

Destination Guide for Germany

Overview

Destination Risk Levels

- Low Medical Risk for Germany
- Low Travel Risk for Germany

Standing Travel Advice

- Travel to Germany can continue with standard security precautions.
- Take sensible security precautions against petty and street crime.
- Strikes in the transport sector can disrupt travel. Keep abreast of planned industrial action and plan your itineraries accordingly.
- Protests and demonstrations over various political, environmental and socio-economic issues occur occasionally but usually pass peacefully. Plan journeys bypassing them as a precaution and to minimise travel delays.
- There is a credible threat of terrorism in Germany from a wide variety of actors. Exercise vigilance at notable targets, including migrant centres, religious sites, transport hubs and tourist attractions. Carry out a profile- and industry-specific risk assessment as required.
- Be alert to suspicious behaviour and report any suspect packages to the authorities.
- Security alerts, hoaxes or the discovery of unexploded World War 2 ordnance can trigger the short-notice evacuation of transport hubs or public locations, which can cause disruption. Follow all directives issued by the authorities during any security operation and do not act on the basis of unverified information.
- Urban centres and overland transport links in Germany are occasionally affected by flooding following heavy rainfall. Consult the websites of the German [meteorological service](#) and the [flood warning centre](#) for up-to-date weather information and related warnings. Familiarise yourself with natural disaster response procedures and follow all directives issued by the authorities. See our [Mitigating natural hazards](#) section for additional advice.

Active Alerts (1)

● Notice | Category

Urban centres: Plan journeys on 18 October accounting for disruption during protests against US president

15 October 2025 at 03:39

Location : Europe & CIS

Category : Protest/Rally, Road disruption

Plan journeys in urban centres on **18 October** accounting for disruption during protests against the policies of US president Donald Trump. Demonstrations have been organised in several European countries alongside the so-called 'No Kings' rallies in the US. The gatherings are likely to pass off peacefully, though they may cause localised traffic disruption and will be accompanied by heightened security.

Advice :

- Liaise with local contacts for details of any planned protests in your area. Expect associated disruption and plan journeys accordingly.
- If travelling near a gathering, reconfirm the status of routes before setting out and allow additional time for journeys.
- Expect heightened security around the demonstrations and follow all official directives.
- Monitor our alerts for updates.

Destination Guide for Germany

Before You Travel

Visa Requirements

IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

British

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: No
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Australian

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: No
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Canadian

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: No
Return Ticket Required: Yes

USA

Passport Required: Yes
Visa Required: No
Return Ticket Required: Yes

Cultural Tips

CULTURAL ISSUES AND ETIQUETTE

General Tips

- There are no legal restrictions for LGBTQ+ individuals. Societal attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community are generally tolerant.

Getting There

METHOD OF ARRIVAL

By air

Most cities have modern, convenient international airports. The main international airports are Berlin's Brandenburg Airport ([BER](#)), Cologne/Bonn ([CGN](#)), Düsseldorf ([DUS](#)), Frankfurt ([FRA](#)), Hamburg ([HAM](#)), Hannover ([HAJ](#)), Munich's Franz Joseph Strauss ([MUC](#)), Nürnberg ([NUE](#)), Stuttgart ([STR](#)), Bremen (BRE), Dresden ([DRS](#)) and Leipzig ([LEJ](#)). Facilities such as bureaux de change, ATMs, shops and restaurants are available at these airports. Snowfall from December to February can affect flight schedules. Safety and security service standards are high at all airports. Airlines have variable security standards. You may wish to consult the US Federal Aviation Administration's [website](#) for a database of aviation accidents and statistics.

By land

The country's location means that people within Europe can conveniently reach the country by road or rail. Connections are good, but strikes and train delays occur occasionally. Starting from 16 September 2024, temporary checks have been reintroduced at all nine borders.

By sea

The presence of a number of ferry ports makes the country easily accessible by sea, especially from Scandinavian countries and the Baltic states. The main ports are Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven, Bremen, Bremerhaven, Emden, Rostock, Duisburg, Kiel, Lübeck and Cuxhaven.

Getting Around

BY AIR

Internal flights are available between most major cities. [Frankfurt](#) airport is the main hub for domestic flights, and most airports in the country can be reached in under an hour.

National carrier [Lufthansa](#) serves domestic connections as well as destinations across the world. Business travellers should anticipate strikes, which are common in the sector, and allow additional time for journeys.

BY ROAD

Cars can be rented at numerous outlets, including airports and many railway stations. International car hire companies such as [Avis](#), [Europcar](#), [Hertz](#) and [Sixt](#) are well represented in the country. Motorists need to be at least 18 years old to drive in Germany. Driving licences issued by EU countries are unconditionally valid in the country. Citizens of other nations can drive with their national driving licences during stays not exceeding six months; beyond that, a German driving licence will be required.

To avoid any difficulties, foreign nationals are advised to carry an international driver's permit. Driver's permit, insurance and vehicle documents must be carried at all times in the vehicle. Chauffeur-driven cars can be hired in most large towns. German drivers are required to achieve very high standards of driving in comparison with most European countries. The road system is well maintained.

Germany is connected by an extensive network of motorways (Autobahn) and trunk roads. Autobahns are free and speed limits do not apply on some roads; however, a maximum of 80 miles per hour (130kph) is recommended. Traffic levels on German roads are the highest in Europe, but the number of deaths per kilometre travelled is among the lowest. The speed limit is 31 mph (50kph) in built-up areas and 62 mph (100kph) outside these areas. The driver and all passengers must wear seatbelts. Foreign nationals' cars must display a sticker indicating the country in which the car is registered. Dedicated bike lanes are present for bicycles and electric scooters, which are more common in larger cities.

