Survival Guide for International Students

DHBW Mosbach
International Office
**Preface**

Dear International Student,

Going abroad is a great challenge, as you need to survive in an environment which is totally new and strange to you at first. You are exposed to a language you might not be familiar with, you need to settle down and arrange yourself in your temporary living place, you have to get used to the weather and the food you find, you must learn the do's and don'ts, the attractions and risks around you, and of course you want to make friends and make the best of your stay.

This guide is supposed to help you with this. It gives you background information about your place of study and provides you with tips and tricks. It has been made with the intention to be a useful tool for you, a “Survival Guide” which makes your life here easier.

Wishing you a good time at the DHBW Mosbach!

Your International Office Team
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Mosbach

Mosbach began life as a Benedictine monastery and the first written record of its existence was documented in the 9th century. Gradually, a community grew out of this spiritual nucleus which received the rights of a free city after it had been granted several privileges in the 13th century (first authenticated date: 1241). Before the town became Palatine it was self-governing. The coat of arms of the town with its eagle and the letters OM (probably “Oppidum Mosbacense”) still remind us of this time. Mosbach reached its first great heyday in the 15th century as the residence of the Counts Palatine Otto I. and Otto II. (1410 until 1499). Mosbach, which became a Palatine county after the division of the inheritance, had other properties on the Neckar river around Mosbach, in the Kraichgau around Sinsheim, at the Bergstraße as well as in the Upper Palatinate around Neumarkt. Through its long history, Mosbach has enjoyed many distinctions; it was the residence of the Pfalzgrafen ( counts palatine) Otto I and Otto II for most of the 15th century (1410–1499). After the breakup of the principedom of Mosbach (due to the death of Otto II. in 1499) the town became the seat of the “Oberamt Mosbach” which grew until the 18th century into the most important Oberamt of the Palatinate on the right of the Rhine. In 1806, the town and the surrounding area became part of the Grand Duchy of Baden and experienced a further upturn in the middle of the 19th century when it was connected with the railway link Heidelberg–Meckesheim–Obrigheim, and the first foundries were established. After the municipal reform in 1976, Mosbach became the county town with the districts Diedesheim, Lohrbach, Neckarelz, Reichenbuch and Sattelbach, and the economic and cultural focal point of the “Neckar-Odenwald-Kreis”. Outside of its political history, Mosbach has been a home to craftsmen and artisans whose influence, as well as the current Altstadt (Old Town), date from the 16th century. The ground plan of the old town and several of the half-timbered houses that still exist today date from the 16th century. In that and the following century the craftsmen furthered the importance of the town. The mills and waterworks still existing today were built in the 18th century. Workshops, sawmills and mills were built along the Elz river and used the existing water-power. Brewing was also an important factor in Mosbach’s history, and its influence can still be seen today in the Alte Mälzerei (Old Malthouse), a town landmark that has recently been renovated into Mosbach’s community center and concert hall. Today, Mosbach is a town with 25,000 residents in the Neckar river valley, bordering the Odenwald, a mountain range in northern Baden-Württemberg.
Bad Mergentheim

Mentions of Bad Mergentheim can be found as early as 1058 as the residence of the counts of Hohenlohe, who afterwards deeded most of their lands to the Teutonic Order of Knights (Deutscher Orden). In the 13th century, the German Teutonic Order and the Dominican Order came to Mergentheim. Bad Mergentheim earned town privileges in 1340 and became the official headquarters and home to the Teutonic Knights Grandmaster in 1525 when Hornneck Castle, which was the residence at the time of the Deutschmeister, was destroyed. The "Commandery Mergentheim" became their new headquarters. Two years later, the Deutschmeister also officiated as "Administrator of the Grand Masters in Prussia", and with this Mergentheim became the residence of the Grand Masters and Deutschmeister. The knights’ castle still remains, looking over the town. Today the castle is home to part of the DHBW Mosbach’s campus. In the year 1809, the grandeur of the residency came to an abrupt end. By order of Napoleon the religious orders area of Mergentheim was to be unified with the crown of Württemberg. Mergentheim became a Württemberg district authority but despite this declined into a small, insignificant country town. The town gained a new fame in 1826 with the discovery of mineral springs, after which it became one of the most popular health resorts in Germany. It was on 13th October 1826, as shepherd Franz Gehrig was grazing his flock near the Tauber, that he noticed that his sheep huddled around seepage in the ground. The shepherd carefully sampled the water – it tasted bitter and salty. Gehrig announced his discovery to Kober the mayor at the town hall. They visited the spring on the same day with town councillors and the district authority doctor Christian Friedrich Bauer. They informed the district authority and initiated the first tests. The test showed that the water was comparable to the already famous Kissinger water. The first Mergentheim spa season began on 23rd June 1829. From the most humble of beginnings the spa business developed over time and increasingly shaped the town. On 2nd August 1926, in the centennial year of the discovery of the mineral springs, the town was given the title "Bad", and from then on its official name has been "Bad Mergentheim". The outbreak of World War II represented a major setback for the spa business. Bad Mergentheim became a military hospital town, but the town was also grateful for this as it meant that they were almost completely spared from shelling and air attacks from the heavy fighting in the Tauber Valley. In the following years, the spa town reported a sustained improvement and a steady increase in the number of spa guests. The peak was reached in 1972 with around 1.4 million over-night stays in 6,000 beds. Although the general conditions have worsened since then due to further legislative restrictions (health reforms), the spa town was still able to reach the figure of one million overnight stays again in the years between 1987 and 1995. With more than 100,000 guests and in excess of 900,000 overnight stays in the year 2001, Bad Mergentheim is still the largest spa town in Baden-Württemberg. Currently a town of around 23,000 residents, Bad Mergentheim is located in the Tauber river valley, about a 45-minute drive west of Würzburg, a city in north-western Bavaria.
Germany

On the roof of the Reichstag, the German parliament.

Germany is the most populous nation in Europe and possesses the fifth largest economy in the world; after the United States, China, Japan, and India. Occupying Central Europe, Germany is 356,970 square kilometres (or 137,826 square miles) in size and has a population of 82 million. The country is comprised of the 16 following states (Bundesländer).

You can find comprehensive information on Germany here:

http://www.young-germany.de/
https://www.deutschland.de/en
http://www.discover-germany.diplom.de/
http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en
History of the Duale Hochschule

In 1972, some of the largest businesses in Baden-Württemberg – Bosch, Daimler Benz and SEL – created the Berufsakademie model with the help of the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts. Their intention was to develop a new form of higher education that was based on the proven German tradition of vocational training merging theoretical learning and the practical application of the knowledge gained in the classroom.

Today, there are almost 20,000 students studying at various campuses and around 8,000 different companies in Germany working in partnership with the institution. As of the year 2009, the Berufsakademie officially became known as the Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) Mosbach – or in English Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Mosbach – offering Bachelor’s degrees in various subjects. Find more information on www.dhbw.de

The DHBW Mosbach itself was founded in 1980 and offers a School of Engineering as well as a School of Business, both of which have a large number of departments.

