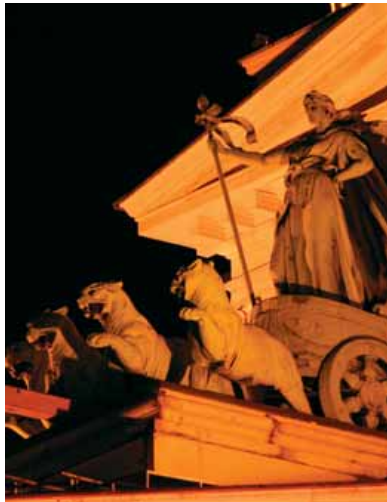


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Frankfurt's modern skyline mingles with classical architecture while numerous museums and galleries line the Main river. Fresh and dynamic with a sophisticated edge, all the business and entertainment energy packed into this mid-sized city creates an electric feeling.

Altstadt

Römer square dominates Altstadt, the Old Town. Most of these old buildings were destroyed after WWII and were only recently rebuilt as replicas. Here too lies the birthplace of the German constitution, founded in 1848 at the *Paulskirche* (Paul's Church).

Innenstadt

The inner city is home to the Zeil, Germany's longest *Fussgängerzone* (pedestrian shopping street). Plus Friedberger Tor, one of Frankfurt's two medieval watchtowers.

Bahnhofsviertel

The *Bahnhofsviertel* (train station area) houses the famous red light district as well as some of the city's best ethnic restaurants, and while it has been spruced up, the faint of heart are recommended to stay on Kaiserstraße.

Sachsenhausen

This neighbourhood south of the river is a charming mix of old and new. The area offers shops, trendy cafés, restaurants, boisterous bars and museums. Plus a large flea market on Saturday mornings and the riverside park. Keep an eye out for local nutter, Naked George...

Frankfurt: The facts

Area

Germany covers an area of 357,021 km², of which almost a third is woodland. Frankfurt lies in the western part of the country. The highest peak is the Zugspitze, in the German Alps (2954 metres).

Local time

Germany is in the Central European Time Zone: GMT + 1 hour. When it is 12:00 in Frankfurt it is: 06:00 in New York, 11:00 in London, 12:00 in Rome, 14:00 in Moscow and 20:00 in Sydney.

Population

Germany: 83,251,851 (July 2002)
Frankfurt: 652,000 (December 2001 est.)

Temperature

The average January temperature in Frankfurt is a chilly 3°C (38°F) while in July average temperatures soar to a positively terrace inducing 25°C (77°F).

Bornheim

Bornheim, northeast of the centre and nicknamed *das Lustige Dorf* (The Funny Village) is the most highly populated area in Frankfurt. Wednesday and Saturday sees the Bornheim Farmer's Market *am Uhrtürmchen* (at the clock tower).

Nordend

Famous for liberal freethinkers, the area maintains its creative and eclectic character with numerous bars, restaurants and cafés and the Holzhausenpark and castle.

Westend

The area of choice for business types. It's a green, mean power machine: lots of cash, affluent living and home to green spaces Grünebergpark and the *Palmengarten*, the botanical garden.

Bockenheim

Rags (dull concrete campus of the University of Frankfurt) and riches (adjacent to Westend), plus the other medieval watchtower.

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Arrival & Transport

If only all cities has such fine airport facilities and public transport links.

Public transport

The Frankfurt public transportation system (RMV; Rhein-Main-Verkehrsverbund, www.rmv.de, tel. 018 05 06 99 60) includes regional trains (RB), regional express trains (RE), S-Bahn, U-Bahn, trams and buses. The system allows you to travel with all methods of transportation on one ticket. The **U-Bahn** (metro) comprises seven lines serving the centre of the city. These tidly trains are not much more than underground trams, proved by the fact that some lines surface immediately after leaving the core of the city and trundle along on the street. You're never very far from a U-Bahn station. The stations are all well lit and decorated in a slightly dodgy 1980s colour scheme. Destinations are displayed prominently; keep the final station or the colour of the line in mind to navigate the more complicated stations. The **S-Bahn** complements the U-Bahn as a far more extensive suburban rail network, also serving the airport and surrounding towns. Usually rolling on ground level, they duck underground in the city centre and pretend to be an U-Bahn to confuse the tourists. **Night buses** take over after 01.30, departing in all directions from Konstablerwache every half hour on the half hour.

Tickets

Tickets (Fahrkarten) can be purchased from the depressingly confusing RMV machines at tram and bus stops, as well as at U and S-Bahn stations. The machines accept coins and banknotes, and only issue tickets for **immediate** use as Frankfurt has no validating machines. There is a variety of tickets, and prices depend how far you are travelling and the time of the day. **Reduced fares** are available Mon to Fri 18:30 - 06:00 & 09:00 - 16:00, weekends and all public holidays (excluding the airport). During these times, you will automatically be given the **ermäßig** (reduced) version. The most used tickets have spe-

cial buttons. Press **Einzelfahrt Frankfurt** for a single ticket, which costs €2/1.55 (*ermäßig*). If you're travelling less than 2km (usually three stops) buy the **Kurzstrecke** ticket (short journey; €1.55/ €1.15). If you're going to use some form of public transport more than three times a day, get the **Tageskarte** (day ticket, €4.70). If you're travelling to or from the airport, get the **Einzelfahrt Frankfurt Airport** (single ticket, €3.25), or the **Tageskarte Frankfurt Airport** dayticket (€7.20). Certain hotels sell the **HotelGastTicket** which is valid for two days in central Frankfurt plus the airport, and is cheaper than two day tickets. A five person card (adults and children) **Tageskarte** is €7.80 and €12.50 to include the airport. For more information, visit the **traffiQ** office at Hauptwache. Ruthless ticket controllers patrol the system frequently and will not hesitate to slap you with a €40 fine for 'riding black' (*Schwarzfahren*) - no excuses accepted.

Planes

Frankfurt International Airport (FRA) is a modern transportation wonder, second only to Heathrow in terms of traffic but far superior in services and organisation. Enjoy the shopping centre, nightclub, art gallery, even the X-rated cinema while in transit. For airport information, check www.frankfurt-airport.de or call tel. 0180-53 72 46 36. The airport conveniently integrates the (**DB**) train and bus terminals, but the easiest way to get to the city centre is by taking a **S-Bahn** train from under Terminal 1 (the SkyLine shuttle train and shuttle buses connect from Terminal 2 should you arrive there). At the station, press the **Einzelfahrt Frankfurt** button for a one-way **public transport ticket** to the centre (€3.20), or the **Tageskarte Frankfurt inkl. Flughafen** button for a dayticket including travel to/from the airport (€7.10). Take S8 or S9 (direction Frankfurt Hbf, Offenbach or Hanau) which all stop at the main railway station (Hauptbahnhof), the Hauptwache and Konstablerwache. A taxi ride to/from the city centre takes 20-30 minutes and costs about €20. Travellers flying via **Frankfurt-Hahn** airport (110km west of the city, www.hahn-airport.de) can get to and from Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof using Ryanair's regular bus service (€12, 1 hour 45 minutes).

Trains

Frankfurt's main train station, **Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof**, is undergoing a huge facelift, but that aside, arriving in one of Europe's busiest stations is a breeze. ATMs, fast-food restaurants, newspaper stands, chemists, bakeries and grocery stores can all be found around the tracks, and there's more downstairs. Find a Reisebank **exchange office** (open 07.30-21.00) at the southern exit. You can **get to the city centre** on foot in about 15 minutes; head straight out of the main exit, cross the road or use the passageway and walk straight down Kaiserstraße through the wonderfully dodgy but mostly harmless **Bahnhofsviertel** district. Alternatively, head for the **U-Bahn** station under the main hall; many lines head to the Hauptwache stop in the city centre; U4 and U5 pass under the historic centre. You can also go to the **Tiefbahnhof** (deep station; entrance between tracks 16-20) to catch an **S-Bahn** to the centre or to the **airport** (S8 or S9). **DB (Deutsche Bahn)**, German railways) uses a number of train types on **long-distance** routes. The supersexy, delux highspeed **ICE** trains (*InterCity Express*; 'eeh-tsay-ay' not 'ice') zip through the countryside on purpose-built tracks at up to 300km/

hr. Every seat has a headphone plug for the eight music stations, and you may get a TV screen too. Table seats have 220V plugs for laptops, and some carriages have amplifiers to enable clear mobile phone conversations. **EC** (EuroCity) and **IC** (InterCity) trains are less swank, but still very good, connecting international and German cities respectively. **Seat reservations** are not always obligatory (check before boarding), but the €3 investment may save you from having to stand in the corridor for five hours. **Tickets** can be purchased at the the DB Centre and travel agency (open 06:00 - 22:30) in the railway station's main hall. DB has a complicated pricing structure; the sooner you buy the ticket, the more likely you'll get a reduced price. The DB's German and European online train timetable at www.bahn.de is so good that it's often easier to use for planning trips within neighbouring countries than the relevant national websites. It can handle complicated international connections and lists prices for trips within Germany; click on the link to *Int*. *Guests* for the English version. You can **book online** in advance, pay by credit card and print out your ticket and seat reservations at home.

