



European
Joint
Support Unit

Vehicles & Travel

Rostock





TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Driving In Germany

If you wish to drive in Germany you must carry a valid driving license, insurance and vehicle documents with you in the vehicle at all times. You must also obtain an International Driving permit from a UK Post Office, this requires an up to date passport sized photo. You are also expected to carry a first aid kit, red warning triangle and a hi-vis vest for each occupant of the vehicle. If the vehicle does not belong to the driver, written permission from the registered owner may also be requested. The minimum age for driving a car in Germany is 18.

The European Highway Code training and testing programme (also known as the Matrix Test) is for those stationed in Germany who are entitled to drive in Europe. It is designed to help military personnel, civilian staff and family members to understand the differences in signage, rules and regulations when driving in Germany and to a lesser degree driving in Belgium, Holland and France.

Vehicle Registration & De-Registration

The BFG Car Registration Process may at first glance appear complex, but the process is relatively straightforward and the GEO admin assistant in the EJSU NW Germany office is ready to assist you through the process. The email address is: Sheila.devlin107@mod.gov.uk or telephone: 0049 2823 419 0832.

Full instructions are available on the GEO VLO webpage

<https://bfgnet.de/vlo/vehicle-licensing.htm>

Aral Fuel Card

On receipt of the notification of registered number plate you will be able to log onto BFGNet to register for your Aral fuel card which will enable you to purchase tax free fuel at participating Aral garages. The card will be car specific and will include the car registration and your name and that of your partner (as required). The fuel card can only be used in Germany at participating garages. The cost of the card is €50. It has been estimated that even for a small car you will only need to refill twice before the card has in effect paid for itself.

<https://bfgnet.de/fuelcard/aral-fuel-card.html>

<http://www.aral-fuelcard.com/stationsfinder>



Car Insurance

On arrival, in order to register your vehicle, you are to provide proof of insurance (GEO recognized). All insurance documents must have either a BFPO or SFA address as all insurance must be valid for residency in Germany. You may find that your insurance premium will be significantly higher compared to your UK insurance.

Car seats in Germany

Children must be at least 12 years old or 150 cm tall to sit in the front seat and/or use a regular seatbelt. Children under the age of 12 or 150 cm, must use an approved child seat

Parking in Germany

The German disc – die Parkscheibe – allows you free parking for a certain time in areas displaying this sign.

Winter Tyres

German law now requires that winter tyres must be fitted when the vehicle is used in certain winter/adverse weather conditions, such as black ice, snow, slush or icy roads. There is no specific date to change tyres but the general rule of thumb is O - O, October to Ostern (Easter). The penalties for not having winter tyres fitted are €40 if stopped and checked, and €80 if the lack of suitable tyre causes an obstruction to other traffic. If you find yourself in any type of traffic incident the local police and insurers may hold you responsible if the appropriate tyres are NOT fitted.

International Driving Permit (IDP)

You can obtain an IDP from most UK main post offices.

You will need to bring a “passport” photo, your in-date driving licence and the fee (see below). The application must be made in person.

At this stage only Military and UKBC personnel will be able to reclaim the cost of an IDP. The UK cost is £5.50. This fee can be reclaimed by Military Personnel through JPA. Further guidance can be sought from either Post Office and Head NSE.



Drink Driving

The legal alcohol limit is zero for beginners (less than two years' experience or under the age of 21), professional drivers, bus drivers, truck drivers, and drivers transporting passengers commercially; 0.03% in conjunction with any other traffic offense or accident; 0.05% otherwise.

For cyclists, the limit is set at 0.16%, where not in conjunction with any other traffic offense or accident, cyclists face the same penalties as driving a car at that limit.

General Speed limits in Germany are set by the federal government.

All limits are multiples of 10km/h. There are two default speed limits: 50km/h (31mph) inside built-up areas and 100km/h (62mph) outside built-up areas.

The default speed limits in the **Netherlands** are 50 km/h (**31 mph**) inside built-up areas, 80 km/h (**50 mph**) outside built-up areas, 100 km/h (**62 mph**) on expressways (autowegen), and, as of March 16, 2020, 100 km/h from 6:00 to 19:00 and 130 km/h from 19:00 to 6:00 on motorways (autosnelwegen).

Useful Road signs





Accident Report

Does **not** constitute an admission of liability, just a statement of identity and the circumstances.