Unexploded Second World War ordnance (UXO) is regularly found across the country, both in rural and urban areas. While these unexploded bombs do not generally represent a threat, their disposal usually requires precautionary evacuations of affected areas and can cause temporary traffic disruption. In most cases, road closures will be notified in advance.

BY TAXI

Taxis are safe, plentiful and efficient. These can be easily recognised as they are cream in colour. Taxis are not shared with strangers and drivers will not stop if they are already carrying passengers. Fares vary from town to town, as do supplements for luggage; however, passengers are unlikely to encounter serious difficulties with overcharging because meters are obligatory.

Mobile taxi or ride-sharing applications, such as [Uber](#), are a reasonably safe and reliable form of transport for travellers; these services are available in several urban centres including the capital Berlin, Cologne, Dusseldorf (both North Rhine-Westphalia state), Frankfurt (Hesse state), Hamburg (Hamburg state) and Munich (Bavaria state).

BY TRAIN

The rail service is generally excellent, despite occasional delays and strikes, protests. Rail connectivity to neighbouring countries is good. Reservations are advisable on all services.

There are no particular security or safety hazards for rail passengers, though people should be alert to the risk of petty theft. Environmental protesters have in the past staged occasional sabotage attacks on railway lines, causing disruption to travel. Strikes called by the staff of the national railway company Deutsche Bahn (DB) occur occasionally and cause serious disruption. However, they are normally announced in advance. Business travellers are advised to check DB's [website](#), or at the local train station, for information on delays or disruption before commencing journeys.

Local services

Larger cities have U-Bahn (metro) and S-Bahn (overland commuter) rail services. The trains are reliable and efficient. Tickets generally have to be bought from ticket machines and in some cities, they need to be validated before the journey begins. Weekly and monthly passes available in some cities are often the cheapest and most convenient option. There are frequent inspections of passes and passengers caught without a ticket will be fined on the spot.

Pickpockets and bag-snatchers pose a risk on the services. Drunks and muggers may also very occasionally trouble passengers, particularly at night. Foreign nationals, particularly women, should exercise extra vigilance travelling alone in empty train carriages, especially those that have no interconnecting doors, as a basic precaution.

BY OTHER MEANS

There is a large domestic intercity bus network. These operate regularly, have standard fares and cover all the major destinations. However, trains are usually quicker and more comfortable.

If travelling on foot, members should be aware that jaywalking is an offence; crossing a road when the pedestrian crossing lights are red is illegal, even when there is no traffic on the road. On-the-spot fines for offenders are common.

Business Women

BUSINESSWOMEN

Women are represented at the highest levels of government and business. Female travellers should maintain a level of attention when travelling alone. Lone women may encounter unwanted attention from men on the streets and on public transport, where it is recommended to sit in populated carriages. Women travellers may want to consider avoiding travel on suburban trains and buses when the use of taxis is preferable for security reasons.

Working Week

WORKING WEEK

- Working week: Monday to Friday
 - Office hours: 08.00 to 17.00
 - Business hours: 8.00/09.00-16.00/17.00
 - Banking hours: 08.30 to 13.00 and 14.30 to 16.00 (open until 17.30 on Thursdays in main cities)
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Language & Money

LANGUAGE

German is the official language and there are many regional accents and dialects. English and French (close to the French border) are also spoken in the country's western states while Russian may be spoken in eastern states.

MONEY

Germany is a member of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and uses the euro currency. Credit cards and euro-denominated traveller's cheques are widely accepted in main hotels, shops and restaurants. Smaller establishments may only accept cash. ATMs are available throughout the country.

Tipping

TIPPING

Tipping is optional in Germany, but most people tip up to 10% of the bill in restaurants if the service was good. It is usual to round up the bill in cafés and bars, and taxis.

Geography & Weather

CLIMATE

Climate overview

- The climate is temperate, with warm summers (May-September) and cold winters (November-March), with average temperatures ranging from 6°C to 20°C (43°F to 68°F).
- Long periods of frost or snow are rare, except in the mountainous areas of the south, where roads – especially routes over the Alps – may be impassable during the winter.
- Seasonal rain can be expected throughout the year, but peak rainy season occurs in the summer months.

Flooding

- Storms and flooding particularly affect the northern coastal areas around the Elbe river, in the eastern part of the Oder river, areas along the Rhine river in the west and the Danube in the south, and in the southern mountainous regions.
- Heavy rainfall, snowmelt, or a combination of both can lead to rivers overflowing their banks, causing flooding in low-lying areas.
- Heavy rainfall can lead to air and road travel disruption.
- In recent years, intense rainfall has caused significant localised damage to infrastructure and several fatalities.
- Monitor the [German Weather Service](#) website for the latest weather updates.

Heatwaves

- Heatwaves can occur during the summer months, with temperatures exceeding 38°C.
- Such high temperatures also increase the risk of wildfires.
- The [German Weather Service](#) issues heatwave warnings and alerts.

Earthquakes

- Germany is not particularly prone to seismic activity and earthquakes are minor.
- The most seismically active regions are in the south-west, particularly around the Upper Rhine Graben.

Heavy snow

- Heavy snow occurs during the winter season, causing disruption to travel. This includes flight cancellations.
- Icy road conditions can make driving dangerous across the country.

GEOGRAPHY

Germany is bordered by nine countries, with Austria to the south sharing the longest common boundary. Other countries include Denmark in the north, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg and France in the west, Switzerland in the south and Czech Republic and Poland to the east. Germany's topography is varied, with low-lying flat countryside in the north, forested uplands in the centre and the Alps in the south. Some of Europe's major rivers flow through Germany, including the Rhine and the Danube.

The country is divided into 16 Länder (states) which are partly sovereign constituent states. Other than Berlin and Bonn, major cities include Munich, Bremen, Cologne, Frankfurt, Dresden, Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Essen, Dortmund, Hanover, Leipzig and Stuttgart.