How the System Works

The Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (DHBW) (in English: Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University) operates on a dual-study plan, which means that the university works in partnership with private companies in the education process. Students attending the DHBW Mosbach take theoretical classes on the university’s campus (Theoriephase) for three months, followed by a three-month practical training period, or internship (Praxisphase), with one of the school’s cooperating businesses.

Studying at the DHBW as a Full Degree Student

Periods of study and periods of practical training generally last for twelve weeks at a time, or in other words; one half of the semester is spent in classes and the other half in a company. During a calendar year, six months are spent in classes and six at the training company.

It takes three years to complete a degree from the DHBW. This three–year term of study can’t be lengthened, i.e. students must complete all their requirements within the three–year period.
Students at the DHBW are also considered employees at their training firms and receive a stipend during their term of study – students are financially independent.

Beginning with the class of 2006, the degree students earn at the DHBW is internationally recognized as a Bachelor’s Degree.

DHBW Mosbach is featuring two campus: the headquarter campus in Mosbach and a campus in Bad Mergentheim.

Subjects of Study

The DHBW Mosbach offers a wide range of departments in the two faculties of Business and Engineering. Many of these departments have subdivisions within their units, such as the department of Trade offering specializations in International Trade, Sales and Cooperation Management, Supply Chain Management, Timber Trade, and Trade in Consumer Goods. If you would like to find out more details about the departments and their subdivisions, go to [www.dhbw-mosbach.de/studienangebote/alle-angebote.html](http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/studienangebote/alle-angebote.html).

Cooperating Companies

The cooperating companies that work with the DHBW are an active part of the students’ education. It is an opportunity for firms to train potential future employees with not only desired skills but also in high-demand areas. Students aren’t just viewed as possible employees to be hired in the future – DHBW students are actually members of the company and receive financial compensation during internship periods as well as during periods of study in the classroom. Because the students are employees of the cooperating firms, they are also accountable for their attendance, even during the theoretical half of the semester: If students are ill or are otherwise unable to attend class, they must inform their training firm of their absences.

Academic Calendar

For most recent academic calendar for incoming students please refer to our exchange student webpage [http://en.dhbw-mosbach.de/exchange-students.html](http://en.dhbw-mosbach.de/exchange-students.html)

House Rules

House Rules of DHBW Mosbach can be found here in English Version:

[www.dhbw-mosbach.de/unsere-hochschule/dokumente/studierende.html](http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/unsere-hochschule/dokumente/studierende.html)
Open Hours on Campus

Building Open Hours in Mosbach

Buildings on Lohrtalweg:
Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 7:30 pm

Buildings on Arnold-Janssen-Straße and Oberer Mühlenweg:
Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Building Open Hours in Bad Mergentheim

Central Building:
Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 8:00 pm
Friday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm

Parking

Parking in Mosbach

Lohrtalweg: There is a paid parking garage, near the hospital and about five minutes away from the DHBW. The garages under the DHBW buildings are for employees only and not for student use.

Arnold-Janssen-Straße: The upper parking lot is available for student use, while the parking spots in front of and behind the building are for instructors and employees.

DHBW building on Oberer Mühlenweg: There is a parking lot behind the DHBW building that offers free parking, with some parking spots reserved for the use of school employees. There is a large paid parking lot to the side of the building that does not belong to the DHBW, but is also available for use.

Parking in Bad Mergentheim

Students are allowed to use a parking lot at the castle in Bad Mergentheim, but they need to apply. The form can be found here. The parking garage is near the police station behind the castle. Students can buy a card for parking which costs 29€ per month, though daily cards are also available. Further parking in the Altstadt (Old Town) is limited, though there are parking garages further away from the DHBW campus.

Computer Facilities on Campus

Computers, Printers and Internet

Every student of the DHBW receives an e-mail account through the school, a user name and password to access the Internet either through the computer labs or a personal
laptop. This information will be provided during the orientation session soon after your arrival.

Setting Up a WLAN Connection on Your Laptop

You'll find directions for this (in German) at the DHBW's website. If you should have problems or need assistance, your contact person in Mosbach is Mr. Guttwein whose office is in building A on Lohrtalweg, room 0.05, or e-mail him at guttwein@dhbw-mosbach.de. In Bad Mergentheim it is Mr. Selent in room 1.13 at Schloss 2 or by e-mail at selent@dhbw-mosbach.de, and Mr. Weiland in room 1.15 at Schloss 10, by e-mail at weiland@dhbw-mosbach.de.

Printing

**Mosbach:** Every student receives 20€ on their printing account once a year; 10€ if you are only here for one semester. You can add money to your account at the machines found by the printers in buildings A and B on Lohrtalweg by inserting your student ID and following the directions on the screen.

**Bad Mergentheim:** The computer labs are located in room 0.13 at Schloss 2 and in room 1.05 at Schloss 10. They are open during the official building open hours. There you can access the internet, print and download documents as well as get help with technical problems. Written instructions and different IT manuals in English can be found on the DHBW Mosbach website: [www.dhbw-mosbach.de/campus-bad-mergentheim/einrichtungen/rechenzentrum/dokumente-zur-edv.html#c15327](http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/campus-bad-mergentheim/einrichtungen/rechenzentrum/dokumente-zur-edv.html#c15327)

Meals on Campus

**Student Restaurant in Mosbach**

The Duale Hochschule’s Student Restaurant (in German *Mensa*) is located in Knopfweg 1, 74821 Mosbach near the Lohrtalweg campus. The Student Restaurant is affiliated to the Student Union of University Heidelberg ([www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de](http://www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de)). Weekly menus can be downloaded on the corresponding website (also possible by app).

**Cafeteria in Mosbach**

Sandwiches, pretzels (in German: *Brezel*), sweets, and drinks can be purchased at the vending machines in the cafeteria on
Lohrtalweg campus. Every morning between 9 am and noon additional items to eat are sold at the counter.

Student Restaurant in Bad Mergentheim

There are two locations where students can eat in Bad Mergentheim:

- Gasthof Alte Kanzlei, Krumme Gasse
- Gasthof Wilder Mann, Reichengässle 6 (closed on Wednesdays!)

You need to purchase tickets on Monday or Wednesday between 8:30 am and 11:30 am at the administration office; your contact there is Ms. Wyes in room 1.03 in Schloss 2.

Students' lounge in Bad Mergentheim

There is a students' lounge next to the fitness room. The lounge is open on weekdays from 07:30 a.m. to 20:00 p.m. During the spring/summer months there is also a nice terrace to sit outside. There are vending machines for hot and cold drinks as well as small snacks. A table-top football is available also.

Library

See information on campus libraries here:

www.dhbw-mosbach.de/campus-mosbach/einrichtungen/bibliothek.html

www.dhbw-mosbach.de/campus-bad-mergentheim/einrichtungen/bibliothek.html
People you will meet

Buddy Program
The *Buddy Program* randomly pairs DHBW students with international students to help with the challenges experienced while studying abroad. Questions about the functioning of classes at the Duale Hochschule or the school in general can be posed to your partner.

