



# Shopping

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## **AAFES**

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service boasts plenty of shopping opportunities throughout the Wiesbaden community. The same stores you can find on installations within the United States can also be found here such as the Main Exchange, Military Clothing Sales, Four Seasons, Shoppettes and Class Six. Offering a wide variety of sporting gear, clothing and equipment, the Sports Zone at Mainz Kastel Storage station is the largest sports store on U.S. installations in Europe. The same can be said for the Power Zone, also located at Mainz Kastel, which now offers the largest selection in televisions, DVDs and electronics. Contracted vendors also offer a variety of European items such as Polish Pottery, crystal, Italian glass, Turkish gold and lots more.

The Wiesbaden community's Commissary is at Hainerberg Housing Area. Payment for commissary items can be made by cash, check, and credit or debit card. Ration cards are required to purchase coffee, tobacco and alcohol and can be obtained when you in-process.

## **Wiesbaden Downtown Shopping**



Wiesbaden has long been considered one of the most popular shopping locations in Germany. The pedestrian zone encompasses more than one kilometer in the Kirchgasse and Langgasse. Large department stores, well-known chains, retailers as well as lesser known fashion items from different manufacturers can be found here. Boasting a diverse range of gastronomy, Wiesbaden also invites you to take a break from a hard day's shopping in the centrally located Mauritiusplatz with its elegant fountains, plenty of seats, and a café. The Mauritiusplatz is the ideal place to start or end a prolonged shopping spree. **Historical District and Market**- Directly beside the vast pedestrian zone, the old quarter of Wiesbaden promises you a "journey of the senses". On streets arranged in the shape of a ship's bow, retailers offer fine wines, quality oils, and an enthralling range of spices and floral art. A great amount of creativity and individuality are also concentrated in the old part of the city – and thus a large number of goldsmiths still work in open workshops behind their shop windows. Smaller boutiques tempt shoppers with tailor-made fashions, leatherwear and home accessories. On the Dern'sches Gelände, the Wiesbaden farmers' market offers a huge variety of fruit and vegetables, agricultural produce, and a fish market every Wednesday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. here. There are also many supermarkets similar to American style grocery stores. The most common are Aldi, Penny Markt, Lidl, REWE, Spar, Edeka, Tengelmann and Plus. **Wilhelmstrasse, Taunusstrasse, and Quellenviertel (Hot Springs District)** - An exclusive shopping experience is guaranteed at the Wilhelmstrasse, the Taunusstrasse and the Quellenviertel – or "Hot Springs District". This multifaceted and attractive mix offers extravagant boutiques, furniture and home accessories, antiques, gourmet food, and fine

jewellery and designer fashions. Shops include Bailly Diehl, Bulgari, and Escada. Interspersed among the shops, the diversity of Italian and international cuisine is tempting as is the rich selection of Rheingau wines. There are plenty of big **clothing stores** to choose from such as Kaufhof, Karstadt, Peek+Cloppenburg, C&A, H&M and New Yorker. Electronic stores such as Saturn and Media-Markt offer a wide variety of items to include household appliances. IKEA and Mann Mobilia are two major furniture stores in the area. You can even find a Toys R' Us nearby. Wiesbaden has several large stores similar to Walmart Supercenters, called **Real**. These are located on Mainzer Strasse, Schiersteiner Strasse and in Wiesbaden Nordenstadt. See also <http://www.wiesbaden.de/medien/dokumente/tourismus/Einkaufsfuehrerxs.pdf>.

### **Opening Hours**

However, unlike in the U.S., stores are not open daily 24 hours a day. Most smaller German stores close between 6 and 7 p.m. weekdays and between 3 and 6 p.m. Saturdays, while chain stores are open until 8 p.m. Mon – Sat, and large chain supermarkets like Real and REWE are open to 10 p.m. Mon – Sat. In the past, stores were only open until 4 or 6 p.m. but as German laws change, so do business hours for many customer-oriented stores.

### **Malls in Wiesbaden**

While malls are not as common in Germany as in the U.S., Wiesbaden does have two relatively new malls, both in the downtown area.