International Dialing & Power

DIALLING CODES

Country Code : 49

IDD Prefix (International Direct Dialling) : 00

NDD Prefix (National Direct Dialling) : 0

COMMUNICATIONS

All major hotels have fax and internet facilities. Mobile phone services are widely available and are provided by Telefonica Germany, Telekom and Vodafone. [Postal services](#) are available and are quite reliable.

Information Security

Organisations operating in Germany face high risks from nation-state and cybercriminal actors. Government entities as well as companies and individuals in critical sectors such as energy and utilities, telecommunication, media, finance, manufacturing

and defence have been targeted with sophisticated espionage operations aimed at the extraction of intellectual property and reconnaissance. Cyberattacks have originated from both hostile and allied nations.

Cybercrime in Germany mostly targets the financial sector; common tactics include ransomware infections, banking Trojans and webinjects. This is often related to the theft and misuse of personal data. Most attacks involve international criminal groups, some of which are suspected to have ties to state actors.

Data interception and surveillance laws in Germany are aligned with most EU states; telecommunications may be monitored within legal restraints if an individual or organisation is suspected of terrorism or other serious crimes. Service providers are obligated to co-operate with court requests for information.

Advice

- Minimise the number of devices you bring in-country; only carry devices that are absolutely essential. Clean devices, containing only data necessary for the trip with no access to shared networks, should be used if targeted attacks are likely.
- Ensure all devices you bring in-country are well secured, with strong passwords; ensure all storage devices have full disk encryption.
- Ensure all software, including anti-virus protection, is up to date prior to travel; avoid updating software while away.
- Avoid connecting to insecure Wi-Fi networks where possible. Public Wi-Fi connections are almost always unencrypted, allowing attackers to easily instigate man-in-the-middle attacks, where they redirect your browsing request to a malicious website and then, run malware on your device.
- If necessary, only connect to public networks using a Virtual Private Network (VPN). Always familiarise yourself with the legal status of any VPN or application in your destination country prior to travel. Be aware of other relevant legislation including compliance requests which allow the authorities to inspect devices.
- Keep devices on your person as much as possible. If unattended, ensure devices are powered down and well-secured. If using hotel safes, secure them with a secondary personally lockable device.
- Limit location tracking/turn off your phone's location function to deter surveillance, with the exception of our Assistance App or other essential applications. Turn off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth when not in use.
- Run a thorough check of all devices upon your return and use the 'forget network' setting if you did connect to any public Wi-Fi networks.
- Comply with local legislation. This includes any official requests to inspect devices. If this occurs, inform your IT department as soon as possible and exercise caution when using the device after. Power off devices prior to approaching customs.
- Obtain profile-specific advice taking into account your industry and position in the company.

ELECTRICITY



Calendar

Holidays & Security Dates

2025

31 Oct Reformation Day

01 Nov All Saints Day

20 Nov Day of Prayer and Repentance

Not celebrated in all areas.

26 Dec Boxing Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is observed on the following Monday or Tuesday respectively.

31 Dec New Years Eve

2026

01 Jan New Year's Day

In many countries, if this holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday is declared for the following Monday.

03 Oct Reunification Day

Destination Guide for Germany

Medical Overview

Medical Care

Excellent

Standard of Health Care

Germany has a very high standard of health care, both in the private and public systems. All university hospitals offer multiple-specialty care. Most doctors and other medical staff speak reasonable English all over Germany independent of urban and rural areas.

Medical Contact

Emergency Numbers, hospital and clinic contact information

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance : 112

Fire service : 112

Police : 110

Hospitals & Clinics

HELIOS Klinikum Berlin-Buch

Schwanebecker Chaussee 50
49 3094010
info@helios-international.com

Uniklinik Frankfurt am Main

7 Theodor Stern Kaii
49 6963010
Info@unimedizin-ffm.de

Uniklinik Hamburg - Eppendorf

Martinistrasse 52
49 4074100
info@uke.de

Uniklinik der Technischen Universitaet Muenchen Rechts der Isar

Ismaninger Strasse 22
49 8941400
IPO@mri.tum.de

Vaccinations

Routine and additional

Hepatitis A

Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis A vaccination for all travellers regardless of destination, especially those who are at higher risk (see [US CDC](#)), such as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, people who use illicit drugs or those with liver disease.

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort, jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy. Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

[Watch the Hepatitis Video Podcast](#) (Vimeo)

[View Viral Hepatitis Infographic Poster](#) (PDF)

The Disease

Hepatitis is a general term that means inflammation of the liver. Medications, poisons, alcohol and infections can all cause hepatitis.

Hepatitis A is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. The virus is highly contagious. People are mostly infected through eating or drinking contaminated food or water, or through direct contact with an infected person. Usually people make a full recovery, however occasionally the disease can be severe or fatal. There is an effective vaccine available.

Transmission

The illness is transmitted via the "faecal-oral route". The virus is present in the stool of an infected person. Others are infected when they consume food / drink contaminated with the virus. This is more common in areas with poor sanitation systems and limited access to clean water.

It is also possible to get the disease via direct contact with an infected person's faecal matter, for example through incompletely washed hands, sexual contact or through shared illicit drugs.

Symptoms

Not everyone gets symptoms. Most childhood infections will be asymptomatic or mild. Most adults will develop symptoms, and severity increases with age.

If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four or more weeks after infection and can last for weeks or months. They include any or all of the following:

- fever
- fatigue
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- nausea/vomiting
- abdominal pain/discomfort
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)
- dark urine, clay-coloured stool
- joint pain
- itching

Most people make a full recovery. About 10 to 15% of symptomatic persons with hepatitis A may experience relapse or prolonged illness up to six months. Sometimes the disease is severe and can be fatal (less than 1% of all cases), particularly in older people, and those with other underlying liver disease (such as infection with hepatitis B or C). It is thought to be due to the immune mechanisms rather than infection levels.

