



A LITTLE GUIDE FROM YOUR RW63 TEAM

Saarbrücken for Students

Where to eat, where to go out, how to get around –
written by people who live around the corner.

Nauwieser Viertel · Edition 2026/27

WELCOME

You live here now.

Saarbrücken is a small city that behaves like a big one. It has an opera house, a UNESCO site, a French border you can reach by tram and roughly one pub per person – and you can walk across the middle of it in ten minutes.

This booklet is our welcome present. It is not a tourist brochure: it is the list we would give a friend who just moved into the building. Everything in here is within walking distance, a short bus ride, or one train that your semester ticket already pays for. Start with **Your Viertel** – almost everything you need in your first week sits inside a 200-metre circle around your front door, and that is not a figure of speech.

Your master key: the Semesterticket

Every enrolled student in Saarland gets the **Deutschlandsemesterticket** – it is part of your semester fee, so it is already paid for. It covers buses, the Saarbahn and regional trains **all over Germany**: Trier, Merzig, Völklingen, Frankfurt. And it covers the S1 tram across the border to **Sarreguemines in France** (fare zone 911). You will use it more than you think.

As of Aug 2026: 34.80 € per month, 37.80 € from 1 October 2026, billed through the semester fee. Long-distance trains (ICE, TGV) are *not* included.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Everything here was checked in **August 2026**, but places change: opening hours move, kitchens close on different days, prices go up. Treat every detail as a good starting point, not a promise – a quick look online before you set off saves a wasted walk. All walking times are rough estimates from our front door at Richard-Wagner-Straße 63.

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CHAPTER 01

Your Viertel

You didn't just move to Saarbrücken. You moved into the **Nauwieser Viertel** — the city's alternative, creative, slightly political quarter, full of galleries, record shops, second-hand rails, organic groceries and very old pubs.

The “Bermuda Triangle”

Roughly 150 metres from your front door, three streets meet: **Nauwieserstraße**, **Cecilienstraße** and **Kurze Straße**. Locals call the wedge between them the *Bermudadreieck* — a nickname, not an official name, so don't look for a sign. Three classics sit inside it.

Gasthaus Bingert

Nauwieserstraße 7 · 3 min · from 5 p.m.

The grandfather of the quarter, still furnished the way it was in the 1950s. Taken over by artists and a writer in 1978, and ever since the place where every age group in the neighbourhood stands at the same bar. Good pils, small prices.

Kurze Eck

Nauwieserstraße 15 · 3 min

Drinks and live music in a very small room since 1989. On a Friday night it is the densest bar in the quarter and the last one still lit.

Stadschenke a Choperia

Nauwieserstraße 38b · 2 min · usually closed Mondays

A pub with a Brazilian accent (*choperia* = tap room): tapas, beer, wine, music. Cosier than its neighbours, open until 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

DID YOU KNOW?

Saarbrücken quietly calls itself **Saarbrooklyn** — half-ironic, half-proud. You will find the name on a pub sign two minutes from your door (see page 13).

Everything else within 300 metres

kino achteinhalb & the Nauwieser 19

Nauwieserstraße 19 · 3 min · kinoachteinhalb.de

A backyard full of workshops, small businesses and cultural initiatives – and inside it, the neighbourhood cinema. Non-commercial, 9 to 11 screenings a week: film series, retrospectives, documentaries, experimental shorts, whole festivals. Tickets 8.00 €, **7.00 € with a student card**; the SIXPACK card is 35 € (30 € reduced) and every sixth visit is free. The box office opens 30 minutes before the film. Prices as of Aug 2026.

Coffee, cake and dinner on your street

- **KIMDOGO** – Försterstraße 31, **1 min**. Handmade Korean: bibimbap, dumplings, BBQ. Closed Mondays, open Sunday afternoons. Statistically the closest restaurant meal available to you in this city.
- **Café Schrill** – Försterstraße 22, 2 min. Homemade cakes, a lot of vegan options, gentle prices. Closed Mon/Tue.
- **Café de Paris** – Blumenstraße 10, 2 min. Over 25 kinds of Flammkuchen plus crêpes and French wine. Evenings only; live chanson and jazz once a month.
- **Café im 4tel** – Rotenbergstraße 27, 3 min. Opens at 7 a.m. on weekdays – the only realistic option if you want breakfast before an early lecture. Closed Sundays.
- **Kaffeerösterei Tesorito** – Cecilienstraße 16, 3 min. A tiny roastery with a café; you can watch the beans being roasted and take some home. Daytime only.
- **Ubu le Roi** – Cecilienstraße 15, 3 min. Café and bistro by day, cocktails by night, waffles in between. Named after Alfred Jarry's scandal play, which tells you most of what you need to know about this quarter.
- **Café Bistro Nauwies** – Nauwieserstraße 22, 4 min. The living room of the Viertel: six beers on tap, hot food from lunch until late, and a proper beer garden right in the middle of the neighbourhood.

Nauwieser Viertelfest – the party comes to you

Once a year, on the **last weekend of July**, the quarter throws its own festival: stages in backyards and in front of the pubs, a main stage on Max-Ophüls-Platz (5 min), a children's area on Landwehrplatz, art, music and a basketball tournament. **Free entry**. In 2026 it ran from 24 to 26 July and drew more than 25,000 people; the next edition is in July 2027. You will not need directions – it happens around your building.

Two practical corners: a pharmacy sits about 100 m away, and the nearest supermarket (Netto, Dudweiler Straße 48) around 210 m. More on page 24.



CHAPTER 02

The 10-minute city

Saarbrücken's best trick is its size. The baroque square, the river, the castle and the landmark church are all within a half-hour walk of each other – and most of them within fifteen minutes of you.

St. Johanner Markt – and the fountain

St. Johanner Markt · about 10 min on foot · free

This is the city's living room: a long baroque square, pedestrianised since 1978, lined with pubs, bistros, small shops and the alleys of the old town. On a warm evening every table outside is taken.