Taxis

Taxis queue outside S- and U-Bahn stops and can also be hailed from the street at the same rate. This is Germany; you won't get ripped off as the metres tick merrily away at a fixed rate. Calling a taxi is an option as well, and remember to mention to the operator if you want to pay by credit card as not all taxis have card-reading equipment. **Taxi Zentrale**, tel. 79 20 20
Zentral 33, tel. 25 00 01
Echofunk, tel. 23 00 33

Frankfurt Card

Tel. 21 23 87 03, www.frankfurt-tourismus.de. This card, valid for 24hrs (€7.80) or 48hrs (€11.50) allows non-stop cultural enjoyment at a pretty good price. Cardholders can make unlimited use of public transport, including to and from the airport, and also get reductions of 25 percent off city sightseeing tours, reduced admission to 21 museums, the zoo, palmgarten and the Höchster Porcelain factory. The card is sold at the Tourist Information Hauptbahnhof (Mon-Fri 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00), Tourist Information Römer, TraffiQ Hauptwache, Reiseland DB-Reisebüro Hauptbahnhof, and the travel bureau in Hall B of Terminal 1 at the airport.

Car rental

Avis Frankfurt Airport, www.avis.de, tel. 69 02 77 71, Open 06:00 - 24:00. Also at Schmidstr. 39 and in Frankfurt main station.
Budget Frankfurt Airport, www.budget.com, tel. 69 07 44, Open 06:00 - 24:00. Also on Schulstr. 7.
Europcar Frankfurt Airport, www.europcar.com, tel. 69 79 70, Open 06:00 - 24:00. Also in Frankfurt main station.
Hertz Frankfurt Airport, www.hertz.com, tel. 69 40 73, Open 06:00 - 23:00. Also in Frankfurt main station.
Sixt Frankfurt Airport, www.sixt.de, tel. 0180-526 25 25, Open 06:00 - 24:00. Also at Allerheiligenstr. 52, Dieselstr. 29, Frankfurt main station and 10 other outlets. The global chauffeur service (tel. 29 08 14) is available 24 hrs/day.

Restaurants

One of the top attractions of Frankfurt culture is its food and drink scene. Frankfurt's restaurants offer pretty much every ethnic taste as well as a wide variety of German style restaurants.

Asian

Mayflower C-2, Reuterweg 16, www.mayflower-chinarestaurant.de, tel. 79 58 39 23. A large Asian restaurant in the new *Welle* (wave) complex near the Alte Oper. Mayflower has a huge menu, serving both Chinese and Thai food. If you're interested in trying a bit of everything, order the *Reistafel* (rice table, €54 for two), or the all-you-can-eat buffet (€8.90). **Open 11:30 - 15:00, 17:30 - 23:30 (€10-20)**

Äbbelwoi taverns

Applewine is only found in Frankfurt and the surrounding area. Juice from pressed apples is fermented (read: left to rot) for 8-10 weeks to produce that unique flavour, which is an acquired taste. Named *Äbbelwoi* in the local dialect, it's resembles cider but is rather sour, so many people choose to mix it with sparkling water (*sauergespitzt*) or lemonade (*süssgespitzt*). Locals, having been raised on the brew, prefer it straight and in the less touristy taverns, the barman often refuses to dilute it. Also, be warned that when consumed in large quantities, applewine can give even the heartiest stomach a run for its money. Order it by the glass or by the pitcher, *bembel*, which comes in many sizes.

Adolf Wagner D-4, Schweizer Str. 71, www.apfelwein-wagner.com, tel. 61 25 65. Most Frankfurters will tell you this is a restaurant you must visit, and so will we. Always packed full of both locals and tourists, Wagner's is a truly German experience. Start off by ordering a *bembel* of apple wine then choose from traditional fare like wurst and schnitzel. **Open 11:00 - 24:00 (€7-11)**

Historix D-3, Saalgasse 19, www.dom-roemer.de, tel. 29 44 00. This applewinery and restaurant is for the true applewine connoisseur. It proudly features applewine presses so one can see how applewine is made, a tremendous collection of *bembels*, and books and art. Tip: the courtyard, enclosed in a lovely secluded square and with jazz concerts every Sunday morning. **Open 11:00 - 23:00 (€5-12)**

Middle eastern

Strandcafé E-1, Koselstr. 7, www.musterschule.de, tel. 55 72 24. Offering delicacies from across the Arabic world, this impressive café in the Nordend has selections from Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Persia plus décor to match. Signs and menu items are displayed in Arabic as well as German. Beautiful stained glass chandeliers hang from the ceiling, hookah pipes and other Middle Eastern treasures abound and the outdoor terrace is draped in canvas, creating an entirely unique atmosphere. We highly recommend their vegetarian crepe with exotic sauce. **Open 09:00 - 22:00; Sun & Holidays 10:00 - 22:00 (€8-16)**

Tourist information



Frankfurt's most central tourist information offices are at the **Hauptbahnhof** and **Römer**. For local, national and international travel bookings go to **traffiQ** at **Hauptwache**. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 09:30 - 18:00.**

Tourist Information Hauptbahnhof

www.tcf.frankfurt.de, tel. 21 23 88 00.
Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00.

Tourist Information Römer.

www.tcf.frankfurt.de, tel. 21 23 88 00.
Open 09:30 - 17:30, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00.

Cafés

Albatross A-2, Kießstr. 27, [M]Bockenheimer Warte, tel. 707 27 69. This café ranges from quiet and cosy during the morning and evening to a packed house during lunch. They lay claim to one of few non-smoking sections in town, have games for children to play with, and a lovely Sunday breakfast buffet. **Open 09:00 - 24:00. (€3-8)**

Kaffeehaus I-2, Bornheimer Landwehr 26, [M]Höhenstr., tel. 46 30 80 87. This jewel is a simple, elegant sanctuary. Kaffeehaus offers breakfast throughout the day accompanied by a daily soup, salad, appetiser and fresh desserts. **Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00.**

Wackers D-2/3, Kornmarkt 9, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 28 78 10, www.wackers-kaffee.de. Simply the best coffee in town. Every Café Wacker proudly sets the standard in the local *Kaffeehaus* scene. **Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. Also at Mittelweg 47 and Berger Str. 185.**

Ethiopian

African Queen B-3, Stuttgarter Str. 21, [M]Hauptbahnhof, tel. 23 29 90. This place is ugly but the staff is great, really friendly and fun, making you feel relaxed and ready to dig in to a shared meal with your hands. The food is excellent, particularly the lentil dishes. Located near Baseler Platz (at the Hauptbahnhof), its main problem is that it's a bit tricky to find. **Open 08:00 - 24:00. (€6-9)**

Ager Bet F-2, Hanauer Landstr. 42, [M]Ostendstrasse, tel. 48 98 15 81. After a five-month hiatus, this fantastic Ethiopian has reopened in a new location in Frankfurt's east end, and they've returned with a vengeance. Serving its sultry African cuisine in its mock African hut surroundings, regulars and new visitors alike have not been disappointed. Try the *Bajainetu* mixed plate for a sample of their meat and vegetable dishes in an exotic combination of flavours on the best *injera* bread we have ever had. **Open 17:00 - 24:00; Sat 17:00 - 01:00; Sun 16:00 - 24:00. (€9-13) [M] [P] [R]**

French

Erno's Bistro C-1, Liebigstr. 15, [M]Westend, tel. 72 19 97, www.wopizza.de/west_erno.html. Without a doubt, Erno's Bistro is one of the best restaurants in town, if not all of Germany. Specialities are fish and creative French dishes. Reservations essential. **Open 12:00 - 14:00, 19:00 - 22:00. Closed Sat, Sun. (€14-30)**

Maaschanz D-3, Färberstr. 75, [M]Schweizer Pl., tel. 62 28 86, www.maaschanz.de. Fresh fish, oysters, snails, duck, and beef in perfectly prepared sauces from various regions of France. A very romantic and intimate spot. Reservations are recommended. **Open 18:00 - 01:00. Closed Mon. (€11-18)**

Croatian

Zwölf Apostel E-2, Rosenberger Str. 1, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 28 86 68. Serving both Croatian and traditional German food, this is a fantastic place to spend an evening getting drunk on homemade beer. Using a 500-year-old recipe, two types of pilsner are brewed on premises. They also boast very friendly staff that seem to be in no hurry to hurry. **Open 11:00 - 01:00. (€7-14)**

German

Dinner in a German restaurant is not just a time to quiet a growling stomach, but also an opportunity to meet some locals. Try the unique Frankfurt creation *Grüne Sosse*, a sour cream-like sauce flavoured with herbs, usually served with eggs or potatoes.

