

coffee: **der Kaffee**  
cup of coffee: **eine Tasse Kaffee**

## Understanding the Café Culture in Germany



### The history of coffee in Germany

Coffee snobs everywhere can rest assured that you're unlikely to run into the incivility of percolated coffee in Germany. Not only are the Germans proponents of filtered coffee—they created it. (Paper coffee filters were invented by Melitta Bentz in 1908 and the electronic drip brewer by Gottlob Widmann in 1954.)

Being a nation that leans more towards coffee than tea, Germany doesn't mess around with this beloved beverage. In fact, there's even an annual "Day of Coffee" there.

### How to Read a German Café Menu

As mentioned before, the easiest part of ordering a cup of coffee is often figuring out the German word for it, as both the Germans and English have tended to steal the names of drinks from Italy.

Here are some of your basic choices that will be listed on the overhead board:

- *Schwarzkaffee/Americano* (black coffee)
- *Milchkaffee* (coffee with hot milk)
- *Latte Macchiato* (latte macchiato)
- *Cappuccino* (cappuccino)
- *Tee* (tea)
- *heiße Schokolade* (hot chocolate)
- *Wein* (wine)
- *Bier* (beer)



If you're looking to try something uniquely German, feel free to order the **Radler** (shandy). Meaning "cyclist," it's a mixture of beer and lemonade, a great companion to German study on those hot summer days.