In the middle stands the **Marktbrunnen**, built in 1759/60 to designs by Ignatius Bischof and Friedrich Joachim Stengel – the architect who gave Saarbrücken its baroque face. It is the tip of the so-called *Stengel triangle*: sight lines run from here to the castle and to the Ludwigskirche.

Learn one sentence and you will never be lost again: **“Let’s meet at the fountain.”** Everybody in Saarbrücken knows which one you mean, and from there every bar on the square is a minute away.

A CLAIM WORTH REPEATING

Locals will tell you St. Johanner Markt has the **highest density of pubs in Germany**. So will people in Regensburg, Lüneburg and about a dozen other towns. Nobody has ever actually counted. Go and form your own opinion.

Basilika St. Johann (Gerberstraße 31, 7 min), Stengel's church of 1758, has been **closed for interior restoration since April 2026**. Reopening was expected around Christmas 2026 – check before you walk over.

Four more things to walk to



Ludwigskirche

Am Ludwigsplatz · about 18 min · free entry · hours vary, see ludwigskirche.de

The landmark of the Saarland and one of the most important protestant baroque churches in Germany — in the same league as Hamburg's Michel and Dresden's Frauenkirche. Finished by Stengel in 1775, it stands at the centre of a complete baroque square. Inside it is bright, white and surprisingly plain.

Saarbrücker Schloss

Schlossplatz · about 15 min · square and grounds free

Stengel's baroque palace was destroyed in the war and reinterpreted in the 1980s by Gottfried Böhm with a glass-and-concrete centre block — there is no second building like it. The guided tour „*Von der Burg zum Schloss*“ (red tower, casemates, ballroom, about 1½ hours) runs Sat, Sun and public holidays at 3 p.m. from the foyer of the Historisches Museum; no extra fee, you only pay museum admission.

Alte Brücke

between Alt-Saarbrücken and St. Johann · about 12 min · free

The oldest surviving bridge in the Saarland, built 1546–1549 after Emperor Charles V was held up here for days by high water. It had 14 arches once; eight survive, the rest fell to the city motorway in the 1960s. Today it belongs to pedestrians and cyclists — and it starts the nicest walk in town, along the river to the Staden (page 16).

Rathaus St. Johann

Rathausplatz 1 · about 7 min · outside view free

The largest neo-Gothic secular building in the Saarland, built 1897–1900. A carillon plays from the 54-metre tower every day at 15:15 and 19:19. The tourist information desk is on the ground floor.

DID YOU KNOW?

The town hall was designed by **Georg von Hauberrisser** — the architect of the Munich and Wiesbaden town halls. Saarbrücken got the third one.



CHAPTER 03

Culture, mostly free

This is the part nobody tells you before you arrive: as a student in Saarbrücken, a serious amount of culture costs you nothing at all.

Saarländisches Staatstheater – free

Opera, ballet, drama and concerts in a large house plus three smaller venues. And: **main-subject students of the Universität des Saarlandes, the HfM Saar and the HBK Saar attend performances free of charge.** Collect your ticket from three days before the performance at the advance box office (Schillerplatz 2) with your student card and enrolment certificate, or at the evening box office. Premieres and special events are excluded. **htw saar students** get around 50 % off, and the AStA culture fund may refund part of the rest.

- **Großes Haus** – Schillerplatz 1, about 12 min.
- **Alte Feuerwache** – Landwehrplatz, about 10 min. The second-largest stage, mostly drama and ballet.
- **sparte4** – Eisenbahnstraße 22, about 15 min. Ninety seats, and the most student-shaped room in the house: theatre, concerts, readings, performance and club nights.
- **Congresshalle** – Hafenstraße 12, for the big concerts.

Every January: Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis

For one week the whole city switches into festival mode for the most important festival of young German-language cinema, running for over 40 years. Screenings all over town, and directors in the room afterwards. Reduced tickets for students. Next edition: the 48th, **25–31 January 2027**. Programme: ffmop.de

Bring your student card everywhere. In this chapter it is worth roughly the price of a night out, every single time.

Museums & cinemas



Moderne Galerie (Saarlandmuseum)

Bismarckstraße 11–15 · 13 min · Tue–Sun 10–18, Wed to 20

The state's big art museum: classical modernism, expressionism and contemporary art in a spectacular extension. Regular admission 10 € – **free for students** (bring ID), and free for everyone on **Wednesdays from 3 p.m.** and the **first Sunday of the month**.

The other Schlossplatz museums

Schlossplatz · 15 min

Same foundation, same student rule: the **Museum in der Schlosskirche** is free for everyone, and the **Alte Sammlung** and the **Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte** are free for students. The **Historisches Museum Saar** next door has a different operator – students pay a reduced 4 € – but it is worth it for what lies underground: casemates, a dungeon and an original Gestapo cell.

Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte

Rathausstraße 75–79, Völklingen · train ~10 min + 5 min walk · covered by your ticket

A complete ironworks you can walk through: blast furnaces, ore hall, a 45-metre viewing platform, art exhibitions in between. Regular admission 17 € – **free for students up to the age of 27** (bring ID). Open daily 10–19 from 1 April to 1 November, 10–18 the rest of the year. More on page 18.

Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken

St. Johanner Markt 24 · 9 min · free entry · closed Mondays

Contemporary art in the middle of the old town and refreshingly unpretentious. There is a room called „Place to Be“ where you can simply sit without buying anything.

Three cinemas worth the walk

kino achteinhalb, Nauwieserstraße 19 (3 min) – your neighbourhood art house, page 4.

camera zwo, Futterstraße 5–7 (7 min) – six screens with regular original-language screenings, much cheaper Mon–Wed (9.50 €, **6.00 € reduced**) than Thu–Sun (11.50 €, 10.50 €).

