

## Introduction

Germany wears its riches well: elegant big-city charm, small picture-postcard towns, pagan-inspired harvest festivals, a wealth of art and culture and the perennial pleasures of huge tracts of forest, delightful castles and hearty food are all there for the savouring.

Germany's reunification in 1990 was the beginning of yet another chapter in its complex history. The cultural, social and economic divide formed over 40 years of separation will take some time to bridge; nevertheless, the integration of the two Germanys is proceeding apace.



## Destination Facts

**Full country name:** Federal Republic of Germany

**Population:** 82,000,000

**Area:** 357,030 sq km

**Capital city:** Berlin (pop: 3,500,00)

**People:** Predominantly Caucasian, with a significant Turkish minority. Germany has absorbed most of the refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

**Language:** German

**Religion:** 90% Christian. There are 1.7 million Muslims and about 74,000 Jews (the pre-Holocaust figure was over half a million).

**Government:** Federal republic

**Chancellor:** Gerhard Schröder

*For more information, check out Lonely Planet's range of Germany books (<http://shop.lonelyplanet.com>).*

### Contents

Introduction _____	1
Activities _____	2
Public Holidays _____	2
Spectator Sports _____	2
Events _____	2
Culture and Life _____	3
School Life _____	3
Practicalities _____	4
Money _____	5
Shopping _____	5
Communications _____	5
Your Well-Being _____	6
Resources _____	7
Luggage _____	7
About Home _____	8
Gifts from Oz _____	8
Important Information _____	8