1 Date of accident Time **2** Locality - Country - Place **3** Injuries even if slight
no yes

4 Material damage other than to vehicles A and B: objects other than vehicles:
no yes no yes

5 Witnesses: names, addresses, tel.

Vehicle A

6 Insured/policyholder* (see insurance certificate)
Surname
First name
Address
Postcode Country
Tel. or e-mail

7 Vehicle

Motor: Make, type
Registration No. Country of registration

Trailer: Registration No. Country of registration

8 Insurance company (see insurance certificate)

Surname
Policy No.
Green Card No.
Insurance Certificate or Green Card valid from to
Agency (or bureau, or broker)
Address
Country
Tel. or e-mail
Does the policy cover material damage to the vehicle? no yes

9 Driver (see driving licence)

Surname
First name
Date of birth
Address
Country
Tel. or email
Driving licence No.
Category (A, B, ...)
Driving licence valid until:

Circumstances

Put a cross in each of the relevant boxes to help explain the drawing - delete where appropriate:

A	What happened?	B
1	* parked / stopped	1
2	* leaving a parking space / opening a vehicle door	2
3	entering a parking space	3
4	* emerging from a parking space, from private premises, from a track	4
5	* entering a parking space, private premises, a track	5
6	entering a roundabout	6
7	circulating a roundabout	7
8	striking the rear of the other vehicle in the same line of traffic and travelling in the same direction	8
9	going in the same direction but in a different line of traffic	9
10	changing lines of traffic	10
11	overtaking	11
12	turning to the right	12
13	turning to the left	13
14	reversing	14
15	changing to a lane reserved for traffic in the opposite direction	15
16	coming from the right (at a junction)	16
17	had not observed a priority sign or a red light	17

← State the number of boxes marked with a cross →

13 Sketch of accident when impact occurred
Complete your sketch later: www.AccidentSketch.com
Indicate 1. the layout of the road 2. by arrows the direction of the vehicles A, B 3. their position at the time of impact 4. the road signs 5. names of the streets or roads

Vehicle B

6 Insured/policyholder* (see insurance certificate)
Surname
First name
Address
Postcode Country
Tel. or e-mail

7 Vehicle

Motor: Make, type
Registration No. Country of registration

Trailer: Registration No. Country of registration

8 Insurance company (see insurance certificate)

Surname
Policy No.
Green Card No.
Insurance Certificate or Green Card valid from to
Agency (or bureau, or broker)
Address
Country
Tel. or e-mail
Does the policy cover material damage to the vehicle? no yes

9 Driver (see driving licence)

Surname
First name
Date of birth
Address
Country
Tel. or email
Driving licence No.
Category (A, B, ...)
Driving licence valid until:

10 Indicate the point of initial impact to vehicle A by an arrow →

11 Visible damage to vehicle A:

Your Sketch of the accident:

10 Indicate the point of initial impact to vehicle B by an arrow →

11 Visible damage to vehicle B:

14 My remarks:

15 Signatures of the drivers **15**

14 My remarks:





Cycling in Germany

Riding your bike in Germany requires you to have a road worthy bike with lights, reflectors, brakes and a bell to alert pedestrians that you are coming.

Cycling is very popular here in Germany and the Netherlands. There are dedicated cycle lanes, either for sole use by the cyclist or the pavement is divided for the pedestrian and the cyclist. Cyclists often use their bell to warn you of their presence. It is advised when walking to keep out of the cycle lane. Remember to cycle in the direction of the traffic, cycling the wrong way can result in a fine. Getting caught cycling whilst under the influence of alcohol can result in the German authorities confiscating your driving license.

Airports

Airports near Rostock

32 km: Rostock, Germany <https://www.rostock-airport.de/> Although close to Rostock it is not an international airport.

270 km: Berlin Brandenburg <https://ber.berlin-airport.de/en.html> airlines flying from here include, EasyJet, British Airways, Eurowings and Ryanair to name a few.

195 km: Hamburg <https://www.hamburg-airport.de/en> Eurowings fly to Heathrow, amongst many other destinations.

Rail

www.bahn.de

The Central Railway Station (Hauptbahnhof - Hbf) of Rostock
Konrad-Adenauer-Platz, 18055 Rostock

When travelling by train don't forget to stamp your ticket before travel. Machines are usually located on the platforms.

Rostock's main station is very well connected regionally and nationally through the network of IC and ICE trains running through it. ICE Trains run to Berlin and Hamburg from where onward connections go to most other major destinations in Germany and also further afield. From Rostock there are also good regional connections to Binz on the holiday island of Rügen amongst other destinations.

Inside the main station (lower level) there are regular tram (S-Bahn) and bus services to local destinations, although note that the tram actually leaves from an underground station, which is rather counter-intuitive and could lead to confusion. There are services every 10 minutes to the lovely beach at Warnemünde.