Filmhaus, Mainzer Straße 8 (10 min) – silent films with live music, cult films on 35 mm, queer cinema on the first Friday of the month, open-air screenings in summer. Programme and prices: filmhaus.saarbruecken.de



CHAPTER 04

Eat like a Saarländer

Saarland food is French cooking's neighbour and coal mining's child: potatoes, pork, a ring of sausage, and a grill the size of a person.

The Schwenker – one word, three meanings

A **Schwenker** is the **grill**: a tall iron tripod with a grate hanging on chains over the fire, which gets swung – *geschwenkt* – back and forth. It is also the **meat**: marinated slices of pork neck. And it is the **person** operating the thing. This is not a pun; it is everyday language.

The marinade is oil, onions, garlic, pepper, oregano, thyme, paprika, bay and mustard, usually left overnight. Since **27 January 2026** the practice of *Schwenken* has been officially listed as **intangible cultural heritage of the Saarland**. The local saying goes: „*Gott lenkt, der Saarländer schwenkt.*“ – God steers, the Saarlander swings.

So where do you eat one?

Honest answer: there is no such thing as a “Schwenker restaurant”. Swinging the grill is a private and a festival matter. Your realistic chances are the **Nauwieser Viertelfest** (page 4), street and club festivals, the Christmas market, and the barbecue spots along the Saar (page 16) once you own a grill. On menus it shows up as *Schwenkbraten* – including, gloriously, as a Schwenkbraten currywurst at Kalinski (page 11).

DID YOU KNOW?

The “**Saarland Advent wreath**” is a ring of Lyoner sausage with four bottles of Maggi seasoning standing in it as candles. It is a joke. People still build it.

A short glossary, then three addresses

Lyoner – the ring

A boiled sausage of beef and pork, tied into a ring, with a recipe that originally came from **Lyon** in France. The Saarland version carries an unusually high share of beef – up to about half. For miners, Lyoner with a *Doppelweck* and a beer was the meal before, during and after the shift, which earned it the nickname “the miner’s steak”. Around 80 % of people here name it as their favourite regional dish. Bonus for language learners: both *der Lyoner* and *die Lyoner* are in use, and nobody agrees.

Maggi – not invented here, just devoured here

Maggi seasoning was created by Julius Maggi in **Switzerland** in 1886 – not in the Saarland. But the Saarland is Germany’s Maggi stronghold: roughly one litre per household per year, about twice the national average. Blame the hearty mining kitchens of the 1950s.

Potatoes, with unpronounceable names

Grumbeer means potato (from *Grundbirne*, “ground pear”) and *Kiechelcher* means little cakes, so **Grumbeerkiechelcher** are potato fritters – the spelling varies from village to village and no version is the correct one. You will also meet **Dibbelabbes** (potato bake from the *Dibbe*, the pot), **Hoorische** (“the hairy ones”, dumplings of raw potato), **Gefillde** (filled dumplings) and **Geheirade** (“the married ones”, potato dumplings married to flour dumplings).

Flammkuchen

Tarte flambée from Alsace and Lorraine: paper-thin dough, crème fraîche, onions, bacon. Completely naturalised here – which is what happens when the border is a tram ride away.

Where to try all of it

- **Brauhaus zum Stiefel** – Am Stiefel 2, 10 min. Saarbrücken’s brewpub institution, brewing its own “Stiefel Original”, serving dumplings, schnitzel and beef soup. On Sunday mornings a brass band plays on the brewing stage, which is both absurd and completely authentic.
- **Die Kartoffel** – St. Johanner Markt 32, 9 min. Since 1989 *the* place for the potato classics with the impossible names, plus vegetarian and vegan versions and filled baked potatoes at the cheaper end. Closed Tuesdays – check first.
- **Hilde & Heinz** – Mainzer Straße 3, 10 min. “Saarbrücken tapas”: lots of small dishes to share, including Hoorische, mini schnitzel and lentil salad, with regional beer and wine. The friendliest way into this cuisine if you are not ready to order an entire pork neck.

Cheap eats & study cafés

Two categories decide a student budget: where the hot meal costs three euros, and where you can sit for four hours with one coffee. Here is both.

The Mensa is unbeatable

Mensa Saarbrücken — Universität des Saarlandes

Campus, building D4.1 · bus 101 / 102 / 124, about 15–20 min · mensaar.de

The cheapest hot meal in the city, full stop: two set menus, a free-flow section, salad and dessert buffets, a lighter *mensaVital* line and a vegan option. A sample August 2026 menu at student prices: **menu 2 at 3.10 €**, menu 1 at 3.65 €, free-flow at 3.70 €. Bring your student card – payment is cashless. Open Mon–Thu 11:30–14:30, Fri to 14:15 during term.

Mensa htw saar — Campus Rotenbühl

Waldhausweg 14 · about 21 min on foot or a short bus ride

The closest canteen to your flat, and it serves **breakfast from 7 a.m.** Lunch 11:15–14:15, Mon–Fri. Same operator, same prices. There is a second htw canteen at Campus Alt-Saarbrücken, Goebenstraße 40.

Late, cheap and close

- **Taiha's Imbiss** — Richard-Wagner-Straße 35, **2 min**. Chinese food to take away, in the quarter since 2009, on your own street. **Mon–Thu only** — turn up on a Friday and you will find the shutters down.
- **Pizzaeck** — Dudweilerstraße 47, 3 min. Pizza, pasta and chips daily until midnight, **including Sundays** from noon. Nothing refined; reliably open.
- **Peace Kebab** — Nauwieserstraße 16, 5 min. Döner, falafel, salads and soups, halal, with vegetarian options. Evenings only (Tue–Sat), late on Fri/Sat — exactly pub hours.
- **KALINSKI Wurstwirtschaft & Gin Bar** — Kaltenbachstraße 4, 8 min. The currywurst institution near the market: every curry sauce and dip made in-house, sausages from regional butchers, vegan versions available — and a **Schwenkbraten currywurst** that short-circuits the regional kitchen with snack-bar culture. Open until 3 a.m. on Fri/Sat.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mensa prices come in three tiers — students, staff, guests. Guests pay roughly two to three times what you do. Bring visiting parents; let them buy.