Kaiserhofkeller C-2, Kaiserhofstr. 18, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 28 22 29, www.kaiserhofkeller.com. One of the largest cellar bars in Frankfurt with large clay pots that hang from chains over your head, and massively long wooden tables that ensure you will get a chance to chat with your neighbours, in a variety of different languages, as this is also a foreigner hotspot. Food and drink are self-service, but the prices are relatively low. Great for goulash and stews, and it has a gigantic traditional German beer selection. **Open 17:00 - 02:00. (€6-13) [M] [P] [R]**

Maingau Stuben D-4, Schifferstr. 38-40, [M]Schweizer Pl., tel. 61 07 52, www.maingau.de/start_english.htm. Linen table cloths and an extensive list of rare German wines complete a fine dining experience. Choose from creations like rack of venison in walnut crust and seafood salad with lobster mousse. **Open 11:30-15:00; 17:00-23:00, Sat 17:00-23:00, Sun 11:30-15:00. Closed Mon. (€15-35)**

Steinernes Haus D-3, Braubachstr. 28, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 28 34 91, www.steinernes-haus.de. Meat lovers prepare yourself for massive portions of pork or beef served up on 300°C stones. You can cook it yourself then choose from a sultry set of sauces. Inside, it's all dark wood walls and benches, but the façade of this building is simply beautiful, with a superb outdoor seating under flying buttresses in an enclosed garden. **Open 11:00 - 23:00. (€9-25)**

Indian

Banjara E-4, Hainerweg 7, [M]Lokalbahnhof, tel. 66 37 08 84, www.banjara.de. The owners of this restaurant have hired a team of chefs from the Tamil region to delight even the most avid of curry house fans. Whilst not cheap, it is good value and delivers on the spice front. **Open 12:00 - 14:30, 18:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 18:00 - 23:00. (€10-20)**

Taj Mahal D-4, Schweizer Str. 28, [M]Schweizer Pl., tel. 62 02 40, www.tajmahal-restaurant.de. Frankfurt's most expensive and best Indian restaurant. The food is not as spicy as some may like it - so if you want it hot, make sure you ask for it hot. The polished blue and white dining room is usually full on weekends, so book ahead. **Open 11:30 - 14:30, 18:00 - 23:00. (€12-19) [M] [P] [R]**

International

Bar M Kantine F-1, Waldschmidtstr. 4 (Mousonturm), [M]Merianpl., tel. 496 05 06, www.mousonturm.de. Refreshingly low-key, with exposed plumbing and posters highlighting exhibitions and performances held elsewhere in this an artists' complex. The menu is limited, but changes daily with a variety of cuisines, ranging from Mediterranean to Asian. Try Sunday's huge buffet breakfast (€11, 10:00 - 16:00). **Open 17:00 - 24:00, Sun 10:00 - 01:00. (€7-13) [M] [P] [R]**

Gargantua B-1, Liebigstr. 47, [M]Westend, tel. 72 07 17, www.gargantua.de. The constantly changing menu features superb Italian and French-accented fare, as well as modern versions of German classics. Waiters are attentive and friendly; in fact, it's some of the best service we have received in town. Reservations necessary. **Open 12:00 - 14:30; 18:00 - 01:00, Sat 18:00 01:00. Closed Sun. (€22-30, menu €50)**

Ginkgo F-1, Bergerstr. 81, [M]Merianpl., tel. 49 12 02. This café, bar and restaurant has attitude but attracts all the right hip people and serves all the right innovative dishes and cocktails. The weekend breakfasts are famous so book ahead. **Open 09:00 - 01:00. (€9-14)**

Lagerhaus E-4, Dreieichstr. 45, [M]Südbahnhof, tel. 62 85 52. This café-restaurant is a Sachsenhausen favourite for weekend brunch. The moderately priced food is always fresh and tasty, and the young wait staff is refreshingly friendly. **Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. (€7-14)**

Surf & Turf B-1, Grüneburgweg 95, [M]Grüneburgweg, tel. 72 21 22, www.the-steakhouse.de. Located in the former home of Engelbert Humperdinck and devoted to beef and fish, as the name suggests. Frequented by the business elite and couples out for a romantic evening, so reservations are necessary. **Open 12:00 - 15:00; 18:00 - 24:00, Sat 18:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. (€20-30)**

Italian

Bella Vista E-1, Friedberger Landstr. 95, [M]Merianpl., tel. 55 73 07. The Barbera family who have been running Bella Vista for over 30 years will make you feel welcome. And no matter what you order, it's all good. Pasta, fish, veal, pizza - this is a true Italian winner. **Open 12:00 - 14:30; 17:30 - 23:30. Closed Wednesday. (€7-20)**

Bistro Pizzeria Rucola F-1, Bergerstr. 10, [M]Merianpl., tel. 40 59 06 89. Mamma mia, this little Italian restaurant has some of the best pizza in town, and you can wash it down with big glasses of Chianti for only €2.40. Crispy, thin crusts and with mounds of deliciously fresh roasted vegetables. **Open 11:00 - 24:00. (€5-20)**

Bistro Salvatore E-3, Schöne Aussicht 16, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 28 21 13. Directly across from the riverfront, Salvatore began his pizzeria in 1968, when he was just 17 years old. Still considered to be one of the best and friendliest pizzerias in town, he has since expanded the operation into a complete bar and restaurant, albeit a fairly small one. The food is divine. **Open 17:00 - 01:00. (€4-11)**

Garibaldi C-2, Kleine Hochstr. 4, [M]Alte Oper, tel. 21 99 76 44. Garibaldi is a local favourite. Choose from a lengthy offering of antipasti, pizza, pasta, seafood and wine. Most dishes are topped with freshly shaved truffles. Reservations recommended. **Open 11:30 - 23:30. Closed Sun. (€8-20)**

Leon D'Oro F-1/2, Waldschmidtstr. 30, [M]Zoo, tel. 43 97 69. This Italian bistro has exceptional homemade pasta with delectable freshly prepared sauces. The interior fails to meet the quality of food and service, but somehow the atmosphere is still charming and intimate. Try the house red. **Open 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 24:00. (€8-15)**

Paolo's D-3, Schweizerstr. 1, [M]Schweizerpl., tel. 61 71 46, www.paolos-ristorante.de. Old-world German architecture with a modern Art Deco look, plus a fantastic view of the Main. Have one of Paolo's excellent cocktails and choose from pizza and pasta, fresh fish, etc. **Open 11:00 - 04:00. (€6-19)**

Villa Leonhardi B-1, Zeppellinallee 18, [M]Bockenheimer Warte, tel. 789 88 47, www.villa-leonhardi.de. Located near the Palmengarten, the views are nothing short of spectacular and the interior is definitely out to impress. Amazing fish, exquisite pasta, and meticulously prepared soups and appetisers. **Open 12:00 - 14:30, 18:30 - 22:00, Sun 12:00 - 14:30. (€15-25)**

Japanese

Mikuni E-2, Fahrgasse 91-95, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 28 36 27. Mikuni is a great place for sushi, particularly if you are earning top yen, because it's expensive. Pay 10 per cent extra to grab a squat around the elaborately decorated bamboo floor seating area. **Open 12:00 - 14:00; 18:30 - 22:00, Sat 12:00-14:30, 18:30 - 22:00. Closed Sun. (€14-27)**

