

WO KANN MAN SPEISEN UND TRINKEN?

(Where can you eat and drink?)

essen / speisen / trinken

restaurant:

die Gaststätte, die Gaststätten
(similar to American cafes and frequently a source of authentic cooking and specialize in serving local food; found especially in smaller villages)

die Speisewirtschaft, die Speisewirtschaften

die Gastwirtschaft, die Gastwirtschaften

die Gaststube, die Gaststuben

das Speiserestaurant / das Restaurant, die Restaurants
(has a varied menu of hot foods, including a Spezialität)

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE GOING TO A GERMAN RESTAURANT

Choosing a Place to Eat

The time will come in Germany when you just have to find a place to eat without the help of a German friend or a restaurant guide.

"Fast food" is not as frequently found in Germany as it is in the States, although chances are that in or near any railway station you will hit upon a "Schnellimbiss" (snack bar) or a "Pizzeria."

But perhaps you would prefer going to a German restaurant offering a full range of meals. How do you avoid the fancy places with astronomical prices? Just look for the menu posted at the street front — it will show you the price range and choice of food available.

Meal Times

In most German restaurants, hot food (warme Speisen) is to be had only during the lunch and dinner hours (snack bars, of course, are an exception). You may be able to get hot food at night, but don't count on it. Hot food in the afternoon is even more difficult to get.

Closing Times

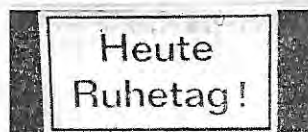
How late at night will you be able to get a beer in a German Gaststätte?

Closing hours for drinking places are normally set by the communities, but there are many exceptions. 1 a.m. is the general limit on weekdays, but that does not mean that places cannot close earlier — many do. On Saturday nights, the closing hours are often extended to 2 a.m. Sunday morning. It is also common to grant waivers in night-life districts. Berlin has no officially-fixed closing hours at all.

Eating Out



schwarzen Bären black bear
erbaut built



heute today

Jeden Montag
Betriebsruhe

jeden every

Opening hours

There are no licensing hours, so Cafés, restaurants etc. can stay open well into the night. Many display their opening times. Look for **geöffnet ab** (open from), **Öffnungszeiten** (opening hours) and **durchgehend** (all day). Beware: most Cafés and restaurants close one day each week. The sign at the door will say **Ruhetag** or **Betriebsruhe** (closing day) (**Ruhe** = rest).

If you want a meal

The main (hot) meal of the day is **Mittagessen** or **Mittagstisch**, served from noon till about 2.30 pm. In the evening most people have just bread, cheese and cold meats, but the larger restaurants are open for an evening meal (**Abendessen**, **Abendstisch**) from about 6.30 pm till around 9.30 pm.

For a family-type eating place with traditional decor, often serving regional dishes, look for signs with **Gasthaus**, **Gasthof**, **Gaststätte** (especially in a station or department store), **Ratskeller** or **...stube**. Some restaurant names start with **zum** or **zur** (here meaning 'at the sign of')

but sometimes **zum**, **zur** and **zu den** just point you in the right direction.