Campus Mosbach

![Dr. Thomas Queisser](image1)

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![Diana Söhner](image2)

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![Ivonne Zilling](image3)

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Campus Bad Mergentheim

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Before I Leave Home

Applying to the Duale Hochschule

You can find all forms you need here:

http://en.dhbw-mosbach.de/exchange-students.html

VISA & Residence Permit

You are required to register with the local authorities. Depending on your home country, you might additionally need to apply for a residence permit for which you will have to provide further documents. Please find out regulations on visa here on the official site of the German Foreign Service:

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/EinreiseUndAufenthalt/Visabestimmungen_node.html

http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/on_arrival/residence_permit/

Health Insurance

You are required to have health insurance coverage for your entire stay in Germany. If your insurance from home covers you while abroad, you will need to bring documentation in the form of your insurance policy. All students are eligible for public German insurance (*gesetzliche Krankenversicherung*). Students from EU countries need only to bring their EHIC Card (European Health Insurance Card), with which they can use the public German health system just like a German citizen.

See e.g.
www.aok-on.de/studierende/aok-studenten-service/foreign-students-information.html

There are also private insurance companies such as e.g.
http://www.mawista.com/en/health-insurance-for-foreign-nationals-in-germany/health-insurance-for-students/

Other Kinds of Insurances

Beside health insurance covering you during your stay, the DHBW strongly recommends personal liability insurance and travel insurance for your stay in Germany. This insurance will cover you while in Germany or during any travelling that you may do while in Europe.
What I Should Take with Me

Packing

If you have any doubts about whether or not to bring something, leave it at home. Remember that anything you pack you'll have to carry. If you can fit everything in one backpack, you'll be a much happier traveller. Contact your airline on weight limits as well as further details on how many bags you are permitted as well as their content. It may be cheaper to check a second bag than pay the fines if a bag is overweight – the airlines like to make a lot of money this way, and can charge $10 a pound, or 15€ per kilo over the allotted amount. Also, vacuum sealed bags have worked wonders among students in the previous years, and have saved them priceless space. They are well worth their $20 value, and can be easily reused. Remember to save some space for the trip back as each student will undoubtedly acquire numerous souvenirs and articles of clothing, depending on the student’s sex and how much he or she may like to shop. Most students find European styles quite tasteful, especially those of clothing, art, chocolate, and wine.

It also might not be a bad idea to weigh your bags before arrival, and before departure, so as to avoid any unwanted extra costs. Deutsche Post DHL is also another good way to ship goods home to lighten a student’s load before travelling. Their prices, although not necessarily cheap, are lower than what the airlines would normally charge if your bags happen to over the allotted weight limit. Additional information can be found on the DHL Deutsche Post website: [www.dhl.de/en.html](http://www.dhl.de/en.html)

Important papers as well as money should be kept with your carry-on. Photocopies of your most important documents should be packed in a separate piece of luggage. You might also consider getting a money belt or pouch. It is also a good idea to take some essentials along in your carry-on bag in case your luggage doesn't arrive with you. These might include toothbrush, change of socks and underwear, medication, etc.

And with your entire luggage – carry-on and laptop as well – make sure that you have everything labelled with the address of your residence in Germany, or if you don’t have one yet, use the address of the Akademisches Auslandsamt at the DHBW (found under Important Contacts in Section 10).

Driver’s License

A driver’s license (in German *Führerschein*) which has not been issued in an EU country is usually valid in Germany for six months. Afterwards you can have the validity of your licence extended up to one year by applying at the *Führerscheinstele*, an office at the *Landratsamt*, the public administration of the Neckar-Odenwald district. It is also good to have your driver’s licence with you in order to be able to use it for ID purposes.
Contact Information

Bring addresses and telephone numbers of everyone at home that you might need to get in contact with (friends, banks, university offices, academic advisors, etc.).

Type your emergency medical information on a piece of paper (preferably laminated) and keep it with your passport:

- Allergies to foods and medications
- Dietary restrictions
- Current medications and dosages
- Blood type
- Immunization history (tetanus inoculations, etc.)
- Chronic ailments
- Whom to call in case of emergency
- Type of health insurance and policy number
- Address and telephone number of the International Office at the DHBW Mosbach which can be found under Important Contacts in Section 10

Money

Make sure you have cash on you, preferably in the form of Euros. You can have some changed at a bank at home, at the airport from where you are leaving, or you can wait until you land in Europe.

Note: The best rates are usually given by your bank, whether in your home country or in Germany. Airports and travel agencies normally have extra fees and higher prices. Euros can be ordered upon request and can take between one and two weeks for delivery, because most banks don’t keep foreign currency on stock in their vaults.

Traveller’s checks, although hardly accepted in any stores, are excellent ideas to bring money. Once in Europe, the checks can be easily cashed at any bank with proper identification. If you want to bring your cash card, make sure that it will work in Germany and Europe. Contact your bank for information about international withdrawal fees and transfer fees. Credit cards aren’t a bad idea either, especially in cases of emergency, as some things like plane and train tickets, as well as other items can be purchased on the Internet easily with a credit card. The most common ones in Germany are VISA and MASTERCARD. Make sure to keep credit card numbers as well as the company’s phone number written down in the rare event that your card is lost or stolen – it can easily be cancelled. While many stores in Germany don’t accept credit cards, they will accept local bank debit cards. It will probably be cheapest and easiest to set up a German bank account and transfer larger sums of money to avoid paying the fee charges over and over again, as most transfers cost flat rate fees (depending on your bank). During the Orientation Program at the DHBW you will get information and assistance with opening a bank account at the local Sparkasse in Mosbach and Bad Mergentheim. As an enrolled student in Germany you will be exempt from any bank fees during your time in Germany.
Carrying your money: It’s best if you don’t have it in an obvious place like in a purse or wallet, especially in large towns, train stations and airports. You can carry it in a money pouch that hangs around your neck or in your pocket.

Electrical Items

German electrical appliances operate on 220-volt current, which means that appliances designed to run on 110–120 volts as used in the United States for example, will burn out if plugged directly into an electrical outlet. Although some radios, electric shavers, etc., may already be adapted for 220 volts, U.S. purchased appliances will need a voltage converter. German outlets are deep and only round-prong type plugs will fit, so be sure your adaptor kit includes round-prong plugs. Adaptors can be purchased either prior to, or after your arrival. Any questions regarding electronic devices and their ability to function internationally should be directed towards qualified electricians or department store personnel.

Clothing

Winters are cold in Germany, and it snows regularly. The weather is also humid from the frequent rain, meaning that you can literally be chilled to the bone. You might be walking more than you usually do, and a warm winter coat, sturdy and comfortable shoes/boots, lots of wool, and long underwear will keep you more content while doing so. And an umbrella is necessary – you can find them in almost every store, but it might be a good idea to bring one with you.

Suggested Miscellaneous Items

Prescriptions for eye glasses, contacts, contraceptives, and medications; if you are on a regular prescription, bring a supply that will last for the whole time you are overseas and a note from your doctor explaining your medical condition and medications.

