

A Day in Frankfurt

For the early arriving ICCBR members, we suggest a short visit to Frankfurt on Sunday. A funny way to do so is the famous “Ebbelwei-Expresß“ (Cider-Train). This is a trip around Frankfurt in a historical tram.



The 1:10h circuit guides you to some famous and some infamous quarters of Frankfurt. And while the sights of the city unfold comfortably in your tram window, you can enjoy an Apple-Cider or an Apple-Juice.

How to do it

We suggest a collective tour on Sunday Sept. 27th to Frankfurt and the Ebbelwei-Expresß for all interested ICCBR members. The easiest way to travel in the Rhein-Main region is by our excellent public transport facilities.

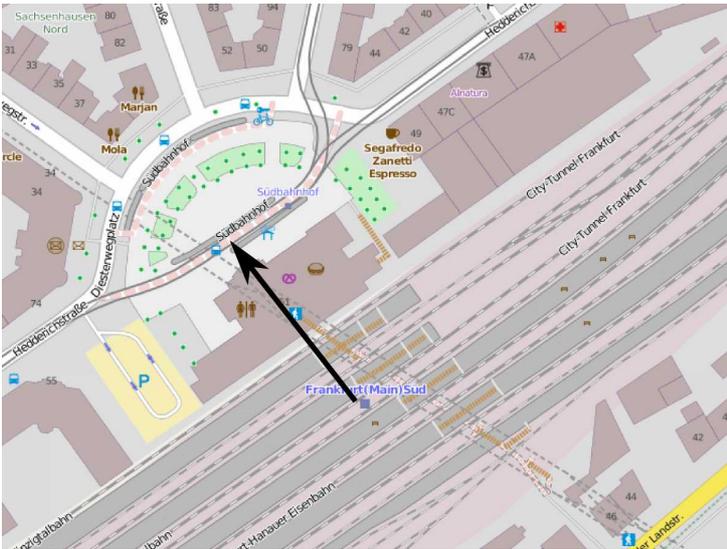
From Bad Homburg to Frankfurt

We start at Bad Homburg v.d.H Bahnhof. At 14:45 from Platform 3 with the train S5.

14:45 from	> <u>Bad Homburg v.d.H. Bahnhof</u>	Platform 3
	Direction Frankfurt (Main) Südbahnhof Number of bicycles conveyed limited, Fahrzeuggebundene Einstiegshilfe vorhanden, air conditioning; > <u>S 5</u> Operator: DB Regio operates in 30-minute intervals.	
15:17 at	> <u>Frankfurt (Main) Südbahnhof</u> 	Platform 2
Duration: 0:32; Service runs: daily		

You need a ticket for the ride with the trains. At the green ticket machine your destination is “Stadtgebiet Frankfurt”. If you go on your own, choose the “Dayticket” for 8.85€. If you go in a group up to 5 persons, choose the “One-day group ticket up to 5 persons” for 15.80€.

The train arrives at 15:17 at Frankfurt Südbahnhof. There you leave the train to the right to the stop of the trams.



Catching the Ebbelwei-Express

There is a signpost that tells the estimated time of arrival of the next Ebbelwei-Express (don't mind the "Hauptbahnhof" in the picture). The frequency of the EE is 40 minutes.

Hauptbahnhof		
Linie	Ziel	Abfahrt/Min
16	Offenbach	6
21	Stadion	8
EE	Ebbelwei-Express	12

Although the Ebbelwei-Express has a regular schedule and we aim for the 15:21, delays are not uncommon. So simply take the next Ebbelwei-Express. It's the one with the funny colors. Check if the second car is less crowded.

The fee for the ride is 8€, including a drink (cider, apple juice or water; you might want to try a "Gespritzter").

The Ebbelwei-Express runs on a circuit through Frankfurt. Hence you will exit the Ebbelwei-Express about 1:10h later where you entered the tram at Frankfurt Südbahnhof.

There is a 10 minute break at the zoo where you can leave the train for a cigarette or a little walk.

Since the Ebbelwei-Express is frequently used by native Frankfurters and in order not to deviate foreign guests from the concentrated consumption of their Apfelwein, there is no audio guide during the ride. You can find written descriptions for the sights along the route at the end of this document or at <https://www.ebbelwei-express.de/en/along-the-route/>

Returning to Bad Homburg

Just take the next train S5 from platform 2. If all went well, you should be able to catch the 16:43.