MoschMosch C-2, Luginsland 1, [M]Alte Oper, tel. 13 38 81 81, www.moschmosch.de. The first Japanese noodle-bar in town. Everything costs less than €10. Tasty noodle soups, dishes, and all of it fresh, light and healthy. **Open 11:00 - 23:00, Sun 17:30 - 23:00. (€6-10)**

Mexican

Tequila D-3, Weißadlergasse 5, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 28 71 42. Innumerable Tequilas plus homemade overstuffed burritos and happy hour all day Sunday - just to get you into the right frame of mind for Monday morning. **Open 11:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00, Sun 18:00 - 01:00. (€6-13)**

Spanish

La Boveda B-1, Feldbergstr. 10, [M]Westend, tel. 72 32 20, www.la-boveda.de. Some of Frankfurt's most authentic tapas are served in this quaint, dimly-lit cellar. In addition to the smaller plates including standards like *ceviche* and black rice, the menu also features a selection of larger main courses and an impressive wine list. **Open 12:00 - 14:30, 18:00 - 01:00, Sat 18:00 - 01:00. Closed Sun. (€14-23)**

León Garcias F-1, Kantstr. 25, [M]Merianpl., tel. 49 08 35 88. The rustic décor with wood furniture and spacious terrace make for a great tapas bar. Scrumptious calamari varieties, fish and grilled meats are accompanied by pungent flavours of home-made garlic mayonnaise, fresh sauces and salads, plus Raja at reasonable prices. **Open 10:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 02:00. (€5-16)**

Thai

Rama V E-2, Vilbeler Str. 32, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 21 99 64 88. Extraordinarily elegant Thai food served in upscale surroundings, this restaurant is sure to impress. Named after Thai king Chulalongkorn, who is credited with having brought Western influences to Thailand and thus saving it from colonisation, the owners of this restaurant take great care in preparing and presenting their delicate and tasteful cuisine. With intricate blends of coriander, lemon grass, chillies, garlic and mint, you won't be disappointed. **Open 11:30 - 15:00; 18:00 - 01:00. Sun 18:00 - 01:00. (€11-21) [M] [P] [R]**

Turkish

Gundi A-1, Leipziger Str. 85-87, [M]Leipziger Str., tel. 70 01 61, www.gundi-restaurant.com. Truly gourmet Turkish food set in a rather upscale, but none too extravagant setting. Tip: the appetiser plates and sample stuffed grape leaves, fried sheep's cheese, etc., or the aubergine and minced lamb in a soft flour roll. **Open 08:00 - 23:30, Sun 10:00 - 23:00.**

Manolya F-1, Habsburger Allee 6A, [M]Höhenstr., tel. 494 01 62. This Turkish restaurant is far more than just a kebab stand. With a semi-enclosed terrace and helpful staff, try the amazing stuffed vegetable delights or the grill platter for an all-out meat gorge. **Open 11:00 - 01:00, Mon, Tue 17:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 02:00. (€4-18)**

Bars & Pubs

Astor D-3, Berliner Str. 2, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 28 24 39. Bourbon cowboys can choose from almost 100 varieties of golden, belly-warming whiskeys in this smoky, high-brow bar. Sigh in content while you snuggle in the squishy lounge chairs. **Open 18:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 03:00.**

Café Sonderbar D-3, Färberstr. 65, [M]Schweizer Platz, tel. 62 57 09, www.sonderbar.de. A little known gem in Frankfurt, this local German bar isn't trendy but rather open and relaxed thanks to its owner/bartender, who serves the perfect pint of Guinness. With a pool table and excellent snacks such as salad and sandwiches. **Open 19:00 - 24:00.**

Destino I-2, Habsburger Allee 9, [M]Höhenstr., tel. 24 24 08 88, www.destino-bar.de. Definitely one of the top picks in town. Come to this swanky bar for pretty girls, snazzy music and groovy videos featuring swimming fish. The tapas served here are tasty and can be enjoyed in the more intimate tables in the rear if you are smart enough to make reservations. **Open 17:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 17:00 - 02:00.**

Fox and Hound B-2, Niedenu 2, [M]Alte Oper, tel. 97 20 20 09, www.foxpubs.de. Homesick Brits and other English-speakers flock to the Fox and Hound for hearty pub fare and pints of beer. They also come to watch football and rugby matches on the bar's satellite TV, announced on the chalkboard schedule of upcoming games. It's often noisy but rarely dull. **Open 11:00 - 01:00, Fri 11:00 - 02:00, Sat 18:00 - 02:00.**

Kleinlaut & Brown D-2, Stiftstr. 34, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 21 99 09 54. Not much elbow room in the sleekly modern decor, but K&B is definitely part of Frankfurt's scene. A mix of pop, funk and techno is spun by a DJ. **Open 18:00 - 03:00.**

Luna Bar D-2, Stiftstr. 6, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 29 47 74, www.luna-bar.de. Luna is one of the best bars in town; clean and classic, smoothly designed and a well-blended crowd. It features monthly full-moon parties, live music on Mondays and a regular DJ. Drinks include stellar cocktails and fine whiskeys. **Open 19:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 03:00.**

McGowan's E-2, Zeil 10, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 91 39 66 11, www.macgowans.de. Two true Irish pubs, run by the McGowan clan who claim to have opened the first Irish bar on mainland Europe many years ago. The classically furnished Zeil pub oozes Irishness, while the cute Berger Straße pub has a good Irish-Indian food and karaoke on Wednesdays. Both pubs serve excellent pub grub and have screens to follow the hurling and football games. **Open 16:00 - 01:00, Fri 16:00 - 02:00, Sat 11:30 - 02:00, Sun 11:30 - 01:00. Also on Berger Str. 255. Open 16:00 - 02:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 02:00.**

Mephisto C/D-2, Meisengasse 9, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 29 11 44. Inspired by Goethe's Faust, Mephisto claims to be devilishly good. Located in a creepy looking cellar, it has a labyrinthine seating area with high-backed red booths, sunken and raised (making it quite difficult to find the toilet or your friends), and candles lighting its brick red walls. The atmosphere is unpretentious and relaxed, and they make great snacks to accompany the more than 25 beers on offer. **Open 17:30 - 03:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 17:30 - 05:00, Sun 17:30 - 01:00.**

Mood D-2/3, Berliner Str. 73, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 21 99 95 30. You should definitely come here if you are in the mood for a good time. The elegant marble detailing and plush red sofas and theatre-chairs give it the proper ambience for an evening of sexy snuggling and schmoozing. **Open 19:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 03:00.**

Mosaic D-2, Töngesgasse 7, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 21 99 57 63. Cornering the market on Egyptian cool, hang out in the back of the bar on huge floor pillows, and take a hit off the hookah waterpipe in an assortment of fruit flavours for €6. **Open 18:30 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:30 - 03:00.**

New Morning D-2, Rahmhofstr. 4, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 29 80 19 89. Owned by an affable barman/saxophonist from a small African island called New Morning, everything just seems right about the place. It's very small, hence intimate, serves snacks till late in the night, has a selection of 120 reasonably priced cocktails, and has live piano, jazz, and blues. **Open 16:00 - 04:00. (€4-6)**

O'Reilly's B-3, Am Hauptbahnhof 4, [M]Hauptbahnhof, tel. 26 48 78 78, www.oreillys.com. This massive pub is generally the first (and often the last) place that English-speaking visitors wind up, looking for a pint and a bit of telly in English. All major international sporting events can be seen here. If you're more of a player, try one of three pool tables, the free darts, or the best karaoke in town every Friday night at 22:00. The traditional kitchen serves up good food, including the great breakfast fry-up. **Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. (€9-15)**

Orion Bar D-3, Oppenheimer Str. 41, [M]Schweizer Str., tel. 603 16 83. The most magnificent cocktail menu is found in this relatively small but outstanding bar. Blue walls, lights, and stools give the place a retro trendy feel that is all too familiar in Frankfurt, but attention to detail is perfect. **Open 21:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 02:00. Closed Mon, Sun.**

Sandbar F-2, Sandweg 6, [M]Zoo, tel. 49 08 36 95, www.sandbar-frankfurt.de. The atmosphere is trendy and fabulous, with sleek red lamps, lighting, and furniture, the people are always chatting each other up, squeezed into any tiny crevice available, and they have genuinely friendly and attentive service. Not even a second will go by before someone is filling up your snack bowl with peanut flips, which are much better than they sound. **Open 18:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 03:00.**

