

A warm welcome to our fellow citizens



BLAUBACH

Stand 01.01.2015



Welcome to Blaubach

Blaubach is an *Ortsgemeinde* – a municipality belonging to a *Verbandsgemeinde*, a kind of collective municipality – in the Kusel district in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. It belongs to the *Verbandsgemeinde* of Kusel, whose administrative center is in the like-named town. Blaubach is also a state-recognized tourist community. Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact our English-speaking members of the local council, Peter Dietrich (phone: 06381-47933, email: pe.dietrich33@gmail.com) or Sebastian Lebek (phone: 06381-8848, email: SLebek@aol.com). In addition, you will find more information on our homepage: www.blaubach.de.

Regular events:

- In Blaubach, much in the way of old customs has been preserved, and certain people's tireless efforts are to thank for that. The kermis (church consecration festival, locally known as the *Blaubacher Kerwe*, or *Reweschnierkerwe*) is held on the second Sunday in August. Along with ceremonial speeches, there is also the long-lasting *Frühschoppen* (roughly "morning pint") and the custom of stamping out pretzels.
- The *Pfingstquack*, is still alive in Blaubach. In this Whitsun custom, children and youths go through the village in a group with a bundle of flowers, calling at houses and asking for donations.
- Still alive is also the custom of raising the Maypole on the eve of May Day, which is also, of course, Walpurgis Night, and "witchcraft" (playing tricks on your neighbours) is keenly practiced.
- Another custom that has been revived is the *Gemarkungsumgang* ("walking round the municipal boundaries") in which a great number of the local population takes part. At a midday rest along the walk, a field kitchen serves meals.
- Every year on Christmas Eve a service takes place in the village community house, afterwards citizens meet at the Christmas tree on the village square for a small concert.

Services for our citizens (Blaubach)

- Rental of the village community house
- Rental of the barbecue hut
- Free disposal of green waste from the garden (special place)

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Clubs (Blaubach):

- Arbeitsgruppe Dorfgeschichte – local history club
- *Freiwillige Feuerwehr* - voluntary fire brigade
- *Männergesangsverein* – men's choral society/glee club
- Kinder- und Jugendförderverein – promotional association for children and teenagers
- Kirchliche Kindergruppe – youth ministry
- *Gesangsverein* - choral society/ glee club
- Imkerverein - beekeeping club
- Landfrauenverein – Country Women's club
- Motorradclub – Motorcycle club
- Katholische Gemeinde – Catholic community
- Evangelische Kirchengemeinde – Protestant church community

Please note:

- **Home residents have the responsibility of removing snow from public sidewalks in front of their property. This responsibility may be transferred to the tenants.**
- **In addition, home residents have the responsibility of sweeping the public sidewalks in front of their property once a week.**

Electricity:

The electrical system in Europe is 220/240 volts and 50 Hertz, whereas the United States operate on a 110/120 volt, 60 Hertz system. Therefore, in order to operate the American appliances safely here in Germany, three types of electrical hardware are still widely used: transformers, converters, and adapters. Each of these has a distinct purpose and should not be confused.

- **PLUG-ADAPTERS** merely allow an American style plug to fit into a German style outlet, and do not convert/transform the voltage of electricity. Plug adapters can be used in conjunction with a German light bulb to operate your American lamps.
- **Step-Down Converters**
Voltage converters can be found for less than \$20. People often mistake these for transformers, but there is a difference. Like transformers, step-down converters change the electricity voltage from 220v to 110v, but unlike transformers, converters are not designed for continuous use. These converters should only be used for relatively short periods of time (45 to 60 min). Converters must be unplugged from the wall when not in use.
- **Transformers**
They can be purchased from Powerzone and range from \$26 for the 75W to \$185 for the 2000W version. Used transformers can be purchased at Thrift Shops on post for about 1/2 the price of a new one.