16:43 from	> Frankfurt (Main) Südbahnhof	Platform 2
	-	Direction Friedrichsdorf Bahnhof Number of bicycles conveyed limited, Fahrzeuggebundene Einstiegshilfe vorhanden, air conditioning;
	> S 5	Operator: DB Regio operates in 30-minute intervals.
17:15 at	> Bad Homburg v.d.H. Bahnhof	Platform 4

Duration: 0:32; Service runs: **daily**

The train S5 starts regularly every 30 mins, so the next trains start at 17:13, 17:43

Don't forget to leave the train in Bad Homburg.

Detailed Information

Individual routes for the public transport: <http://www.rmv.de/en/>

Website of the Ebbelwei-Express: <https://www.ebbelwei-express.de/en/home/>

The route

This is a compilation of the information from the Ebbelwei-Express website.



Information on Lokalbahnhof



Old Sachsenhausen

Turning left here brings you to the famous Klappergass in Old Sachsenhausen. Frau Rauscher, the life-sized stone sculpture, welcomes guests in for a glass of cider. It's also the name of the naturally cloudy Stöffches made by the Possmann family press house in Frankfurt that you can find in all good food shops or specialist drinks outlets.

Ignatz-Bubis-Brücke

Having passed Old Sachsenhausen, our trip takes us across the Main on the Ignatz-Bubis-Brücke (bridge). Formerly known as the Obermainbrücke, this bridge was built between 1876 and 1878.

As you cross the bridge, there's a good view of the Frankfurt skyline to the left. The view of the skyline from the east is unique. As skyscrapers are mainly built in the western part of Frankfurt, from here you can also see the many historic towers of the city, such as Frankfurt cathedral. To the right, you can see the Osthafen area.

Portikus

At the start of the Ignatz-Bubis-Brücke is the white portico of the public library that was completely destroyed in 1944. The building was constructed between 1820 and 1825. Today it's used for art exhibitions.

Hospital zum heiligen Geist

The [Hospital zum heiligen Geist](#) (Hospital of the holy spirit) is a public foundation and the oldest of

its kind in Frankfurt. It was first mentioned in documents dating from 1267. Originally the clinic was on the banks of the Main, but on 22 May 1835 construction started on a new hospital building. Due to a lack of space, the foundation Stiftung Hospital zum heiligen Geist built a new hospital on Lange Strasse along the ramparts of the inner city wall. After a construction period lasting four years, the hospital opened in 1839. It was destroyed in World War II and then rebuilt.

Information for Ostendstrasse stop via Börneplatz to the cathedral



Jewish cemetery

You'll find the old Jewish cemetery on the left-hand side between the Allerheiligentor and Börneplatz stops that are just coming up. This is the second oldest Jewish burial ground in Germany and was used as such until 1828.

A total of 5,500 gravestones have been counted both above and below the ground. These date back as far as 1272. On the cemetery wall, there are 11,134 small plaques commemorating the Jewish citizens of Frankfurt who were murdered during the Holocaust.

Judengasse museum

At the end of the 1980s, the foundations of five houses in Judengasse and the Börneplatz synagogue were uncovered when building a new administrative centre for Frankfurt's public utility company. Some of these walls and archaeological treasures were saved, and in 1992 the Judengasse museum opened in the basement of the administrative building. The Judengasse museum is a subsidiary of Frankfurt's Jewish Museum. It's located on the left at Kurt-Schumacher-Strasse 10. Here, as

already explained, you'll find archaeological relics from Frankfurt's Judengasse shown as part of an exhibition on the history of the Jewish community since the 15th century, everyday life in the street and the history of Börneplatz since the 19th century. For more information, please go to the Judengasse museum website. [Judengasse museum Frankfurt website](#)

Börneplatz

Börneplatz was historically the site of the Börneplatz synagogue. This was built from 1881–1882 on the site of the Fremdenhospital that was constructed at the southern end of the former Judengasse in 1780. The synagogue was opened on 10 September 1882. The Börneplatz synagogue was one of four major synagogues in Frankfurt used by the orthodox wing of the community as their religious centre. It was set on fire by the National Socialists during the November 1938 pogrom and was completely destroyed apart from the external walls. The remains of the synagogue were torn down immediately afterwards.

