

Frankfurt

Germany's Most Modern Metropolis has many faces.

> Text and Photos
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Despite its small population of 650,000 inhabitants Frankfurt, Germany's fifth largest city, is the most well known throughout the world. No one would claim that it is Germany's favourite city. However, there is hardly another large city that attracts so many German and international visitors as Frankfurt.

The nicknames for Frankfurt are "Mainhattan" and "Bankfurt"; both terms are plays on words, and express the feelings of the population towards their city. The towering buildings, headquarters of major banks, represent money, madness and power. The Germans who move to

Frankfurt, the city with an international flair, do so in order to take part in the financial markets. Frankfurt is the most important financial market of continental Europe and also host to one of the world's most important stock exchanges, not to mention the European Central Bank and more than

300 banks of various countries with branches here.

People interested in cars and books consider Frankfurt's Fairs a "must"; and Frankfurt is considered one of the most important fair cities in the world. Foreign visitors land at the Rhein-Main Airport, the second largest in Europe. ▶



The Römerberg, the central Place in Frankfurt's Old Town

رومريغ في موقع رئيسي في المدينة القديمة بفرانكفورت

And here it becomes obvious that Frankfurt is one of the most prosperous and most modern metropolises in the heart of Europe. In addition to a fabulous skyline and first class hotels, Frankfurt is host to the most important European fairs and is the air traffic hub of central Europe. It boasts many other attractions. At last year's Football Cup, 2,000,000 foreign visitors attended and found out for themselves what the city can offer.

Germany's most beloved poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born in Frankfurt. The city is a cultural centre with a unique collection of museums, galleries and exhibition halls; it is also blessed with concert halls and opera houses. In the Middle Ages, Frankfurt was a free imperial city and until 1806 the site of the elections and coronations of German Kaisers. In 1848, the first German constitution was drawn up here.

Finding your way

Frankfurt is easy to navigate. The most important sights are the Old Town, Cathedral, Römerberg (city hall) and Paulskirche (site of the first national parliament) all within walking distance from each other, near the river and the beautiful promenade where many museums are located. The airport is about 12 minutes by train from the city center.

Römer and Römerberg

The Römer is the medieval town hall of the city. It was destroyed in WWII but reconstructed. The Römerberg is the city's most important square where you will find the Town Hall, the gothic Nikolai Church and a row of reconstructed medieval-style houses. The balcony of the Town Hall is the place for official celebrations such as reaching third place in the last World Cup.

Paulskirche

The Paulskirche was built over a period of 44 years, from 1789 through 1833, to replace a medieval church. Until 1944 it was the main Protestant church of Frankfurt. In this neoclassical circular building, the first national convent took place in 1848/49.

Kaiserdom/Cathedral

The Roman Catholic cathedral St. Bartholomew with its gothic tower was, together with Aachen, the site of the elections and coronations of German emperors. The Way of Kings was the walk from the cathedral to the Römer, the



At the Frankfurt book fair

واجهة معرض فرانكفورت للكتاب



عرض عمومي لبطولة كأس العالم لكرة القدم في فرانكفورت
Public Viewing of the World Football Championship

procession of the newly-crowned emperor to the banquet in City Hall. In the cathedral today you will find a historical garden with excavations from Roman times and from the time of Charlemagne.

Bridges of the Main and the Museum Promenade

The banks of the Main are becoming more and more attractive as urban spaces for the population. Architectural projects have

improved the bridges and the concept of the museums. The promenade boasts of ten museums of world-renown. For those interested in art, you won't want to miss the Museum of Modern Art and the Schirn Kunsthalle; they are not located directly on the Main. These two art museums are among the finest the world has to offer. The Alte Brücke (first documented in 1222) is considered to be one of the most important constructions of the city. The ▶



مبنى جديد في ويستهافن في الميناء الصناعي القديم في فرانكفورت

Newly constructed building at Westhafen the former industrial harbour of Frankfurt

"Eiserne Steg", a pedestrian bridge built in 1869, is a landmark of the town. Photos of the view of the city from the bridges to the Old Town and the skyline are often to be found in the media as representative of Frankfurt.

