

## **Hamburg: General Information**

For detailed information on Conference Registration & Abstract Submission as well as on more information on Hamburg, please have a look at the Local Organizers' Webpage:

<http://hamburg-sunbelt2013.org/>

In this document you'll find first information on Hamburg in general:

### **Hamburg**

Hamburg is situated at the river Elbe, about 100 km away from the North Sea. Hamburg is a city surrounded by water: the river, the big harbor – which is the third largest in Europe –, the large inner-city-lake Alster and its countless channels and bridges are accounting for Hamburg's typical and maritime charm. There is a reason why the city is also named "Venice of the North" and is said to be one of the most beautiful cities in Germany.

With 1.8 million inhabitants, Hamburg is home to many people from different areas of Germany and from many other countries in the world. It is a city full of contrasts. Enjoy its young, modern and friendly way of life in lively and touristic quarters like St. Pauli. Or get a taste of the elegant inner city or of the noble villas on the romantic hillsides of Blankenese.

The city offers you a wide and varied range of cultural highlights such as theatres, museums and Hamburg's new iconic music hall, the Elbphilharmonie, which is located in the new and architecturally pioneering HafenCity (harbour city).

Tourist information about Hamburg and its surroundings can be found at the Hamburg Tourist Offices (<http://www.hamburg-tourism.de/en/>).

Visit Hamburg in films, <http://hamburg-tourism.de/en/sightseeing/hamburg-films/>

### **Climate**

The climate in Hamburg is [oceanic](#). It is influenced by its proximity to the coast and marine air masses that originate over the [Atlantic Ocean](#). Snowfall is rare, generally occurring once or twice a year.

The warmest months in Hamburg are June, July, and August, with high temperatures of 19 to 22 °C (68 to 72 °F). The coldest are December, January, and February, with low temperatures of -1.4 to 0 °C (29 to 32 °F).

In the month of May you can expect about 9.6 rainy days, 53.7 mm (2.114 inches) rainfall and average high temperatures of 17 °C (63°F).

### **Universität Hamburg**

With about 39,000 students, the Universität Hamburg is one of Germany's largest universities. Approximately 670 of the 4,760 academic staff are full professors. About 110 professors work in the School of Medicine or at the University Clinic Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE), about 560 work in the other schools. These are supported by about 6,600 employees working in technical support, libraries, laboratories, health care and administration. The

University is comprised of 150 different buildings throughout the city, although its main campus is located in Von-Melle-Park and the surrounding district of Eimsbüttel.

### **Public transportation**

The public transport system in Hamburg is organized in the HVV. Thirty-five transport operating companies linked in an integrated fares system ensure smooth interchange between their various services on the basis of carefully synchronized timetables (see schedule information on [www.hvv.de](http://www.hvv.de)). S-Bahn (suburban railway), U-Bahn (subway) and regional trains form the core of the transportation system, with buses providing additional services. Even the harbor ferries are part of the HVV.

Tickets must either be purchased from ticket machines (in every station) or at the busses; there are single tickets, but also all-day tickets, 3-day tickets or the Hamburg Card.

### **Taxi**

There are three different ways to get a taxi. The easiest one is to hail a driving taxi with an illuminated sign on the roof (illuminated taxis are vacant). Otherwise, you can choose a waiting taxi from a taxi rank. You can also order a taxi by calling one of the taxi call centers, the numbers are listed below.

Autoruf +49 (0)40 / 44 10 11

Das Taxi +49 (0)40 / 22 11 22

Hansa-Taxi (credit cards in all cars) +49 (0)40 / 21 12 55

Taxi Hamburg +49 (0)40 / 61 26 12

### **Electricity supply**

Throughout Germany, electricity is supplied at 220-240 volts. The main socket type is Europlug or Schuko. Check whether you need a travel plug adapter or a voltage converter for your electrical devices ([www.adaptelec.com](http://www.adaptelec.com)).

### **Health insurance**

Having a medical insurance before your travel is advisable. Germany has reciprocal health care agreements with different countries. For further information, check [www.dvka.de](http://www.dvka.de), 'On holiday in Germany'.

### **Tipping**

Tipping up to 10% for outstanding service is common, but not necessarily expected in restaurants, hotels and taxis in Germany.

**Money**

The Euro "€" is the official currency in Germany. You can change money at banks, post offices and currency exchanges in airports or train stations. The usual credit cards, like American Express, MasterCard, Diners Club or VISA are rarely used but accepted by major hotels, petrol stations or large shops.

**Cell Phones**

German cell phones perform on a GSM network, which is not compatible with the North American or Japanese system. U.S. wireless firms, like T-Mobile or Cingular, use GSM, but on different frequency bands. If you own a multi-band cell phone, you can use it in the USA and in Europe. If not, there are a lot of possibilities buying or renting an unlocked GSM mobile phone with a SIM card, working in Europe and about 190 countries, operating with GSM network, all over the world.

**Sightseeing**

Please find detailed information on the following link:

<http://www.hamburg-tourism.de/en/sightseeing/>