Reconstruction of the area around Börneplatz that was completely destroyed in World War II began in 1952, but the former Börnestrasse was not rebuilt. Instead, a wide street was created: Kurt-Schumacher-Strasse, which is where VGF's administrative building is now located.

Zeil

At the Börneplatz stop, you can look to the right towards Konstablerwache and Zeil. Zeil was built in 1330 and is the most famous shopping street in Frankfurt. Today this 1,100-metre-long and 40-metre-wide pedestrian zone is one of the busiest shopping areas in Germany. The name Zeil comes from the way in which the buildings are built very closely to one another in a way that looks like a row (Zeile in German) of books. We'll be travelling parallel to this shopping street between Börneplatz and the Römer, where you can also catch a glimpse of Zeil to your right.

Museum für Moderne Kunst

You'll now see the Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK, museum of modern art) on your right-hand side, or the 'piece of cake' as it's called by the locals. This striking triangular building with its unconventional interior puts on temporary exhibitions of contemporary art. The way the building has been constructed means that you can view all the paintings in natural light when the weather is good. The building was designed by Viennese architect Hans Hollein and opened in 1991. The Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt features works by artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, Joseph Beuys and James Turrell. [Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt website](#)

St. Bartholomew's Cathedral

Look to your left at the next junction and you'll see the [cathedral](#), built on Cathedral Hill. This was the centre of the first settlement in Frankfurt during the Bronze Age. Strictly speaking, this former collegiate and parish church is not a cathedral as Frankfurt has never had its own bishop. The church was, however, designated a cathedral back in the Middle Ages so that it could be used for coronations. This is where German kings were crowned from 1356 onwards and where German emperors were crowned between 1562 and 1792.

Information for Römer/St. Paul's Church stop



Römerberg

On the left-hand side is the Römerberg. This has been Frankfurt's most prestigious square for centuries, known by the locals as the Gudd Stubb. In the middle of the square is the Fountain of Justice, which was originally erected in 1543 to symbolise traders' right to hold a market on the site and which has often been rebuilt. The bronze statue of Justitia with her sword and scales has adorned the fountain since 1887. Römerberg is also where the famous Christmas market takes place in front of the reconstructed half-timbered houses.

St. Paul's Church

On the right is St. Paul's Church. This is built in the shape of an elliptical rotunda in neoclassical style. The church was where the preliminary parliament (Vorparlament) and the Frankfurt National Assembly met in 1848–1849. The National Assembly was Germany's first representative body that was freely elected by the people.

The interior of St. Paul's Church was gutted by fire in 1944 and only reopened on 18 May 1948. St. Paul's Church is a symbol of freedom and democracy and no longer used as a church. Nowadays it is used as a meeting place for special events and ceremonies, such as the German book trade's peace awards ceremony held during the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The Römer

The Römer, the old city hall that currently houses the municipal authority, is a group of 11 town houses on the western side of Römerberg. The centrepiece of the site and emblem of Frankfurt is the collection of three Gothic stepped-gable houses called Zum Römer, Alt-Limpurg and Löwenstein that were converted in 1405 to create the city hall.

Römer is understood figuratively to mean the city authorities. The first imperial staircase built in 1405 is now used as the entrance staircase to the registry office's wedding ceremony room.

Information for Willy-Brandt-Platz stop



Willy-Brandt-Platz

Willy-Brandt-Platz is in the banking district adjacent to the ramparts of Frankfurt. The ramparts form a ring-like park around the inner city of Frankfurt am Main. They were created at the beginning of the 19th century on the grounds of Frankfurt's former city fortifications. The Frankfurt ring runs around the ramparts. The ramparts are divided into seven sections, most of which bear the names of the former city gates. These are the Untermain, the Gallus, the Taunus, the Bockenheimer, the Eschenheimer, the Friedberger and the Obermain sections.

Willy-Brandt-Platz and the Städtische Bühnen theatres are located along the Untermain section.

Städtische Bühnen

The Städtische Bühnen theatres are on the left-hand side of Willy-Brandt-Platz, previously known as Theaterplatz. This new building was constructed between 1951 and 1963. The Städtische Bühnen house Frankfurt's municipal theatre companies, which are the largest in the state of Hessen. They are divided into the [opera house](#), which seats 1,400, the 710-seat [theatre](#) and the 200-seat playhouse.

