Mit Xperitas nach Deutschland reisen!

Travel to Germany with Xperitas
**Who is Xperitas?**
Xperitas is a nonprofit educational organization with 45+ years of experience dedicated to promoting global citizenship through authentic immersion experiences.

**Mission**
Transforming lives through shared global experience and intercultural learning.

**Vision**
All people connected in one global community.
What makes Xperitas Programs Different?

Language immersion
- Living and interacting with native speakers makes the language come alive.
- Total immersion allows you to practice the language in a real-life setting and build confidence in your language ability.

Cultural immersion:
- Exposure to cultural differences can allow for the development of self-awareness and global perspectives.
- Interaction with real people and families fosters deep, authentic cultural connections.
- Pre-departure intercultural preparation equips students with the coping skills to thrive in ambiguity and discomfort.
In addition to the strong emphasis on language and cultural immersion, Xperitas offers:

- More than 45 years of experience planning travel with family stays
- Dedicated program managers who speak the target language and are experts in the destination
- Financial aid and scholarships available to further our commitment to inclusion

So, Why Travel with Xperitas?
Why travel to Germany?

• See an engaging mix of tradition and modernity!
• Experience the robust public transportation system and high-speed rails!
• Discover the geographical diversity, from the snow covered Alps in the south to the sandy beaches in the north!
• Reconnect with your ancestors – Germans form the largest single heritage group in the U.S.!
Our Destination
What will we be doing in Germany?
Why stay with a German family?

- To fulfill Xperitas’ commitment to offer students cultural immersion experiences abroad
- Opportunity for students to observe and partake in daily life in Germany
- To practice using German in a real-life setting
How does Xperitas find host families?

- Xperitas works with trusted Family Stay Coordinators, who may be teachers, community leaders or members of community organizations.
- Coordinators choose and evaluate families using culturally appropriate methods.
- Host families provide room, board and genuine cultural experience for students.
- Xperitas travelers might share a room with a host sibling of the same gender, but will always have their own bed.
So, Why Travel with Xperitas?

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Preparation is Key!

• Xperitas provides:
  • Tools and activities to help prepare for a successful family stay experience and overall trip
  • Regular preparation newsletters for both parents and leaders, leading up to the program

• Before the trip, we’ll meet as a group to:
  • Learn about German culture, customs and traditions
  • Complete and discuss critical thinking activities to foster cultural self-awareness and intercultural competence

• Be sure to seek out additional opportunities to practice German before we go!
Trip Information

See handouts for:
• Program travel dates
• Approximate price
• Program inclusions and exclusions
• Refer to itinerary for more details
Safety is Our #1 Priority

- Xperitas enrolls all participants in STEP, the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
- 24-hour on-call emergency phone while group is abroad
- Students have access to group leader, Family Stay Coordinator and Xperitas contact info at all times.
Health

• You will be asked to list medical conditions and dietary restrictions on your application
• Communicate with Xperitas regarding any unique concerns
• Refer to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for recommendations and visit a travel clinic if needed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Inclusions</th>
<th>Program Exclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Round-trip airfare from cities listed</td>
<td>Airline baggage fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airline fuel surcharge</td>
<td>Increase in air cost due to requests for specific travel dates or airline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-country transportation (air, train, motorcoach, as applicable)</td>
<td>Small-group supplement, if applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All overnight accommodations</td>
<td>Passport, visa or other document costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals as indicated on the itinerary</td>
<td>Transportation to/from U.S. departure city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry fee allowance (to cover entry fees for sites/museums as determined by group)</td>
<td>Any meals not indicated on itineraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance (trip cancellation &amp; medical)</td>
<td>Activities listed as optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tips for guide and/or driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spending money and gifts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Spring Payment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postmark Deadline</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1 (Early Bird)</td>
<td>$500 ($100 non-refundable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1 (Final)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Final Balance*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Xperitas will send final billing statements approximately two weeks prior to the final payment deadline

### Summer Payment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>June 15 (Early Bird)</td>
<td>$500 ($100 non-refundable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15 (Final)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Final Balance*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fall Payment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Jan 15 (Early Bird)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15 (Final)</td>
<td>($100 non-refundable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Final Balance*</td>
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</table>

**Winter Payment Schedule**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 15 (Early Bird)</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15 (Final)</td>
<td>($100 non-refundable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
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Making a Financial Plan

- Xperitas Early Bird Discount:
  - Spring groups: save $200 if you register by June 1
  - Summer groups: save $200 if you register by June 15

- Host an international student and receive a credit or rebate of $150

- Fundraising / My Travel Fund

- Financial Aid
We created *My Travel Fund* so that friends and family can support our students’ language immersion programs.

With this online tool, generous family and friends can quickly and easily submit gift payments directly toward a student's Xperitas program.
Financial Aid

• Xperitas provides need-based financial aid
• Families with a household income of $55,000 or less are eligible
• Minimum award is 10% of the program price, maximum award is 60% of the program price
• Financial Aid applications can be found on our website and are accepted on a rolling basis (get them in early!), but the final deadline is October 15
• Guidelines can be found on our website; however, Xperitas takes into account all the applicant’s circumstances and submitted materials (be thorough!)
Insurance Information

• Health and accident insurance included in program price (maximum coverage $50,000; $50 deductible)
  • Coverage details available on Xperitas website
• Trip cancellation insurance included in program price (up to $1,000)
  • Valid for cancellation due to medical issues affecting participants or immediate family
• Additional insurance coverage is available through Core Travel Insurance
  • Core Travel offers three upgrade plans above the standard insurance policy included in the Xperitas program cost
How to Register

• Apply online through your unique enrollment URL
  • Enter contact and health information
  • Sign parent/guardian release form
  • Submit $500 deposit

• After you enroll, remember to create an Xperitas portal account
  • portal.xpertas.org
Once you’ve enrolled

• Family Stay application online upon enrollment in Xperitas Program
  • due November 1

• Don’t forget to apply for your passport!
  • Passport info due 90 days before departure
  • It’s best to start the application process no less than 150 days before departure
Testimonials from past participants

“I was able to see many famous buildings and views, the family stay was great and the food was amazing!”
– Student from Belleville HS

“I had never been to a foreign country before! I had no idea what to expect. But what did happen and all that I got to see was absolutely life changing. The trip was really eye opening to me. You can see all of Germany on TV but to actually experience in person was amazing.”
– Student from Prairie HS

“The speaking was so hard, but so beneficial. The family stay is the best part of the trip and we still message each other daily. We already have plans to visit each other again.”
– Student from Prairie HS

“I am so glad for the opportunity offered to my daughter by this short program…This was a perfect way to work on her language skills and take part in the valuable exchange to become a world citizen.”
– Parent from Early College Academy