

ADVISORY

Safety and Security

1. There have been several incidents in recent past of young Indians having drowned in lakes/rivers in Germany. It is advised that Indian tourists as well as Indian community members residing here may exercise due caution and follow due warnings mentioned about areas that may be unsafe for swimming. Young Indian students studying in Germany may also be cautious so that such situations do not arise again. Persons going on swimming must also take due precautions and wear life jacket before entering the water.

2. There have been several reports of personal belongings / hand bags being stolen at places frequented by visitors to Germany such as Airports, Railway Stations, Hotels, Trade Fairs and places of tourist interest. Indian visitors to Germany may please ensure safety of their personal belongings including their passports at all times. It is advisable to store a scanned copy of the passport and Schengen visa on their personal internet cloud spaces for easy retrieval.

Customs' Requirements

1. There have also been cases whereby Indian passengers have been questioned by customs authorities for carrying gold jewellery. It is advised that, when travelling, one may like to restrict the amount of expensive jewellery being carried. More details on customs' requirements can be found at the following web links:

https://www.zoll.de/EN/Private-individuals/Travel/Entering-Germany/Duties-andtaxes/Travellers-allowances/travellers-allowances_node.html

https://www.zoll.de/EN/Private-individuals/Travel/EnteringGermany/Restrictions/Cash/Entering-Germany-from-non-EU-country/entering-germanyfrom-non-eu-country_node.html

Visa Requirements

1. In some exceptional circumstances in the past, it has been seen that some Indians get stranded at the Frankfurt airport if their outbound evening flight gets cancelled. This happens because the Frankfurt airport closes down at 2300 hrs and Indians, who do not have a valid Schengen visa, are not allowed to leave the airport premises. It may be noted that one cannot leave the airport's international transit area or have an overnight stay in a hotel without a valid Schengen visa. To avoid cases like these, those who have a Schengen tourist visa, may plan their departure at least a day before their visa expires instead of flying on the last day of the validity of their visa. Some more information on this can be found at:

<https://www.germany-visa.org/airport-transit-visa/>

2. It has also been noticed that many individuals travelling to Germany see the validity period of the Visa but do not take note of the number of days that the visa is valid for (normally mentioned on right side of the visa sticker). To avoid getting into trouble with the immigration authorities, Indian citizens are advised to check both the details before travelling.

Fraudulent Phone Calls

1. Incidents of fraudulent phone calls have also been brought to the Consulate's notice. Indian citizens have received phone calls mentioning about their visa applications or immigration processes and asking fraudulently for 'fines' to be paid. It may be noted that no such requests are made by the Indian Embassy/Consulates on the phone for transfer of money electronically as payment towards 'fines'. Extra caution may be exercised when any phone call is received demanding electronic transfer of money.