

Hannover: Religion, Social, Political and Cultural Opportunities.

Religion: Germany was the first country in 1517 to detach itself from the Catholic dogma. Hannover is for the majority Lutheran or Evangelical. Still there's big chunk of Catholics, being the second most widespread religion. In the last 2 centuries the immigration flux brought a lot of new cultures and religions. In Hannover there are big Muslim and Judaic communities, as well as Orthodox, Buddhist, etc. Hannover is one of the most welcoming cities in Germany, when it comes to religion and culture. When you get your registration by the Bürgeramt office, you will be asked to what religion you belong, as 0,009 of your tax will go to benefit one of the officially recognized Churches in Germany.

You can find your Church online on the Haus der Religionen website. There you'll find the address of the Church, how many people do belong to the community and other info about it. Those communities are usually people who moved to Germany or their children already born in Germany, that meaning they will share the same experience and might advice you about a lot of things.

Links:

Haus Der Religionen

<https://www.haus-der-religionen.de/de/religionen>

Kirchensteuer

<https://taxfix.de/steuertipps/kirchensteuer-steuererklaerung/>

Social: Hannover is a real multi-cultural city, very open minded and free for all. Although is always better to try to being part of the German populace, you can find a community of people from your own country. They usually share Facebook pages like "philippinos in Hannover". You can find online international communities of foreigners, who organize cinemas, nights out, etc. like meetup. There are also social meeting called "tandem" in which German people talk meet foreigners to chat and help them with their language. Some of them are set up by the Leibniz University, some by the Catholic association in Hannover city center. All of them are totally free (you might get something to drink but it's very cheap as well!).

Links:

<https://www.meetup.com/de-DE/Enjoy-Hannover-International-Community/>

<https://www.internations.org/hannover-expats>

Politic: Germany is a federal Republic, made of 16 States sharing a federal government and parliament in Berlin, but each with its own stataal legislative and executive body. The federal States have some autonomy, that´s why for example, the “Anerkennung” process is different from State to State.

Hannover is the capital city of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony), when you live and work in Hannover, you are allowed/you should vote for the city Mayor, city council and neighborhood council. You can take part in the city council meeting and pose question or give advices. The same is for the neighborhood council, even though there´s a limit of 19-21 people. You can find online the calendar of the meetings and the form to apply. When you have to vote, you´ll receive per post a 3 months in advance, all the info and papers to vote and, if you want it, to vote per post.

For all the info about politics in Germany and in your city, don´t forget the “Tagesschau” the TV news, and some local newspaper.

Links:

<https://www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender/Politik>

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Landeshauptstadt-Hannover/Bezirksr%C3%A4te>

<https://www.hannover.de/Leben-in-der-Region-Hannover/Politik/Politische-Gremien/Sitzungen-online>

Culture: Hannover is called the “city of music”, the first record, cassette and CD were printed here! Hannover offers a lot of events, free and not free, basically at every time of the year. From Spring to Autumn Hannover offers also a lot of cultural events in open air like concerts, shows, markets, etc. You can find museums, parks, gardens, monuments, libraries, theatres, cinema, concert halls and a lot of night life. Basically, every week there´s something going on. You can find in some place free magazines featuring all the events day-by-day. The website hannover.de has a full page dedicated to all the cultural events which you might enjoy, such as Maschseefest (a 20 days of fest all around our city lake Maschsee), the Schützenfest, Oktoberfest, Frühlingsfest (Spring fest), etc.

Links:

<https://www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender>

<https://www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender/Kostenlos>

<https://www.hannover.de/Veranstaltungskalender/Maschseefest>