Shooter's Saloon D/E-3, Domstr. 4, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 28 28 38. A sort of schizophrenic combination of an American bar and an Australian bar (though they claim to be an American bar), it is definitely hospitable and fun. It offers a full menu of burgers, fries and pasta throughout the evening. Although there are now more bars in Frankfurt open late, Shooter's is a classic late night foreigner-friendly zone. **Open 18:00 - 04:00.**

Soho E-3, Fritschengäßchen 5, [M]Südbahnhof, tel. 62 12 59, www.soho-frankfurt.de. It has funky lights all over the place and an eclectic local artist collection that changes frequently. Comfy sofas and a DJ spinning tunes you've been wanting to hear for a while make it feel more like you are relaxing in a living room than a bar. **Open 19:00 - 02:00.**

Studio Bar D-2, Katharinenpforte 6, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 13 37 92 25. A happening place all the time, Studio Bar is located in a small round building next to the Hauptwache U-Bahn station. Downstairs is the small Real Kantine café, while upstairs is a high-tech, space-age bar and lounge. Lots of silver-toned metallic, and dress tends to be flashy on the weekends. **Open 18:00 - 02:00.**

Texas American Saloon Am Erlenbruch 1, [M]Johanna-Tesch-Platz, tel. 42 08 98 48, www.texas-saloon.de. Located at the Frankfurt Football Sports Verein, a fourth division football club, this shrine to all country artists great and small is unique. During the week it generally attracts athletes but it transforms into a live country band/live-dancing venue at the weekend. **Open 17:00 - 02:00, Sun 11:00 - 17:00. Admission €5-7 (only for live bands)**

Clubs

With students, expats, mid-range spenders, businessmen and high-rolling hotshots, Frankfurt's nightlife scene certainly isn't dull.

Balalaika E-3, Dreikönigstr. 30, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 61 22 26. This little nightspot is owned by Anita, a jazz singer from New York. About once an hour, or whenever she feels like it, she will perch in the spotlight on a stool and belt out some snappy blues. Other musicians gather here as well to play. Fabulous. **Open 20:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 06:00.**

Batschkapp Maybachstr. 24, tel. 95 21 84 10, info@batschkapp.de, www.batschkapp.de. The third largest professional venue for bands and concerts, Batschkapp is definitely a place you should plan to go if you are in the mood for some live music. **Disco open Fri, Sat 22:00 - 04:00.**

Cooky's D-2, Am Salzhaus 4, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 28 76 62, www.cookys.de. A downstairs nightclub, Cooky's lacks the grace and (happily) the snobbishness that some nightclubs around town are infamous for. Playing mostly hip-hop, house and R'n'B, they also have great live concerts. Definitely a booty shaking good time. **Open 22:00 - 07:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 09:00; Wed, Thurs, Sun 23:00 - 07:00. Admission €7.**

Deelight D-2, Holzgraben 6, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 46 09 43 55, www.deelight-bar.de. A bar and club with a special offer: no cover charge. Crowded but hip. **Open 19:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 19:00 - 05:00.**

O25 I-2, Ostparkstr. 25, tel. 79 30 63 58, www.o25.de. Located in an old bomb shelter, this dark and mysterious club offers an array of music from Goa techno and Indian vibes to standard house for varied moves and grooves. **Open 23:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Sun. Admission €4-8.**

Gay nightlife

Blue Angel D-2, Bröner Str. 17, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 28 27 72, www.blueangel-online.de. The best gay club in town, featuring numerous events such as single dating parties and horny house sessions. **Open 23:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon, Tue. Admission €5.**

Central E-2, Elefantengasse 11-13, [M]Konstablerwache, tel. 29 29 26. Expect a full and varied house throughout the evening in this popular gay bar. **Open 20:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 20:00 - 03:00.**

La Gata E/F-3, Seehofstr. 3, [M]Südbahnhof, tel. 61 45 81. The one and only all-women's bar in town. Holding its roots in Sachsenhausen for the last 30 years, they offer a rustic and relaxed atmosphere. **Open 20:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 21:00 - 24:00.**

Pulse Lounge D-2, Bleichstr. 38a, [M]Eschenheimer Tor, tel. 13 88 68 02, www.pulse-frankfurt.de. The absolute place to be in the gay scene in Frankfurt. It serves as café, with excellent fresh soups and salads as well as a daily menu, local art and photography is prominently displayed on the walls and Pulse, its accompanying dance club, is a techno wonderland. Its huge outdoor seating area with pillows (and tables) is a big hit. They even have a classroom for dance lessons if you're interested in learning to salsa. **Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 04:00. (€4-10)**

Praesidium 19/11 B-3, Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage 11, [M]Hauptbahnhof, tel. 74 74 39 78, www.praesidium-1911.de. The exquisitely furnished restaurant and club has ornamental staircases winding up to impressive lounges with marble pillars, sofas and antique wooden furniture. Cocktails start at €6.50 and the mixed crowd certainly seems to enjoy itself as a result. **Club open Thu 19:00 - 05:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 05:00. Restaurant open Thu-Sat 19:00 - 03:00.**

Santa Maria D-2, Holzgraben 9, tel. 46 09 43 55, www.clubsantamaria.de. Religious relics abound in this underground nightclub. With three enormous dance floors and one very long bar, you should find plenty of room to groove and drink to the hip-hop and house offerings here. **Open 22:00 - 05:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed. Admission €5-7, Thurfree.**

Stereo Bar E-4, Abtsgaesschen 7, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 61 71 16, www.stereobar.de. Attracts a young crowd, including lots of students. This cellar club has a funky interior with orange walls and an aquarium, and serves some of the most reasonably priced drinks available in a Frankfurt nightclub. A DJ usually spins a mix of rock, funk and techno. The dance floor is quite small but nobody seems to notice. **Open 22:00 - 03:00, Thu, Sun 21:00 - 02:00. Closed Mon, Tue, Wed.**

The Cave D-2, Brönerstr. 11, [M]Konstablerwache, www.the-cave.de. Prepare to headbang like it's 1989. This underground nightclub is exactly like it sounds: dark, smoky and full of interesting night creatures. It is the antithesis of the typical Frankfurt upscale nightclub, proffering a singularly unpop music experience, including all the alternative and heavy metal bands one could ever want to hear from the last three decades. Relaxed, fun and the cheapest club in town. **Open 22:00 - 04:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 06:00, Sun 21:00 - 02:00. Admission €3.**

Unity F-2, Hanauer Landstr. 2, [M]Zoo, tel. 94 34 05 55. Without a doubt this is one of the best clubs in Frankfurt. The music is generally thumping and the atmosphere unique, with style and character, cosy candles and soft, Arabic motifs and lighting. Come on Thursday if you enjoy rubbing up against a stranger's sweaty body. Though there are benches in the back room, you may be forced to sit on someone's lap for a seat. **Open 22:00 - 05:00.**

Jazz bars

Blues & Beyond E-2, Berger Str. 159, [M]Höhenstr., tel. 46 99 09 87. The neon lights are a bit glaring, but the music is spot on. Great bands and ensembles from around the world play here, and jam sessions are held on Monday evenings. **Open 20:00 - 03:00.**

Jazzkeller C-2, Kleine Bockenheimer Str. 18, [M]Opempl., tel. 28 85 37, www.jazzkeller.com. Located in a basement in the heart of the city, the Keller is the most important club on the local jazz scene and has been hosting world-renowned jazz musicians for the past 47 years. Styles range from bebop, to free and modern jazz as well as blues, swing, latin and funk. **Open, Wed, Thu 21:00 - 03:00, Fri, Sat 22:00 - 03:00, Sun 20:00 - 03:00. Closed Mon, Tue.**

Mampf F-1, Sandweg 64, [M]Merianpl., tel. 44 86 74. Quite possibly the smallest club in Frankfurt, it is equally popular with locals and tourists, as it is one of few places to offer live music nightly in this part of town. It should only hold about 25 people, but miraculously manages to accommodate everyone who drops in. The performers change every night, and don't always only offer jazz, although that is its forte. Prices are rock bottom for food and drinks and the staff is affable. **Open 20:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 18:00 - 02:00.**

Café bars

Café bars are not the place to bring your granny for some tea and cake. These cool places serve breakfast/brunch and lunch, then turn into a café until dinnertime draws in the foodies, after which the cocktail bar mixes drinks and the crowd piles onto the dance floor. We've decided to call them café bars. The emphasis in these places is on the bar, not so much on the food.

