many decades.

As a country of immigration, Germany is also home to a wide range of religions. People from very different religious backgrounds are to be encountered on a daily basis. Freedom of religion is valued in Germany. It is stated in Article 4 of the Basic Law:

- (1) Freedom of faith and of conscience, and freedom to profess a religious or philosophical creed,
- (2) The undisturbed practice of religion shall be guaranteed.

The majority of Germany's inhabitants are Christians (55 per cent) and are members of either the Roman Catholic Church or the Evangelical Church in Germany. Islam, which accounts for almost five per cent of the population, is the third-largest religion in Germany. In addition, Germany has over 70 other religious communities. Most of the population does not belong to any denomination.



Diverse range of cultural and recreational activities

Germany also offers a diverse and attractive range of cultural and recreational activities. There are many sports clubs covering all kinds of disciplines, such as football, handball and tennis. Anyone can join a club, which generally offer inexpensive means of practising an individual or team sport as well as with similar interests. Lovers of literature have numerous libraries to browse through in Germany. Libraries regularly offer cultural events, such as readings or talks, which you can attend for free or for a modest price. If history or art is more in your interest, you can choose between many museums nationwide. If you are into music, there are various music schools teaching singing, dancing or instruments. If you are into a music school, you should first of all enquire about the cost of lessons, as they can vary from school to school. Moreover, the *Volkshochschule* (adult education centre) offers a diverse course programme. If you are interested in new languages, culture, society, creative courses or a new sport – at the local *Volkshochschule* there are no qualifications required to take part in a course and the course fees are quite affordable. In certain circumstances you can even get a cost relief. Get information at the local *Volkshochschule* about the courses.



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