

Lukas Ultimate Guide to Frankfurt and Taunus

Dear Guests, we are super excited to welcome you all to Lukas's hometown. Lukas is originally from Falkenstein. However, as Falkenstein is a small village with only one hotel, most of you will either stay in Frankfurt, Königstein or Bad Soden. This guide will give you some ideas on what to do and what not to do during your stay for our wedding.

About Falkenstein, Königstein, Frankfurt & Bad Soden

Frankfurt is the biggest city in the German state of Hesse and the only one with a proper skyline in Germany. Frankfurt forms the centre of a metropolitan area called the Rhein-Main region. This is comparable to KL and the Klang Valley. Despite Frankfurt city being centre of everything, most people still do live in the towns and villages at the outskirts of the city.

Towards the north of Frankfurt, you can find the Taunus. This mountainous area is home to the towns Falkenstein, Königstein and Bad Soden, where the wedding activities will take place. From Frankfurt, it is a 25-minute ride by car to these towns, while Bad Soden can be easily reached by S-Bahn (German version of a Metro) within 20 minutes without changing trains.

Dos and Don'ts

Before we jump into sightseeing, restaurants and activities, we would like to give you some general dos and don'ts for Germany and Frankfurt in particular.

Do:

- Drink tap water! Tap water standards are among the highest in the world, and all tap water is drinkable. So do not be afraid to enjoy a fresh glass of water from the tap.
- Walk! German cities are built for walking, so try to walk wherever you can. Especially Frankfurt, is considered a very walkable city, where you can walk to all interesting places within 30 minutes. At night, walking in Frankfurt is generally fine; however, like in every big city, there are a few areas you should not walk alone (we have specified them below).
- Always have some cash with you! Germans love their cash and you will find places that will only accept cash. So always carry some cash with you.
- Bring proper footwear! As Germans walk a lot, you will need shoes that allow you to walk a distance. Do not wear high heels for sightseeing!
- Use public transport or Uber! Try to avoid regular taxis as they are very expensive.

Don'ts

- Do not get a hotel near the central train station in Frankfurt! It sounds convenient having your hotel near the central station in Frankfurt. However, the area around Frankfurt central station area is a very rough area and is generally not a pleasant area to stay overnight.
- Do not walk alone at night around the central train station in Frankfurt! Frankfurt central station area has two faces: one showing you great bars, restaurants and night clubs, and the other being a German version of Mad Max. You might find your favourite restaurant located there and you want to go there at night. You can do so, but please do not walk alone.
- Do not waste your time on the Zeil! The Zeil is Frankfurt's main shopping street, but it is more famous for annoying street performers, being super crowded and hosting the worst restaurants in Frankfurt.

Our Guide through Frankfurt

Frankfurt does not offer as many sightseeing spots as Berlin, Munich or Hamburg, but it is the city in Germany with the best restaurants, bars, pubs and night clubs. So, you will not get bored, we promise!

Sightseeing

- **The Römer, the “new” old town and the Cathedral**, are all located in the same area in Frankfurt and can be easily reached by walking from the S-Bahn stations Hauptwache and Konstablerwache. Usually, you start your tour at the Roemer, Frankfurt's mayor hall, and then proceed via walking the “crowning path” through “new” old town to the Bartholomaeus Cathedral where traditionally the German Emperors were crowned.
- **The Main River** is the river that flows through the city and is at that time of the year one of the most beautiful places. If you are in the city centre, make your way to the other side by using the bridge called Eiserner Steg and go to the river bays. Here you find little stalls selling beer, apple wine and non-alcoholic drinks. Enjoy them while taking a rest at the river!
- **The museums of Frankfurt** are considered some of the best in Germany. Outstanding museums are the **Senckenberg Museum**, a natural history museum, and the **Städel**, one of the leading art museums in Europe. On the south side of the Main River, you can find several museums to visit.
- The **Palmengarten** is Frankfurt's botanical garden and is for sure worth a visit for everyone who enjoys nice gardens.