Shopping:

- Batteries and plastic bottles are returned at grocery stores and gas stations as well as other stores. There are bottle machines to return your plastic bottles and you get your deposit back for them. Not all bottles can be returned, but most of them can.
- Grocery bags are not free of charge. If you want to have a bag, you need to pay for it, a quite ecological approach. If you don't want to spend a lot of money on plastic bags, you'd better bring along your own shopping bag to carry your shopping.

- In most German supermarkets, trolleys can only be used when you deposit a coin (either a one Euro or 50 Euro cents coin). When you return the trolley, you get your deposit back. If you don't have a suitable coin on you, you either ask someone to help you or ask the cashier for change.
- Most German grocery stores are closed on Sundays, so make sure you get your shopping done by Saturday.
- **Useful vocabulary : Metzgerei / Fleischer** (butcher shop), **die Bäckerei** (bakery), **der Supermarkt** (supermarket)

Pharmacy:

- The first thing you will notice about the German pharmacy or *Apotheke*, is that they are not like the drugstores back home.
- You can also find what is called a *Drogerie*, or Drugstore, not to be confused with the Pharmacy. A *Drogerie* doesn't really have an equivalent in North America, Britain or Australia. One important point is:
As with most shops and banks, the *Apotheken* are closed in the evening and from Saturday afternoon (1 or 2 pm) until Monday morning, as well as on public holidays. But they always display information on which is the nearest Pharmacy on duty for the weekend or during the night. This information is also available in the local newspaper or on the internet – look for “*Nachtdienst*” (night service). Pharmacies take turns for weekend duty shifts, so there is always a list with dates and names of pharmacies on duty for emergencies.
- The German Drugstore is a shop where you can buy products for personal hygiene (such as nappies, shampoo and tooth paste, etc.), but also cleaning supplies and diet snacks.

Opening Hours:

Here are some helpful hints on what to expect when you go shopping in Germany. Please note: The following opening hours (*Öffnungszeiten*) apply in general, but can vary from shop to shop.

- **German Department Stores:**
Mo-Sat 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sun closed
- **German Supermarkets and Shops:**
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (smaller supermarkets close between 6 and 8 p.m.)
Sun closed
Shops in smaller towns might shut down for an 1-hour lunch break (usually between noon and 1 p.m.).
- **German Banks:**
Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
Sat/Sun closed
cash machines are available 24/7
- **German Bakeries:**
Mon - Sat 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tourist information:

If you need any information about the region or travel tips don't hesitate to contact the

Tourist Information Pfälzer Bergland
Bahnhofstr. 67, 66869 Kusel
Telephone: 06381 / 424 270



Useful vocabulary

English	German	Pronunciation
Hi!	Hallo!	hal-lo
Good morning/ day/ evening	Guten Morgen/ Tag/ Abend	goot-en mor-gen/ tog/ ar-bent
yes/no	ja/nein	yar/nine
Yes, please! No, thank you	Ja, bitte. Nein, danke.	yar bitt-er/nine dang-ker
How are you?	Wie geht's dir/ Ihnen?	vee gayt ess dear/ een-en?
Very well, thanks.	Danke, gut.	dang-ker goot
Thank you	Danke	dang-ker
You're welcome (for „thank you“)	bitte	bitt-er
My name is ...	Ich heiße ...	ix high-ser
Please	Bitte	bitt-er
Good bye!	Auf Wiedersehen!	owf vee-der-zay-en
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?	shprexh-en zee eng-lish?

Emergency calls:	dial number:
police	110
fire department	112
ambulance	112
poisoning emergency	06131 192 40

Recycling:

Germany is among the top waste recycling countries in the world.
Consumers sort trash into at least four recycling boxes

		
<p>For glass without a deposit (non-returnable bottles) there are white bags.</p>	<p>Paper refuse, like newspapers, periodicals and cardboard, should be disposed of in the blue bag.</p>	<p>A green dot on products indicates the German recycling system for plastics, aluminum cans, spray cans, and composite materials, like milk cartons. These materials go into the yellow bag.</p>

- Garbage that does not fit one of the above categories, e.g. cigarette ashes, personal items , etc. should be disposed of in your grey “*Restmüll*” bin.