

USEFUL INFORMATION IF GOING TO **GERMANY** AS A TOURIST IN A PLEASURE CRAFT.



| Topic | Comment |
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| Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats) | 82 million inhabitants; Approx 1,300 clubs affiliated to the German Sailing Federation (DSV). Unknown number of other clubs not affiliated. In DSV Clubs app. 180,000 members. |
| Currency | EURO |
| Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa | No requirement for EU citizens coming from EU countries although all crew members should carry their passport. Customs and immigration required for anyone arriving from outside EU. Visas required for visitors from Russia. |
| Banned Substances | In all cases visitors should advise customs of what they have on board (list of drugs). |
| Boat's documents required | Proof of VAT payment. Useful to have any registration papers from own country but not mandatory. If arriving with coloured diesel a receipt from the bunker-station must be on board in the case of inspection |
| Insurance | Insurance is not compulsory. Hull insurance is approx. 1% of the insured value. |
| Legislation certificate of competence | <p>The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, implementing the decision by the German Bundestag entitled "A new impetus for recreational shipping" (Bundestag printed paper 17/7937), has raised the propulsion power output limit from 3.68 kW (5 hp) to 11.03 kW (15 hp) for the operation of pleasure craft (both maritime and inland) by a person not holding a skipper's licence. This new regulation has been embodied in the Recreational Shipping Requirements (Maritime and Inland) (Amendments) Ordinance (promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette I, No 47, p 2102) and has entered into force on 17 October 2012.</p> <p>The following régime now applies to the licence-free operation of power-driven pleasure craft with a propulsion power output not exceeding 11.03 kW: On maritime waterways, pleasure craft with a maximum propulsion power output not exceeding 3.68 kW (5 hp) may, as before, be operated by persons of any age without holding a Pleasure Craft Licence (Maritime), provided that such craft is not used for commercial purposes. Where the propulsion power output ranges between 3.69 kW and 11.03 kW, the skipper must be aged 16 or over to be allowed to operate pleasure craft without a licence, however, only for private purposes. As before, there is no length restriction for pleasure craft on maritime waters. On inland waters, with the exception of maritime waterways and the River Elbe in the port of Hamburg, persons aged 16 and over may operate pleasure craft of less than 15 metres in length without holding a licence, provided that such craft is not used for commercial purposes and that the propulsion power output of its engine does not exceed 11.03 kW (15 hp).</p> <p>However, the latter regulation does not apply on the River Rhine; this is because, by virtue of obligations under international law, no national exemptions from compulsory licence-holding may be granted for the navigation on the River Rhine of craft with a propulsion power output exceeding 3.68 kW. Skippers from abroad entering German waterways must hold their respective operators' licence. If coming from a country where no such licences exist skippers have the right to operate a pleasure boat up to max. 1 year.</p> |
| Alcohol limits | Alcohol is limited by 0.5/ml |
| TSS, esp. new ones | All TSS areas are marked on charts. Rule 10 of Collision Regulations applies but some of these areas are not monitored as strictly as others. German bight is strictly controlled and yachts not complying with Rule 10 are fined. A vessel not using a Traffic Separation Scheme shall avoid it by as wide a margin as practicable. (According to information from our shipping administration the distance should be not less than half a nautical mile) |