Diagnosis

Blood tests are required to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment

There is no specific medication to treat hepatitis A. Medications to relieve symptoms should only be used under medical advice as they may contribute to damage of the liver.

Prevention

Prevention is through **hygiene**, careful selection of **food and water**, and **vaccination**.

Good hygiene, and choosing safe food and water are important, especially in areas where hepatitis A is common:

- Maintain a high level of personal hygiene, including during sexual activity.
- Do not drink tap water. Choose boiled or bottled water from reputable sources, water that has been treated with chlorine or iodine, or carbonated beverages.
- Avoid ice, as it may have been made with unsafe water.
- Ask locally which restaurants and hotels serve safe food.
- Select food that has been thoroughly cooked while fresh and served very hot.
- Do not eat raw shellfish.

Vaccination is effective, widely available and generally recommended for any traveller who has not already had the vaccine (or the disease). Two doses, given six months apart, are required for lifelong immunity. All travellers should consider it, particularly:

- If travelling to areas with high rates of hepatitis A.
- When living conditions are crowded or have poor sanitation.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Illicit drug users.
- People with liver disease.

Postexposure prophylaxis: After exposure, people who are not immune may be recommended Hepatitis A vaccination or immune globulin (antibodies) as soon as possible (within two weeks) to prevent infection.

Risk to travellers

Hepatitis A is common in areas with limited access to sanitation. People who live with an infected person, men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease are at higher risk in any area.

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Hepatitis A Information](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [Factsheet about hepatitis A](#)

Hepatitis B

Recommended for health care workers and anyone who may have a new sexual partner, share needles or get a tattoo or body piercing.

Many travel health professionals recommend hepatitis B vaccination for all travellers and international assignees, regardless of destination.

The Disease

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth

Symptoms develop between 45 and 160 days after infection when the virus invades the liver causing fever, abdominal pain, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. There is no specific treatment and recovery usually takes about four weeks. Many individuals may have no symptoms but can still be infectious to others.

Approximately 1 in 10 of those infected do not recover fully and suffer ongoing liver damage called chronic hepatitis B - this can eventually cause liver cirrhosis and/or cancer. The very young and the elderly are more likely to develop a chronic infection.

Vaccination

In many countries, hepatitis B is included in the routine childhood immunizations and need not be repeated. For unvaccinated travelers:

Routine schedule

- Individual hepatitis B vaccination requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after 6-12 months.
- A combined vaccine for hepatitis A and B is available in many countries. It also requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after six months.

Accelerated schedule

Can be used for travelers who will depart before the first two doses of the routine schedule can be given:

- Use an *individual* hepatitis B vaccine
- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose required after 6 months

Accelerated combined hepatitis A and B vaccine

- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose of hepatitis B alone or the combined vaccine required after 12 months

[Watch the Hepatitis Video Podcast](#) (Vimeo)

[View Viral Hepatitis Infographic Poster](#) (PDF)

The Disease

Hepatitis B is a viral disease affecting the liver. It is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids of an infected person. It can cause a mild illness but occasionally can develop into a chronic illness.

Transmission

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids (e.g. semen, saliva) on broken skin. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected partner
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth
- Contact with wounds of an infected person

The virus remains viable outside the body on any surface for about seven days and can lead to infection. Blood spills including dried blood can be infectious.

Symptoms

Symptoms develop between 30 and 180 days after exposure to infection. Hepatitis B can either be acute (short term illness) or chronic (long term illness). Most people will not develop symptoms during the acute phase. Others experience fever, pain in muscles and joints, abdominal, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. Recovery may take several weeks.

Risk of chronic illness is related to age. Babies who get infected from their mothers or those that get infected before five years of age are very likely to develop chronic infection. Less than 5% of adults and about 90% of children may develop chronic infection. In chronic illness, virus continues to remain in the body although people do not have symptoms. Many individuals may appear healthy but can spread the infection to others. Life threatening conditions such as liver cirrhosis and/or cancer may develop.

Diagnosis

The disease can be confirmed by blood tests.

Treatment

There is no specific cure for the disease. Treatment is mainly supportive, consisting of rest, adequate nutrition and medications to reduce discomfort.

Prevention

Avoid direct contact with body fluids.

Vaccine: This can prevent the illness and its serious outcomes such as cirrhosis and cancer. In many countries, hepatitis B vaccination is included in the routine childhood immunizations.

Risk to Travellers

Most travellers are at low risk unless they have contact with the infected blood or body fluids.

[CDC Hepatitis B information](#)

Measles

- Recommended for all travellers and international assignees.
- All travellers should be up to date with their measles vaccination (schedule differs by country). Vaccination for adults is available as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), two doses given at least four weeks apart are required.

Some individuals [cannot be vaccinated](#) due to certain health conditions.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can have serious complications.

Transmission

Measles spreads very easily when an infected person talks, coughs, or sneezes, releasing droplets into the air. If a healthy person breathes in these droplets, they can get sick. The virus can stay in the air and infect people for up to 2 hours after the infected person has left. It can also land on objects and surfaces, where it can live for several hours. If you touch these surfaces and then touch your face, you can get infected.

A person with measles is infectious from four days before the appearance of the rash until four days after it has appeared. After being exposed to the virus, approximately 90% of people who are not immune will become infected.

Symptoms

Measles symptoms usually start 7-14 days after being exposed to the virus. Early signs include a high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. Small white spots, known as Koplik's spots, may appear inside the mouth. A few days later, a red, blotchy rash starts on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.

