



Gorgeous Germany



The spirit of Frankfurt

When you hear the name Frankfurt numerous affiliations may spring to mind—sausages for one, or Frankfurt International Airport, perhaps the German Stock Exchange, or the International Automotive Exhibition.

by Cindy-Lou Dale

Yet, few travelers to Frankfurt get to look beyond the international airport and the glitzy trade shows. In contrast to the bustling inner city life with its internationally renowned shopping opportunities, there lies the colorful historical quarter of Sachsenhausen.

CREATIVITY ABOUNDS

Strolling through Frankfurt's city center confuses one's senses. There is no division between historic buildings and state-of-the-art architecture—they share the same block. This city is home to the German Stock Exchange, the European Central Bank, the Deutsche Bundesbank and over three-hundred financial institutions, yet, despite this staid environment, Frankfurt produces some of the most revolutionary creative minds in Europe and promotes the arts like no other European city, providing more than forty museums and exhibition venues and over sixty theaters. While Frankfurt is a proud German city, more than a quarter of its population is foreign. It is one of the world's most significant trade fair locations in the world, attracting more than two million people annually, yet take to the streets for its traditional folk festivals.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES?

No sojourn in Frankfurt is complete without a quick visit to the serene Sachsenhausen district for a glass of the renowned Ebbelwei, an aromatic apple wine, which has been the city's most popular beverage since the time of Charlemagne, 1200 years ago. Locals traditionally enjoy it in rustic apple wine pubs, where it is served in an earthenware jug, commonly referred to as the "bembel," and drunk from a special ribbed glass, known as the "gerippte." Over the years, the grey jug with its blue design has become the premier symbol of Frankfurt's time-honored apple wine culture.

True apple wine aficionados enjoy their apple wine pure; only in special circumstances will they take it mixed with sparkling mineral water. This watered down version, known as the "sauergespritzer," is particularly popular among first-timers. A sweet version, called the "süßgespritzer," also exists.

This variation of the locals' beverage of choice is however frowned upon by the majority of apple wine enthusiasts. In the winter months, Ebbelwei takes on a delicious dimension and is served piping hot, infused with sugar, cinnamon, cloves and lemon.

Three must-see Frankfurt sights:

The Römerberg: Frankfurt's Old Town Center is an irregularly shaped square with the Justice Fountain at its center. Not only is it Frankfurt's most picturesque public square, it's the city's busiest pedestrian zone, home to numerous tourist attractions from its many Kulturschirn open-fronted shop, to the Römer, a complex of 11 lovely old buildings from the 15th to 18th centuries.

Goethe House and Museum: Frankfurt has the distinction of being the birthplace of Germany's greatest writer, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. His family home, Goethe House, is where Goethe was born on August 28, 1749, and where he lived until 1765. There shows how the well-to-do family (and their staff) would have lived. Next-door is the Goethe Museum, a 14-room gallery showcasing artworks from the writer's time, including masterpieces of the Late Baroque and Romantic periods.

St. Bartholomew's Cathedral: Built with red sandstone of Gothic style in the 13th and 14th centuries, the 95m tall cathedral still manages to stand out in this city of skyscrapers. Beneath the tower is the magnificent Crucifixion by Hans Backoffen, sculpted in 1509.

Seven famous children of Frankfurt

Dr. Alois Alzheimer—a neuropathologist who in 1906 identified the memory-loss ailment named after him

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe—a poet, playwright, novelist, essayist and artist.

Leading philosopher Theodor Adorno

World famous composer **Clara Schumann**

The father of immunology, chemotherapy, hematology and pharmacology **Dr. Paul Ehrlich**

Anne Frank

Founder of the Rothschild financial empire, **Mayer Rothschild**

When you hear the name Frankfurt numerous affiliations may spring to mind—sausages for one, or Frankfurt International Airport, perhaps the German Stock Exchange, or the International Automotive Exhibition.



A buxom barmaid made a concerted effort to convert me to Ebbelwei: "It's made from fresh regional apples that contain minerals known to strengthen the immune system while also helping to prevent heart and cardiovascular disease. And it's said to improve blood flow to the brain, promoting mental vitality." Also important, its alcohol content is at a mere five percent, and no more than 36 calories per 100 milliliters, making it safe for diabetics or those watching their weight.

AN APPETITE FOR MORE

Ebbelwei is best accompanied by a traditional cheese dishes like Handkäs mit Musik, small round regional cheeses marinated in oil, vinegar and chopped onions, served with bread and butter; Schneegestoeber which is a Camembert mixed with cream cheese, pepper and paprika is served with an accompaniment of either dark farmhouse bread or potato salad and sauerkraut.

Then there are the traditional German sausages like the bratwurst; or an authentic Frankfurter Würstchen—thin

lightly smoked, flavorful pork sausages that are almost always eaten in pairs, served alongside an obligatory splat of cold green sauce made from borage, chervil, cress, parsley, salad burnet, sorrel, chives and sour cream. Alternatively, a plate of pork cutlets slow cooked in sauerkraut and traditionally served with mashed potatoes and yellow mustard.

With your appetite now sated, head back to the city glinting with glass, steel and concrete skyscrapers. At its heart, Frankfurt is an unexpectedly traditional and pleasant city, with half-timbered buildings, huddled in its quaint medieval old city quarter and cozy apple wine taverns serving hearty regional food.

There are village-like neighborhoods filled with outdoor cafes, boutiques and street art, and beautiful parks and riverside paths. The city's cache of museums is second only to Berlin and its nightlife and entertainment scenes are bolstered by a spirited student population.

For further motivation see www.frankfurt-tourismus.de.

Don't forget about Frankfurt! Germany's business city will surprise you and so will the surrounding countryside.

WOW WOW air offers cheap flights to Frankfurt every day of the week, all year round. Find your flight to Germany at wowair.com.

