



USAG Stuttgart - Things Newcomers Need to Know

Unlock Your Cell Phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Unlocked” devices are free to use other networks worldwide and allows customers to swap out compatible SIM cards. Customers can buy a local data plan on or off post. • A “locked” phone will only work on your current carriers network. “Locked” phones can “roam” onto international networks; however, international roaming fees tend to be hefty. • Check with your carrier to see if your phone meets the requirements and ask them to unlock it from the network. Requirements vary by carrier.
Driver License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel assigned to Germany must have a USAREUR driver’s license before renting, driving or registering a vehicle on post. • Online testing is available through the Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) at https://jko.jten.mil • Dependents have to request an account through their sponsor in order to create their own account; this requires the sponsors’ .mil e-mail. • Certificates of Completion are only valid for 60 days. • Go to the Stuttgart App click on the “PCS” button then “Driver License” for complete instructions.
Bring Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany uses the Euro. • Cash is more widely used in Germany than in the US. Most stores, shops, bars do not have a card machine and credit cards are not widely accepted. • The use of Euro Cheque/Electronic Cash (EC) which is the European version of a debit card is becoming more acceptable. These cards are available at host nation banks as well as Service Credit Union on post.
Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany uses 220 volt electrical system with two pronged outlets. • Some small appliances from the US may still be used in Germany with a transformer. Many appliances will not work properly even with a transformer. Community members may need to get loaners or be prepared to make investment in 220 volt or dual voltage appliances. • Check your wireless devices to ensure they are legal to use in Germany. Many US brands of baby monitors, cordless phones, and remote control toys use a frequency that is strictly reserved for emergency services in Germany. Check your device to ensure it has an FCC label and a C.E. marking to ensure it can be used in Germany.
VAT/UTAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel who fall under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) are eligible to participate in the VAT/UTAP programs. • Visit the Stuttgart MWR webpage for details at: https://stuttgart.armymwr.com/programs/vat https://stuttgart.armymwr.com/programs/utap • VAT (Value Added Tax) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ German tax imposed for goods and services ○ Two types of VAT Forms for purchase: NF-1 for purchases less than 2,500 Euro, NF-2 for purchases of 2,500 Euros or more. ○ VAT Forms MUST be purchased in advance. ○ If you are just arriving in country and intend to stay in a German hotel or to rent a vehicle, you can take advantage of tax savings by signing up for

	<p>the VAT program. You can save on taxes if the hotel and rental agency accepts VAT. Individuals have 7 calendar days to purchase a VAT form retroactively. The “7-day Window” to sign-up for the VAT program and purchase of your VAT forms to be eligible for Tax relief “retroactively” applies from first day of arrival in country. After the 7-day Window”, VAT forms can only be used with future dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acceptance of VAT by vendors is voluntary ● UTAP (Utilities Assistance Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tax savings on utilities ○ Mandatory sign-up for personnel receiving housing or living quarters allowance ○ \$99 enrollment fee
Quiet Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is customary in most cities and towns to have quiet hours that are often enforceable by law. ● Quiet hours vary from town to town but in general are from 8 or 9 p.m. to 8 or 9 a.m. Monday – Saturday and all day Sunday. ● Most retailers and grocery stores are closed on Sunday while some restaurants and bakeries maybe open with limited hours. ● Activities that cause loud noises should be avoided such as lawn mowing, the use of power tools, and playing loud music.
Host Nation Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Germany has a lot more holidays than the US and this can vary between states. Most establishments are closed during holidays.
Tipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tipping in Germany is based on the quality of service; there is no set rate. ● The general custom is a nominal tip; many simply round up to the next euro. For example the bill is €14, a tip of about €1 for a total of €15 may be appropriate. ● Tips are usually given directly to the receiving person, not left on the table. ● If paying with a credit card ensure to tell the server the full amount to be paid (including tip)
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Germany has a rigorous recycling program that varies from town to town. ● Many grocery stores have recycling depots, and labeled containers are available in public areas for when you are out and about. ● Be sure you know your towns recycling and disposal rules. ● On post residence can utilize containers available in each housing location. ● Residents living off post are prohibited from bringing trash on post and disposing of it in on-post receptacles. ● Download the garrison recycling handbooks at: https://www.stuttgartcitizen.com/featured-stories/usag-stuttgart-onoff-post-recycling-guides/
Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tickets can be bought online or at stations. ● Ensure to validate your paper ticket by getting a stamp on the bus or U-Bahn or at the station platform. Not having a validated ticket will result in fines. ● Transit maps are available at station platforms. ● Ensure you buy a ticket appropriate for your travel zones. ● Mobile Apps: SSB Move, VVS Mobil, DB Navigator. You can set up accounts to purchase tickets and view zone maps, and schedules.