Places to sit with a laptop

- **KOSMOS – café | kneipe | club**, Futterstraße 4, 7 min. Run as a collective: fair-trade coffee, mostly vegan food, a shelf of newspapers and political literature, and **free WiFi explicitly meant for working**. Café from 10 a.m., pub in the evening, club until 3 a.m. on Fri/Sat. Closed Mondays. No website worth printing — find them on Instagram as **@kosmos.sb**.
- **Literatur Café Lolo**, Bahnhofstraße 54, 8 min. A café *inside* a bookshop, first floor: quiet, bright, tables big enough for a laptop, and you can pull a book off the pile between chapters. Famous for its almond butter cake.
- **COMAME Coffee**, Katholisch-Kirch-Straße 5, 8 min — a Saarland speciality roastery with its own espresso bar. The **Lab** at Kappenstraße 3 is the nerd version; there is also a **Campus Café** in building A21 at the university.
- **Café Yume**, Türkenstraße 15, 8 min. *Yume* is Japanese for “dream”. The city’s brunch address since 2024: breakfast, bagels, sandwiches, cake, smoothies. Busy — come early at weekends.
- **Kulturcafé**, St. Johanner Markt 24, 9 min. In the Stadtgalerie building, right on the square, and the important part: **open on Sundays** from around 9 a.m. with its own Sunday breakfast until midday.

Only KOSMOS advertises its WiFi as work-friendly. Everywhere else: just ask at the counter. Most places have it, few of them promise it.

Two libraries and a market

- **SULB** — the university and state library, campus building B1 1, open **Mon–Sat 8–22**. Reading rooms, 16 carrels, group study rooms, lockers, scanners, printing and binding. Open to people from across the Saar-Lor-Lux region, not just UdS students.
- **Stadtbibliothek** — Gustav-Regler-Platz 1, **6 min**. The city library: novels, languages, magazines, quiet desks. Annual card 20 €, **17 € for students up to 24**, three months 8 €, day card 2 €. Register with your passport or ID plus your registration certificate.
- **Wochenmarkt & Bauernmarkt**, St. Johanner Markt, 10 min. Fruit, vegetables, cheese and sausage straight from the producer, and the cheapest way to stock a week. **Weekly market Mon, Wed and Fri from 8 a.m.** (until about 2 p.m.); **farmers’ market Saturdays from 7 a.m.** Buying a ring of Lyoner at the butcher’s stand is basically a citizenship test.

Free things your student card unlocks

htw saar Hochschulsport is completely free and open to htw *and* UdS students — sign up via Moodle at the start of term. The UdS **UNISPORT** centre is open to students of Saarland universities, and about a third of its courses cost nothing. The **Sprachtandem** matches you with someone learning your language, free, from level A2: sprachtandem@uni-saarland.de.

Nights out

Your party mile is around the corner — literally. Most of this page is under five minutes on foot — only the two beer gardens by the water are worth a longer stroll.

Bars beyond the triangle

The three classics of the Bermudadreieck are on page 3. These are the ones you will add in week two.

- **Nilles Saarbrooklyn** — Blumenstraße 8, 2 min. A cult pub with football on the screen, a pool table and live music nights. **Open every day**, from noon at weekends, until 4 a.m. on Fri/Sat. For international students the easiest possible start: people here will talk to you.
- **Mono** — Nauwieserstraße 38, 3 min. Pub and sports bar with a long beer and cocktail list, open daily from 7 p.m. (3 p.m. at weekends). The reliable answer to “where can we watch the match?”
- **Nautilus Bar** — Försterstraße 17, 3 min. The cocktail bar of the quarter, fitted out entirely in Jules Verne: you drink in a submarine. Over 50 drinks, many house creations, multilingual staff. Tue–Sat from 6 p.m., cocktails around 10 €.
- **Feinkost Schmitt** — Nassauerstraße 14, 4 min. Despite the name, not a deli but a cocktail bar with craft beer and wine. **Thu–Sat from 9 p.m. only** — strictly weekend, strictly late.
- **100 Tage Bar / Eisbar Amore** — Cecilienstraße 1–3, 4 min. The best concept in town: the room is a bar for **exactly 100 days a year**, Thu–Sat in autumn and winter, with music and cocktails. The rest of the year the same room is an ice cream parlour.

Beer gardens at the water

- **Ulanen Pavillon** — Am Staden 13, about 21 min. Self-service beer garden right on the riverbank in the Staden park: grill classics, salads, cold beer. Daily from 11:30 March–October, much shorter hours in winter, closed when it rains. The walk back along the water is half the point.
- **OneBeach** — An der Bismarckbrücke, about 15 min. Three thousand square metres of sand by the Saar with ten beach volleyball courts, beach tennis, a bar with over 40 drinks and Flammkuchen made fresh every day. Season roughly April to October, and the most relaxed way to meet people in this city.
- **ZAPATA – Social Plates** — Mainzer Straße 8, about 10 min. Tapas bar in the Filmhaus with a large, quiet courtyard beer garden. Evenings from 5:30 p.m., Fri/Sat until 1 a.m.

NOT IN THE MOOD FOR A CLUB?

The **kino achteinhalb** in the Nauwieser 19 does more than films: small concerts, readings and exhibitions in the same backyard, three minutes away (page 4).