Alex D-2, Eschenheimer Anlage 40, [M]Eschenheimer Turm, tel. 91 50 97 80, www.alexgastro.de. A great place to hit before or after seeing a movie at the nearby English cinema (Turm-Palast), Alex offers a retro diner-like atmosphere with a bit of an upscale twist. Part of a large chain, diversity seems to be their speciality. Our favourite is the cheap breakfast buffet and the oversized sandwiches. They also have a fantastic ice cream selection, and a complete cocktail menu, all in English. **Open 09:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 03:00. (€4-9)**

Café & Bar Celona D-2, Holzgraben 31, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 13 88 67 09, www.cafe-bar-celona.de. Bewary of hitting this already favourite Frankfurt café just after 18:00, as it is located in the heart of Frankfurt's banking district and locals have quickly caught on to its great atmosphere and low prices. Crispy flour tortilla pizzas make for fantastic cheap eats but there is also a generous selection of wraps, main dishes, cocktails, wines and beers. Super trendy Spanish influenced décor is mirrored by its super trendy clientele, so it's probably best to look the part. **Open 09:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 02:00. (€4-10)**

Flipper F-1, Berger Str. 86, [M]Merianpl., tel. 44 33 05. Flipper is by far one of the most popular cafés in Frankfurt's famous Bornheim area. It has a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu, and offers different lush salad platters that change daily. Always check out the delicious daily specials (*Tageskarte*), as these are usually better than the burgers and fries offered on the normal menu. The generous portions of food are definitely above average and even without the terrace, remains a place to see and be seen. **Open 09:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 09:00 - 03:00, Sun 10:00 - 02:00.**

Harvey's E-1, Bornheimer Landstr. 64, [M]Merianpl., tel. 49 73 03, fax 48 00 17 05, www.harveys-frankfurt.de. One of the best spots in town, this place is bumping with groovy beats, good drinks, a delectable menu and a hip crowd. Also a hot spot in the local gay scene. The interior is bedecked by grand cathedral windows and adorned with shimmering colours and shapes. Super by night or day. **Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00.**

Keepers Lounge D-4, Schweizer Str. 78, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 60 60 72 10, www.keepers-club.de. This modern, trendy bar and lounge is one of Sachsenhausen's - if not Frankfurt's - most popular. The cocktail menu is a book. Packed most any night of the week, Keepers also serves good food. A keeper. **Open 10:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00.**

Mirador F-1, Berger Str. 65, [M]Höhenstr., tel. 48 98 20 87. A relative newcomer to the Berger Straße café scene, this gold-tiled, splatter-painted café combines Spanish-inspired fare with other international cuisines, and adds a dash of fun and friendly service. It's also very reasonably priced, with steaks coming in just under €10. They also serve an excellent breakfast every day from 10:00. International servers, bartenders and guests make for an excellent outing. **Open 10:00 - 01:00. (€7-12)**

Essential sights

Kaiserdom & Museum D-3, Domplatz, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 13 37 61 84. The Kaiserdom is the tall cathedral flanked by scaffolding overlooking Domplatz. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Holy Roman Emperors were ceremoniously crowned here. The Dom museum is full of historical artifacts, including pictures of Frankfurt at various times from the 14th century to today. Pick up a schedule of free organ music concerts. **Church open 08:00 - 12:00, 14:30 - 18:00, Fri 14:30 - 18:00. Museum open 10:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 17:00, closed Mon. Admission €2/1.**

Paulskirche D-3, Paulsplatz, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 28 10 98. Accessed from the Neue Krampe pedestrian street, this 18th century church briefly served as the seat of German parliament when the first freely elected general assembly met here in 1848. A mural by Johannes Grutzke depicts the historical procession of representatives to the Paulskirche. **Open 10:00 - 16:00.**

Römerberg D-3, [M]Dom/Römer. For centuries this medieval square was the hub of city government. It looks a bit fake, and it is fake. The Römerberg was levelled during WWII, then partly reconstructed. The west side of the square is occupied by the *Römer*, city hall. On the east side is a row of restored half-timber houses called the *Ostzeile*, originally built in the 15th & 16th centuries. The Fountain of Justice stands in the centre. The Römerberg is the site of several public festivals and there is a tourist office located in the northwestern corner.

Museums

Deutsches Architekturmuseum C-3, Schaumainkai 43, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 21 23 88 44, http://dam.inm.de. Opened 1979, this was the first architecture museum in Europe. The angular-looking building, designed by Oswald Mathias Ungers, was itself an inspiration to further explore man's reasoning for creating proper shelter from the elements. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission €5/2.50, Wed €2.50/1.50.**

Deutsches Filmmuseum D-3, Schaumainkai 41, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 21 23 88 30, www.deutsches-filmmuseum.de. Considered by many film historians and movie enthusiasts to be the finest film museum in the country, this venue shows a varied exhibit of classic films. Exhibits display the development of a film studio and the process of making a film from the planning stage to the wrap session. Highlights include a copy of the Lumiere brothers' work (from 1895) and Edison's Kinetoscope from 1889. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 14:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission €5/3.30**

Museumsufer

D-3, Schaumainkai, [M]Schweitzer Pl. The southern bank of the Main boasts one of Germany's best cultural treasures. The Museumsufer (museum embankment) stretches between the Friedensbrücke bridge in the west all the way to Dreikönigskirche church in the east. The strip holds thirteen of the city's museums, all located in wonderfully restored villas from the 1900s set between structures dating back to the 1800s. Internationally acclaimed architects such as Richard Meier and Oswald Mathias Ungers have extended the existing buildings with modern additions. Museums found here include the Film Museum, the Museum of Applied Art, the Jewish Museum and the Architecture Museum.

Not much time?

For a small city, Frankfurt has a fair share of sights. Must-sees include a trip up to the top of the **Main Tower skyscraper** (or, lacking money or time, to the top floor of the **Zeilgalerie** mall), a **stroll from Opernplatz to Konstabler Wache** and a peek at the **Römerberg**. With more time on hand, visit the **Städelsches Kunstinstitut** museum.

Goethe-Haus & Museum D-2, Großer Hirschgraben 23, [M]Hauptwache, tel. 13 88 00, www.goethehaus-frankfurt.de. Birthplace of Frankfurt's most famous poet and writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Frankfurters hold mixed opinions of Goethe, who declined to keep his citizenship of the city when he moved away from it. There's more to see in the *Haus* than in the museum; reconstructed in the 1950s, the timber-framed Goethe Haus contains items just like those that filled it when the wealthy Goethe family lived there. Call in advance to arrange tours in English. **Open 09:00 - 16:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. Admission €5/2.50.**

Historisches Museum D-3, Saalgarbe 19 (Römerberg), [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 21 23 55 99, www.historisches-museum-frankfurt.de. Ignore the ghastly entrance - the history museum looks better inside than out. You'll learn about the royal roots of the city, the growth in the medieval era and the destruction of the city in the war. The top exhibits include a beautifully crafted model of the medieval city, and another rather shocking one of the flattened centre in 1945. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 16:00 - 20:00, Fri 10:00 - 14:00, Sat 13:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission €4/2.**

Jüdisches Museum (Jewish Museum) C-3, Untermainkai 14 - 15, [M]Willy-Brandt-Pl., tel. 21 23 50 00, www.juedischesmuseum.de. This moving and historic museum depicts the role of German Jews in Frankfurt before the Holocaust. Exhibits present a remarkable look at the lives, history and culture of the Jews. A testament to the people, the depictions are moving. The annex on Kurt-Schumacher-Str. displays archaeological remnants of synagogues and private homes in the Judengasse (the focal point of Jewish life in the city), most of which were destroyed during World War II. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission €2.60/1.30.**

Liebig Municipal Museum of Sculpture (Liebighaus-Museum alter Plastik) C-4, Schaumainkai 71, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 21 23 86 17, www.liebighaus.de. The sculpture collection here from 5,000 years of various civilizations and epochs is considered one of the most important in Europe. Some pieces are exhibited in the exquisite gardens surrounding the house. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission €3.**

Museum für Angewandte Kunst (Museum of Applied Arts) D-3, Schaumainkai 17, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 21 23 85 30, www.museum-fuer-angewandte-kunst-frankfurt.de. Located on the east end of the Schaumainkai, the Villa Metzler is a beautiful house now incorporated by an impressive structure of glass and white concrete designed by New York architect Richard Meier. The museum is divided into Europe, Islamic lands, East Asia, Book Art and Graphics, and boasts quality artwork from the east as well as the west. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 21:00. Closed Mon. Admission €5/2.50.**