The Frankfurt opera was named opera house of the year in 1995 and 2003 by the magazine Opernwelt.

Frankfurt's fairy-tale fountain

In front of the Städtische Bühnen theatres is the Märchenbrunnen (fairy-tale fountain), an art nouveau fountain designed by Ernst Friedrich Hausmann that was completed in 1910. The bronze

figures at the base of the eight-metre-high fountain were melted down during World War II and only reconstructed in 2006 using photographs from the 1920s.

Eurotower

Directly across from the Städtische Bühnen theatres on the right-hand side is the 148-metre-tall Eurotower that is home to the European Central Bank. The 40-storey building was previously known as the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft tower, and was then later used by the European Monetary Institute. On 1 June 1998, this became the European Central Bank, or ECB for short. In the 1990s, there was still a shopping arcade on the lower three levels with access to the Theaterplatz underground station. Now you'll find the ECB information office on the ground floor and the Living XXL club and restaurant in the basement.

The [ECB's new headquarters](#) are currently being built on the former Grossmarkt site in the Ostend. The Grossmarkthalle, which is a listed historic building, will be preserved, and the twin Skytowers, which are due to be completed by the end of 2014, will add two new skyscrapers to the Frankfurt skyline.

Information on Hauptbahnhof/Münchener Strasse stop



Kaiserstrasse

After turning to the right, the street on the right at the next junction is Kaiserstrasse. Kaiserstrasse is one of the most famous streets in the centre of Frankfurt. With its magnificently decorated facades, it connects the city centre to the railway station in grand style. Since after World War II, Kaiserstrasse has been synonymous with Frankfurt's red light district, even though it is no longer part of that scene. The street is now home to many bars, cabaret clubs, businesses and offices that give the street a multicultural feel.

For more information please go to the [Frankfurt station district](#) website,

Frankfurt central station

The railway station was opened in 1888. Today, it's Germany's second largest railway terminal after Leipzig, with 350,000 passengers and visitors passing through every day.

Around 1,800 trains stop here on weekdays. The station now has over 25 platforms in five departure halls. There are also four local train platforms and four underground train platforms 17 metres below the station.

The station was built by the Holzmann company. It was extended in 1924 when two new external halls were built. Three halls were needed because there were three different railway companies at the time – the Taunusbahn, the Preussische Staatsbahn and the Hessische Ludwigsbahn. The Taunusbahn was the first railway company in Frankfurt.

The route to Wiesbaden was opened in 1839. In Mainz-Kastel, there was a connection to sea crossings.

The station's facade is made of sandstone. To the left and the right of the clock at the main entrance, you'll see an artistic impression of day and night.

In the centre of the roof, there's a statue of Atlas carrying a globe on his shoulders. To the side of him are figures symbolising steam and electricity. This 6.3-metre-high group of figures is designed to highlight the special significance of the station.

Information on the Platz der Republik stop



Platz der Republik

From Platz der Republik, you can see the skyscrapers along Mainzer Landstrasse and the Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage (a square) to the right. At the junction with Mainzer Landstrasse on the right-hand side, you'll also see City Hochhaus. This 142-metre building is also known as the Selmi tower, named after Ali Selmi who built the tower designed by Richard Heil between 1971 and 1974.

Further along Mainzer Landstrasse to the right is Westend Tower. Together, this tower and City Hochhaus are the headquarters of DZ BANK. The Westend Tower is also known as the 'crown tower' due to the crown-like structure that sits on top of it. At a height of 208 metres, this is one of the highest skyscrapers in Frankfurt and indeed all of Germany. The Westend Tower was designed by architect William Pedersen and completed in 1993. The crown at the top symbolises Frankfurt's role as the coronation city of Germany's emperors. For this reason, it faces Römerberg, where the coronations took place. The corona is heated in winter to avoid icicles forming that could be a danger to those using the roads underneath.

Police headquarters

The former police headquarters building on the left-hand side of Friedrich-Ebert-Anlage was opened in 1914. Most of the building has been vacant since the police headquarters moved to a new building on Alleenring. The police headquarters was built in the historicist style, which is a blend of neo-baroque and classical styles, and this is now a listed building.