Non-prescription drugs

Calculator

Sewing kit (thread, needles, scissors, and safety pins)

Travel clock or watch

Camera with batteries and charger

Sturdy umbrella

I-Pod or MP3 Player

Diary or journal
How to Get to Mosbach and Bad Mergentheim

Please find directions here:
http://en.dhbw-mosbach.de/how-to-find-us

Where I Can Stay

You can find the housing application form here:


Important: If you do not want to accept the offer made to you, you must decline in writing within the next few days, and it is then expected that you will undertake your housing search in either Mosbach or Bad Mergentheim independently.

In Case You Want to Look for Housing on Your Own see DHBW Mosbach Website:

►http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/unsere-hochschule/studieren/organisieren/zimmerboersen.html

Studentenwerk (Student Services) for dorm rooms in Bad Mergentheim:
►www.studentenwerk.uni-heidelberg.de

An additional list of private landlords and residences in Bad Mergentheim:
Housing Expenses

Budget around 220€ to 400€ a month - don’t forget to factor in the cost of your safety deposit which can often equal two months rent.

Signing a Lease and Paying the Rent

It is common in Germany to sign a lease when you rent a room or an apartment. Rent is due on or before the first of the month and is transferred from the bank account of the renter, with the account appearing on the lease.

Energy Conservation

Heating: Average room temperature in Germany is 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). If you’re cold, it’s probably better to put an extra layer on, rather than to fiddle with the thermostat. It is also extremely frowned upon to have the heat running with the windows open. However, make sure you let in some fresh air into your room on a regular basis, even if it’s cold outside.

Water: Turn on the tap only when necessary. Pay special attention to this when you are…

- Washing the dishes.
- Brushing your teeth.

Electricity: If you’re not using it, don’t have it on. For example…

- When you leave the room or the apartment, turn off all the lights.
- TV and Radio: If you’re not watching it or listening to it, it shouldn’t be on.

Guests and Visitors

If you have visitors coming, and you would like them to stay with you, first clear it with your landlord or roommates. If they aren’t allowed to stay with you or if you are staying with a host family (as a rule, you should be the only guest in this situation), a list of hotels where they can stay can be found on Mosbach’s website under the following address: www.mosbach.de/Unterkuenfte_Gastronomie.html, or for finding a room in Bad Mergentheim, look under the following link: http://www.bad-mergentheim.de/en/gastgeber/unterkunftsverzeichnis.
Useful Information on Recycling and Waste

Yellow Bag (Gelber Sack)


1. Anything with the Green Dot (Der grüne Punkt) on the package (except glass, paper, and cardboard which have extra containers, see below) can be thrown in the Yellow Bag. Collection is free of charge while overweight residual waste has to be paid so make sure you keep out of residual waste anything featuring the green dot which also saves you money. But make sure not to mix up the waste because otherwise the bags will not be picked up. Sorting Assistance in many languages can be found here – it is not as complicated as it may seem once you are used to it 😊


Paper (Papier), picked up about once a month: all paper products such as cardboard shipping cartons, egg cartons, newspapers, copy paper, envelopes, etc.

Residual Waste (Restmüll), picked up every other week: things that can’t be recycled or don’t go anywhere else, such as food, used paper products like napkins, candles, old makeup, etc.

Organic Waste (Biomüll), not always available (not in Mosbach, but in Bad Mergentheim), but when it is, it’s usually a green trashcan: where to throw away vegetable and fruit waste, egg shells – the type of things you would throw in a compost heap.

Hazardous Waste (Sondermüll) needs to be recycled at certain collection spots: items that can be potentially harmful to the environment and that do not have the Grüne Punkt on them, like batteries or electronic items (can be recycled at an electronic store).

Deposit (Pfand): Many plastic bottles and glass containers in Germany have Pfand on them. That means that there is an additional fee on bottles and containers which you can collect when they are returned, usually at a grocery store (at the cash register or in a separate section of a store) or at a Getränkeladen (stores selling just drinks). However you do it, as long as you return your bottles and containers, you will get your money back. Bottle deposits can quickly add up considering the deposit per bottle is usually around 25 cents.
Laundry Facilities

If you don’t have access to washers and dryers where you are living, there are laundromats available in Mosbach:

Waschsalon Pico-Bello at Eisenbahnstr. 12. [www.waschsalon-piccobello.de](http://www.waschsalon-piccobello.de)
Gerlindes Waschsalon at Ölgasse 3 [www.gerlindes-sb-waschsalon.de](http://www.gerlindes-sb-waschsalon.de)

⚠️ Note: The references of businesses made in this document are based on unsolicited comments from former students and do not represent endorsement by the DHBW Mosbach.

Host Families

If you stay with a host family, communication is important, and you should discuss the customs and rules used in the home. Some things you should pay attention to include:

Food Restrictions/Dislikes: Let your host family know in advance what you can and cannot eat.
Meal Times: Who should be present?
Breakfast: Does everyone prepare his/her own, or do you have breakfast together?
Chores: laundry, cleaning, cooking, dishes, etc.
Visitors: They will normally have to find their own accommodations.
Dining Out Together: It should be clear before you order who will pay for your meal.
Car: Although you are allowed to drive in Germany with a valid license, do not ask to borrow your family’s car; as the owners, they would be responsible in case of an accident.
Telephone: You might have to finance your own phone calls either through a detailed phone bill, self-kept record of your calls, the use of a prepaid phone card, or by using your own cell phone. For more information on calling in and out of Germany, see Section 10.
Problems: Keep the International Office informed about your stay with your host family and about any issues that may arise. In the event that there is a problem that you are unable to solve independently with your family, the International Office will be able to provide help.
What I Need to Take Care of in My First Days and Weeks

Website for Exchange Students

http://en.dhbw-mosbach.de/exchange-students.html

Contact with the Secretary and Head of Department

If you participate in the Junior Program please see:

http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/studienangebote/junior-program/contact.html

If you are a student in another department, please check the DHBW homepage:

http://www.dhbw-mosbach.de/studienangebote/alle-angebote.html

Registering and Applying For a Residence Permit

http://www.internationale-studierende.de/en/on_arrival/residence_permit/


Opening a Bank Account

Though help with this is provided on Orientation Day when your will be taken to the Sparkasse (Savings Bank), you are welcome to open the account on your own at the bank of your choice. Take a Studienbescheinigung (enrolment confirmation) with you and speak to a teller behind the counter. The tellers at the Sparkasse are used to having international exchange students as short-term account holders. This bank is also convenient as it has at least one branch in almost every small town in Germany.
What I Can Do Here

Sights in Mosbach

Despite its small size, Mosbach has some interesting things to be seen during your time here, especially in the Altstadt (old town). The following is a short list of some of the Sehenswürdigkeiten (stuff worth seeing) in Mosbach. Since Mosbach is a small town, and most of these sights might be encountered on a daily basis, it’s always good to ask friends or classmates if they know of anything exciting happening in the area (i.e. festivals, parades, concerts)

Marktplatz (better known to English speakers as the town square): A market takes place here every Wednesday and Saturday morning, and there are fresh vegetables, fruits, bread, cheese, and sausages for sale, as well as other items. The market is a great place to delve into some old German traditional food and drink. The square is surrounded by the old half-timbered houses (Fachwerkhäuser) that small German towns are famous for.

