

*G8'07
UK VISITOR
WINNER'S GUIDE*



*Never been to Germany before?
This summer's G8 summit offers a welcome
opportunity to meet with cosmopolitan friends.
This leaflet is designed to prepare you
for the confrontation with the state.*

1 FORCES OF REPRESSION

Compared to UK standards, German police repression seems much more severe. The behaviour of repressive forces in public is much more authoritative, which sometimes gets perceived as reminiscent of Germany's fascist and Stalinist past.

Germany is a federal state ("Bund"), and policing law depends on the individual state ("Bundesland"). The G8 will take place in Bundesland Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, near the city of Rostock, in the very north of the former communist area of East Germany, on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

Heiligendamm is a seaside resort and traditional holiday refuge for the world's rulers, used by Kaiser and Tsar. During communist times, villas and hotels were left to rot. Hotel Kampinski is now hooking up with Germany's imperial past.



There are federal police forces, such as the "Bundesgrenzschutz" (federal border control, BGS), now controlling train stations, airports e.t.c, being military police with traditions from the Wehrmacht. BGS were the core of the present army ("Bundeswehr") on its re-establishment in the 1950s. There are also a couple of special forces such as anti-

terror units (GSG9 etc.), being involved in evictions of house projects and the like.

The police forces of the different Länder have quite different reputations, as do the different units.

All of these forces will be involved in the events around the G8.



In practise, it is almost impossible to distinguish one copper from another, they neither provide their names nor their numbers.

German police carry firearms usually and are well trained in martial arts, but are not equally good communicators. Though firearms and gas can be used, the usual tactics seem to be brute force, truncheons (Asian style tonfas), and water cannons (see POLICE ARMS).



In the aftermath of 9/11, and in the run up to the world cup police powers have been increased and prison capacities are extended. Police, BGS, federal criminal police (BKA),

the political intelligence service Verfassungsschutz, military intelligence and armed forces are increasingly working together. It is worth noting that Verfassungsschutz is infiltrating not only Nazi groups, but also left wing structures with paid long term undercover agents. They intend to make us lose our confidence in one another.

There will be stop and searches by the BGS at public transport points such as airports, train stations and ports and anyone going to a demonstration or a camp must expect to be searched by police on entering the cordoned-off area.

On mass actions, the police sometimes cordon demonstrators in and remove them from the area, or storm into groups and into larger crowds to arrest and/or attack individuals. They will certainly wear riot gear. However direct police violence seems to have decreased in recent years though arrests and charges have increased.

Within the last year, the political left wing scene has faced intimidation by newly imposed "Auflagen" (conditions) for demonstrations such as not to wear heavy boots. It has just recently been ruled illegal in Germany to display crossed-out swastikas. Activists are being intimidated by police for example by being put under BKA surveillance.



2 POLICE ARMS

Water canons: their intimidating sight is part of its use, so do not panic. Getting wet can lead to getting cold, so bring a raincoat. The person operating the water canon can regulate the pressure from a dribble, to a more than severe punch.



Tonfas: an improved Asian truncheon, which is faster and more flexible than the English Victorian style truncheons. They can be used to push, to punch, and to really really hurt.

Fists, grips and arm locks: join your local self defence club for preparation.

Tear gas: though is legal in Germany, it is usually not used. When it comes out of a canister: cover your face immediately with your t-shirt or scarf, up to your forehead covering your eyes, and breath through the fabric. It is actually in a powder form that can be filtered out. The canister can be kicked away. The police have been known to mix tear gas with water in a water cannon which is nasty, but has not been seen in a long time....

Pepper spray: parts of the German police force is equipped with pepper spray, which is 'oelosin capsicon' mixed in water. It comes out of a spray can and is effective in distances up to five meters. The effect is very painful and dangerous. They also use CN and CS gas.

Other police gear: the police are permanently experimenting with new gear, and in

different European countries weapons such as taser guns or "less-than-lethal-explosives" such as flash bombs have been tried. Flash bombs can be confused with tear gas canisters. Police sometimes carry alternative weapons they have individually purchased.