Clubs, live music and the way home

- **Garage** — Bleichstraße 11–15, 9 min. Yes, it still exists: since 1985, in the halls of an interwar central garage, capacity around a thousand. This is *the* concert address of the region — rock, pop, punk, alternative, metal, plus comedy and club nights. The smaller “Kleiner Klub” belongs to it. Tickets and dates: **garage-sb.de**
- **Studio 30** — Mainzer Straße 30, 11 min. A recording studio and a venue in one, on two floors. Live concerts and parties on Fridays and Saturdays, mostly handmade and alternative. The small, honest counterpart to the Garage.
- **Silodom am Osthafen** — An der Römerbrücke 3, about 25 min (take a tram or a taxi at night). Techno and house inside a converted concrete cylinder, with a garden and outdoor areas. Fixed points in the year: the **Osthafenfest** in summer and **Frosthafen** in December. If you are here for electronic music, this is the address.
- **Club Seven & Havana** — Futterstraße 5–7, 7 min. One building, two clubs. Seven is the classic Fri/Sat club from 11 p.m.; Havana plays latin, reggaeton, bachata and dancehall and **also opens Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays** — which makes it the best midweek option in town.
- **And a few more names** from the city’s official club list, if you want to explore: Apartment Club (Bahnhofstraße 37), MINT Club (Kaiserstraße 10), Mauerpfeiffer (Lebacher Str. 1), Discoplex A8, mclub, Blau Nachtclub.

Ice cream, and the thing Saarbrücken does not have

Henry’s Eismanufaktur

Kappenstraße 1, at St. Johanner Markt · 9 min

Handmade since 2014, no artificial colours, flavours or preservatives, and the milk ice made with milk from the Bliesgau dairy. This is the ice cream Saarbrücken queues for.

There is no Späti here

If you are moving from Berlin, Leipzig or Dresden: the late-night corner shop is an eastern and northern German institution, and Saarbrücken has **no comparable network**. Do not set off at 11 p.m. expecting one. What you get instead: kiosks during the day, **petrol station shops** in the evening and at night (drinks, snacks, tobacco — expensive, but open), and the shops at the Hauptbahnhof. Plan ahead; it is a small adjustment.

Getting home: everything above except Silodom is walkable from your door. If you are heading out of the city, seven night bus lines (N1–N7) run on Friday and Saturday nights and before public holidays, roughly between 3:00 and 5:30 a.m.; five of them start at **Saarbrücken Rathaus**, five minutes from you. A separate night-bus fare applies.

CHAPTER 07

Green & outdoors

Saarbrücken stops being a city very quickly. Forest, riverbank and a fifty-hectare park on the French border are all inside the bus network — and most of them are free.

Deutsch-Französischer Garten (DFG)

Deutschemühlental · bus to DFG Nord / DFG Süd (lines 106, 107, 109, 123) · free entry

Fifty hectares of park right on the French border: lakes, themed gardens, water features, an open-air stage called „Die Muschel“ and summer concerts. The best place in the city for a long afternoon that costs nothing; from the end of November it becomes the *Weihnachtsgarten*, a Christmas garden. Inside it, the **Gulliver-Welt** shows around 65 miniature models — St Peter's, Versailles, the Atomium, the Eiffel Tower — on 22,000 m². Walking there takes about an hour; take the bus.



Wildpark Saarbrücken

Meerwiesertalweg · bus stop “Wildpark” (102, 111, 124 from the main station) · free, always open

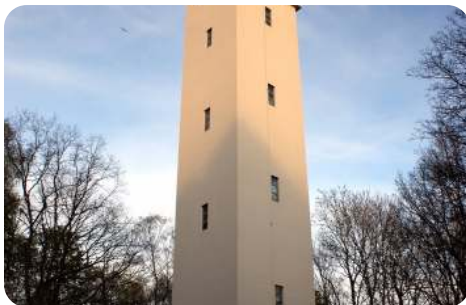
Seventeen hectares of forest with about 120 native animals — lynx, wild boar, sheep and more — sitting more or less on the way to the university. Free, open around the clock, with a beer garden (UHU-Pavillon) and a playground. About 35–40 minutes on foot if you feel like walking.

Abenteuerpark Saar

Rehtälchen, in the Stadtwald · same bus stop “Wildpark”, then ~15 min through the forest

Seven high-rope courses with 75 obstacles up to 14 metres, plus the **FlyLine**, billed as Germany's first curved zip line. **22.00 € for students aged 18–24** for 3½ hours (25.00 € regular; as of Aug 2026). Book ahead; the park closes in rain, storm or snow.

The river, the tower and the wall



Der Staden — the city beach without a beach

Am Staden · about 20 min along the river · free, all year

The riverside meadow between the Bismarckbrücke and the Römerbrücke power station: a listed park from 1908 with historic steps and pavilions, and on the first sunny day of the year, the entire city. Walkers, joggers, skaters, sunbathers — and barbecues, which are expressly intended here.

Barbecuing along the Saar — the rules

Grilling is allowed free of charge on designated areas: the meadow at the **Staden**, the **Vogelinsel**, the leisure area in St. Arnual and the **Bürgerpark Hafeninsel**. No registration needed. But: only normal gas or charcoal grills **standing on legs**, **no disposable grills**, no open fire, ten metres' distance from trees and vegetation, never leave the grill unattended — and **take your ashes home**, so bring a metal container.

Schwarzenbergturm

Schwarzenberg, in the Stadtwald · ~45–50 min walk · free

Forty-six metres tall, built in 1930, **241 steps** to the top platform and the highest viewpoint in Saarbrücken: the city, the university and as far as St. Ingbert. Open daily 8–20 from 1 March to 1 November, 8–18 the rest of the year. The walk there through the city forest is the standard route when you need to get out of the flat.

Bürgerpark Hafeninsel & the “4560” wall

Hafeninsel, about 18 min · free

Nine hectares of park on the old harbour, designed by Peter Latz in 1989: rusting industrial charm, rubble walls, staircases and a brick “water wall” rising out of the pond. There is a skate park, and a flea market on one Saturday a month from April to November, 8–16. Across the water from the Staden runs **4560**: 450 metres of legally sprayable wall along the Leinpfad, official since 2002 and one of the largest legal graffiti surfaces in Germany. Bring cans if you want. Take your rubbish with you.



CHAPTER 08

Day trips

Your semester ticket reaches Trier, Merzig, Völklingen — and France. Three of the trips in this chapter cost you nothing but the day.

