

WHY ARE SHOPS IN GERMANY CLOSED ON SUNDAYS?

Without Spätis, the disorganized shoppers and night owls of Deutschland would likely be left to starve and, perhaps more importantly, unable to buy a beer for the road.

But while opening hours regulations are slowly relaxing in the country, with many supermarkets open until 11pm or midnight, German shopkeepers don't always seem keen to take advantage of this.

For example, though shops are allowed to stay open until midnight on Saturdays nowadays, it is still pretty common to see places closing as early as 3pm.

In a survey by [Spiegel Online](#) in June, 61 percent of respondents said shops should be able to decide for themselves whether they want to open on Sundays.

On the contrary, large chains such as Rossmann and Hornbach told Spiegel Online they do not think opening their doors on Sundays would lead to a significant increase in their sales and profits. "We are very happy with the current situation," Rossmann said.

It seems shops across Germany aren't legally going to be able to fling open their doors on Sundays anytime soon. But at least over the past few decades changes have been made, albeit slowly.

In the meantime, consider yourself lucky if you live in a big city as there's a chance you'll come across some shops open on the day of rest.

And despite a smaller selection of goods, you might also be able to find items you need at petrol stations and at stores in train stations around the country, no matter what day of the week it is.

