

Intercultural Talk

Germany an Intercultural Experience



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Culture? What's that?

Civilization

Code of conduct,
manners,
do's and don'ts,...

Religion, history,
Language, traditions ...



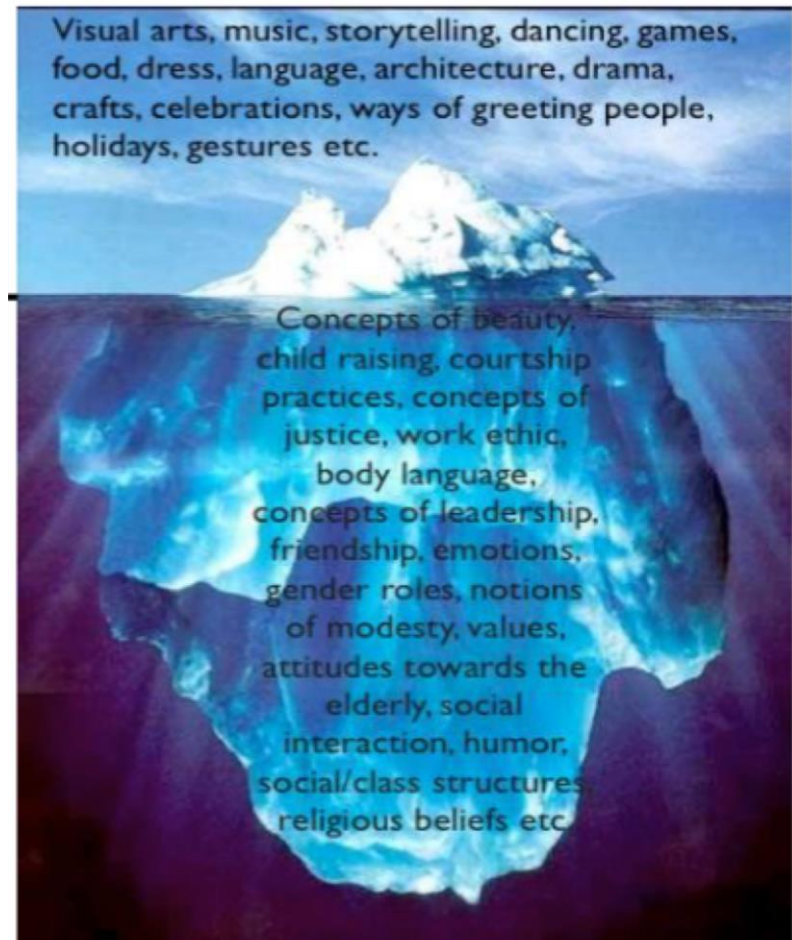
Environment, connection, identity,...

Similarities, affinity, recognition,...

Culture? What's that?

Visible, conscious
cultural aspects

Hidden, subconscious
cultural aspects



Culture Shock

What's your experience?

How to deal with a culture shock?

- Actively participate in foreign cultures and get to know locals
- Be aware of your own culture, values and attitudes
- Try to find out, why people are acting as they do
- Try to embrace a different perspective
- Reflect your emotions and actions

‘We don’t see the world as it is, we see it as we are’. (Anais Nin)

University in Germany

- Mainly not private
 - No high fees
 - Freedom of science
 - Participation of the students
(e.g. AStA, Fachschaft)
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How to study in Germany?

- Autonomy
 - No all-round service
 - Self-responsibility
 - Use the consultation hours and other possibilities to gather information
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Housing - Accommodations

Types of accommodations:

- Shared flat (WG – Wohngemeinschaft)
- Studio apartment
- Private apartment

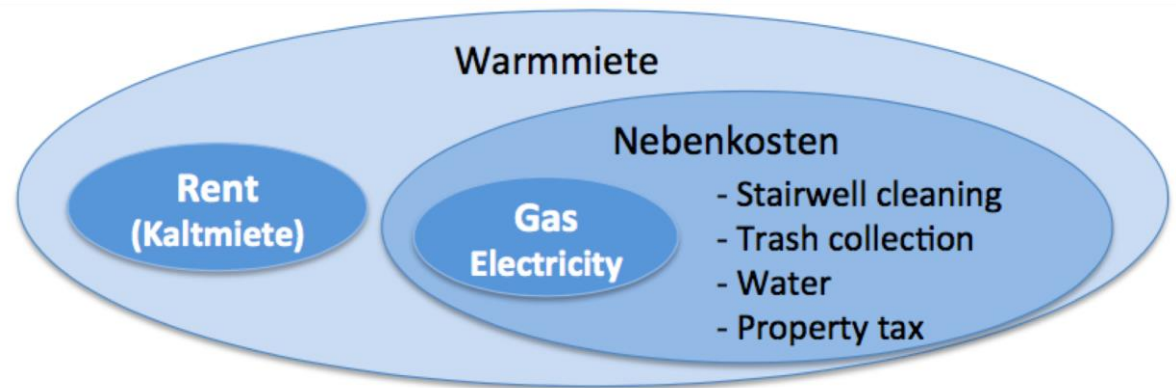
Where to search for an accommodation:

- Dormitory
 - Private market
 - Real-estate agent
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Housing - Accommodations

Things to look out for in the contract:

- Limited or un-limited contract
- Renewal of the contract
- Annual rent increase
- Contract payments
- Deposit payments (2 – 3 monthly rent)
- Monthly payments



Housing - Accommodations

General regulations:

- Laundry often done in the basement
 - Bicycle in the basement/garage/outside
 - Pets? Need landlord written permission
 - Damage of gas, water or electrical lines?
→ Inform landlord!
 - Avoid loud noise e.g. 1 pm – 3 pm and 10 pm – 7 am, Monday – Saturday and all day Sunday
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Health Insurance/Medical System



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Government Health Insurance System (GKV):

- Hospital care
 - Registered doctors care
 - Basic dental care
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- General Practitioners (Hausärzte)
 - Specialist doctors: cardiologists, dermatologist, etc.
 - Hospital treatments
 - A recommendation from the specialist doctor
 - Case of emergency / accidents (112/110)



Krankenversicherungskarte

German Stereotypes

Germans love rules

Germans love rules, organization, and structure: Germany has an abundance of laws regulating all aspects of life and its people like to obey them.

- Crossing the street as a pedestrian at a red traffic light is often frowned upon, even if no car is coming.
 - Every house has at least four different garbage cans: plastic and metal, paper, organic waste, and general garbage.
 - There is a government office called Ordnungsamt, which literally translates to “office of order.”
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German Stereotypes

Germans love rules (Garbage)

Doorstep:

- Metal and plastic, yellow bins
- Paper, green bins
- Organic disposals, brown bins
- Everything else, gray bins
- Furniture, large trash day
- Colours may differ ;-)



Neighbourhood:

- Glass: green, brown and white, and all the rest
 - Clothes and shoes
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German Stereotypes

Germans are punctual

- Better to be too early than too late.
- Punctuality is seen as a sign of respect to the person you are meeting.
- On the same line of thought, train and bus schedules are given in exact minutes and yes, people do expect transportation services to be true to their schedule.
- “The German railroad system, which usually runs late, notoriously challenges this stereotype.”

(Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotypes_of_Germans)

German Stereotypes

Germans are well-insured

➤ Germans are well-insured:

You can insure yourself against almost anything.

Personal liability insurance, household insurance, legal insurance, life insurance, travel insurance, pet insurance, car insurance, bicycle insurance, unemployment insurance, you name it.



German Stereotypes

German is an ugly language



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German Stereotypes

German is an ugly language

- Longest Word in the German Dictionary:

Rinderkennzeichnungsfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz (79 letters)

- The word „ja“
 - German on high level: „I don't believe it“
 - A1 = Das glaube ich nicht
 - A2 = Das kann nicht sein
 - B2 = Das kann ich mir nicht vorstellen
 - B3 = Das bezweifle ich
 - C1 = Das halte ich für sehr unwahrscheinlich
 - C2 = Als ob!
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German Stereotypes

Some more stereotypes

- Germans prefer to drink beer and eat sausage and potatoes
 - Germans love cars
 - German food is terrible
 - Germans celebrate Christmas in the snow
 - Germans stop at every red traffic light
 - Oktoberfest is the epitome of German culture
 - Germans wear socks in sandals
 - Germans reserve the best seats by the pool
 - Everything works in Germany
 - Germans are unfriendly
 - The Germans know everything better
 - The weather is bad in Germany
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