Vehicles: there are scary looking tanks to push barriers out of the way, water cannons and vans, and there will be helicopters. The latter are mainly used for surveillance, but also drop special units that have been known to commit vandalism to activists' equipment. Stay cool, helicopters are an annoyance. The shore will be controlled by boats operated by the police, the BGS, and /or the navy.



3 ID AND SURVEILLANCE

ID is mandatory for everyone in Germany (either national ID card or passport). Personal data is collected and in many cases compared and linked. Be aware that travel tickets, bank cards, receipts, etc. can be used to construct a "personality profile". In practise, police can demand your ID at any time.

Unlike the UK, there is not much CCTV installed in Germany (there will be mobile CCTV at actions), but Germany is the world leader in tapping phone lines, so act as if every phone line is tapped. German federal intelligence (the BKA) can access your phone log and see whom you have been speaking to, thus analysing groups. They will be able to switch off or record your communication at any time, and locate your phone. If you do not want to be located, switch your phone off.



There will be automatic car number plate recognition in place. The regional government has announced that it wants to collect this information to compare the data with existing databases, such as the "violent offenders" data bases which are notoriously arbitrary. All this information can be expected to be fed into the Schengen Information System.

4 NAZISM

Nazism exists in Germany, both blatantly and disguised. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, as a Bundesland, has a certain reputation for Nazi attacks on camping sites, and saw horrible scenes in the 1990s such as Rostock-Lichtenhagen, when neo-nazis and neighbours burnt down an asylum seekers "hostel".

The situation is severe in certain small towns and suburbs in the east of Germany, where (neo-)nazis are dominating streets and centres and proclaim "national liberated zones". If you look queer or foreign, you are recommended not to be there on your own. In the build-up to the G8, the police have yet refused to reveal how they are providing security for protesters, as their only concern is the security of the conference attendees. Supporting Meck-Pomm's antifa shall be an honour for visitors, as the Nazis themselves are mobilising.

5 BORDERS AND TRAVEL

Border controls will be imposed, the Schengen treaty suspended, so expect stop and search at any time and place during your journey. Logically, flights close to the summit date will be the most severely checked, while arrival by more ecological means and earlier will be less restricted. If you travel in a larger group, keep in mind that whatever they find in the bag of anyone of you might give them an excuse to arrest all of you, and larger groups draw more attention anyway. You might want to split and reunite.

Be careful not to carry anything illegal or that could be interpreted as proof of intention to commit a crime; pay special attention to your Amsterdam shopping and your tool box. Get your local map and a copy of this leaflet locally, e.g. from the internet. If someone asks you where you are going and what you are intending to do, tell them it's a festival.

You might consider getting a new phone and a temporary email address for this excursion. If you want to decrease the chances to get searched, travel in "decent" clothes. Police will exchange data on you across borders, and they might turn you away at the border if you have a record.

Convergence centres will be open in Hamburg, Berlin, and elsewhere. Get the poles for your banner made there, and get your tools locally.

6 ACCOMODATION and ACTIVITIES

At the time of publishing, rooms in Hotel Kampinski were fully booked. So bring a tent and a sleeping bag. There will be a camping site for every taste, opinion, and intention. Furthermore, police had not yet decided as to where to allow camp sites. Demo routes, places, dates and times might be subject to change at short notice. You might get banned from a place or area for an uncertain

time, thus not being able to return to your property on time. It might come in handy to note a phone number of someone in your camp site who will stay there.



It's a seaside holiday resort! Can you swim? Bring a blow up dinghy, arm bands, plastic shovels and miniature pirate flags for the sand castle building competition. When snorkelling, be aware that motor boats do not see you, which is dangerous. You can go wind surfing. The landscape offers optimum cycling conditions, being flat and having long beaches. Off road bikes will be the most appropriate vehicles for most sorts of action, since roads for motor vehicles will be blocked.



