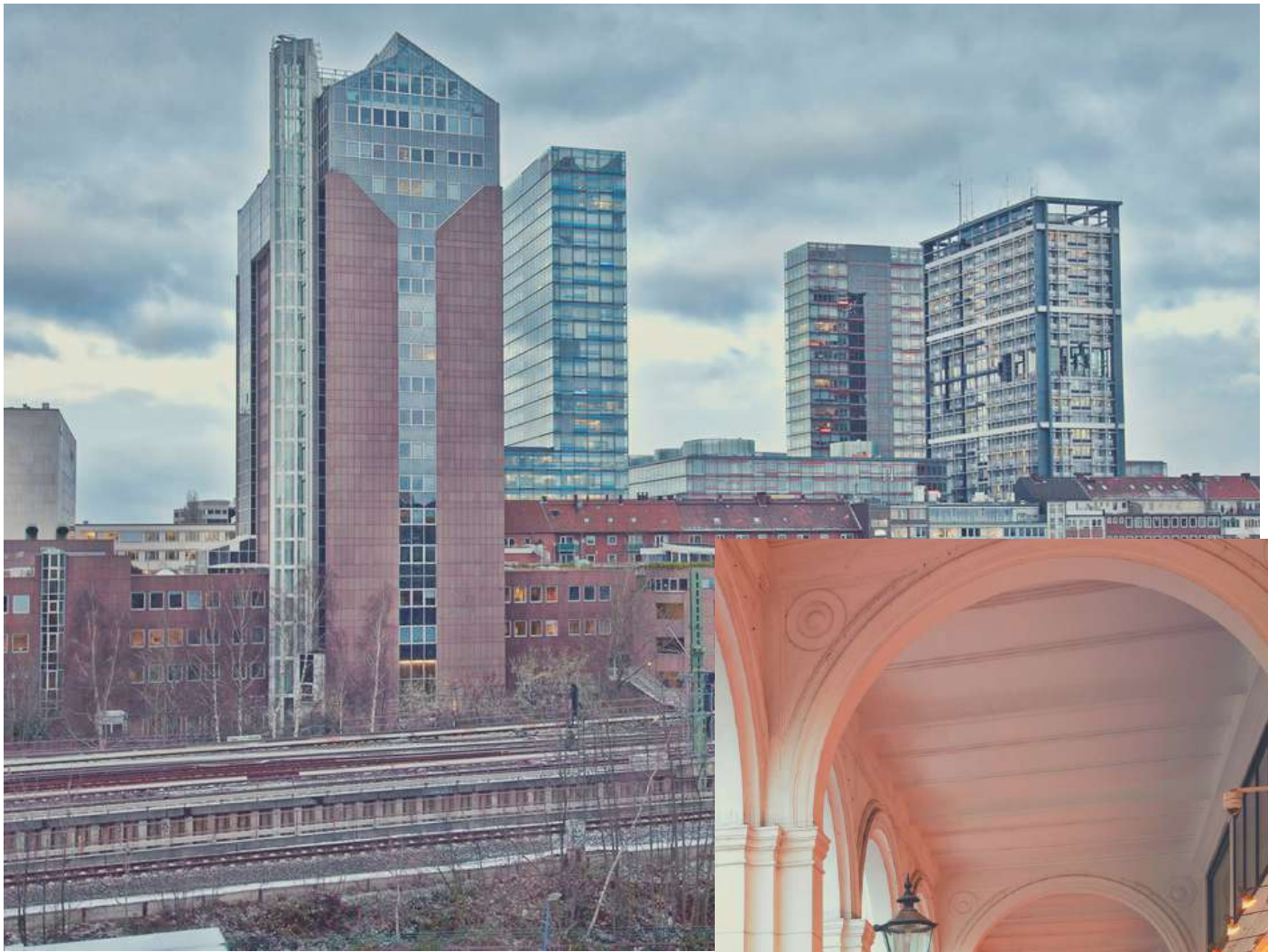




A newbie's guide to: Hamburg 2023



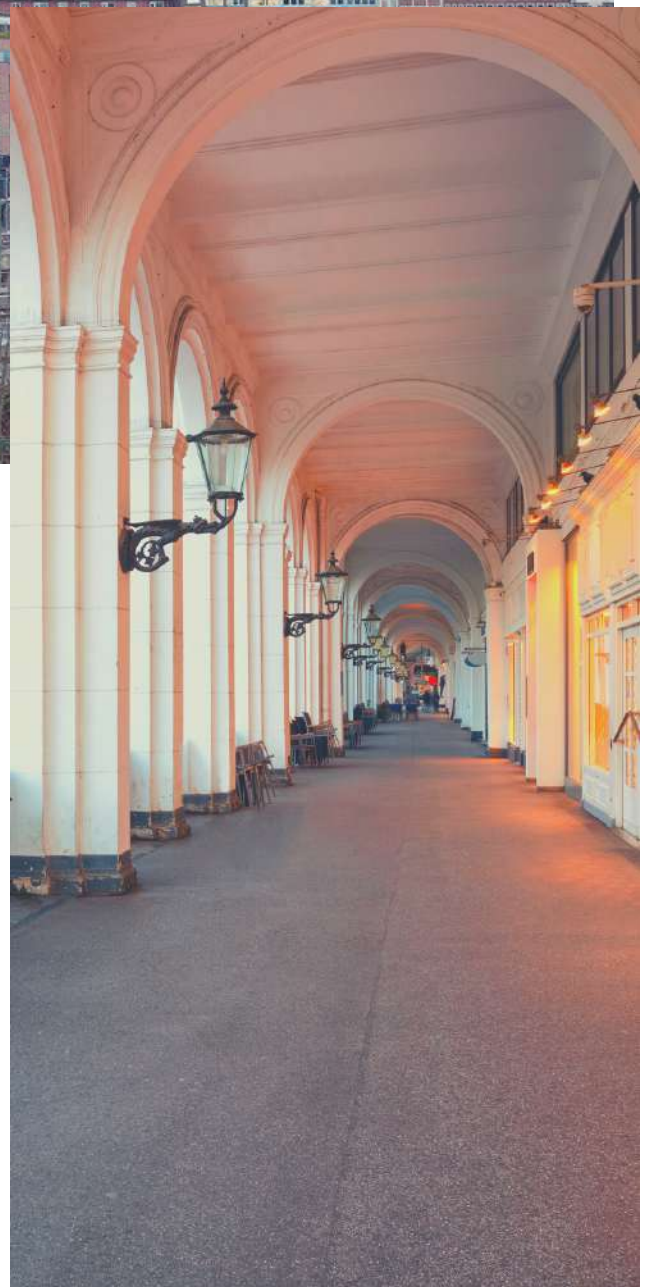


Hamburg at a glance

It is the most popular cultural destination in Germany.

Hamburg is home to around 50 museums, 45 theaters, and about 100 music venues and clubs.

It is one of the world's most important musical cities, second only to New York and London. Hamburg will not be outdone by Berlin in terms of music and art.





Arrival

What to expect when you land

There are many ways to get to Hamburg. Either by plane, bus, car or train! [Hamburg offers](#) many options for getting from any point A to any point B. In addition to buses, U- and S-Bahns, you can get around Hamburg by bicycle or the harbor ferry. Rental cars and car-sharing also offer flexible methods of travel.

If you arrive at the airport, the distance from Hamburg Airport to the city is 10 kilometers and the travel time is [around 25 minutes](#) by train and by taxi 20 minutes and will be around €30. The cheapest way from Hamburg airport to the city center is by public train and bus €3 and it will take 25-30 minutes to reach the city center.

S-Bahn S1 train is running every 10-20 minutes from Hamburg airport to Hamburg city-center available 24/7. If you go from Hamburg airport Hauptbahnhof (Hamburg Train Station) will take 25 minutes and if you go to Jungfernstieg Station 28 minutes located in Hamburg city center.

The train fare is €3.40 one way ticket for adults and for children €1.30 and you can buy it online or in the vending machines at the airport. You can get the train at the airport once you exit Arrival Halls just follow the sign. You can also transfer at these stations from Hamburg airport: Barmbek, Lübecker Strabe, Berliner, Landungsbrücken and Altona to get the metro or regional trains.



The weather

The weather in Hamburg is generally mild. Summers are warm: July is the warmest, averaging at 18.5 °C/65.5 °F. Winters can get quite chilly: January is the coldest, with average temperatures hovering somewhere around freezing.

Your worst-case weather scenario will be lots of wind and rain, so get yourself a warm, rainproof jacket. Hamburg gets about 40 inches (1m) of rain a year, so rubber boots will come in handy too.

The weather can change quite suddenly, so get into the habit of checking the weather forecast frequently. Watch out for summer thunderstorms!

Pro tip: Wear black. Everybody does.

In Hamburg, summers are comfortable and partly cloudy. The winters are long, very cold, windy, and mostly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from -1°C to 23°C and is rarely below -9°C or above 29°C.