Saarschleife: Cloef & Baumwipfelfad

The postcard of the Saarland: the river bends a full 180 degrees around a wooded spur. From the classic **Cloef viewpoint** you look straight down on it — free, always open. The **Baumwipfelfad** next to it is a 1,250-metre walkway through the treetops leading up a 40-metre tower. Allow one to two hours up there.

Tickets: 13.00 €, **12.00 € reduced for students**; last admission one hour before closing; card and phone payment accepted. Open all year with seasonal hours — 9:30–16 in deep winter, 9:30–17 or 18 in spring and autumn, and in July and August until 21:00 with “Night Lights”. Prices as of Aug 2026 — older prices are still circulating online.

Getting there without a car: regional train to **Merzig** (covered by your semester ticket), then a bus towards Orscholz/Cloef; at weekends the **Saarschleifenbus, line 255**, runs from Merzig station and takes bikes. Realistically two to two and a half hours each way, so treat it as a full day and leave early.



Two you can do on a whim



Völklinger Hütte — 10 minutes by train, free for you

Rathausstraße 75–79, Völklingen · train from Saarbrücken Hbf, then 5 min on foot

An entire ironworks preserved as a walk-in industrial cathedral: blast furnaces, the ore hall, a viewing platform 45 metres up, art exhibitions in the machine halls and a wildly overgrown “paradise” garden between them. In **1994** it became the first monument from the height of industrialisation ever admitted to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Regular admission 17 € — **free for students up to 27**, and the train ride is covered by your semester ticket. Go once in daylight and once when it is lit.

Sarreguemines — France, on the tram

Saarbahn S1 from Johanneskirche (6 min from your door) · included in your semester ticket

The easiest trip to France in existence: get on the same tram that runs through Saarbrücken and get off in another country. The **S1 runs all the way to Sarreguemines** (fare zone 911), and the Deutschlandticket and Deutschlandsemesterticket both cover it. Waiting for you: a bakery, a market, a riverside promenade and French prices. The town lived off its earthenware industry for almost two hundred years.

Worth an hour: the **Musée de la Faïence**, 17 rue Poincaré — an earthenware museum in the former director’s villa whose highlight is the listed **Jardin d’Hiver** of 1880, a winter garden lined entirely in ceramics. 6 € / 5 € reduced, **free for students under 25** and for everyone on the first Sunday of the month. Opening hours and prices are worth checking before you go.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Völklinger Hütte is described by the German UNESCO Commission as the only surviving ironworks in the world from the golden age of iron and steel in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is fifteen minutes from your front door.

Four cities, one railway station

Saarbrücken Hauptbahnhof is about 12 minutes on foot. From there the map opens up.



Trier

regional train, 1:07–1:20 · included in your ticket

Germany's oldest city, with Roman buildings on the UNESCO list. The **Porta Nigra**, built around 170 AD, is the best-preserved Roman city gate north of the Alps; then there are the imperial baths, the amphitheatre and the Constantine basilica. Porta Nigra 6 €, **5 € for students** — walking past and through the arches is free. And the journey costs you nothing.



Metz

direct TER, about 1:10 · not covered by your ticket

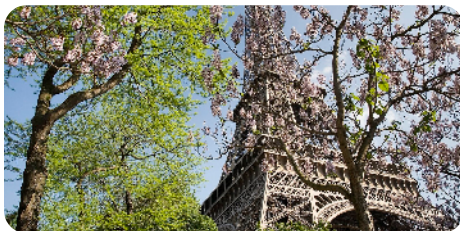
The most beautiful large town nearby: yellow Jaumont stone and the cathedral Saint-Étienne with nearly 6,500 m² of stained glass, Chagall windows included. The **Centre Pompidou-Metz** next to the station is **free for everyone under 26** (otherwise 7/10/14 €), closed Tuesdays. Fares: the Saar-Lorraine-Ticket is 22.20 €; at weekends the **Saar-Lor-Lux-Ticket** is 26 € for the first person and 10 € for each of up to four more — go as a group.



Luxembourg

CFL bus L40, about 1:15 · 5 € single

A UNESCO old town on cliffs above two gorges, casemates, museums — and once you are there, **all public transport in the country is free**. The direct “Saarbrücken Express” bus leaves from the main station (day ticket 9 €; the Deutschlandticket is not valid). Cheaper alternative: train to Trier on your semester ticket, then the RE 11 — about 2:20 in total.



Paris

direct TGV/ICE, from about 1 h 50 min

Saarbrücken sits on the high-speed line. Leave in the morning and you are in Paris before lunch — no other German university town of this size is that close. Several direct trains a day, the first shortly after 6 a.m. Long-distance trains are **not** in your semester ticket, and fares move constantly, so book early and compare on bahn.de and sncf-connect.com.



CHAPTER 09

France next door

The border is not an event here. It is a tram stop, a shopping trip and a different set of opening hours.

The Sunday morning trick

Germany closes on Sundays. France does not — not entirely. French food shops (*boulangerie*, *boucherie*, supermarket, *épicerie*) are allowed to open **until 1 p.m. on Sundays**. So: Sunday **morning** is worth the trip across the border for baguette and croissants; Sunday afternoon is not. Take the S1 — your semester ticket covers it — and be back before lunch.

Marché de Sarreguemines

Place du Marché · Tuesday and Friday mornings, 7:30–12:30, all year

Cheese, bread, fruit, olives — a proper French market, half an outing and half a grocery run, walkable from the tram terminus. If the Friday falls on a public holiday the market moves to Thursday; if the Tuesday does, it is cancelled.