Measles can lead to serious complications, especially in young children, adults over 20, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems. Common complications include ear infections and diarrhea. More severe complications can be pneumonia, which is a lung infection, and encephalitis, which is swelling of the brain. These severe complications can sometimes be fatal.

Pregnant women who contract measles have an increased chance of miscarriage and pre-term delivery. Their babies may also experience low birth weights and birth defects.

Diagnosis

This illness is usually diagnosed clinically. If necessary, a lab test can confirm measles.

Treatment

There is no particular treatment for measles. Symptoms can be managed with over-the-counter preparations, good nutrition and adequate fluid intake. Antibiotics are required if there are bacterial complications (such as pneumonia, ear infection). Sick people should be isolated from non-immune people, and should not go out in public until at least four days after their rash appears.

Prevention

Measles can be effectively prevented by vaccination, which many countries routinely administer during childhood. The MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is highly effective and safe, providing lifelong immunity for most people after two doses. Vaccination not only protects individuals but also helps prevent the spread of the virus within communities.

People who are not immune and are at higher risk for complications (such as pregnant women, unvaccinated infants and people with weakened immune systems) may be given a dose of antibodies if exposed to the virus.

In addition to vaccination, good hygiene practices, such as regular handwashing and avoiding close contact with infected individuals, can help reduce the risk of transmission.

Risk to Travellers

Measles occurs throughout the world. Outbreaks are common in areas where there is low vaccination coverage. Measles is highly contagious and can spread quickly in places where people gather, such as airports and tourist destinations. Anyone who has not been immunised, or has not previously had measles, is at risk of infection.

- International SOS article on [measles, mumps and rubella vaccination](#)
- [CDC Measles Information](#)
- See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

Tickborne encephalitis

Recommended for:

- people who will spend time in forested or grassy areas during tick season (particularly those who will hike, camp, perform fieldwork, etc.);
- people residing in this country for longer periods (i.e., six months or more).

Tickborne encephalitis (TBE) is a viral infection which is mostly transmitted to people through tick bites. Ticks live in or near forests and are usually active during warmer months. TBE infection can also be acquired by consuming unpasteurized dairy products from infected cows, goats or sheep.

Most people will not have any symptoms. For those who do, initial symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, nausea, and fatigue. These may resolve in a week or so, but if the infection spreads to the brain, the symptoms may become more severe (decreased mental state, severe headaches, convulsions, weakness and/or coma). TBE can be fatal.

Prevention is through avoiding tick bites and vaccination.

The Disease

Tickborne encephalitis (TBE) is a viral infection which is mostly transmitted to people through tick bites. It occurs in many areas of Europe and Asia.

Transmission

These viruses are mainly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick. Ticks are usually found in forests, long grass and hedges and are more active between early spring and late autumn. Often, the bite goes unnoticed. Infection can also be acquired by consuming unpasteurized dairy products from infected cows, goats or sheep.

Symptoms

Many people have no symptoms. If symptoms do develop, they first start about 7 to 14 days after the tick bite. Initially there may be fever, headache, muscle aches, nausea and fatigue. These symptoms usually resolve in a week or so, but up to one third of people go on to a second phase of illness with inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms then include severe headaches, decreased mental state, convulsions, and muscle paralysis. Recovery takes months and there may be long-term brain and nervous system damage. TBE can be fatal.

Diagnosis

The disease can only be diagnosed through laboratory tests.

Treatment

There is no specific medication to treat TBE. Patients are managed with supportive treatment.

Prevention

Avoid tick bites:

- Wear long pants with tight cuffs, and tuck pant legs into socks.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone.
- Consider soaking or spraying clothes with the insecticide permethrin. (Do not apply permethrin directly to the skin.)
- Look for ticks on the body and clothing, and remove them promptly.

Do not consume unpasteurised dairy products.

Vaccine

A vaccine is available in many countries. It is recommended for people visiting endemic countries during the warmer months (early spring to late autumn) and participating in outdoor activities. In countries where the disease is endemic, the TBE vaccine is often included in routine immunisation schedules.

Risk to Travellers

Travellers at increased risk of exposure are those going to endemic countries and whose itineraries include outdoor recreational activities (e.g., camping, hiking) or working in forested areas (e.g., farming, field research) between early spring and late autumn.

References

[CDC Tickborne encephalitis information](#)

[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Tickborne encephalitis factsheet](#)

[UK TravelHealthPro Tick-borne encephalitis factsheet](#)

Routine Vaccinations**COVID-19**

All travelers should ensure they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations. Recommendations vary between countries.

Influenza

Annual vaccination is recommended. Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe disease, including:

- Young children
- Pregnant individuals
- People 65 years and older
- People with underlying health conditions

Measles-Mumps-Rubella

Vaccinations against measles, mumps, and rubella are routine in childhood, and are usually available as a combined vaccine "MMR".

Everyone should be immune to these diseases before travel.

There are outbreaks of measles in many locations.

If you are unsure of your immunity, consult your doctor well in advance of travel.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

Polio

Vaccination against polio is routine in childhood in many countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to the disease before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or a *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis

Vaccinations against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis are routine in childhood.

See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to these diseases before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional. You may need a *primary vaccination* or *booster*. Booster recommendations vary by country.

Varicella

Varicella (chickenpox) vaccinations are included in the routine childhood immunization schedule of some countries. See routine childhood vaccination schedules: [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Europe](#), [USA](#), [UK](#)

All adults should ensure they are immune to varicella before they travel abroad. If unsure of your immunity, consult your health professional.

Health Threats

Known health threats for this country

Hantaviruses

Hantaviruses are a group of viruses that belong to the *bunyaviridae* family. They can cause two different types of illness in humans: Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) involves the kidneys while Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) involves the respiratory system. Regardless of which illness they cause, hantaviruses are carried by infected rodents. Virus is present in the animal's saliva, urine and faeces. Droplets of these excretions can contaminate the air in a process called aerosolisation. Humans become sick when they inhale the virus.