The environment offers plenty of untouched nature. Bring a torch. Meck-Pomm is Germany's least densely populated Bundesland -

you never know where the next toilet is at night. Be aware that you are visible as soon as you switch on your torch. Helicopters will provide light anyway.

Around the hotel, there will be a fence and a security zone ("Sicherheitszone"). Police confrontation might be gradual rather than straightforward. Beware of dogs.



There will be a range of events in and around Rostock, as well as in other cities. Line-ups and dates to be confirmed. There are plenty of friends close by. Food and healthcare should be provided. There might be some demonstrations you are interested in attending, though there are plenty of other possible fields of action.

There will be demand for helpers to tear down fences and keep police forces moving. And consider a number of interesting sites in the area worth a visit, such as the famous military airport, or the motorway to Berlin. Further on, there are a couple of Nazi centres that urgently need refurbishment.

Equipment for many activities will be available within the country, you do not have to prepare banners at home. Heavy tools and sports equipment can be purchased close to the action.

7 BEFORE THE ACTION / DEMO

a) AFFINITY GROUPS

Make sure you know exactly who is in your affinity group and who is not, count heads, and make sure what exactly each of you is willing to do / not willing to do. Attend training on affinity groups, and try to practise quick decision making, as you might find yourself in situations where some of you want to leave whilst others want to go on! Do not split up if you are not planning to! Set a place to regroup afterwards in case you lose each other, and make sure each of you knows where it is: roads might be blocked, etc.

Once formed, you should be careful not to extend the group to unknown strangers, as coppers in plain clothes might try to infiltrate. Give each other new nicknames to be used during the action. If you get arrested, shout your name to bystanders. Note names of arrested persons. In the camp-site, be careful not to disclose sensitive information to persons unknown, since there will be undercover police.



b) WHAT TO BRING

- Affinity group. If possible, attend a workshop on affinity groups!
- Nickname. Tell your friends your new nickname to be used on the action whilst police can hear or record. Once you are arrested, you might want to decide to drop it.
- Your passport or national ID card. If you do not carry this, you can be arrested and your fingerprints, photograph, etc. be taken (this is called "Erkennungs-dienstliche Behandlung", short "ED-Behandlung"). You can be held for up to 12 hours.
- Raincoat against rain and water cannons, and a tiny torch to find the toilet at night.
- Good shoes for all sorts of surface: Meck-Pomm offers sandy beaches and muddy forests, but also wet roads full of broken glass. You should be able to run safely in these shoes.
- Little radio receivers for news from local and international stations.
- Water in a plastic bottle and some food. You might get cordoned in, but water is also good in case of contact with tear gas or pepper spray. First aid kit, sun blocker, arnica and pain relief creams etc.
- Medication you need to take and a sufficient amount for at least 48 hours (in case of arrest). You risk to get banned from a larger area or even to be deported, so it might become difficult to return to your property on time.
- Warm second set of clothes, in case you get wet by rain and/or water cannon, cordoned in or arrested; pack it in a plastic bag.
- Pen and paper: in case you witness anything like an arrest (your own or of others), write a protocol of your memory shortly after the event, since excitement tends to wipe out remembrance.
- Money: change for phone calls and a telephone box card, and cash to pay for transport, though it might be easy to hitch.
- Telephone: when did you last change your phone? Germany has good quality phones for cheap. Buy a spare, since your phone might get compromised. Check the phone numbers in your telephone. Buy a cheap sim card, and do not store real names. Police can locate you when your phone is switched on. Consider to save as much battery as possible, as it will be difficult to find a socket. Decide with your friends at what time to call each other and switch your phone off.
- The number of the "Ermittlungsausschuss" (shortly "EA"), in Berlin: 030-69-22222, written with marker pen on your hand. This is a phone number where anti repression work will be coordinated, information about arrests is gathered and advice and contact with solicitors is provided; it is confidential but surely tapped.
- Things to catch attention, such as drums and whistles. Explosives are illegal.
- Cameras, even ones that do not work, since police behaviour tends to be better with press observation. Be careful to obscure all activist's faces before publishing, as your pictures might get used as evidence against them, even if they are not committing a crime on your picture. Avoid close-ups. A press ID, if you can get hold of one, might come in handy, since press must be treated differently from demonstrators / activists, allowing them to do their job.



c) WHAT NOT TO BRING

Expect systematic and multiple stop and searches on arrival, if not already experienced before (see BORDERS)!