Carrefour Forbach (everyone still says “Cora”)

Avenue de l’Europe, Forbach · Mon–Sat, roughly 8–20 · closed Sundays

The big border supermarket, about 12 km away and a Saarbrücken tradition — famous for its fish counter, its cheese and a very large wine section. Carrefour took over the French Cora stores and rebranded them in 2024, so the sign says Carrefour and the locals say Cora. Note: Forbach is **not** on the S1, so your semester ticket does not get you there — you need a regional train or a car.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Saarland has an official strategy to become **bilingual by 2043**, with French alongside German as a matter of course. Since 2024 it has observer status in the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. Your French will get more use here than you expect.

Your year in Saarbrücken

Dates shift a little every year. Below are the last confirmed editions and the next known ones, as of August 2026 – check before you plan around them.

JANUARY

Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis

The city's week of young German-language cinema. Next edition 25–31 January 2027; reduced student tickets.

MAY / JUNE

Festival PERSPECTIVES

The only German-French performing-arts festival – theatre, dance, circus, street art, on both sides of the border. Next edition 13–22 May 2027.

JUNE

Open Campus at the UdS

Food trucks, university bands and professors DJ-ing in the evening. Usually June – watch the university website for the date.

EARLY JULY

Saarbrücker Altstadtfest

Seven stages from St. Johanner Markt to the Schlossplatz, free entry, ~250,000 visitors. 50th edition: 3–5 July 2026.

LATE JULY

Nauwieser Viertelfest – on your street

Free, decentralised, in backyards and pubs all around your building. 2026: 24–26 July; next edition July 2027.

AUGUST

Saar-Spektakel & Weinzeit am Staden

Four kilometres of riverbank with water sports and music – but only **every two years, in odd years**: last 2025, next 2027. Weinzeit at the Staden is annual (21–22 August 2026).

SEPT / OCT

Oktoberkirmes

The city funfair on the Saarterrassen. 2026: 26 September – 5 October.

NOVEMBER

Festival Primeurs

Contemporary French drama staged and read in Saarbrücken – the French connection in its most literary form.

NOV – DEC

Christkindlmarkt

700 metres of market down the Bahnhofstraße, over 80 stalls, a two-storey alpine hut. 2026: 23 November – 30 December, plus the Weihnachtsgarten in the DFG.

APR – NOV

Flea market, Bürgerpark Hafeninsel

One Saturday a month, 8–16. No new goods, no commercial traders; a stall costs 7 € per metre.

Shops may open on at most **four Sundays a year** here. In 2026: 4 October, 29 November.

Survival guide

Buses, paperwork, quiet hours and the German Sunday. None of it is difficult once somebody explains it — so here it is, explained.

Getting around, starting at your door

- **“Haus der Zukunft”** is your doorstep bus stop, roughly 100 m away. **Line 112** runs Rathaus — Haus der Zukunft — Universität Busterminal on lecture days.
- **Brauerstraße/Fernbusbahnhof**, about 330 m, is where **line 124** stops — the fastest way from the quarter to the **university**. Lines 101, 102, 109 and 111 also reach the campus.
- **htw saar**: for Campus Alt-Saarbrücken get off at **HTW/SWS** (lines 101, 103, 104, 109, 112, 121, 124, 126, 129); for Campus Rotenbühl use **Ilseplatz** (102, 109, 111, 136, 163).
- **Saarbahn S1** stops at **Johanneskirche** (about 290 m) and **Landwehrplatz** (about 440 m) and runs from the main station south across the border to Sarreguemines.
- **Saarbrücken Hauptbahnhof** is about 780 m, so 10 to 12 minutes on foot. The **coach station** for FlixBus and friends is at Dudweilerstraße 98, about 6 minutes away, open around the clock.
- **Night buses N1–N7** run on Friday and Saturday nights and before public holidays, roughly 3:00–5:30 a.m.; five lines start at **Saarbrücken Rathaus**. A separate night-bus fare applies.

We deliberately print no departure times: timetables change more often than booklets do. Use saarfahrplan.de or the Saarfahrplan app for anything time-critical.

Without a bus

- **Dott** e-scooters and e-bikes have stations on **Nauwieserstraße** and at **Landwehrplatz**, both inside the quarter; book through the Dott app. Saarbrücken has no classic city-wide bike-sharing scheme, so this is the option.
- **cambio carsharing** has its Saarbrücken office at **Richard-Wagner-Straße 14–16** — your own street, about 200 m away. Station-based, booked by app; office hours Mon–Fri 9–16.
- The **htw AStA** runs a **bicycle workshop** where you can repair your own bike with help.

Arriving by plane

Saarbrücken has its own small airport, connected to the main station by **bus R10** in about 30 minutes. Most people arrive somewhere bigger instead: from **Frankfurt** it is roughly 2 hours 35 minutes by regional train (hourly, and covered by your semester ticket once you have it) or about 2 hours 50 by long-distance coach. From **Luxembourg Airport**, take bus 29 to Luxembourg station — public transport in Luxembourg is free — then the CFL express coach to Saarbrücken, about 1½ hours.

The paperwork of week one

Register your address — within two weeks

Bürgeramt City, Gerberstraße 4 · about 6 min · terminvergabe.saarbruecken.de

Registering (*Anmeldung*) is compulsory within **two weeks of moving in**, and again after every move inside the city. Bring your passport or ID card and the **Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung** — the landlord's written confirmation that you live here. Your tenancy agreement alone is **not** enough. **Ask us for it: mail@rw63.de** — we issue it.

Appointments are normally required, but **Wednesday 7:30–11:30 is walk-in**. If the calendar looks full, look again on a weekday morning: cancellations appear. Registration is also possible online if you have a BundID account with the eID function of your ID card. Office hours: Mon–Tue 7:30–15, Wed 7:30–11:30, Thu 7:30–18, Fri 7:30–12.

The Rundfunkbeitrag letter is not spam

A few weeks after you register, a letter arrives asking for the broadcasting fee. It is real. Every **flat** in Germany pays it — **18.36 € per month** (2026), regardless of how many people live there or whether anyone owns a TV. Only **one adult per flat** needs to be registered; in a shared flat you split it internally and the others deregister. Exemptions are essentially limited to BAföG recipients not living with their parents, so international students usually cannot be exempted. Register through the Beitragsservice online form.

