

## FRANKFURT AM MAIN

**Frankfurt am Main** is the largest city in the **German state** of Hesse and the fifth-largest city in Germany. Situated on the **Main River**, Frankfurt is the financial and transportation centre of Germany and the largest financial centre in continental Europe. It is seat of the European Central Bank, the German Federal Bank, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and the Frankfurt Trade Fair, as well as several large commercial banks. Frankfurt Airport is one of the world's busiest international airports, Frankfurt Central Station is one of the largest terminal stations in Europe, and the Frankfurter Kreuz (Autobahn interchange) is the most heavily used interchange in continental **Europe**. Frankfurt is the only German city listed as one of ten Alpha world cities.



**St. Paul's Church** (Paulskirche) is a national historic monument in **Germany** with great political symbolism, because it was the seat of the first democratically elected Parliament in 1848. It was established in 1789 as a Protestant church but was not completed until 1833. Its importance has its root in the **Frankfurt Parliament**, which met in the church during the revolutionary years of 1848/49 in order to write a constitution for a united Germany. St. Paul's was partially destroyed in World War II, particularly the interior of the building, which now has a modern appearance. It was quickly and symbolically rebuilt after the war; today it is not used for religious services, but mainly for exhibitions and events.

**Saint Bartholomeus' Cathedral** (Dom Sankt Bartholomäus) is a gothic building which was constructed in the 14th and 15th centuries on the foundation of an earlier church from the Merovingian time. It is the main church of **Frankfurt**. From 1356 onwards, kings of the Holy Roman Empire were elected in this church, and from 1562 to 1792, the roman-german emperors were crowned here. Since the 18th century, Saint Bartholomeus' has been called "the cathedral" by the people, although it has never been a bishop's seat.

**Commerzbank Tower** is a skyscraper located in **Frankfurt**. After it was completed in 1997 it ranked as the tallest building in Europe until 2005 when it was surpassed by the Triumph-Palace in Moscow. The tower is only two metres taller than the **MesseTurm** which is also located in Frankfurt. The MesseTurm was the tallest building in Europe before the construction of the Commerzbank Tower. With a height of 259 metres (850 ft), 56 stories, it provides 121,000 m<sup>2</sup> (1.3 million square feet) of office space for the Commerzbank headquarters, including winter gardens and natural lighting and air circulation. The signal light on top of the tower gives the tower a total height of 300.1 metres (985 ft). It was designed by **Foster & Partners**. The building is illuminated at

night by a yellow light scheme which was designed by Thomas Ende who was allowed to display this sequence as a result of a competition.

**The Städel**, officially the Städelches Kunstinstitut und Städtische Galerie, is an art museum with one of the most important collections in Germany. The Städel owns 2,700 paintings (of which 600 are displayed) and a graphical collection of 100,000 drawings and prints as well as 600 sculptures. It has around 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of display and a library of 100,000 books and 400 periodicals.



**The Senckenberg Museum** is the largest museum of natural history in **Germany**. It is particularly popular with children, who enjoy the extensive collection of dinosaur skeletons: Senckenberg boasts the largest exhibition of large dinosaurs in **Europe**. One particular treasure is a **dinosaur fossil** with unique, preserved scaled skin. The museum contains the world's largest and most diverse collection of stuffed birds with about 2000 specimens. Today, visitors are greeted outside the building by large, life-size recreations of dinosaurs, which are based on the latest scientific theories on dinosaur appearance. Inside, one can follow the tracks of a Titanosaurus, which have been impressed into the floor, towards its impressive skeleton on a sheltered patio.



**The old opera house** (Alte Oper) was built in 1880 by the **architect Richard Lucae**. It was one of the major opera houses in Germany until it was heavily damaged in World War II. Until the late 1970s it was a ruin, nicknamed "Germany's Most Beautiful Ruin". Today it functions as a concert hall, while operas are performed in the **Oper Frankfurt**. The inscription on the frieze of the Old Opera says: "Dem Wahren, Schönen, Guten" ("To the true, the beautiful, the good").

## TO DO

The Zeil is Frankfurt's main shopping street and one of the most crowded in Germany. The street is a pedestrian-only area and is bordered by two large plazas, Hauptwache in the west and Konstablerwache in the east. It is the second most expensive street for shops to rent in Germany after the Kaufingerstraße in Munich.

## INFORMATION

### Tourism Office of Germany

### German National Tourist Board

Beethovenstraße 69

60325 Frankfurt/Main

fax : +49 (0) 69/75 19 03