The incubation period of HPS is not positively known. Limited data suggests that people become sick within one to eight weeks after being exposed to the virus. The incubation period for HFRS is usually 1 to 2 weeks after exposure but could be as long as 8 weeks.

Initial symptoms of HPS include fatigue, fever, and muscle aches. About 50 percent of HPS patients also experience headache, dizziness, and abdominal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, pain). The "late stage" symptoms of HPS are cough/shortness of breath and a feeling of overall tightness in the chest. Heartbeat and breathing may both become rapid at this stage of illness. Symptoms of HFRS appear suddenly and include intense headaches, back and abdominal pain, fever, chills, nausea and blurred vision. As the disease progresses, patients may develop flushing of the face, inflammation, redness of the eyes or a rash. Later symptoms include bleeding from the skin, conjunctiva of the eye, and mouth. In the most severe cases renal failure develops.

There is no specific treatment or cure. Patients are treated supportively, meaning their symptoms are addressed even though the disease itself cannot be cured. Patients usually require hospitalisation in an intensive care unit. An antiviral medication, ribavirin, may be used to treat the HFRS although its effectiveness has not been proven in HPS.

There is no vaccine for HPS. Vaccines against HFRS are being used in many Asian countries. The best way to avoid infection is to eliminate rodents from your living space and worksite, and/or avoid contact with them. Keep food in tightly sealed containers, clean dishes immediately after use, do not leave pet food out all day, and seal holes to the outside – generally, make your environment inhospitable to rodents.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease commonly present in animals. While these animals often show no sign of disease, they can excrete the bacteria in their urine and other bodily fluids (except saliva), which contaminates water and soil in the environment. Humans become infected primarily through contact with that contaminated water and soil.

Infection can be treated with antibiotic medications. Severe disease can cause liver, kidney, heart and respiratory problems as well as meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord). If left untreated, leptospirosis can be fatal.

The best way to prevent leptospirosis is to consider water safety when swimming, bathing, boating or wading. Avoid water that might be contaminated with animal urine. If unsure whether the water is contaminated and contact is unavoidable, wear protective clothing such as thigh-high waterproof boots and cover all wounds with waterproof dressings. Wash thoroughly after potential exposure.

Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease contracted when bitten or scratched by an infected (rabid) animal, often a dog. Once it enters the body, the virus travels along nerves and causes paralysis. As it reaches important organs like the spinal cord and the brain, it causes coma and death.

In countries where rabies is present in animals or bats, ALL animal / bat bites, scratches and licks to broken skin must be treated seriously. Rabies vaccination is very effective in preventing rabies, even after a bite/scratch by a rabid animal.

Rabies vaccination

Pre-exposure vaccination is often recommended for expatriates and long-term visitors to destinations where rabies is present. It's especially recommended if quality medical care may not be available after being bitten or scratched by an animal. Pre-exposure treatment can be especially useful for children, since they may not tell their parents that they have been bitten/scratched.

Pre-exposure vaccination makes it easier to treat a bite or scratch. That's important because some types of rabies treatment can be in short supply in many countries, even in cities.

If bitten, scratched or licked (on broken skin) by an animal:

- Immediately cleanse the wound with soap and water and a povidone-iodine solution if available.
- Seek medical advice from a qualified source or your assistance company.
- Notify local health authorities immediately. You may need *post-exposure vaccination*, even if you have had pre-exposure vaccination. (THIS CAN BE LIFE SAVING.)

Lyme disease

Lyme disease occurs in North America, Europe and Asia. It is transmitted to humans by the bite of a particular species of tick. Lyme disease can cause an expanding rash at the site of the bite, fever, arthritis and nerve problems such as facial palsy.

To prevent tick bites:

- Avoid tick habitats
- Use insect repellents
- Check daily for ticks

Lyme disease vaccination is no longer available.

If you develop a rash at the site of a tick bite or other symptoms of Lyme disease, seek medical attention. A course of antibiotics can cure Lyme disease.

Tickborne encephalitis

Tickborne encephalitis (TBE) is a viral infection which is mostly transmitted to people through tick bites. Ticks live in or near forests and are usually active during warmer months. TBE infection can also be acquired by consuming unpasteurized dairy products from infected cows, goats or sheep.

Most people will not have any symptoms. For those who do, initial symptoms include fever, headache, muscle aches, nausea, and fatigue. These may resolve in a week or so, but if the infection spreads to the brain, the symptoms may become more severe (decreased mental state, severe headaches, convulsions, weakness and/or coma). TBE can be fatal.

Prevention is through avoiding tick bites and vaccination.

West Nile Virus

Primarily a disease of birds, West Nile virus (WNV) can infect humans. The most common route for a human infection is via mosquitoes. The mosquito feeds on an infected bird or other animal, then bites a human and introduces the virus into their body.

Most people who get WNV develop no symptoms. Of the 20 percent who do get ill, most develop mild symptoms 3-14 days after being bitten: fever, head and body ache, nausea and vomiting. Sometimes the lymph nodes swell or a rash appears on the trunk.

In fewer than one percent of all human cases, the person develops a serious, possibly fatal, infection. Symptoms may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, tremors and paralysis. The brain and membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord may get inflamed, which can cause coma and death. Patients who recover from a serious WNV infection may suffer permanent brain damage.

There is no specific treatment for the disease, or vaccine to protect against it. To avoid infection, prevent mosquito bites in areas where the virus circulates. Wear long sleeves and long pants, and use insect repellents.

Altitude

Altitude illness is a potentially fatal condition that can affect people who normally live at a low altitude and travel to higher altitudes. It can occur from elevations of 1,500 meters onwards but is more common at elevations above 2,500 meters (8,000 feet).

