

Shopping

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, 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

But not all of your shopping necessarily has to be done on the installation. The Wiesbaden pedestrian zone is a **shopper's paradise** with many specialized boutiques and large department stores. You will also find several vintage or second hand shops which tend to carry high end items at very reasonable prices.

For **high end clothing** and shoes go to Wilhelmstrasse and the Quellen area (around the Coo Coo Clock). Shops include Bailly Diehl, Bulgari, and Escada.

If you are looking for **antiques**, try Taunusstrasse and the parallel street Nerostrasse. Both are charming walks offering the best in European antiques and several options for dining.

Germans tend to do their **grocery shopping** more frequently and in smaller quantities. An open-air market is located in the Marktplatz downtown Wiesbaden Wednesday and Saturday where you can find a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, meats, flowers, spices, cheeses and plenty more. 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.

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>.

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 Mon – Sat 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. For details, see 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.

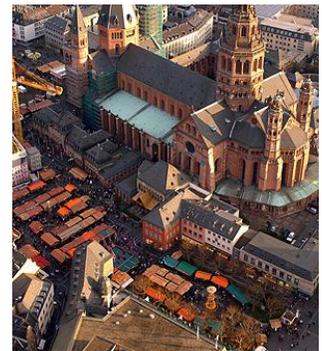
Save the 80 cents of the first hour by shopping at REWE in the basement and getting your parking ticket updated at the REWE counter. Shops open Mon-Sat 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. www.luisenforum.de.

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.



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.hessen-center-frankfurt.de.

Downtown Frankfurt

Frankfurt's main shopping street is called the "Zeil." Here you'll find all the major department stores such as: Peek & Cloppenburg, Galeria Kaufhof, Karstadt, Eckerle, Sportarena, Douglas, Saturn, etc. Furthermore, there's a modern shopping mall called "Zeilgalerie" which also houses the IMAX cinema, and a futuristic looking brand new mall right next to it, called "MyZeil". If you're looking for exclusive designer shops (Escada, Picard, Versace, Gucci, Cartier etc.) then the

Goethestrasse is the place to go. It's located between the opera and the "Goetheplatz." 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).



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



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 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.

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>.

Äppel Allee 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.

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, Lorscher Str., 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.