The Town Hall hosts the local authorities, e.g. the office of Mosbach’s mayor, but in addition it is also a historic building, especially the clock tower. On occasion those curious are allowed to climb to the top to get a view of the pitched roofs and twisting cobbled streets of the town.

St. Juliana Kirche (Stiftskirche): The Church of St. Juliana is also on the Marktplatz and is very unique in Germany. The church enjoys the unusual distinction of being both Catholic and Protestant. After the Reformation, the church was shared by both congregations, with the chancel (part of the apse) being used by the Catholics and the Protestants using the nave. Around 1708, the church was divided in half with a wall and is still used today by both groups.

Hexenturm–Denkmal: A memorial plaque that stands on the former ground of the Witches’ Tower can be found at the end of the Kronengasse near the train station. It’s in German, so bring your language skills or a speaker with you!

Schloss of Pfalzgraf Otto I: Residence is a better description of this small and now privately-owned castle, built in the first half of the 1400s. Follow the Schlossgasse up a short hill and you’re there.

Brunnen: Mosbach has a history as a milling town, and that history has manifested itself today in the fountains (Brunnen) that can be found running through and underneath the streets around the Marktplatz. Unlike traditional fountains, the water is not on a cycle; instead it flows out into a small stream through the streets, at least during summer time.
Synagogenplatz: The Synagogue Memorial marks the location where the building stood until its destruction by the Nazis during the so-called Reichskristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) on 9 November 1938.

Glocken: This is a part of Mosbach’s history that one can hear rather than see. The town hall bell (Glocke) rings every Friday night at 8:00 to honor the soldiers from Mosbach who died in the First World War, a tradition begun by a clergyman in the 1920s. The town hall bell also rings every night at 10:45, a tradition that goes back to a legend about Pfalzgraf Otto I’s wife Johanna. A passionate huntress, Johanna became lost one evening in the woods surrounding Mosbach while on the trail of a deer. Upon hearing of his wife’s predicament, Otto I ordered the bell of the Cäcilienkirche to be rung until his wife found her way home. In honor of her safe return, Otto I ordered the bell be rung every evening to help other lost travelers find their way to Mosbach. Pfalzgräfin Johanna is buried in the Church of St. Juliana on the Marktplatz. Another story associated with the 10:45 bell is that of the Lumpenglöckle. When the bell rings, the Lumpen (ne’er do-wells) of Mosbach are to go home, while the upright citizens are allowed to stay out in the taverns and inns.

Living in Mosbach

Note: The references of businesses made in this document are based on unsolicited comments from former students and do not represent endorsement by the DHBW Mosbach.

Shopping – Mosbach

The larger grocery stores are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Note: The smaller stores downtown as a rule open at around 9:00 in the morning and close between 6:00 and 7:00 in the evening, Monday through Friday. Operating hours on Saturday run from 9:00 am to between 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm.

DHBW Mosbach Student Discounts – Mosbach:

New students receive a booklet with coupons (Gutscheine) including special discounts in stores and restaurants in Mosbach. Such a booklet is available at the International Office for you.

Sports – Mosbach

DHBW Mosbach–Sport

http://sport.dhbw-mosbach.de/
**Community Pools**

Mosbach has two swimming facilities, an indoor and an outdoor pool; both can be found near the *Jahn-Sporthalle* where the DHBW sports activities take place (see DHBW Mosbach—Sport above), 20 minutes on foot from the Duale Hochschule, and under the web address ➡️ [http://www.swm-online.de/baeder.html](http://www.swm-online.de/baeder.html)

Hallenbad (indoor pool) at Jean-de-la-Fontaine-Straße 10; business hours: Monday closed, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Saturday 10:30 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm; phone 06261/8905400; entrance fees: one-visit card 3€, ten-visit card 25€.

FaMos (outdoor pool) at Hammerweg 3; business hours: May through end of September, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, may vary depending on the weather; for further information call 06261/890560; entrance fees: one-visit card 3€, evening visit after 5:30 pm 1,50€, ten-visit card 25€, season card 50€.

**Books and Entertainment – Mosbach**

**Town Library (Stadtbücherei)**

The library in Mosbach has approximately 28,000 books, 30 newspaper subscriptions and around 2,000 CDs available to the public. A yearly membership is available for a 5.50€ fee and presentation of your personal ID and student card. The library is housed in the *Kulturzentrum* (Cultural Center) at Hospitalgasse 4 where you can also find the town museum and town archive.

Open Hours:

- Monday closed
- Wednesday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Friday 10.00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Tuesday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Thursday 10.00 am to 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Web link: ➡️ [www.mosbach.de/Stadtbibliothek.html](http://www.mosbach.de/Stadtbibliothek.html)

**Movies**

The movie theatre *(Kino)* [Kinostar Filmpalast](http://www.kinostar.com/mosbach_programm.htm) in Mosbach is located in Mosbach–Neckarelz at Bahnhofstraße 1. Take the train to the Mosbach–Neckarelz station and follow the Bahnhofstraße for about 10 minutes – the movie theatre will be on your right.

➡️ [www.kinostar.com/mosbach_programm.htm](http://www.kinostar.com/mosbach_programm.htm)

**Going Out – Mosbach**

**Bars and Restaurants**

Here are a few recommendations of restaurants and bars *(Kneipen)* in Mosbach.
Ludwig: a restaurant/bar/café that offers parties on a regular basis; centrally located in the Altstadt on Ludwigsplatz, Hauptstraße 92; business hours: Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 1:00 am, Saturday through Sunday 9:30 am to 2:00 am.

www.ludwig-mosbach.de

Mosbacher Brauhaus: local brewery and Biergarten; Eisenbahnstraße 18, on the opposite side of the railroad tracks near ALDI; business hours: daily from 11:00 till late. This is a great spot to enjoy a good Schwäbisch meal, and try a home-brewed German beer that's been around for hundreds of years. Its dining hall is packed for all the soccer (Fußball) games, so be aware of game nights.

www.mosbacher-brauhaus.de

Kandelschuß: a restaurant/bar with pool and darts; Oberer Mühlenweg 3, across from DHBW library; business hours: daily 5:00 pm to 1:00am.

www.bistrokandelschuss.de

Bistro Wintergarten: a café/bar on the edge of the town, directly on B27 at Odenwaldstraße 31, near Jet gas station and cemetery; business hours: Monday through Friday 4:00 pm to 1:00 am, Saturday 2:00 pm to 2:00 am, Sunday 9:00 am to 1:00 am.

Gasthaus Krone: a restaurant, Biergarten, and venue of regular rock/pop concerts in Mosbach–Neckarelz, 10–minute walk from station in Neckarelz.

www.krone-diedesheim.de

Socializing in Mosbach

Like any school town, Mosbach has a student life, though the best way to find out what’s going on is to associate with other students. You can contact the German students in the program with DHBW-related questions as well as with general information about Mosbach. Beside your contact in the Buddy Program, you can use the following to start socializing in Mosbach.