**More sights:
www.inyourpocket.com**

Museum für Moderne Kunst (Modern art museum) D-2, Domstr.10, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 21 23 04 47, www.mmk-frankfurt.de. A fine new addition to Frankfurt's museums, which houses the works of major artists from the 1950s to the present, with new exhibits constantly being added. The collection features works by Lichtenstein, Andre, Flavin, Warhol and Segal as well as many German masters such as August Sarnbe. Famous works are displayed in unique ways throughout the building, itself a piece of art and dubbed The Piece of Cake because of its triangular shape. **Open 10:00 - 17:00, Wed 10:00 - 20:00. Closed Mon. Admission €6/3, free on Wednesdays.**

Senckenberg A-2, Senckenbergeranlage 25, [M]Bockenheimer Warte, tel. 75 40 20, www.senckenberg.de. This remarkable natural history museum is one Frankfurt's most impressive collections. Primarily known for its excellent dinosaur exhibition, it also one of the most important research museums in Europe, thanks to the numerous publications and scientific institutions it houses, including the Centre for Biodiversity Research. The museum is immaculate, extensive and extremely interesting for adults and children alike, with a seemingly endless collection of everything that has lived on earth. **Open 09:00 - 17:00; Wed 09:00 - 20:00. Sat, Sun & Holidays 09:00 - 18:00. Admission €5.00/€2.50.**

Städelsches Kunstinstitut (Städel Art Institute) C-4, Schaumainkai 63, [M]Schweitzer Pl., tel. 605 09 80, www.staedelmuseum.de. Don't miss out on Frankfurt's pre-eminent art museum, the *Städel*, one of Germany's most important art collections. It has an impressive collection containing a vast array of works including Dürer, Hohlbein, Carnach, Monet, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Matisse and Van Dijk. The section on German expressionism is particularly strong, with representative works by Frankfurt artist Max Beckmann. **Open 10:00 - 20:00, Wed, Thu 10:00 - 22:00. Closed Mon. Admission €8/6.**

Struwwelpeter-Museum D-3, Bendersgasse 1, [M]Dom/Römer, tel. 28 13 33. Written by world-renowned physician, author and lifelong citizen of Frankfurt Heinrich Hoffman, Struwwelpeter, (pronounced Stroo-velpeter) or Slovenly Peter, is his most famous character. He began sketching for children to ease their nerves while visiting his doctor's office, and eventually wrote Struwwelpeter as a gift for his three-year-old son in 1884. It and many other stories quickly became classics (and cautionary tales) worldwide. The small gallery is a collection of original artwork created by Hoffman plus parodies of Struwwelpeter from the 19th and 20th centuries. **Open 11:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Admission free.**

Hit the high life

Main Tower Observation Deck C-2, Neue Mainzer Str. 52-58, tel. 36 50 47 71, www.maintower.helaba.de. A visit to the 200m-high Main Tower skyscraper is a definite must for Frankfurt first-timers. Finished in 1999, it houses 62,000m² of office space, has 2,550 windows, 1,090 steps and employs about 2,000 people to keep it standing. The most useless fact we can give you is that it's a full twenty times heavier than the Eiffel Tower. The observation platform, on the roof of the building at 200m, offers magnificent views of central Frankfurt and the surrounding region. A romantic sunset dinner can be had behind the huge windows of the 53rd floor **Main Tower Restaurant** (open 17:30 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 17:30 - 02:00, closed Mon). Platform open 10:00 - 21:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 23:00. Closed during bad weather or strong winds. Lift fee €4.50/€3.

Hotels

All hotel prices include VAT and breakfast unless otherwise mentioned, but it is still a good idea to check prices and see if any discounts are on offer. Prices rocket with the trade fairs so check the schedule at www.messefrankfurt.com

Over €200

ArabellaSheraton Grand Hotel E-2, Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 7, MKonstaberwache, tel. 298 10, fax 298 18 10, www.arabellasheraton.com. This newly renovated luxury hotel has modern accommodation with a well-balanced blend of Art Deco and Asian styles. The staff is extremely accommodating and the location supreme, just one block from central commercial shopping, die Zeil. 378 rooms (98 singles €140 - 495, 156 doubles €140 - 520, 8 suites €750 - 1050, 3 junior suites €675). Breakfast €23. 

Falk Suite Hotel D-1/2, Fellnerstr. 3, MEschenheimer Tor, tel. 505 00 05 0, fax 505 00 05 99, www.suite-hotel-falk.de. Recently remodelled into a small but elegant hotel, it is perfectly suited to those looking for a long-term stay in incredibly spacious apartment type rooms. Prices are reasonable for the size, comfort, and service provided. 26 rooms (22 classic suites €99 - 290, 4 de luxe suites €119 - 350). 

Frankfurter Hof C/D-3, Am Kaiserplatz, MWilly-Brandt-Pl., tel. 21 502, fax 21 59 00, www.frankfurterhof.steigenberger.de. An exclusive slice of neo-Gothic elegance between the modern high rises, the Frankfurter Hof is the traditional hotel of choice. The hotel has no less than five restaurants, among others French and Japanese, plus bars. 332 rooms (142 singles €135 - 425, 144 doubles €150 - 475, 10 suites €650 - 3250, 36 junior suites €350 - 580). 

InterContinental C-3, Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 43, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 26 050/25 24 67, www.frankfurt.intercontinental.com. With 21 stories overlooking the Main River, the InterContinental is a luxurious city centre business hotel with extensive conference facilities. The rooms feature elegant black granite and marble bathrooms as well as the latest technology for doing business. The InterConti also hosts three top restaurants. 770 rooms (705 singles €395 - 445, 705 doubles €415 - 465, 65 suites €560 - 2300). 

Le Meridien Parkhotel B-3, Wiesenhüttenpl. 28 - 38, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 26 970, fax 269 78 84, www.lemeredien-frankfurt.com. One of the top hotels in area, Le Meridien's modern rooms have a classic touch to them, and compete for attention with the excellent Le Parc restaurant downstairs. The executive rooms come with perks like separate check-in, fresh fruit and newspapers. 297 rooms (188 singles €119 - 360, 100 doubles €139 - 450, 9 suites €299 - 550). 

Main Plaza F-3, Walter-von-Cronberg-Pl. 1, MSüdbahnhof, tel. 66 40 10, fax 66 41 40 04, www.lindner.de. Housed in a magnificent skyscraper inspired by New York's 1920s American Radiator Building, the Main Plaza is a top-end hotel that also offers apartments for long-term visitors. 70 rooms (70 singles €113 - 400, 70 doubles €113 - 400). 

Marriott A-2, Hamburger Allee 2 - 10, MFesthalle/Messe, tel. 795 50, fax 79 55 24 32, www.marriott.com/fradt. Located opposite the Messe, it's more than a hotel, it's a complete business center with most anything a traveller could wish for. In addition to business amenities, there's a gym, spa, restaurant and sushi bar. Champions bar is a popular hang-out for those wanting American finger food, or to watch sports. 588 rooms (564 singles €99 - 415, 564 doubles €99 - 415, 564 triples €145, 24 suites €199). Breakfast €20. 

Villa Orange E-1, Hebelstr. 1, MMusterschule, tel. 40 58 40, fax 40 58 41 00, www.villa-orange.de. Tucked away on a central but quiet residential street, Villa Orange has quality rooms with soft beds and large bathrooms. Next to the lobby there's a library with a good selection of English books, and the high-ceilinged breakfast room is decorated with modern art. 38 rooms (24 singles €120 - 220, 14 doubles €140 - 270, 2 triples €180 - 290). 

€125-200

Best Western Domicil B-3, Karlstr. 14, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 27 11 10, fax 25 32 66, www.domicil-frankfurt.bestwestern.de. It's the most luxurious of the Best Western hotels in Frankfurt, yet it's moderately priced. The modern hotel is located on a quiet side street on the edge of Frankfurt's banking district. 67 rooms (39 singles €94 - 144, 28 doubles €120 - 163). Breakfast €11. 