- Arms, such as pen knives or anything that could be interpreted as an arm; this includes shoes with steel caps, but coppers might interpret any kind of strong boots as arms. Note that poles to lift banners for example are likely to be interpreted as arms. Explosives.
- Illegal signs and flags: among these are the Kurdish flag, which is branded as terrorist, and recently even crossed-out swastikas. Do not carry leaflets with technical instructions.
- So called "passive armament", that is, anything that could be used to protect you from police violence: strong hats, newspapers inside your jacket, motorcycle gear, protectors, etc.;
- Anything suitable to conceal your identity is illegal on demonstrations, such are masks, scarves, sunglasses, etc.; it is not clear how this applies to make-up, though. Most of us could do with a haircut anyway, and how about wigs?
- Fashion makes you distinguishable. Hoodies are good for the German climate. Take your piercings out for security reasons.

- Address books, marked maps, etc. might fall into the hands of coppers. Check what other data you might have on you: in your phone, camera or USB stick. Carry as little data as possible on you. You should consider to get a new phone and sim card, since mobile phones are traceable and communication patterns can be analysed.
- Recreational and illegal drugs, since you need a clear head anyway. Germany seems to enjoy a certain tolerance for tiny amounts of marijuana, though you will be arrested and the incident reported.
- Preferably glasses rather than contact lenses if contact with tear gas or pepper spray is expected. Bring a spare.

8 ON THE ACTION / DEMO

Keep close, at least stay in sight of the affinity group you are with. It is advisable, though may be illegal, to hook arms.

If you do not follow police orders, you might be arrested. They can ban you from a place for the duration of an event, which is, of course, subject to interpretation (of the police) and might even encompass the entire G8 area and duration.



Do not get too quickly intimidated by police presence. They love to show their gear. Do not panic. Usually, on demos in Germany, events unfold to a certain degree in a foreseeable way. Be aware that not only the police can hurt you, but also objects thrown by demonstrators if you stand close to the police. You should have a consensus in your

group as to how close you prefer to be to a confrontation.

If you do not walk, they have to carry you; though you have a right to be carried by four policemen, this is not usually the case. Sitting down and hooking your arms with each other, such as to blockade a road etc., is a standard strategy; be aware that police are trained to break such blockades by applying pain, though they will usually try not to hurt you in the first place. Once blockades become too big, water cannons and/or more force might get applied. Usually, you are told three times to leave before police action sets in.

Police can try to provoke you, intimidate you, and even hurt or injure you: don't let them succeed in making you lose your mind! If they succeed in their provocation, your actions can be used as an excuse for further police violence.

There has been evidence of undercover police starting to throw stones at their colleagues in riot gear thus providing a reason for attack, but riot police have also undercover police with truncheons from another Bundesland.



There will be medical aid provided throughout major actions, but bring your own kit. There will be "Vokue" (short for "Volxkueche", people's kitchen) providing food on donation or for free, but bring your own supply.

9 IN CASE OF ARREST

Be prepared to be arrested at one point or another. You might get arrested individually outside a crowd of people or as part of a group. Mass detention has been a police strategy, and in the past anyone considered to be in the wrong place at the wrong time has been arrested: entire coaches, or everyone in a street.

If they grab you out from a crowd, then shout out your name loudly to make other members of your group aware of your arrest. Notice that trying to free prisoners is illegal.

Be aware that others in the police van might be coppers in plain clothes and the van might be tapped. This is the time to switch off your phone, take out the sim card, and destroy sensitive data, unless you are tied up; in which case you should switch off your phone on arrival before they take it off you. You will need your phone charged on release.

If you do not speak German, demand an interpreter; if you do speak German, do so anyway!