During the Week

Tuesdays: 3€ cocktails (also non–alcoholic) at Kandelschuß.

Wednesdays: 4.50€ cocktails (also non–alcoholic) at Ludwig’s from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Thursdays: Hütte student parties, in reference to where the parties got their start – the students used to have the parties in a cabin out in the woods. Today the parties are held at various locations.

What’s Up? How to Stay Informed – Mosbach

For further information about activities in Mosbach and the area, check the following sources:

Official Mosbach Website:  www.mosbach.de

Rhein–Neckar–Zeitung: regional newspaper covering news from the Mosbach region to Heidelberg, also available in the Duale Hochschule library; for online articles check www.rnz.de
Stadtanzeiger Mosbach: local free weekly paper for Mosbach, copies can be picked up at Collekturgasse 20.

Note: Other German newspapers and international journals such as Business Week or The Economist are available in the Duale Hochschule library.

Sights in Bad Mergentheim

Bad Mergentheim also has lots of Sehenswürdigkeiten (sights) to offer. A few ideas are listed below and even more can be found by checking at the town website or on the Bad Mergentheim section of the DHBW website. Click on Studium in Bad Mergentheim and then on Leben in Bad Mergentheim.

Deutschordensmuseum: In addition to being home to the DHBW Mosbach's Bad Mergentheim campus, the Schloss (castle) also contains a museum documenting the history of the knights who built it, the town history of Bad Mergentheim, as well as an exhibit of the residential apartments, castle church and travelling art exhibits. [www.deutschordensmuseum.de](http://www.deutschordensmuseum.de)

Kurpark: The Kurpark, a large park behind the castle, is a feature of every spa town in Germany, and Bad Mergentheim has one of the largest.

Marktplatz: The buildings that frame the Marktplatz (town square) date back to the 1500s, when they were commissioned as residences by officers of the Deutscher Orden.

Münster Sankt Johannes Baptist: Standing on Ledermarkt, this church was inherited by the Deutscher Orden from the Hohenlohe family along with the town of Bad Mergentheim in the 1500s. After its renovation in 1983/1984, Sankt Johannes was acknowledged as a cathedral.

Wildtierpark Bad Mergentheim: A zoo or rather wildlife experience park with native animals in semi–natural landscape; 2-kilometer footpath, feeding programs; open daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, in winter (November through mid–March) on weekends only; cost 8€ (no charge on your birthday); [www.wildtierpark.de](http://www.wildtierpark.de)

Living in Bad Mergentheim

Note: The references of businesses made in this document are based on unsolicited comments from former students and do not represent endorsement by the DHBW Mosbach.
Shopping – Bad Mergentheim

The larger grocery stores, such as Handelshof or ALDI, are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Kaufland: Wachbacherstraße 4 in Bad Mergentheim’s shopping center (open Monday – Saturday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm).

ALDI: Max–Eyth–Straße 14, on the opposite side of the railroad tracks (open Monday – Saturday 7:00 am to 10:00 pm).

Netto: Boxberger Straße 1 (open Monday – Saturday 7:00 am to 8:00 pm).

Other shopping opportunities can be found at...

Bad Mergentheimer Wochenmarkt (Farmer’s Market) on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm on the Marktplatz.

Rupp’s Fruits and Vegetables: Krumme Gasse 10

bio giorno Naturfeinkost: Organic food store at Mühlwehrstraße 29.

www.biogiorno.de

Moritz und Lux: bookstore on Gänsmarkt.

www.moritz-lux.de

💡 Note: The smaller stores downtown as a rule open at around 9:00 in the morning and close between 6:00 and 7:00 in the evening, Monday through Friday. Operating hours on Saturday run from 9:00 am to between 12:30 pm and 4:00 pm.

Sports – Bad Mergentheim

Gyms

DHBW Gym on campus, opening hours: Monday through Friday (except Wednesday) 7:15 am to 10 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8 am – 10 pm; you need to sign the terms of use prior to first use at the administration department at Schloss 2, room 1.04.

http://sport.dhbw-mosbach.de/angebote-campus-bad-mergentheim.html

Open gymnasium for independent ball games at the vocational school at Seegartenstraße 16; open on Mondays from 8:00 pm to 10.00 pm; DHBW adminstration at Schloss 2 needs to be contacted beforehand for the keys.

Vitalpark www.vitalpark-bad-mergentheim.de/vitalpark.html

Lady Sport, a gym only for women www.ladysport-tbb.de

Relaxation Techniques

Weekly DHBW course of relaxation techniques and workout offered on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the dance studio at Marienstraße 13.
Bike Rentals

- Fischer’s Zweiradservice at Kapuzinerstraße 12, phone 07931/7763.
- Radwelt Mott Bad Mergentheim at Wilhelm-Frank-Straße 82; phone 07931/52021.  
  www.mott-radwelt.de

Community Pools

Solymar: indoor swimming pool including mineral pools and sauna at Erlenbachweg; phone 07931/965680; full break-down of prices for all the services offered can be found under their web address.  
  www.solymar-online.de

Solymar is being remodeled with reopening scheduled for January/February 2014 see

Städtisches Freibad Arkau-Kernstadt: outdoor pool at Schwimmbadstraße / Arkau 1; business hours: May through September, Monday–Friday 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; phone 07931/57-6680.  
  www.bad-mergentheim.de/de/index.cfm?fuseaction=familienferien&rubrik=freibad

Baseball Club

Bad Mergentheim Warriors:  
  www.mgh-warriors.de

Books and Entertainment – Bad Mergentheim

Town Library (Stadtbücherei)

Bad Mergentheim’s town library can be found at the Hans-Heinrich-Ehrler-Platz 35. A yearly membership is available for an 8€ fee. Phone 07931/57–4200.  
  http://www.bad-mergentheim.de/de/stadtbuecherei/

Open Hours:

Monday closed  
Wednesday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 am, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Tuesday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Thursday 10.00 am to 5:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Web link.  
  www.bad-mergentheim.de/de/index.cfm?fuseaction=stattbuecherei

Movies

Movie theatre in Bad Mergentheim  
http://www.kino-bad-mergentheim.de/

Go-Kart: Why not try the go-kart track in Bad Mergentheim? Located at Beim Braunstall 11, open Monday – Friday 5:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Saturday 2:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Sunday / public holidays 11:00 am – 11:00 pm.  
  www.kartbahn-mgh.de
Going Out – Bad Mergentheim

Café Europa – Italian restaurant and bar found on the Marktplatz, next to the old town hall. [www.europa-cafe.de](http://www.europa-cafe.de)

Starlight Coffee – varieties of coffee, bagels, muffins, donuts at Kirchstraße 13; business hours: daily 6:30 am (on Saturday and Sunday 8:30 am) to 6:30 pm [www.starlight-coffee.de](http://www.starlight-coffee.de)

