

# Culture Facts

- Germany's official language is German, but other languages such as Frisian, Danish, Sorbian, Turkish, Kurdish, Polish, Russian, and Balkan languages are spoken.
- Literature in German culture dates back to the Middle ages with authors such as poet Wolfram von Eschenbach and the Brother's Grimm. Grimm's Fairy tales, is a collection of children's fairy tales by the Grimm brothers which dates back to the 1800s in Germany.
- German music culture has produced many famous classical composers including Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Handel, Johann Strauss II, Wagner, and many more.
- Germany's architecture includes Ottonian and Carolingian styles as well as Renaissance, Baroque, and Gothic.
- German culture stresses privacy, structure, and being punctual. As a culture the German people tend to prize perfectionism and precision, and can sometimes appear unfriendly.

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- In the German culture, traditional food is very rich. The most commonly eaten meat is pork, while sausage such as bratwurst is also popular. Cabbage, potatoes, and sauerkraut are very common foods as well.
- Germany is known for its bread variety, where there are roughly 300 different kinds.
- The most commonly consumed and most popular beverage in German culture is warm beer. Schnapps and brandy are also commonly enjoyed.
- Germany is also beginning to create its own wine culture, which is growing in popularity but unlikely to ever rival the beer culture in the country.
- Oktoberfest is a celebration that begins in mid-September each year in Munich. It is known worldwide and tourists flock to the festival to enjoy the celebration every year. It is also celebrated in other countries, such as Canada and the United States.

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# GERMANY

- It is estimated that in Germany, where fast high performance cars are popular, roughly 70% of the roads do not have a speed limit.
- Germany's culture is also influenced by its major industries such as automobile manufacturing, metal products, electrical appliances, chemicals, plastics, and food processing, as well as coal.
- The local church is the dominant part of most German cities and towns. Today, many are protected by cultural preservation efforts.
- German holidays include New Year's (Sylvester), Mardi Gras (Karneval), Easter (Ostern), Ascension Day (Himmelfahrt), Pentecost (Pfingsten), Christmas (Weihnachten) and the Day of German Unity.
- Kris Kringle, which is the American Santa Claus, is derived from Christkindl, a character in German culture which is a spirit-like child with blond hair and angel wings.