The custom way to tie your hands is cable binders. As a E.U. citizen, you are unlikely to be tortured or severely humiliated, so expect boredom.



The ONLY personal information you have to give to the police is your **name, address, place and date of birth**, a vague description of your **occupation**, your **nationality** and **martial status**.

If you do not provide this information, they can hold you for up to 12 hours and take your

fingerprints and photo and you might get fined. They can do this anyway. Though to take your DNA, it takes the decision of a judge.

Just **do not say anything else**, since there is no obligation to do so. You can tell your story to your solicitor or never. Anything you say can be used against you, and these guys do not work for you but against you in that moment. Just say "kein Kommentar" - "no comment".

You have the right to make two phone calls, one of them should be to the above mentioned "Ermittlungsausschuss (EA)" in Berlin: 030-69-22222; note this number on your hand! Insist on this right! Tell them your name, where, when and for what allegation you have been arrested and they will assist you. You might want to also call your solicitor, a friend, or your embassy.

If you are injured or suspect injuries, demand to see a doctor ("ich brauche einen Arzt!"), and demand a paper from this doctor about the results of his examination. Once freed, see another doctor and get another paper! Do not sign anything, but demand a protocol about what has been done to you, as well as documentation about damaged or seized objects.

To prove your ID, they can hold you up to 12 hours; if they suspect you have committed a crime, they can hold you until midnight the next day or they have to take you to a judge. But if they suspect you of intending to commit a crime, they can hold you until the action to which you wanted attend is over!

If you are not of German nationality and have committed a severe crime (such as "schwerer Landfriedensbruch", severe breach of the peace), they might try to deport you straight away. This is illegal and can be stopped through a solicitor - so call the EA!

They have to provide you with water and food while you are under arrest, so demand it loudly!

Once you are free, sit down with a cup of tea and write a protocol of everything that had happened and what you and they have said for your personal use and to show your solicitor. You might get freed quite a distance from your point of arrest.

Prisoner support is a noble task, and certainly someone will provide you a lift, advice and/or mental support on your release.

10 AFTER THE ACTION / DEMO



Upload media material onto websites such as Indymedia, but be careful to read your article twice and have it double checked by a friend before publishing it. Obscure pictures of activists properly as the pictures might get used against them. Be careful of publishing pictures of coppers in plain clothes, this is illegal (maybe just write "can anyone guess who these people are?").

Be careful when giving information to strangers, since there will be undercover police in the camps. Again, act as if all phones were tapped. Sometimes it might be useful to borrow someone else's phone.

There will certainly be refreshments as well as psychological and medical support for traumatised people. Make sure you get enough sleep and water. We are all only human.

The area has beaches, islands and natural resorts of great beauty for your recreation,

and both Hamburg and Berlin are relatively close by for a night out. A ferry boat can bring you to Sweden or Denmark, or you can visit Poland. Be aware of possible future stop and searches, so send you friends back home some parcels.



11 LANGUAGE

English will be widely understood, but do you understand German?

"weitergehen" - "move on",
"mitkommen" - "come with me".
"haut ab" - "fuck off".
"die Bullen kommen" - "the cops are coming",
"abhauen" - "to piss off",
"angreifen" - "to attack".
"Bullen greifen an" - "cops are attacking",
"Bullen angreifen" - "attacking the cops".
"ich brauche Hilfe" - "I need help"
"hast du (mal) ... " - "do you have..."
"bitte, danke, entschuldigung" - "please, thanks, sorry"
"du bist schön" - "you are beautiful"
"geil" - very good
"scheisse" - very bad
"gut, schlecht" - "good, bad"
"verletzt" = "injured"
"ok" - "ok"
"ich bin unschuldig" - "I am not guilty"

When a German person says "halb fünf", she means 4:30

When an English speaker would say "half five" the German would say "halb sechs", 5:30.

A pocket dictionary can be of great service.

G8'07 uk visitor winner's guide

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Based on "Was tun wenn's brennt",

Rote Hilfe e.V. - Vielen Dank!

Hoch die internationale Solidarität!

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