People most at risk are those who have experienced altitude illness before, people who have heart or lung problems and people under the age of 50. There are three different types of altitude illness: Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). AMS is the most common and mild form of altitude illness. HACE and HAPE are more severe. HACE is a medical emergency and if not treated and managed quickly, can result in coma and death. Management of altitude illnesses involves immediate descent and oxygen treatment. Most people who are affected, even those who develop HACE or HAPE, recover completely if moved to a lower elevation. There are medicines that can be administered by trained medical professionals.

Anyone travelling to high altitudes, especially higher than 2,500 meters, should be aware of and recognise the symptoms of altitude illness. See your travel health professional before departure, for individual advice on preventive measures, especially if you have ever suffered altitude sickness in the past, or if you have an underlying medical condition.

HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and STIs

HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C are spread by contact with bodily fluids (especially blood and semen).

- unprotected sex,
- needle sharing during IV drug use, or
- unsafe blood or medical/dental instruments.

Genital herpes (HSV), genital warts (HPV), gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and most other sexually transmitted diseases are spread by genital contact.

Prevention:

- In many countries, hepatitis B is now a routine childhood immunisation and need not be repeated. All non-immune travellers should consider vaccination.
- Always use new condoms (preferably brought from your home country).
- IV drug users should not share needles.
- Avoid having tattoos or piercings done.
- In healthcare settings, make sure that needles and syringes are sterile and not shared between patients.
- Call International SOS or your corporate medical department if you are hospitalised.
- Be aware of your risk when assisting anyone with an injury. Protect yourself from contact with bodily fluids.
- Seek medical attention within 24 hours if you accidentally come into contact with someone else's bodily fluids.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral disease that causes liver inflammation. The virus is present in the faeces of an infected person. It spreads through contaminated food and water and is common in areas with poor sanitation. Person-to-person spread also occurs, when the virus is inadvertently transferred into the mouth, including during sexual activity. People at higher risk of infection include men who have sex with men, illicit drug users and people with liver disease.

Not everyone gets symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they begin two to four weeks or more after infection and can last for weeks or months. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, abdominal pain/discomfort, jaundice (yellow colour of the skin and eyes), dark urine, clay-coloured stool, joint pain and itching. Many infected people suffer only a mild illness. Most cases recover fully after four or more weeks. However, for some, the disease can be severe, and occasionally is fatal. There is no specific treatment and cases are managed through supportive therapy.

Prevention is through vaccination, attention to hygiene, and access to safe food and water.

Hepatitis B

The Disease

The hepatitis B virus, like HIV, is transmitted through contact with blood, blood products or body fluids. Modes of transmission include:

- Unprotected sexual intercourse
- Infected blood transfusions
- Needle sharing by IV drug users
- Use of unsterilized needles, syringes or equipment
- From mother to child during childbirth

Symptoms develop between 45 and 160 days after infection when the virus invades the liver causing fever, abdominal pain, nausea and loss of appetite. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) is a common feature and the urine may become dark. There is no specific treatment and recovery usually takes about four weeks. Many individuals may have no symptoms but can still be infectious to others.

Approximately 1 in 10 of those infected do not recover fully and suffer ongoing liver damage called chronic hepatitis B - this can eventually cause liver cirrhosis and/or cancer. The very young and the elderly are more likely to develop a chronic infection.

Vaccination

In many countries, hepatitis B is included in the routine childhood immunizations and need not be repeated. For unvaccinated travelers:

Routine schedule

- Individual hepatitis B vaccination requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after 6-12 months.
- A combined vaccine for hepatitis A and B is available in many countries. It also requires a series of three injections given on days zero, 30 and after six months.

Accelerated schedule

Can be used for travelers who will depart before the first two doses of the routine schedule can be given:

- Use an *individual* hepatitis B vaccine
- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose required after 6 months

Accelerated combined hepatitis A and B vaccine

- Doses on days 0, 7 and 21
- Fourth dose of hepatitis B alone or the combined vaccine required after 12 months

Measles

Food & Water

Generally safe

Food Risk

Food is safe.

Water and Beverages

Tap water is safe to drink.

Rabies

Avoid bats.

Rabies

Germany was officially declared free of rabies in 2021. Rabies is present in bats and the risk of exposure for average travellers is low. If bitten or scratched by a bat, seek treatment for rabies.

Destination Guide for Germany

Security Overview

Personal Security

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Travel to Germany can continue with standard security precautions.
- Take sensible security precautions against petty and street crime.
- Strikes in the transport sector can disrupt travel. Keep abreast of planned industrial action and plan your itineraries accordingly.
- Protests and demonstrations over various political, environmental and socio-economic issues occur occasionally but usually pass peacefully. Plan journeys bypassing them as a precaution and to minimise travel delays.
- There is a credible threat of terrorism in Germany from a wide variety of actors. Exercise vigilance at notable targets, including migrant centres, religious sites, transport hubs and tourist attractions. Carry out a profile- and industry-specific risk assessment as required.
- Be alert to suspicious behaviour and report any suspect packages to the authorities.
- Security alerts, hoaxes or the discovery of unexploded World War 2 ordnance can trigger the short-notice evacuation of transport hubs or public locations, which can cause disruption. Follow all directives issued by the authorities during any security operation and do not act on the basis of unverified information.
- Urban centres and overland transport links in Germany are occasionally affected by flooding following heavy rainfall. Consult the websites of the German [meteorological service](#) and the [flood warning centre](#) for up-to-date weather information and related warnings. Familiarise yourself with natural disaster response procedures and follow all directives issued by the authorities. See our Mitigating natural hazards section for additional advice.

Crime

Limited to hot spots

CRIME

Although violent crime in Germany is still relatively rare, data indicates there has been a recent increase in the number of reported cases.

