

Министерство образования Пензенской области
Государственное автономное профессиональное образовательное учреждение Пензенской области
“Пензенский колледж информационных и промышленных технологий
(ИТ-колледж)”
Учебный комплекс информационных технологий

International Communication “Germany”

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По специальности 09.02.07
“Информационные системы
и программирование”
Руководитель проекта: преподаватель
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Пенза, 2022



Traditional dishes

Bread, in the form of a loaf (Brot) or a small, usually crusty roll (Brötchen), is an important part of the cuisine, which is eaten all over the country and served with most German dishes. Bread is enjoyed with most meals, especially breakfast and dinner, but also at lunch (usually considered the main meal of the day), which will often be served with rolls on the side.



Traditional dishes

A *Kartoffelpuffer* is similar to a swiss 'Rosti': a shallow fried pancake made from grated potatoes, egg, and flour. It is sometimes eaten with eggs and bacon for breakfast in Germany, as a side with meat for lunch or dinner, or alone with applesauce.

Bratkartoffeln, on the other hand, are more like sauté or hashed potatoes, where small chunks or chips of potatoes are parboiled and then fried with onion and sometimes bacon.



Stereotypes

1. Germans are unfriendly

My take is that a lot of Germans are just more particular about when they socialize. If you're in a space that's made for socializing — anything from a dinner party to a nightclub or even a dating app — that cold shoulder you get in public will usually melt away, and bam, you've got new German friends.



Stereotypes

2. German food is terrible

Even stereotypically German food — sausage, spaetzle, sauerkraut — can be done well. It's somewhat fair to say that German food tends to be lighter on some seasoning, so high-quality grains, meat, and veggies make more of an impact on flavor. So, keep an eye out for restaurants and stores that offer good produce and you might just develop a soft spot for some German cuisine.



Stereotypes

3. Germans love cars

Not exactly — while car ownership in Germany is pretty common, countries like Italy and Poland have more cars per person. And there isn't as large a driving culture that other big car-making countries like the U.S. have. Public transport is robust, frequent, and covers most of the country, and research suggests it's no more or less car-focused than anywhere else in Europe.



Superstitions

A Badly Timed “Happy Birthday” in Germany Brings Bad Luck

In many cultures wishing someone happy birthday before the actual day can do no harm. It’s done preemptively, better early than never. Got a birthday coming up in a few days? Here, have a hearty old “Happy Birthday!”. Not so in Germany! Wishing someone happy birthday before the actual date, even just a few hours before midnight is said to bring bad luck. Far from being an old lady’s superstition this is still a widely held belief, and failing to respect this will confound or even irritate people.



Superstitions

Crossing Your Fingers Means You're Lying

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Superstitions

Leaving Without Goodbye

Saying hello and goodbye is serious business in Germany. As you may know, Germans are vigorous hand-shakers. Even if you meet a larger group, it's not uncommon to go through the whole awkward ceremony of individually shaking everyone's mittens.



Thanks for attention!