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| Military exercise areas | In Germany there are areas where entry is prohibited as well as firing practice areas. All such areas are marked on charts. For a list of all areas see annex 1 of the following link: www.elwis.de/Schifffahrtsrecht/Verzeichnis-Rechtsverordnungen-Gesetze/SperrWarngebV.pdf For firing and practice areas warnings are given on Navtex. NAVTEX is available online. See: www.dwd.de/navtex |
| Major construction sites | At present (2015) only associated with wind farm construction. |
| Windfarms/wave and tidal energy projects | Many are planned only a few are already in operation; fully operational to date is only Baltic 1 (16km N of Darß/Zingst) See website http://www.offshore-windenergie.net/windparks It is forbidden to navigate within wind farms while they are under construction. Vessels under 24m can navigate wind farms as soon as they are fully operational with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visibility below 500m (former reg. 1000m) - wind speed of 8 Bft. (former reg. 8 (Bft) and more) - fishing - mooring at constructions - anchoring |
| Bridges | For bigger yachts Fehmarnsund bridge with a clearance of 22.10 m might be too low |
| Habitats and other protected areas | Some areas have been designated as Marine Protection Areas or Conservation Zones. Consult up-to-date charts. |
| Flag traditions/ application of flag rules | Pleasure boats fly their national ensign. Whilst there is a tradition of raising and lowering flags morning and evening, this is not strictly adhered to except in naval circles. |
| Weather forecast | For all available German forecasts see: www.kreuzer-abteilung.org/Public_PDF/1104.PDF |
| Harbours | No records for number of harbours. A good free source is sejlrens: www.sejlerens.com/?region=998 |
| Mooring booking facilities | There are no such facilities in Germany |
| Swinging mooring buoys for pleasure yachts | There are no mooring buoys allowed in coastal waters |
| Anchoring and free access ashore | Anchoring in fairways and Marine Protection Areas is prohibited. |
| Good harbour manners | It is necessary to raft out in some harbours i.e. boats lie alongside each other. It is courteous to ask permission before tying alongside but this should never be refused unless the maximum number of boats permitted to raft out in a particular harbour has been reached |
| Safety in harbours | Life rings are normally provided and there may be restrictions on the use of BBQs. Speed limits apply where marked. |
| Rescue services | Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Rettung Schiffbrüchiger (DGzR), Phone Nr.: +49 (0) 421 / 536 87 0 VHF-Channel 16 und 70 (DSC), SW („border wave“) 2187,5 kHz (DSC) via BREMEN RESCUE RADIO (24 h), Callsign: Bremen Rescue |
| Pyrotechnics | Not compulsory but an official recommendation for everyone. If taking part in a race it is compulsory according to the ISAF OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS. |
| Staying during the winter | EU flagged boats may stay as long as they wish. Numerous marinas, boat yards and boat clubs offer winter storage ashore. |
| Antifouling regulations | The use of antifouling containing biocide is prohibited on certain lakes. Otherwise no specific legislation. In accordance with EU legislation. |
| Fuel availability | All white diesel contains biodiesel. Biodiesel is added in accordance with EN590 2010 (7% biodiesel). Petrol is available from most alongside fuelling points. |
| Gas availability | Mostly propane gas. Also Camping Gaz (Butane) widely available. |
| Pump out stations for sewage and oily water | Stations for sewage pump out exist in a few harbours. |

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| Pump out stations – type(s) of nozzle used in the country | ISO 8099 |
| Public transport | Train and bus service covers most of the country. Services often limited in rural areas. |
| Shopping hours | Supermarkets vary but generally 0800-2000. |
| Important phone numbers, home pages and useful links | National Lifeboat organisation: DGzRS SEENOTLEITUNG (MRCC) BREMEN in Emergency (24 h): Tel.: +49 (0) 421· 536 87-0 Fax: +49 (0) 421· 536 87 14 Mobile: 124 124 Bremen Rescue Radio VHF Ch. 70 (DSC) or Ch. 16 The DGzRS (German Lifeboat Association) charges for technical assistance the operating expenses at a rate of €200 per hour, maximum €400 per operation. The rescue of men overboard is free of charge according to the order of the DGzRS. |
| Tick borne diseases | Along the German coast there are no areas known where ticks occur |
| Practical advice | Tidal information: http://www.bsh.de/de/Meeresdaten/Vorhersagen/Gezeiten/index.jsp Instructions for pleasure crafts on the Kiel-Kanal: www.wsv.de/wsa-bb/info/pdf/Merkblatt_englische_Version_2009_Maerz.pdf |

This document does not claim to include all known information on the subjects covered but the compilers and the Baltic Sea Cruising Network (BSCN) believe that the information contained represents a useful aid to those visiting the country by pleasure craft. Visitors should make prudent use of the information available on the websites quoted. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication is accepted by the compilers or the Baltic Sea Cruising Network.

BSCN/Useful Information/GER-JF

DATE December 2015