The **Lilien Carre** Shopping Center is located directly next to the main train station. It includes 65 shops, several options for food and drink, as well as convenient underground shopping. Open hours: Mon – Sat 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. For details, see [www.lilien-carre.de](http://www.lilien-carre.de)



The **Luisen Forum** mall is directly in the city center and reaches from the main pedestrian zone (Kirchgasse 6) to Dotzheimerstrasse. It includes an indoor raised bridge, used as a café, over Schwalbacherstrasse. Inside are over 50 stores and eateries. For (very affordable) parking, go up Rheinstrasse, and after Schwalbacher splits off and turns right, take the next turn right to get to the parking garage. Save the 80 cents of the first hour by shopping at REWE in the basement and getting your parking ticket updated at the REWE counter. Shops open Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Visit: [www.luisenforum.de](http://www.luisenforum.de).

### **Äppelallee Center**

The **Äppelallee-Center** is located in the commercial area of Wiesbaden-Biebrich (Äppelallee 69) conveniently close to a variety of do-it-yourself stores, a garden center and various furniture stores. The center offers a large scale supermarket (**Real**), a large scale consumer electronics store (**MediaMarkt**), a pharmacy, a hairdresser, a variety of smaller stores and restaurants (**Thai, Indian, Sushi, Deli, Bakery etc.**) and much more. Driving Directions: From downtown

take the Gustav-Stresemann Ring (B54 southbound), pass the main train station, take the first left and turn on the Biebricher Allee (K643). Keep going for about 2.6km (1.6 miles). Before you reach the historic district of downtown Biebrich you turn right onto Äppelallee (L3482). Follow the Äppelallee for about 1.7 km (1.1 miles). You can't miss the center, when you see the signs of MediaMarkt and Real take a right and follow the signs. (Alternatively, in case you travel from Wiesbaden-Erbenheim take the Autobahn A 66 (direction Rüdeshheim/Bingen) for about 3.3 km (2 miles) get off at exit 4 (Wiesbaden/Wi-Biebrich) make a left on the Biebricher Allee (K643) and continue for about 500m (0.3 miles) then turn right on the Äppelallee and continue as mentioned before.) At the center you'll find 1,600 free parking spaces. If you choose to travel by bus, take bus line 14 and get off at Äppelallee-Center. Shops open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit [www.aeppelallee-center.de](http://www.aeppelallee-center.de)

### **Shopping in Mainz:**



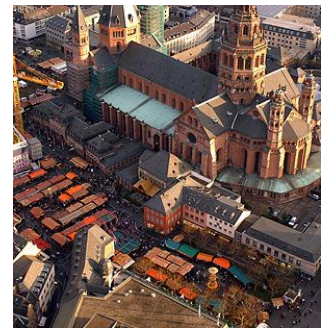
The shopping center **Am Brand**, located between the Market, City Hall and Rheingoldhalle is a veritable shopping paradise for modern people. Everything here is a bit larger: Textile stores, shoe shops, book stores or telephone shops. The various young fashion boutiques attract young people in particular.

**Pedestrian precinct / City Mile**- Mainz has officially rolled out the red carpet for its customers. The shopping city's freshly renovated pedestrian precinct extends between Ludwigsstrasse and Grosse Bleiche. The large department stores, specialty shops and stand-up cafés meet your large and small wishes along the City Mile. And Mainz is always good for a surprise: Do not fail to visit the underground Isis and Mater Magna shrine (admission free) in the "Römerpassage" Shopping Centre at the Lotharstrasse entrance that will carry you off into the Roman period. Parking: Car parks Kaufhof, Kronberger Hof, Theatre, Römerpassage. Bus stops: Schusterstrasse, Höfchen.

### **Other Malls in the Area**

Discover the many downtown shopping opportunities offered by the **City of Mainz** on the Rhine River, at <http://www.mainz.de/WGAPublisher/online/html/default/hthn-677k63>.

Photo: [www.mainz.de](http://www.mainz.de).



The **Hessencenter** is a mall located at the end of A66 in Bergen-Enkheim on the east side of Frankfurt. Just take a right at the traffic light when the Autobahn ends and you'll be at the entrance of the parking lot. See also [www.hessencenter-frankfurt.de](http://www.hessencenter-frankfurt.de).

