

PACKING LIST

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR NEW LIFE IN GERMANY

A practical packing list designed for Indian expats to make moving stress-free



PACKING LIST

Essentials

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passport (with visa stamp/Schengen visa)
- Flight tickets (physical or digital)
- Copies of travel insurance and health insurance
- Address and contact details of accommodation in Germany
- Copies of important documents (in case originals are lost)
- Vaccination certificates (COVID-19 or others, if applicable)

MONEY & FINANCIALS

- Euros (at least €300-500 in cash for immediate expenses)
- International debit/credit cards
- Indian bank account details and internet banking access
- Contact details of currency exchange services in your area (in case you need to exchange cash)
- Forex card (preloaded with Euros)

ELECTRONICS

- Power bank
- Mobile phone and charger
- Laptop/tablet and charger
- Headphones/earphones
- Backup USB drives or external hard drive
- Universal travel adapter (India uses Type C and D plugs, while Germany uses Type C and F)
- SIM card (International roaming, or you can buy a German SIM later)

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- Personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, and sanitary products
- Compact medical thermometers
- Hand Sanitizer and Disinfecting Wipes
- Essential skincare products suited to your skin type
- A personal first-aid kit with bandages and antiseptics

PACKING LIST

Clothing & Apparel

SEASON-APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy winter jackets (waterproof and insulated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Light cotton clothes (full sleeves and half sleeves) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woollen socks and comfortable winter shoes/boots (waterproof) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses and sunhat/cap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal wear (top and bottom) | <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable sneakers/sandals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woollen sweaters and hoodies | <input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket or windbreaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves, scarves, woollen caps | <input type="checkbox"/> Layered clothing like cardigans or sweatshirts |

INDIAN TRADITIONAL WEAR

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A couple of sets of traditional Indian outfits (for festivals, community events, or parties) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dupattas/stoles (easy to pack, can also be handy for layering in colder months) |
|---|--|

FOOTWEAR

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes (Germany has a lot of cobbled streets) | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Shoes (if budget is available, buy in Germany) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slippers (for indoors) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal shoes (if needed) | |

WEATHER-SPECIFIC ITEMS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella & Raincoat (Germany can be rainy, especially in spring and autumn, so carry a compact umbrella or a raincoat.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen (Indian brands may not be widely available) |
|--|--|

PACKING LIST

Food & Cooking Supplies

INDIAN SPICES

- Small containers of essential spices (masala, turmeric, cumin, coriander, chilli powder, garam masala)
- Pickles (homemade or store-bought) – German stores may not carry a wide variety, and they can be expensive
- Ready-to-eat Indian food packets (for quick meals when you're homesick or adjusting)
- Instant noodles or Indian snacks (Maggi, Bhel, Chivda, etc.)
- Rice and dal (if you prefer your own supply to start with)

HOT DRINKS FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS

- Tea or Coffee
- Tea spices powder
- Tea colander

COOKING UTENSILS

- Small pressure cooker (Indian models may be hard to find in Germany)
- Tava or non-stick pan for making rotis or dosas
- Indian-style knife and peeler (if you prefer the ones commonly used in India)

PACKING LIST

Toiletries & Personal Care

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

- Face wash, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner
(Indian brands might not be available)
- Hair oil (coconut oil, almond oil, etc.)
- Deodorant and perfumes
- Hairbrush, comb, beard comb
- Razor, shaving cream, and other grooming essentials
- Sanitary pads/tampons (Indian brands or organic ones might be less expensive to bring)

MEDICINES & FIRST-AID:

- Prescription medicines
(with a doctor's prescription)
- Small first-aid kit
(band-aids, antiseptic creams, etc.)
- Over-the-counter meds for common ailments (Dolo, paracetamol, antacids, cold/flu meds)
- Ayurvedic or homoeopathy medicines (if you use them - not easily available in Germany)

PACKING LIST

Miscellaneous Cultural Items

CULTURAL ESSENTIALS

- Pooja kit or small idols (for religious purposes)
- Rudraksha mala or other religious items
- Incense sticks (Agarbatti) or camphor (kapoor) for prayer – might be harder to find in regular stores
- Traditional festival decorations (Diwali diyas, Holi colours, etc.)

BOOKS/ENTERTAINMENT

- Indian language books or novels (might be difficult to find in German bookstores)
- Music instruments (if you play any)

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

- Copies of your degree or other educational certificates (in case of job interviews or university admissions)
- Passport-size photographs (easily needed for official forms)
- Indian driving licence (you might need it to convert to a German one)

OPTIONAL BUT USEFUL: HOME COMFORTS (IF LUGGAGE WEIGHT PERMITS)

- Bedsheets, pillow covers, and towels (good to have if you prefer specific types, as quality home linen can be expensive in Germany)
- Handkerchiefs/Tissues (Handy for daily use, especially in public transport or while walking around in cooler weather)

PACKING LIST

Things to keep in mind

SPECIAL NOTES FOR FIRST-TIME TRAVELERS

- Documents Backup: Keep copies of all your important documents in both physical and digital form (in email or cloud storage).
- Language Apps: Install a German language app (like Duolingo or Google Translate) to help with basic phrases.
- Emergency Contact Info: Have your emergency contacts and local embassy information handy.
- Local Transit Pass: Once in Germany, look into getting a local transport pass for easier travel within the city.
- Get Familiar with
 - Basic German Phrases: [Check our article on this](#)
 - German culture: [Check our article on this](#)
 - Deutsche Bahn: [Check our article on this](#)
 - Healthcare system: [Check our article on this](#)

SUPERMARKETS & DRUGSTORES (DROGERIE) IN GERMANY

Supermarkets

- Aldi
- Lidl
- Edeka
- Rewe
- Penny
- Kaufland
- Netto Marken-Discount

- Real
- Tegut
- Famila
- Marktkauf
- Globus
- Wasgau

Drugstores (Drogerie)

- dm
- Rossmann
- Müller
- Budni (Budnikowsky)