Matthäuskirche

The next building on the left after the police headquarters is the Protestant [Matthäuskirche](#) built in 1905. It was severely damaged during the war and so most of the current building dates from the post-war period. The congregation now barely numbers 100 members, so in 2002, the regional association Protestant Church in Hessen and Nassau (EKHN) decided to let the building go and sell it for demolition. The local church congregation is fighting this move fiercely.

Frankfurt Westend district

Along with the railway station district, the Nordend and the Ostend, the Westend is one of Frankfurt's densely populated inner city districts that was built during the Wilhelminian period. Nowadays it's still one of the most expensive places to live in Frankfurt. The district stretches largely to your right as far as the Messe Frankfurt trade fair centre.

Together, the western section of the inner city, the eastern section of the railway station district and the southern part of the Westend form Frankfurt's banking district with its many high-rise office buildings.

There's also an above-average number of educational establishments in the Westend district, including – most importantly – the [Bockenheimer campus](#) of the [Goethe University Frankfurt](#) and the [Senckenberg Museum](#).

Information on Festhalle/Messe



Messe Frankfurt trade fair centre

Trade fairs have dominated the economic and cultural life of Frankfurt since the 12th century. The IAA and the Frankfurt Book Fair are particularly important in cementing Frankfurt's role as a leading international trade fair centre. The dome-shaped Festhalle built in 1909 and the Frankfurt Congress Center are both located on the trade fair grounds.

[Messe Frankfurt GmbH](#) is one of the world's largest trade fair organisers. With 28 subsidiary companies, five branch offices and 52 international sales partners, it's represented in more than 150 countries worldwide.

The 578,000-square-metre trade fair site currently has ten exhibition halls, a central logistics centre and a conference centre. Numerous well-known trade fairs are regularly held in Frankfurt, and most of these are organised by Messe Frankfurt GmbH itself. The main focus is on specialised trade fairs for the textile, consumer goods, architecture, technology and car industries.

Frankfurt Festhalle

The [Festhalle](#) is the venue for many big events, including concerts by well-known artists and bands or sporting events such as the ATP world tennis championship in the first half of the 1990s and large-scale horse-riding shows.

The first events staged here in 1909 were the German Gymnastics Festival and the International Air Show. The Festhalle was built between 1907 and 1909.

MesseTurm

The architecture of the 256-metre-tall [MesseTurm](#) is a postmodern nod to American skyscrapers of the 1920s. When the tower, nicknamed 'pencil' was completed in 1991, it was the tallest building in Europe. The roof pyramid alone, which is what makes the building look like a pencil, is 36.6 metres tall. The pyramid, which is not accessible to the public or people hiring the building, is illuminated at night. Because of this, it is particularly visible from planes landing at Frankfurt Airport at twilight. Since 1997, the Frankfurt Commerzbank has been the tallest building in Europe, with a height of almost 300 metres including its antenna. The tower is called the MesseTurm due to the fact that it's located to the south-west of the trade fair grounds. However, it's used as an office building rather than for trade fair events.

Kastor and Pollux

Kastor and Pollux are the two adjoining towers to the right of the MesseTurm. They're named after the sons of Zeus in Greek mythology, Kastor and Polydeuces, and bear their Latin names [Kastor](#) and Pollux. Although together they create the Frankfurt Forum complex, they're both independent buildings. Pollux, the left-hand tower, is 130 metres tall, and Kastor is 95 metres in height.

Europa quarter

To your right behind Tower 185 is the Europa quarter built on the site of the former freight depot. This district contains offices, hotels, flats, shops and leisure facilities, and it is planned to be a place where 10,000 people will work and 3,000 people will live. Tower 185 is 200 metres tall. The actual tower rises above the centre of a horseshoe-shaped plinth, looking as if it's made from two halves of a skyscraper.

Information on Baseler Platz



Westhafen

Before we cross the Main River, you'll see the former Westhafen on the right. This is now being transformed by the construction of attractive modern residential complexes. The Westhafen is a former inland port separated from the Main by a breakwater that's 560 metres long and 75 metres wide. The Westhafen Tower has stood at the entrance to Westhafen since 2003. At a height of 109 metres, it is one of the city's smaller skyscrapers. The tower is referred to locally as Geripptes, or the largest cider glass in the world, due to its diamond-shaped windows. These diamonds look very much those on the typical cider glass called Geripptes. Because the foundation of the building is round and the floors are square, there are 18 conservatories situated between the inner facades and round outer facade.