Frankie’s Diner – bar/pub at Würzburger Straße 14; business hours: daily 6:00 pm to 1:00 or on weekends 2:00 am [www.frankies-badmergentheim.de](http://www.frankies-badmergentheim.de)

STUDIO MÄX / Partystadl Almrausch – the local disco in Bad Mergentheim; located at Beim Braunstall 11; business hours: Thursday through Saturday 9 pm till late. [www.studiomäx.de](http://www.studiomäx.de)

Rocklegende – music pub; Wolfgangstraße 2; open daily from 3:00 pm. [www.rocklegende-mgh.de](http://www.rocklegende-mgh.de)

What’s Up? How to Stay Informed – Bad Mergentheim

For further information about activities in Bad Mergentheim and the area, check the following sources:

Official Bad Mergentheim Website: [www.bad-mergentheim.de](http://www.bad-mergentheim.de)


Two local newspapers, both also available in the castle library

- Tauber-Zeitung: [www.tauberzeitung.de](http://www.tauberzeitung.de)
- Fränkische Nachrichten: [www.fnweb.de](http://www.fnweb.de)

Note: Other German newspapers and international journals such as Business Week or The Economist are available in the Duale Hochschule library.

Day Trips in the Area

Heidelberg

Heidelberg is an old university town of about 143,000 inhabitants with a famous castle now in ruins over-looking the Neckar valley. Coming from Mosbach and Bad Mergentheim, it’s best to get off at the Heidelberg station and walk from there into the Altstadt, (Old city center) which takes about 10 minutes.

Tourism Office: If you get off the train at the Heidelberg-Altstadt station, you will walk past the Tourism Office, located on the left side of the road, at Willy-Brandt-Platz 1.
Alternatively there is an office at Heidelberg Hauptbahnhof (main station). Here you can pick up a town map and some tips on what to see in the town.

Hauptstraße and Gassen (Alleys): Heidelberg’s long main street is lined with stores, bars and restaurants. You should also explore the alleys to the left and the right of it where you might find some of the more interesting things that Heidelberg has to offer, such as unique stores and student bars.

Schloss: The castle sits on a hill on the south bank of the river, overlooking the town. You have two options for getting to the top – either hike up the hill through the streets, or there is a historic tram that will pull you up – 5€ per person, but there are group discounts.

Palace Tours: Once you reach the top, you are free to wander most of the ruins and the gardens, but if you want to see the interior of the castle, the entry fee is 3€ (1.50€ for students with ID card). It’s possible to take tours of the castle for an additional fee, payable in the courtyard.

**Current Events in Heidelberg:** If you’re interested in going to Heidelberg for some culture in the form of the theater, concerts, or to the movies, look under [www.rnz.de/RNZett.php](http://www.rnz.de/RNZett.php)

### Würzburg

Würzburg is located in north-western Bavaria, in the region that was formerly known as Franconia (Franken) and is home to around 129,000 inhabitants. Würzburg’s main train station is located on the edge of town; from there a main street will lead you downtown to the historic district. Check out a map online before you go there, since you’ll have to find your way to the Tourism Office on the Marktplatz to pick up a map once you’re there.

Tourism Office: The office is housed in the historic Falkenhaus on the town’s Marktplatz, an attraction in itself; phone 0931/372398.

Residenz: Built in the 1700s as a luxury residence to rival palaces in France, the palace of the bishop-princes was recognized in 1981 as a world heritage site by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization). Severely damaged during World War II, it is now mostly restored and open for tours. Visiting hours: April through October daily from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, November through March from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm; cost: 7.50€ per person (6.50€ for students); daily English tours at 11 am and 3 pm available. [www.residenz-wuerzburg.de](http://www.residenz-wuerzburg.de)

Alte Mainbrücke: One of the bridges spanning the river Main, it is set with many statues of famous saints. Taking it across the Main away from the Altstadt will allow you visit the fortress Marienberg.

Festung Marienberg: Being the fortified residence of the Fürstbischofe (bishop princes) of Würzburg from 1253–1719, **Festung Marienberg** was sacked by Swedish forces in 1631.
during the Thirty Years War as well as damaged during the Second World War. The restored castle is now open to the public and contains a museum of Frankish history and 19th century art. Regular tours every day except Monday from April through October.

Web Address: [www.wuerzburg.de](http://www.wuerzburg.de)

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**Rothenburg ob der Tauber**

Rothenburg is a town in north-western Bavaria that has been preserved in its medieval form. Designated as a Freie Reichsstadt (an Imperial Free City) during the rule of the Holy Roman Empire, Rothenburg sits on a hill above the Tauber river and is one of the attractions along the Romantische Straße (Romantic Road), the road stretch between Würzburg and Füssen connecting castles and well-preserved towns from Germany's past. Tourism Office: The office can be found on the *Marktplatz* and is a good starting point for your tour of Rothenburg; phone 09861/4048002.

**Town Tours:** There are several tours available in Rothenburg – for details check the town website. Here are a few options: 90-minute tours are offered in English and in German and take place daily from April to October; also night tours are offered with watchmen, they last 60 minutes; cost: 5€ per person for either German tour (during the day or at night), 6€ per person for either English tour (during the day or at night). If you're interested, sign up at the Tourism Office.

**Medieval Criminal Museum:** Rothenburg is home to the largest medieval crime museum in Europe, with four floors of torture instruments, pictures, and accounts spanning a 700 year period. It is located at Burggasse 3. Visiting hours: April through October daily from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, November, January and February daily 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, March and December daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (visitors are allowed to enter the museum until 45 minutes before closing time); cost: students 2.30€, adults 3.50€.

**Traditional German Christmas**

Traditional Ornaments [Käthe Wohlfahrt’s Christmas Museum](http://www.weihnachtsmuseum.de)

**Rathaustrum:** It is possible to climb the 220 steps in the town hall tower – the tallest tower in the town for 1€. Visiting hours: April through October daily 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, December daily noon to 3:00 pm, January through March and November Saturdays and Sundays noon to 3:00 pm.

Web Address: [www.rothenburg.de](http://www.rothenburg.de)
Burg Guttenberg

To get there, take the train to Gundelsheim, and from there you have the option of either walking to the castle – a 30 to 40 minute hike –, or you can take a bus from Gundelsheim to Neckarmühlbach which will shorten your walk to the castle to 10 to 15 minutes.

Castle Museum: The exhibit, called Living in a Knight’s Castle shows the daily life in the castle from the Middle Ages through the 1800s, complete with armors, dishes, library, torture exhibit and the Bergfried (castle tower) that offers a commanding view of the countryside.

Birds of Prey: Guttenberg Castle is also home to the German Raptor Center (Greifvogelwarte in German). While visiting, it’s possible to take a tour of the bird zoo and watch a show demonstrating the flight capabilities of the different species housed at the castle.

- Visiting Hours: April through October daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Cost:
  Castle Museum: 4€ per person
  Raptor Center: 11€ per person
  Combination ticket (both exhibits): 14€ per person
  No student discount available.
- Web Address: www.burg-guttenberg.de
Stuttgart

The capital of Baden–Württemberg since 1952, Stuttgart’s history dates back to the 10th century when it has its origins as a duke’s stud farm – *Stutengarten* in German which is reflected in the city coat of arms, a black horse. Stuttgart is not only worth visiting for shopping, its castles, churches, museums and parks are definitely worth seeing – only a few of which are listed here.