Hilton Frankfurt D-2, Hochstr. 4, MEschenheimer Tor, tel. 13 38 00, fax 13 38 13 38, www.hilton.com. The comfort offered worldwide by this chain is also provided in central Frankfurt. The modern hotel includes a spa, Asian restaurant and all the perks a business traveller wants, including voice mail, video on command and in-room fax and modern lines. Below the lobby's clear atrium is the Vista Bar and Lounge. 342 rooms (342 singles €199, 342 doubles €199, 13 suites €369 - 599, 1 presidential suite €1200 - 1400). Breakfast €24. 

Liebig B/C-1, Liebigstr. 45, MWestend, tel. 72 75 51, fax 72 75 55, www.hotelliebig.de. This elegantly simple hotel blends in with its neighbouring Westend homes. Each guest room is decorated in a different colour and include well-sized bathrooms, wardrobes and wooden floors. Breakfast is included at the weekend. 18 rooms (15 singles €103 - 152, 15 doubles €128 - 179). 

NH Frankfurt-City E-2, Vilbeler Str. 2, MKonstaberwache, tel. 928 85 90, fax 928 85 91 00, www.nh-hotels.com. This tasteful new hotel emphasises comfort, lightness and space and is the business traveller's ideal stopping ground. They offer state-of-the-art upscale amenities, including three different ways to connect to the internet from every room and a lovely 24hr wellness area with saunas and heated chairs to lounge around in. They even offer special rooms for women, with extra girly items. 256 rooms (33 singles €130 - 160, 138 doubles €130 - 160, 8 suites €200 - 400, 14 executive room €150 - 200). Breakfast €16. 

Palmenhof B-1, Bockenheimer Landstr. 89 - 91, MWestend, tel. 753 00 60, fax 75 30 06 66, www.palmenhof.com. Located near the botanical gardens, this elegant hotel offers comfortable rooms with high ceilings. In the basement is their quaint Mediterranean restaurant, L'Artechoc. 46 rooms (19 singles €100 - 130, 26 doubles €140 - 160, triples €160 - 180, 1 suite €225 - 255). Breakfast €15. 

Robert Mayer A-2, Robert-Mayer-Str. 44, MBockenheimer Warte, tel. 970 91 00, fax 97 09 10 10, www.art-hotel-robert-mayer.de. Those who seek a creative environment will want to check out this unique hotel. No two rooms are the same here. It has no restaurant, but a breakfast buffet is included in the room rate. Special arrangements may be made for an individual tour of an art museum, also included in a weekend room rate. 11 rooms (7 singles €98 - 113, 4 doubles €118 - 130). 


Savoy C-3/4, Wiesenhüttenstr. 42, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 27 39 60, fax 27 39 67 95, www.savoyhotel.de. Set overlooking a quiet street and park opposite the station, the Savoy holds standard four-star rooms that were recently renovated. Highlights include the solarium, the pool with skyline views, and the restaurant that serves excellent Japanese food. 144 rooms (96 singles €145, 48 doubles €170). 

TRYP H-2, Braunfelstr. 17, MFesthalle/Messe, tel. 70 73 00, fax 70 73 03 33, www.solmella.com. TRYP offers spacious rooms, full service Spanish dining in its Bodega del Sol restaurant, and a conservative, classic decor. All rooms have ample working and walking space. The three-layer insulated windows protect guests from the noise of the busy highway, and overlooking a historically protected neighbourhood the view of the city is fantastic. 177 rooms (177 singles €125 - 159, 177 doubles €145 - 179). Breakfast €15. 

Under €125

Am Berg I-2, Grethenweg 23, MSüdbahnhof, tel. 61 20 21, fax 61 51 09, www.hotel-am-berg-fm.de. Live like a king for a pauper's price at the Am Berg. For those in the know (including you, now) it's a creatively decorated secret hiding place within the city limits. 21 rooms (singles €34 - 71, doubles €49 - 96, triples €60 - 113, 1 junior suite €137 - 182). Breakfast €8.50. 


Comfort City Centre B-3, Moselstr. 23, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 27 28 00, fax 27 28 05 55, comfort-hotel-t-online.de, www.hotelchoice.com. A comfortable standard business option in the station area, this historical building is the only outlet of the Comfort chain in central Frankfurt. 45 rooms (20 singles €99, 20 doubles €120). 

Concorde B-3, Karlstr. 9, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 242 42 20/24 24 22 88, info@hotelconcorde.de, www.hotelconcorde.de. A sleek, modern interior catering to the business-savvy traveller resides behind a classical façade. The recently renovated rooms can be on the small side, but the extravagant decor and details make up for that. 45 rooms (26 singles €65 - 260, 14 doubles €80 - 320, 5 junior suites €130 - 320). 

Ibis Friedensbrücke B-4, Speicherstr. 3 - 5, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 27 30 30/23 70 24, www.accordionhotels.com. A tourist class hotel with budget rooms and basic furnishings. The hotel has a bar, an outdoor swimming pool and tennis courts. 233 rooms (32 singles €74, 188 doubles €74, 13 triples €94). Breakfast €9. 

National B-3, Baseler Str. 50, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 242 64 80, fax 23 44 60, www.hotelnational.de. A stately hotel, the National is a mix of old and new. It's lavishly furnished with faux-antiques and chandeliers, but also has renovated rooms and WLAN. A good choice for businesspeople on a budget. 70 rooms (24 singles €59 - 89, 46 doubles €75 - 125). 

Hostels

Haus der Jugend E-3, Deutschhermufer 12, MSchweitzer Pl., tel. 610 01 50, fax 61 00 15 99, post@hostelffm.de, www.jugendherberge-frankfurt.de. The location of this large hostel couldn't be better - on the edge of Sachsenhausen's nightlife zone and a short stroll from the museums lining the banks of the Main. Offering everything from dorm beds to quiet apartments with balcony and en-suite bathrooms, it's even a good alternative to local hotels if you don't mind pubescent teenagers in the halls. From the station, hop on bus Nr 46 towards Mühlberg, get off at Frankensteiner Platz. 450 rooms (30 doubles €48 - 60, dorm bed €15 - 20, four bed room €20 - 24). 

Ramada City Centre B-3, Weserstr. 17, MWilly-Brandt-Pl., tel. 31 08 10/31 08 15 55, www.ramadainternational.com. Originally built in 1893, the charming building combines charm with a modern interior. The rooms in this chain hotel include all modern amenities and business facilities. 55 rooms (19 singles €65 - 92, 15 doubles €107 - 117, 16 deluxe rooms €107 - 117, 4 superior rooms €117 - 127). 

Regent B-3, Ottostr. 13, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 271 08 80, fax 27 10 88 20, www.regenthotelfrankfurt.de. The reasonable prices will get you many amenities, though small rooms, at the Regent. Centrally located near the banking district, the Regent offers significant price reductions outside the main trade fairs. 33 rooms (33 singles €52 - 92, 33 doubles €65 - 118). 

Turm Hotel D-1, Eschersheimer Landstr. 20, MEschenheimer Tor, tel. 15 40 50, fax 55 35 78, www.turmhotel-fra.de. Designer Manhattan chic is the only way to describe this unique hotel, from its stylish conference room to its hip lobby to its multi-themed rooms. 74 rooms (32 singles €78 - 85, 42 doubles €98 - 220). 

Wiesbaden B-3, Baseler Str. 52, MHauptbahnhof, tel. 23 23 47, fax 25 28 45, www.bookings.org/wiesbadenfr.de.en.html. A well-equipped budget hotel decorated in a pleasant classic style. Guests have the choice between rooms furnished with antiques or modern standard rooms. 39 rooms (19 singles €45 - 65, 10 doubles €60 - 85, 9 triples €75 - 120). 

Apartments

Inn Side Residence Eurotheum C-2, Neue Mainzer Str. 66 - 68, MOpempl., tel. 21 08 80, fax 21 08 82 22, frankfurt@innside.de, www.innside.de. These luxurious serviced apartments, magnificently set on the upper floors of a city centre skyscraper, can be rented for days, weeks or even months. The apartments come in a variety of different modern styles, and all have stunning views. (74 apartments €260 - 390). 

Schaper Apartment B-2, Feuerbachstr. 14, MWestend, tel. 970 90 70, fax 970 90 71 99, westend@schaper-apartment.com, www.schaper-apartment.com. Situated in Westend, these apartments are an alternative for those on longer business trips. The friendly staff will run the extra mile for you. Built on the foundations of an old patrician house, the timber-framed cottage has been renovated and comfortably furnished with antiques. 35 rooms (15 singles €98, 20 doubles €125 - 155, 2 suites €200 - 500). 