Restaurants and Street Food

Frankfurt has an exceptional restaurant and street food scene, melting its several cultural influences into a culinary highlight. When in Frankfurt, you should try to get some typical regional food such as Rippchen mit Kraut, Frankfurter Würstchen and Grüne Sauce as well as a good Döner and some grilled Bratwurst or Rindswurst.

Our Top Choices for Frankfurt Regional Cuisine:

- **[Apfelwein Dax](#)**: A Frankfurt original well-known for its affordable regional dishes. You can get a great Apfelwein (Apple wine) and one of the best Rippchen mit Kraut here. You can find Apfelwein Dax in the south of the city.
- **[Daheim im Lorsbacher Thal](#)**: This restaurant is located within the old town of Sachsenhausen, Frankfurt's pub district. They focus on high-quality local cuisine and therefore are a little bit on the pricier side.
- **[Kleinmarkthalle](#)**: Kleinmarkthalle is Frankfurt's market hall; here you can get a lot of local food from stalls and other dishes not just from Frankfurt. Buy a Rindswurst from Frau Schreiber or have a nice Grüne Sauce at the stall Daheim in der Kleinmarkthalle.

Our Top Choices for Schnitzel, Döner, and Currywurst:

- **[Edelweiss](#)** in Frankfurt Sachsenhausen provides you the best Vienna-style Schnitzel in town.
- **[Best Worscht in Town](#)**, as the name says, has the best worscht (sausage) in town; here you can get some great Currywurst with a nice slice of bread. They have few outlets among Frankfurt, just find the nearest to you.
- **[Central Grill](#)** makes one of the best Döner in Frankfurt; however, you can find a lot of great Döner places around the city, so ask Google for some recommendations near you.

Cafés & Breakfast

Germany, and Frankfurt in particular, is home to a lot of nice small bakeries and cafés. Just Google which place is nearest to you and enjoy a nice breakfast there.

- **[Café Siesmeyer](#)** next to the Palmengarten is one of Frankfurt's oldest cafés and offers one of the best breakfasts in town.
- **[Sunnyside up](#)**, famous among bankers and lawyers working in the city centre, offers great breakfast options.

Other Restaurants Worth Mentioning:

- **[Leon d'oro](#)**, the regular Italian restaurant of Lukas's family
- **[Mangetsu](#)**, great Izakaya place

- [Mikuni Sushi](#), great handmade sushi
- [Buffalo Steakhouse](#), great steakhouse with very rude service personnel (don't be surprised)
- [Lobster](#), great French restaurant

Pubs and Bars

Frankfurt is of course known to have some very nice homey German-style pubs and exquisite bars. You can find them all over the city but here are some of our (Lukas's) favourites.

- [Zur Straßenbahn](#), the one and only, a very nice warm pub. Unfortunately, they only serve Binding beer, which is not Lukas's favourite, but they do serve a great apple wine.
- [Klapper 33](#), this pub represents the pubs of Alt-Sachsenhausen, a small area of three streets in the old town of Sachsenhausen that is home to a lot of different pubs and night bars. Go here if you want to have a party or a pub crawl.
- [Bitburger](#), this is the banker's pub located in the middle of Frankfurt next to the old opera house. They arguably serve the best Bitburger beer in Germany.
- [Hunky Dory Bar](#), a celebrated bar near the Main River, serving great cocktails.
- [Mercedes Reyes](#), speakeasy cigar bar in Frankfurt. The place is hidden in the central station area and is a must-visit for cigar lovers. Bring cash, they do not accept card.
- [The Fox and Hound](#), great English-style pub for everybody who is seeking a nice Guinness.

This was our guide to Frankfurt, and this guide can only cover maybe 0.5% of the great places you can find in Frankfurt. So, do not hesitate to Google if some great places are around you!

Our Guide to Falkenstein, Königstein and Bad Soden

Falkenstein, Königstein and Bad Soden are all located in the Taunus and are small towns that offer great options for a nice hike, good food and nice relaxation.