Friedensbrücke

Our trip across the Main will now take us over the Friedensbrücke (peace bridge). This 300-metre bridge was rebuilt between 1950 and 1951 and is supported by four columns.

In 1945, this was the only bridge over the Main in Frankfurt that had not been completely blown up. It was over this bridge that the US army was able to enter the city on 26 March 1945.

On the south side, there is a bronze figure called Der Hafearbeiter (the dock worker) created by Meunier in 1893 in memory of Frankfurt's Westhafen. The worker is wearing a hood to protect him from coal dust.

Städel and Museumsufer

On the other side of the Main, we come to the museum embankment (Museumsufer) on the south side of the river. To the left, you can see [Städelsches Kunstinstitut](#) and Städtische Galerie

(municipal gallery) immediately alongside the next bridge across the river, the Hohlbeinsteg. The Städel building was constructed in historicist style between 1874–1878 and is fully accessible again following renovations that started in 2000. It is one of the most beautiful and richest art galleries in Europe.

Museumsufer

The [Frankfurt museum embankment](#) (Museumsufer) is one of the most significant museum sites in Germany – in all of Europe. There are currently 13 exhibition buildings here on the Schaumainkai. The idea of bringing various museums together was put forward by Hilmar Hoffmann, who was Frankfurt's head of cultural affairs at the time, in 1977. Between 1980 and 1990, existing facilities were expanded and new buildings were constructed. Museums that you will find here include:

- [Frankfurter Ikonenmuseum](#) (icon museum)
- [Museum für Angewandte Kunst](#) (museum of applied art), formerly Museum für Kunsthandwerk (museum of crafts), along with Villa Metzler
- [Weltkulturen](#) Museum (museum of world cultures), formerly the Völkerkundemuseum (museum of ethnology)
- [Deutsches Filmmuseum](#) (German film museum)
- [Deutsches Architekturmuseum](#) (German architecture museum)
- [Museum für Kommunikation](#) (museum for communication), formerly the Bundespostmuseum (post office museum)
- the [Liebieghaus](#) sculpture museum
- [Museum Giersch](#) featuring regional art

On the northern side of the Main River, you will also find [Historisches Museum](#) (the museum of history) and the [Jewish Museum](#). If you are interested in public transport, we recommend visiting the VGF Transport Museum in Schwanheim. Take a journey through the history of public transport in Frankfurt am Main.

Information on Schweizer/Gartenstrasse



Sachsenhausen

Sachsenhausen takes its name from the settlement of Saxon families by Charlemagne. This part of the city was originally a fishing village outside Frankfurt and is now a popular residential area with many refurbished old buildings.

This is where you will find Schellgasse 8, the oldest remaining house in Frankfurt, built in 1291.

In Frankfurt's local dialect, Sachsenhausen is also called Dribb de Bach (over the stream), in other words on the southern side of the Main. Hibb de Bach means 'on the other side of the stream', or the northern side of the Main.

Brewing tradition

There were previously more than 100 breweries located here. The beer was stored cold in large cellar vaults in Sachsenhäuser Berg. The Henninger Turm is a particularly distinctive building. It used to be a brewery silo that stored 12,000 tonnes of malting barley.

Cider tradition

Today, Sachsenhausen is known as the Ebbelwei district. Ebbelwei is name that those living in Frankfurt give to cider, and it's also where the name Ebbelwei-Express comes from.

In Sachsenhausen's old cider bars, you can now also find Frankfurt's world-famous cider. The cider is a dry and extremely light apple wine made from local apples. This Stöffchess, as the locals also call it, is served in easy-to-hold diamond-patterned glasses known as Gerippptes. In the past, the 'ribs' created by the pattern were supposed to help drinkers hold the glass more easily in their hands. People ate without using knives and forks at that time, particularly farm workers, and smooth glasses slipped more easily through greasy fingers.

The cider is poured from a classic earthenware pitcher called a Bembel. It's typically served with Handkäs mit Musik or a hearty Rippche mit Kraut. Enjoy sampling Frankfurt's cuisine – and spend some time relaxing over a good round of Schoppen. It's definitely worth stopping for a bite