

WHY ARE SHOPS IN GERMANY CLOSED ON SUNDAYS?

Many of you are probably familiar with waking up on a Sunday morning to an empty fridge and not being able to buy food because all the grocery stores are closed. But have you ever wondered how Germany's strict shopping hours came to be?



Germany is renowned for having some of the strictest [laws for opening hours](#) in Europe, much to the frustration of many modern shoppers.

Not only are the majority of shops closed throughout Germany on Sundays, but during the week they often shut earlier in the evening than in most other countries.

After the [first country-wide laws on opening hours](#) were set out in 1900, by 1919 it was illegal for shops to open on Sundays and, on weekdays, shops could only be open from 7am to 7pm.

The reasoning behind this was not only religious, as in certain faiths the Sabbath is considered a day of rest and a day to honour God, but also to take the interests of workers into consideration.