Web Address: [www.stuttgart.de](http://www.stuttgart.de)

Tourism Office at Königstraße 1a, near the main station. [www.stuttgart-tourist.de](http://www.stuttgart-tourist.de)

Mercedes-Benz-Museum:

The museum houses hundreds of different cars built during the company’s 110-year history. Its address is – not surprisingly – Mercedesstraße 100. To get there, take the *S-Bahn* line S1 to Gottlieb-Daimler-Stadion, then follow the signs. Visiting hours: Tuesday through Sunday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; cost: 8€.

[www.mercedes-benz.com/museum](http://www.mercedes-benz.com/museum)

Porsche-Museum: The museum displays about 80 vehicles and many small exhibits... Guess what the address is: Porscheplatz 1 at Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen. Visiting hours just like Mercedes: Tuesday through Sunday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; cost: 8€.


Staatsgalerie Stuttgart: The Baden–Württemberg State Gallery in Stuttgart was built by King Wilhelm I of Württemberg from 1838 to 1843. It is home to a permanent art collection from the 14th through the 19th century as well as travelling collections. The *Staatsgalerie* is located at Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 30–32 and can be reached from Stuttgart Main Station by foot, with the *U-Bahn* lines U1, U2, U4, U9, and U14, or with bus lines 40, 42, and 43. Visiting hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Thursday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; cost: 4.50€, 3€ on Wednesdays.

[www.staatsgalerie.de](http://www.staatsgalerie.de)
Mannheim

“With approximately 315,000 inhabitants, it is the second-largest city in Baden-Württemberg, after Stuttgart. Mannheim is located at the confluence of the Rhine and the Neckar in the northwestern corner of Baden-Württemberg. The Rhine separates Mannheim from the city of Ludwigshafen, just to the west of it in Rhineland-Palatinate, and the border of Baden-Württemberg with Hesse is just to the north. Mannheim is downstream along the Neckar from the city of Heidelberg.

Mannheim is unusual among German cities in that its streets and avenues are laid out in a grid pattern, leading to its nickname "die Quadratestadt" ("city of the squares")."

“Mannheim is the starting and finishing point of the Bertha Benz Memorial Route” http://www.bertha-benz.de/indexen.php?inhalt=home (World’s First Automobile Journey!) Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mannheim

“Mannheim is one of the most popular shopping cities in the region. And for good reason: sophisticated boutiques, large chains, small specialist shops, exclusive department stores – here you will find just what you are looking for, or maybe something you didn’t even know existed. Shopping in Mannheim is simply an experience.

Even when it comes to food, there is something for everyone’s taste – with inhabitants from over 180 countries, the city always has a diverse range of cuisine on offer.”

Source:
↗www.tourist-mannheim.de/en/Home

“Classical art, nationally and internationally renowned exhibitions, fascinating scientific research and lots more. The choice is yours!”

↗www.tourist-mannheim.de/en/Culture/Art-Galleries

↗www.tourist-mannheim.de/en/Culture/Museums

Lange Nacht der Museen

Night in the Museums of the Region:

↗www.langenachtdermuseen.com/
Useful Tips, Tricks and Resources

German Holidays

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<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day (Neujahrstag)</td>
<td>January 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Kings Day/Epiphany (Heilige Drei Könige)</td>
<td>January 6th (only in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria and Saxony-Anhalt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday (Karfreitag)</td>
<td>varies (in March or April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday (Ostermontag)</td>
<td>varies (in March or April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Day/Labor Day (Erster Mai/Tag der Arbeit)</td>
<td>May 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascension (Christi Himmelfahrt)</td>
<td>varies (in May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whit Monday (Pfingstmontag)</td>
<td>varies (in May or June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi (Fronleichnam)</td>
<td>varies (in May or June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of German Unity (Tag der Deutschen Einheit)</td>
<td>October 3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saint’s Day (Allerheiligen)</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day One (Erster Weihnachtsfeiertag)</td>
<td>December 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day Two (Zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag)</td>
<td>December 26th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mail Offices (Deutsche Post):

http://standorte.deutschepost.de/LocationSearch?standorttyp=filialen_verkaufspunkte&lang=en

www.deutschepost.de

Public Transportation

The Deutsche Bahn (DB) is Germany’s public train transportation system. It is made up of the trains that connect German cities with one another and with international destinations. Beside the Deutsche Bahn there are public transports within cities managed
by local public and private organizations and companies, such as S-Bahn, U-Bahn, Straßenbahn (trams), and buses. These regional public transports often not only cover urban areas, but wide regions around the cities. Mosbach and Bad Mergentheim both belong to the Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar (VRN) – the Rhein–Neckar transport network – reaching from near Würzburg all the way to the French border past Heidelberg and Mannheim. Depending on your destination – which might be within or outside the VRN region – different ticket price systems apply.

Deutsche Bahn (DB)

If you are planning a trip to a destination outside the VRN region, such as Stuttgart, Munich or Berlin, you need to get a train ticket from the Deutsche Bahn. Before you actually get your ticket, you need to search for your best connection. For that it is best to go to www.bahn.de, the Deutsche Bahn’s webpage. Here you can get your detailed connection plans for both national and international destinations. In order to get such a Verbindungsplan, enter your starting point and your destination, http://reiseauskunft.bahn.de/bin/query.exe/en. If there isn’t an office at a train station, there will be a vending machine from which you can buy a ticket and print out your Verbindungsplan. Just follow the directions on the screen – they are in English as well. Here you will only be able to pay with your cash card or credit card; cash is not accepted.

Note: You can find special offers here: www.bahn.de/i/view/USA/en/prices/index.shtml

Verbund Rhein-Neckar (VRN)

If you are planning a trip to a destination within the VRN region (www.vrn.de), such as to Heidelberg or Mannheim, you need to get a train ticket from the VRN. Beside the normal one–way tickets to all destinations you can get from the blue vending machines at the station (just look for the three–digit code of the town you would like to go to and type it in).

Important Contacts and Phone Numbers

In Case of any Emergency

112 is the common emergency telephone number that can be dialed free of charge from any telephone or any mobile phone in order to reach emergency services (Ambulances, Fire & Rescue Service and the Police) in the European Union (EU), its candidates for accession, members of the EEA agreement, as well as
several other countries in the world. 112 is managed and financed in the European Union by each Member State (country) which also decide on the organisation of the emergency call centres.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Department (Ambulance)</th>
<th>Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Phone Number: 112</td>
<td>Emergency Phone Number: 110 or 112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Medical Service in Mosbach</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phone 06261/19292</td>
<td>Knopfweg 1, Z4821 Mosbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone 06261/83-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Medical Service in Bad Mergentheim</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>phone 0180/3011220</td>
<td>Uhlandstr. 7, 97980 Bad Mergentheim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone 07931/58-0</td>
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Imprint

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