Old Town of Sachsenhausen

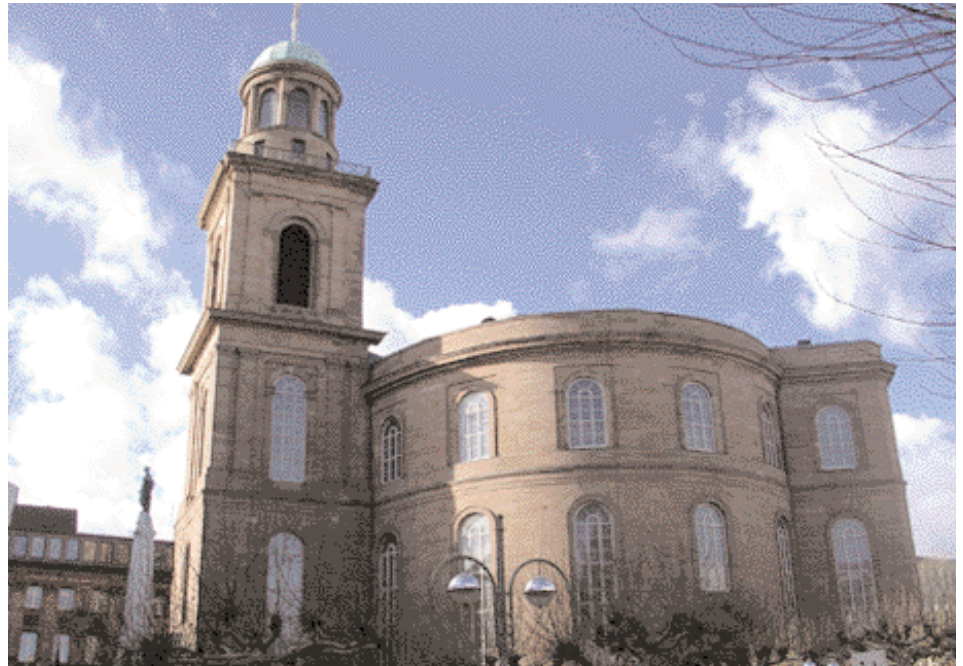
For partying the Frankfurters like to go to the Old Town of Sachsenhausen. This part of the city, first mentioned in 1192, was the home of fishermen, farm hands, and craftsmen. In the 18th and 19th centuries, this area became the residence of prosperous citizens and a popular place for strolling about and for amusements.

Alte Oper

Frankfurt has a number of opera houses, concert halls and stages. The most prominent and best known is the Alte Oper/Old Opera House. It has one of the most beautiful concert halls in the world and is considered one of the most important music centers in Europe.

Zoo and Palm Garden

Even in less than ideal weather it is still possible to spend enjoyable hours in the zoo and in the Palm Garden. It is a collection of tropical plants established in 1868 by Frankfurt citizens. Here you will find constructions of glass and iron through which you can walk in tropical jungles and



بولزكيرش حيث بدأت الديمقراطية في ألمانيا وجرى توقيع الدستور

The Paulskirche birthplace of German democracy where the constitution was signed



تمثال العامل في مدخل معارض فرانكفورت تكريم للطبقة العاملة

The Hammering Man at the entrance of the fairgrounds of Frankfurt symbolizes the working class

forget your daily routine. The zoo, dating back to 1858, has a nocturnal animal house, making it one of the most important in Europe.

Skyline

In the 70s, the city changed its outward appearance. Many skyscrapers were erected in the city centre and brought a unique skyline to Frankfurt. Notable skyscrapers are the

Meseturm (257 m) and the Commerz Bank, presently the second highest building in Europe (259 m), the headquarters of the Dresdner Bank (167 m) and the Deutsche Bank twin towers (155 m), as well as the European Central Bank (149 m). The Main Tower (200 m) is the only skyscraper open to the public. It offers a breathtaking view of the city. ■