The most significant risk for individuals remains petty crime and theft, which accounts for a large proportion of all recorded crime. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing, is particularly prevalent in urban areas, with perpetrators often using distraction tactics to target victims.

Vehicle theft and vandalism are more prevalent in the eastern parts of the country. Although vehicle thefts have decreased over the past few years, reports indicate that organised criminal groups have been targeting keyless and luxury vehicles in areas near the border with Poland. Other common crimes include the theft of unattended property, break-ins, credit card-related fraud and attacks on ATMs. Various organised criminal groups operate throughout the country, but their activities are unlikely to affect people in legitimate business.

Incidents of violent crime, including knife stabbing, have been reported in public area. There is a risk of aggravated assault against migrant workers, asylum-seekers, refugees and immigrants. Jewish-linked locations may also be targeted, particularly in eastern states such as Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Saxony. However, business travellers are unlikely to be singled out for attacks.

Terrorism

Limited indirect risk to foreign nationals

TERRORISM

Islamist extremism

Homegrown Islamist militants, including returnees from the extremist Islamic State (IS) group's operations in Syria and Iraq, pose the primary terrorism threat. Despite solid counter-terrorism capabilities, Germany is a plausible target for terrorist attacks by Islamist extremists due to its status as a major Western country and, in particular, as a result of its support in the

fight against the IS. The authorities have thwarted several alleged plots in recent years, again suggesting good intelligence and security force capabilities rather than a lack of intent on the part of militant groups to carry out attacks.

The security forces have also disrupted cells found to have been financing terrorism abroad. Previously, the police have arrested people alleged to be acting within a network that financially supported IS in Syria.

The most significant Islamist extremist attack occurred in December 2016 in the capital Berlin, where at least 12 people were killed and 56 injured when an assailant drove a truck into crowds at a Christmas market. The attacker, who was fatally shot by the Italian police four days later near Milan (Italy), had pledged allegiance to IS and established links with known Islamist extremists. IS has claimed responsibility for attacks held in Wurzburg-Heidingsfeld (Bavaria state), Ansbach (Bavaria state), and Solingen (North Rhine-Westphalia state).

US and British military and diplomatic installations are high-profile venues for potential attacks. In April 2020, four suspects were arrested in North Rhine-Westphalia state on terrorism charges related to a reported plot to target US military facilities in the country. Transport infrastructure such as airports and railways, government buildings, places of worship or high-profile business interests may also be targeted.

Far-right extremism

Far-right extremist activity, including by neo-Nazi groups, has risen in recent years. The growth of extremism coincides with the rise to prominence of the Alternative for Germany (AfD), a political party with ties to right-wing groups. The AfD secured 20.8% of the vote in the 2025 federal election, representing a twofold increase compared to its share in the 2021 election. Since 2015, the main targets of attacks and other hate crimes have been refugees and asylum seekers, their accommodation, politicians and minority religious communities. Mosques and synagogues are also potential targets. The security forces are competent and investing in their abilities to detect and disrupt complex plots, but preventing one-off or unsophisticated attacks remains challenging, as they are difficult to detect in advance.

In February 2020, a far-right militant shot and killed nine people in Hanau (Hesse state), in the worst incident of far-right militancy since the country's reunification in 1990. Violent attacks targeted at synagogues and asylum seekers' shelters have taken place in previous years. As a result of these incidences, security has increased across the country, including at major transport hubs and popular tourist attractions.

The Reichsbürger movement is a collective of several groups and individuals that deny the legitimacy of the modern German state and believe in the persistence of the German empire or its predecessor states, or self-proclaim statelets. The movement is associated with conspiracy theories, anti-Semitism, and hostility towards foreign nationals and the government. Several associated groups openly espouse far-right views. Plans to overthrow the government, kidnap politicians, stand up militias and perpetrate multiple bombings to create civil-war-like conditions have been thwarted by security forces in recent years. While most crimes committed by members of the movement are non-violent, several police operations to arrest affiliated offenders have led to fatal firefights amid high levels of weapons ownership among the perpetrators. The incidents highlight the credible threat posed by fringe political groupings and far-right ideologies, which are on the rise. However, such incidents are unlikely to target individuals.

Kidnapping

KIDNAPPING

Wealthy individuals are sometimes targeted by criminal gangs. Foreign nationals are rarely kidnapped.

Social Unrest

SOCIAL UNREST

The industrial and transport sectors have influential labour unions that periodically stage strikes and protests. Demonstrations also occur over socio-economic, educational and environmental issues. Transport strikes and climate protests at airports may disrupt flight operations. The demonstrators may block major roads and highways, which leads to localised traffic disruption in urban centres.

Anti-far-right demonstrations have taken place across the country, mainly against the political party Alternative for Germany (AfD). Nationwide or localised demonstrations are common during election periods.

Rallies seldom devolve into violence but can cause disruption to transport and other services. However, there can be a credible risk of clashes during demonstrations between rival protesters, such as neo-Nazi and anti-fascist activists, or between radical activists and the police, when rival groups stage simultaneous rallies. May Day (1 May) has often been a flashpoint for such rallies and clashes in recent years. Violent riots involving fireworks and clashes with the police are common during New Year's Eve in major cities, including Berlin.

Environmental activism

Activist groups, including the Last Generation group, stage non-violent acts of civil disobedience. They often block key roads, leading to significant traffic disruption in urban centres countrywide.

Far-right groups

There are sporadic protest campaigns against immigration and sporadic attacks on Muslims, Jews and other minority groups. Anti-immigration rallies also occur in smaller cities and towns, often triggered by plans to establish migrant centres. Precedent indicates a credible risk of localised disturbances during such gatherings and related counter-demonstrations, which the authorities may forcibly disperse. Supporters of such movements include members of far-right and neo-Nazi groups.