

Independent Traveler Infos # 15 TGAC

How to shop Tax Free in Germany – easy ways for a safe refund: Shopping in Germany is something just too good to miss. And with TAX FREE SHOPPING it is even more economic shopping. The VAT Rate in Germany is 19% for regular goods and 7% for some goods like food and books. The VAT is included in the purchase price (15,97% respectively 6,54% of the price tag). To qualify for Tax Free Shopping in Germany you have to make a minimum purchase of 25 €. All visitors residing outside of the European Union are entitled to claim back the VAT. Before you purchase any goods in Germany you should inform the retailer that you intend to export the goods to the US. With your receipt you will receive a so-called “Ausfuhrbescheinigung” (export papers) or a Tax Free Shopping Check. The easiest and safest way is to shop at one of the more than 40,000 retailers offering the **TAX FREE SHOPPING Service of Global Refund** which can be identified by the logo (see picture). **Just follow the 3 steps: Shopping – Stamp – Refund.** Shop where you see the Tax Free Shopping logo and simply ask for your Refund Cheque. When leaving the EU – show your purchases, receipts and passport to Custom and have your Global Refund Cheque (or export papers) stamped by Custom. Plan on spending an extra 30 minutes at the airport. **At the airport you must go to Custom BEFORE you check-in if the purchased goods are transported in the check-in luggage!** For goods in carry-on luggage, go to customs after check-in. For immediate Refund: Show your refund cheque, passport and credit card at a Global Refund Booth at the EU airport and ask for an Immediate Refund on your credit card (available since May 2008) or in cash. Alternatively there is a convenient mail-back Refund option – The Global Refund Checks come with an return envelope.



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