The warm season lasts from June to September, with an average daily high temperature above 19°C. The hottest month of the year in Hamburg is July, with an average high of 22°C and low of 13°C.

The cold season lasts from November to March, with an average daily high temperature below 7°C. The coldest month of the year is January, with an average low of -1°C and high of 4°C.



Healthcare

Once you are a German resident, you have to register with a health insurance scheme. The system is a bit complex, but here's a thorough guide to the ins and outs.

In a nutshell, you have to choose between private or public insurance. If you're a full-time employee in Germany, your employer will take care of registering you with a health insurance provider.

At the age of 30 or so, public insurance is slightly more expensive (€400-€500 per month). Private is around €400 and gives you better services and faster access. If you plan to stay in Germany for longer, private insurance can become very expensive, especially if you have a family.



At 40-50 years old, your private insurance can cost up to €1000 per person.

Once you choose private, you won't be able to switch back to public, unless your salary drops below a certain level.

For guaranteed services in English, check out TK, which was the first insurance provider in Germany to specialize in expats.

In a medical emergency, call 112.

Finding an apartment

You should [register your new address](#) within two weeks after moving into your new home.

This can be done at your local customer service center (Kundenzentrum). Booking the appointment is enough to meet the two-week deadline. After registration, you'll receive a Meldebescheinigung (Proof of Residence) which you need in order to open a bank account, get German health insurance, apply for a residence permit and get a mobile phone number.

Here is a [link](#) for a short video and a [guide](#) that explains clearly how to find an apartment in Hamburg in 5 steps. Germany has so-called "warm" and "cold" rent prices. Always ask what the monthly "warm" rent is (meaning the rent + utilities. (also explains in a short video above)

The average price for a flat rent in Hamburg is between €700 - €1,100





Food

No matter where you're coming from, we're sure you will be able to find your favorite [cuisine](#) in Hamburg. The variety of [food](#) does not disappoint—including Chinese, French, German, Italian, American, vegan, and whatever else you can imagine.

If you love food and cocktails, [Sternschanze](#) is the place to visit. Here you'll discover food markets, unique shops, bars, and restaurants.

[Hamburg Fish Market](#) - Every Sunday morning, the Hamburg Fish Market by the Elbe attracts thousands of visitors to buy fresh fish, fresh fruits, and fresh flowers! It's a very famous place in Hamburg as it was discovered in 1703!

Your spare time

Hamburg has many outdoor activities such as boating, beaches and camping! Here are a few interesting activities that is a must to do while in Hamburg:

- Visit [Flora and fauna](#) on the nature trail where you'll find different breeds of birds and a beautiful landscape to relax.
- [Alster Lakes](#) where you can walk all day long and also do biking/kayaking.
- Did you know that Hamburg has a [beach](#)? But not only that. If you drive for an hour or two, you'll end up on a real beach by the Baltic Sea and North sea!
- Do not miss a chance on a strawberry picking activity! Yes yes, June is a beautiful season for the strawberries! [Here](#) you can find a few locations for this activity.
- [Speicherstadt](#) UNESCO Site is a must to visit! This is the world's largest warehouse complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a must-see on every trip to Hamburg.
- [Reeperbahn](#) - that's the place! This is one of the famous streets in the heart of St. Pauli that offers everything from theatres and galleries to trendy nightclubs and smoky sailor bars.





The language

The national and official language of Germany is—shockingly—German. Hamburg being the melting pot it is, you will survive here without mastering it.

But you should at least make a basic attempt to learn. [Chatterbug](#) is a cool way to learn what may at first seem like an intimidating language. There's always [Babbel](#) too, of course, or you can choose between a host of other resources that might work better for you, depending on your learning style.

Basic survival apps

- [Lieferando](#) and [Wolt](#) for food delivery
- [Uber](#) for getting around
- [MVV](#) for train tickets and schedules
- [Corona-Warn-App](#) helps trace COVID-19 infection chains
- [Gorillas](#) for grocery delivery



Useful links for further discovery on your own

- [Tourist information](#)—you might be a local now, but you should still see all the sights!
- [A list of foreign representations](#) in Germany
- [A thorough guide to healthcare](#) for expats
- [A list of emergency phone numbers](#) for when you run into trouble
- [Cost of living stats on Numbeo](#) and [Expatistan](#).



Before we go

We've barely scratched the surface. But that's what this guide is meant to do—give you a place to start. The information and advice in the guide has been compiled (and is regularly updated) based on the experiences of real-life expats in Hamburg. We can't guarantee that your experience will be identical or that you'll like everything we recommended in these pages.

Now go out there, stay safe, and make the most of your new home!

Thank you!