Post and parcels

German post offices usually sit **inside** another shop — a kiosk, a stationer, a supermarket — rather than in a building of their own, which is why you may walk past one without noticing. **DHL Packstations** are automated parcel lockers, open 24/7, and there are several near the quarter. Find the nearest branch or locker through **deutschepost.de** or the Post & DHL app; the network changes too often to print.

Emergency numbers

110 — police. **112** — fire brigade and ambulance, for life-threatening emergencies; it works across the EU, free of charge, even with no credit on your phone. **116117** — the out-of-hours medical service for urgent but *not* life-threatening problems at night, at weekends and on public holidays.

Pharmacies take turns on night and weekend duty. Find the one on duty at aponet.de/notdienstsuche (enter 66111), or call 0800 00 22 833 free from a landline. Every pharmacy also posts the current rota on its door — and there are several within five minutes' walk of the house.

Sundays, silence and shopping

Sunday is genuinely quiet in Germany

Shops are shut. Not “most shops” — shops. Supermarkets are closed by law on Sundays and public holidays, and the building around you expects calm. Plan your groceries for Saturday. This catches out almost every new arrival exactly once.

What still works on a Sunday

- **Bakeries, in the morning.** Two are minutes away: **Bäckerei Lagaly**, Nauwieserstraße 34, and **Bäckerei Sander**, Försterstraße 29 — both sell on Sunday mornings.
- **The Hauptbahnhof.** Station shops may open for “travel supplies”, which is why the drugstore, the bakeries and the snack shops there are open when nothing else is. About 11–13 minutes on foot.
- **Petrol station shops**, round the clock, for drinks and snacks at a premium.
- **France**, until 1 p.m. — see page 20.
- **Cafés, restaurants, cinemas and museums** are not shops and are not affected. See pages 12 and 14 for places that open on Sundays.

Your nearest supermarkets (Mon–Sat)

Netto, Dudweiler Straße 48 (about 210 m) · **Denns BioMarkt** (about 240 m) · **ALDI**, Bahnhofstraße 15 · **Lidl**, Halbergstraße 3 · **REWE**, Reichsstraße 1. Typical hours are 7 or 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Sundays. Legally, shops here may open Mon–Sat 6–20 and bakeries from 5:30.

Ruhezeiten — the quiet hours

Germany observes **night-time quiet from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.**: during those hours nothing should be audible beyond room volume. **Sundays and public holidays are quiet all day**, which means the stretch from Saturday 10 p.m. to Monday 6 a.m. is one long quiet period: no washing machine after midnight, no drilling, no loud music. There is no nationwide statutory afternoon quiet, but it can be written into house rules or a tenancy agreement — and then it applies. Please check the RW63 house rules for what applies here.

WHERE TO ASK FOR HELP

The UdS **Welcome Week** before the winter semester covers arrival, registration, housing and the German health system for international students. **ESN Saarbrücken** (saarbruecken@esn-germany.de) is the local Erasmus Student Network section. The **AStA** of both universities offers social and legal advice — and the htw AStA explicitly advises on arriving in Saarbrücken. And for anything about the building itself: **mail@rw63.de**.

Eight things to say at a party

All of these are true, and the one that is disputed says so.

1 • Nobody is quite sure what “Saarbrücken” means

Saarbrücken probably just means *bridge over the Saar* – but the city itself admits in its own chronicle that the origin is “partly unexplained”. A competing reading traces the name to a word for *rock*. What is certain: when the name first appears, in 999, as *Castellum sarabruca*, there was no stone bridge here at all. The first one was built in 1546.

2 • The Saarland is an unofficial unit of measurement

German media measure forest fires, oil spills and floods in Saarlands: “twice the size of the Saarland”. The Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache wrote a whole article about the habit and suspects the reason is simply that “Saarland” has two syllables. One Saarland is about 2,570 km².

3 • It had its own Olympic team

As a French-administered protectorate, the Saarland founded its own National Olympic Committee in 1950 and competed as a separate nation in Helsinki in 1952 – 36 athletes, nine sports, no medals. Its football team was a FIFA member and, qualifying for the 1954 World Cup, was drawn in a group against Germany.

4 • The D-Mark only arrived in 1959

Politically the Saarland joined West Germany on 1 January 1957. Economically it took two and a half years longer: only on **6 July 1959**, known as “Tag X”, did the D-Mark replace the franc, at 100 francs to 0.8507 DM.

5 • A first for the UNESCO list

The Völklinger Hütte was admitted in 1994 as the world’s first monument from the height of industrialisation. Before that the list was mostly cathedrals and palaces.

6 • The state plans to be bilingual by 2043

It is official policy, called the Frankreichstrategie, and it was extended in 2025.

7 • Your town hall has famous siblings

Georg von Hauberrisser built the Rathaus St. Johann in 1897–1900 – and also the town halls of Munich and Wiesbaden. The carillon plays at 15:15 and 19:19 every day.

8 • 450 metres of legal graffiti

The “4560” wall along the Leinpfad has been an official hall of fame since 2002 and is one of the largest continuous legal spraying surfaces in Germany. Page 16.



AND FINALLY

Your home base

RW63 is thirty student apartments at Richard-Wagner-Straße 63, in the middle of the Nauwieser Viertel. Everything in this booklet was measured from your own front door.

Fully furnished

Bed, desk, private bathroom and kitchenette – move in and start.

All-inclusive rent

Electricity, water, heating: one rent, no annual utility bill.

WiFi included

No contract, no waiting – online from day one.

Your phone is the key

The flat door opens by Bluetooth.

Balcony or terrace

Every apartment has outdoor space.

Laundry room

Washing and drying room in the basement, no coins needed.

mail@rw63.de

Questions about the building, the house rules, or the **Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung** you need for registering – just write to us. Scan for the English site.



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