

Car Rental in Germany

The following information are only a brief extract of the general „terms & conditions“ of most Car Rental companies. It doesn't substitute to read the original „**terms & conditions**“ provided by the Car Rentals very carefully.

- Cars can be rented online in advance or directly in most German towns and cities, and at more than 40 railway stations (Avis, Hertz, Sixt, Europcar and other Car Rental companies). The cost depends on the type of car. Rental cars can also be picked up from airports, railway stations or hotels by request.
- If you want an „**Automatik**“ instead of „Gangschaltung“ (manual transmission) you have to explicitly request this feature, most Germans drive manually.
- Ask explicitly for the GREEN level 4 badge (**Umweltplakette Stufe 4 gruen**). In order to reduce air pollution by traffic several German cities set up „Environmental Zones“. Only cars carrying the „green badge“ on the windshield can travel without restrictions within these zones.
- Know the right **type of gas** for fueling (Benzin bleifrei, Super bleifrei, Diesel).
- For your personal over-all cost calculation ask for the real **gas consumption** [gas „super unleaded“ on *Jan 20, 2008*: 1.345 Euro/Liter = **7.438 SD/gallon** (current currency exchange rate: 1 Euro = 1.463 USD)]
- Ask the Car Rental company about their **policy in case of an incident or an accident**. Usually it is mandatory to call in the police (phone #: 110) no matter what. Or you risk to lose coverage. **Check the condition of the vehicle** very carefully at the handover and report any kind of visible damage to the staff.. You are liable for any damage which is not reported in the signed appraisal.
- Usually all the rental vehicles are insured against Bodily Injury and/or Property Damage that you might inflict on a third party as a result of an accident involving the Vehicle. You will be **liable for any damages** of the vehicle that has been entrusted to you. This liability may be reduced if you opted for one of the **"reduced liability" plans** Car Rental companies usually offer. Read the „terms & conditions“ carefully and let the staff explain details if necessary.
- Ask about the **Breakdown & Assistance Service** contractor. Usually there is a rule of prior approval of the contractor (only exception: motorways) or you risk that you can not claim back any disbursements you made.
- in advance: check if the car rental requires an **International Driver license** in addition to your national driver license. Usually you must be aged 21 or older and have held a valid driver license for at least 12 months.

For a safe trip check out our „German Road traffic regulations“ information.