Sightseeing and Hiking

- [Falkenstein Castle ruin](#) is a must-visit for everybody. The castle is located on a hill in Falkenstein, and you can reach it with a quick but steep hike through the forest from the Falkenstein Catholic church within 5 minutes. This is where Lukas grew up and his parents still live here. It is worth a visit as this might be the best view over Frankfurt and the Rhein-Main region you can have.
- [Castle ruin, parks and old town of Königstein](#) are worth a visit and can be done easily in one morning or afternoon. The medieval castle is quite big but only the

ruin is left (after a drunk Frenchman blew it up). Connect a visit at the castle with a stroll around the medieval old town and some relaxation in the parks surrounding the castle ruins.

- **Kronberg Castle** is the castle of the city of Kronberg, which is neighbouring Falkenstein and Königstein. Unlike Königstein and Falkenstein castle, it is not a ruin, and you might have a chance to visit the museum inside.
- **Hiking up to the Fuchstanz** is a typical thing we would do at a weekend. The Fuchstanz is a little clearing in the forests of Falkenstein; it has two decent restaurants and a nice kiosk to enjoy a Schnitzel and a beer. You start your hike usually in Falkenstein and you will have a 1-hour hike uphill. No worries, it is hard to get lost there, trust Google Maps.
- **Hiking up the Altkönig** is a more challenging task and is for those who really want to hike. The hike takes about 2 hours uphill from Falkenstein and brings you to the second highest mountain of the Taunus.
- **The Limes and the Saalburg** is the old border between the Roman Empire and the German Barbarians. This replica of a Roman castle and the border is worth a visit but must be done by car, as there is no real public transport to the place.

Restaurants

There are a lot of nice restaurants in the area. However, as these are scattered towns and villages, it depends on where your accommodation is if you can make it easily to the restaurants.

Falkenstein

- **Jett's restaurant** followed our legendary restaurant Zum Schorsch and offers Indian and German dishes. I must admit that I have never been there myself. But I was told it is quite a decent place.
- **La famiglia**, freshly opened outlet of an Italian restaurant based in Königstein. This place offers traditional woodfired oven pizza. The restaurant only offers takeaway.

Königstein

- [Stadtschänke](#), in the heart of Königstein, offers nice traditional German food and is located very conveniently. After your trip to Königstein Castle, this would be the right place to enjoy German food.
- [Trattoria di Valentino](#), the first restaurant I showed to Shivaani in Königstein. Nice handmade pasta and good selection of wines. It is in the heart of Königstein as well and a nice spot to sit outside.
- [Café Kreiner](#) is an award-winning café with handmade cakes and pralines. An absolute must when in Königstein.
- [Café La Sis](#), also a great café that offers warm breakfast and other nice dishes and pastries. Enjoy a typical German breakfast here or just have a slice of cake in the afternoon.
- [City Kebap Haus](#), currently our go-to Döner when we are at my parents' place. Döner has good quality and comes with nice fresh veggies.
- [Königsteiner Familienglück](#), or how we locals call it "Frau Cheng," is the only real Chinese restaurant in the area but offers authentic Chinese cuisine. Fried rice is Shivaani approved.
- [Bap Sim](#) is a nice food stall for quick Korean dishes, run by a Korean family. They offer some authentic Korean food. Be aware that their portions are huge.

Bad Soden

- [Zur Guten Quelle](#), a traditional German restaurant with very good food and a nice apple wine. It is for sure worth a visit!
- [bellasLOKAL](#), one of the rising stars in the Taunus area, a fine dining place focusing on German cuisine. The food is outstanding, unfortunately the prices as well. But if you want to experience German food as fine dining, you would be at the right address.
- [Rocco](#), the Italian restaurant in the heart of Bad Soden, offers a nice selection of Italian foods including pizza and pasta.
- [Café La Sis](#), in Bad Soden, offers the same great selection of breakfast and pastries as their outlet in Königstein. It is for sure worth a visit.

There are many more restaurants in Bad Soden, so don't be afraid to check on Google what is near you.

This was Lukas's Ultimate Guide to Frankfurt, Falkenstein, Königstein & Bad Soden. There are many more good places in that area. If you are not sure of a place, do not hesitate to contact Lukas.