

FRANKFURT ON THE MOVE

All roads lead through Frankfurt.

The city on the Main has been one of Europe's most important traffic hubs for ages. According to legend, a hind once showed the Franks a ford (German: Furt) through the Main, hence the name Frankfurt. A ferry service since 945 has been documented, and the "Alte Brücke" **(1)**, or Old Bridge, was completed around 1235; by the way, the master-builder is said to have used the help of the devil in constructing it. → Under it, barges glide by en route from anywhere between Rotterdam and the Black Sea. However, shorter trips are also offered from the "Eiserner Steg" landing **(4)**

stage **(2)**. → When the large train station was inaugurated in 1888 to great acclaim and with much celebration, it was located in a meadow. Today, the "Hauptbahnhof" **(3)**, or main station, is one of the busiest in Europe, numbering up to 350,000 travelers a day. → The "Rebstockgelände" **(4)** was the former starting point for aviation pioneers, including Käthchen Paulus, Germany's first woman parachutist, and August Euler, who in 1909 was the first person to fly for a minute in a motorized

aircraft. → In 1936, the new Frankfurt Airport **(5)** was opened and recorded 70,910 passengers in its very first year. The figure is now more than double that – per day. With some 1,250 takeoffs and landings, "FRA" is the continent's number one hub. → Right next to it, the "Frankfurter Kreuz" autobahn intersection **(6)** is where the A3 and A5 autobahns meet – and around 300,000 vehicles a day converge. So it is no wonder that the famous cloverleaf is

more reminiscent at times of the eye of a needle. → To crown it all, a lot of travelers are also headed into Frankfurt itself, whether by car or with RMV, Germany's largest public transportation association. Since Frankfurt has just as many jobs as inhabitants, it naturally attracts some 290,000 commuters **(7)** every morning. → And when road traffic around Frankfurt comes to a complete standstill for ten days, then you know what is being held: every two years, the world's largest car show, IAA, is staged at the Exhibition Center **(8)** and plays host to almost one million visitors.