**Centro Mall** is Germany's largest shopping mall with more than 200 stores, 300 eateries, bars, sports complex, cinema complex, hotel and amusement park. Travel on A3, A42 towards Oberhausen, look for green signs to OB-Zentrum. See also [www.centro.de](http://www.centro.de)



## Frankfurt Shopping Tipps



Frankfurt may be world renowned for its financial institutions and trade fairs, but this city on the Main has some superlative outlets for the discerning shopper as well – whether you're the wife of a well-paid banker or an international traveller in search of a bargain. The most popular shopping area is the **Zeil Fussgängerzone** (pedestrian street), beginning at Hauptwache and stretching all the way to Konstablerwache, with the city's main department stores (**Galeria Kaufhof, Karstadt, Peek & Cloppenburg, Eckerle, Sportarena, Douglas, Saturn, etc.**) as bookends. There are ample small shops and boutiques with a wide array of clothes, shoes, leather goods, and plenty of fast-food joints and bakeries to keep anyone occupied for the entire day. On its western end, the Zeil changes its name and becomes Freßgasse (the "shovelling alley") with enough cafés, patisseries, ice cream parlours, and delicatessens to relax and recharge from the rigors of an extensive shopping spree. The pinnacle of high end and haute couture collections exists in the appropriately beautiful Goethestraße, which runs parallel to Freßgasse. Just under 400 meters long, this elegant strip of shops is home to some of the most famous designers in the world, including **Escada, Versace, Gucci, Prada** to name a few, and many other renowned Italian fashion designers. A quaint tree-lined cobblestone walkway creates a path where luxury and elegance know no bounds in the upscale world of **Mont Blanc, Tiffany, and Cartier**. In the same area is Schillerstrasse, boasting world class quality clothing stores and gift shops. It is also hosts a lovely market every Friday, which is packed with people grabbing a quick lunch, picking up fresh fruit and vegetables, or perusing the myriad wares available for purchase. For more funky and trendy boutiques, outlets, and hard-to-find items, try Berger Straße, with shops extending from the Merianplatz to Bornheim Mitte U-Bahn stations, or else Leipziger Straße in Bockenheim. For those looking for a taste of home via an American style mall, you will be hard pressed to find one, but the **Main-Taunus Centrum in Sulzbach** is the next best thing you can find. However, it is not easily accessible by public transportation and generally has about the same shops you can find on the Zeil. **Shopping hours in Germany** have remained a sore subject for a long time, but the government approved Monday to Saturday shopping until 8 p.m. Everything remains uncompromisingly closed on Sundays, except for the souvenir shops at the Römerberg, and shops at the Frankfurt Hauptbahnhof and FA. There are several parking garages in the area, if traveling by car. The best way to reach the Zeil is by train on the S8 or S9. Get off at Hauptwache.

See also [http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=317586&\\_ffmpar\[\\_id\\_inhalt\]=177748](http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=317586&_ffmpar[_id_inhalt]=177748).



Discover the **Wertheim Outlet Shopping Village** located on A3 between Aschaffenburg and Würzburg (Exit 66 Wertheim/Lengfurt). Clothes, shoes, accessories, sports gear, jewelry of various brands are sold at reduced prices. The shopping village is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For

more information visit their website at [www.WertheimVillage.com](http://www.WertheimVillage.com) which is available in English. The area around Wertheim is also great for hiking, dining and discovering the "Spessart Mountains." See also [www.wertheimvillage.com](http://www.wertheimvillage.com).

Enjoy 175 stores and 25 restaurants in the air-conditioned **LOOP5** shopping center on the A5 Autobahn near Darmstadt, exit Darmstadt-Nord. Free parking. Public transportation: Bus lines 5506, 5513 & 5515 from Darmstadt. Hours (food court & stores): Mon – Thu 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Fri – Sat 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Upcoming shopping Sundays: Sept. 25 and Oct. 30 from 1-7 p.m. Virtual tour at <http://www.loop5.de/slideshow.php>.



### **Main-Taunus Centrum Mall**

Near Frankfurt, off A 66, See <http://www.main-taunus-zentrum.de/de/home/home.html>.



24 Sep – flea market at (64) Heppenheim Europaplatz, Lorsch Str., 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.