

Wheeltrax Guide to Riding in Germany

Motor insurance: minimum of third-party is compulsory.

We strongly recommend that you obtain an International Motor Insurance Certificate (**green card**), from your motor insurer. It is important to check with your motor insurer or broker (at least a month before taking a vehicle overseas) what cover you have abroad, as a Green Card may not always be issued. Please thoroughly check your policy to make sure that you are covered to ride the Nürburgring as some insurers specifically exclude riding here from their policies.

Speed limits:

In built-up areas 31mph/50km/h (Normally indicated by square, yellow Village/Town sign. See below.)

Outside built-up areas (including dual carriageways) - 62mph/100km/h.

Motorways a recommended maximum of 80mph/130km/h. (Minimum speed on motorways 37mph/60km/h).

If there is no speed limit posted on a stretch of Autobahn then you are free to use your own judgement.

Official documentation: don't forget to bring all of your vehicle documentation including:

A valid full driving licence (not provisional)

The original vehicle registration document

Motor insurance certificate

Your passport. (Check that all passports are valid for the full period of your trip). No visas are required for EU Citizens.

If the vehicle you are riding is hired or leased, approach the hire/lease company for guidance.

You may be asked to produce your documents at any time so, to avoid a police fine and/or confiscation of your vehicle, be sure that they are in order and readily available for inspection.

Medical treatment:

On 31 December 2005, the old E111 will cease to be valid.

From 1 January 2006, you will need a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to receive healthcare that becomes necessary during your visit to an EEA country or Switzerland. For details of how to apply for your European Health Insurance Card visit - www.ehicard.org or call this number - **090 7707 8307**. You must produce this card if you are taken ill or require treatment when you are abroad in European Economic Area Countries. Please make sure that you have adequate personal travel insurance.

Carry this card with you EVERYWHERE you go when abroad.

Fuel: unleaded petrol only

(Regular - 91 octane, Super - 95 octane and Super Plus - 98 octane). Check your owners handbook or with your dealer as to which is appropriate for your machine.

No leaded petrol available (lead substitute additive available).

Lights: the use of dipped headlights during the day is compulsory for motorcycles.

Adjustment is not required for two-wheeled vehicles as the beam pattern is more symmetrical than that of a car.

Bike Maintenance: Please ensure that your bike is well maintained before your tour.

Tyres, brakes, oil, chain & sprockets should all be in good order.

Safety helmets: Wearing of safety helmets is compulsory for both rider and passenger.

Drinking and riding: if level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more penalties include endorsement of driving licence during which time the licence holder is banned from driving. "Don't do it!"

Fines: on-the-spot fine or deposit. Motorcyclists can be fined for such things as exceeding speed limits, using abusive language, making derogatory signs and running out of petrol on a motorway! You have been warned!

GB sticker: is compulsory and failure to comply with this regulation could result in an, 'on-the-spot' fine. Registration plates displaying the GB Euro-symbol (Euro-Plates) became a legal option from 21 March 2001, but must comply with the new British Standard (BS AU 145d). These plates make display of a conventional sticker unnecessary when circulating within the EU. The Euro-Plate is only legally recognised in the EU; it is still a requirement to display a GB sticker when travelling outside the EU.

Recommendations: it is *recommended* that vehicles are equipped with a first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs.

DO - Remember that continental roundabouts go anti-clockwise! (Weird the first time but you get used to it).

DO - make sure that you have adequate European breakdown assistance cover.

DO - remember if your bike is not equipped with a left side mirror, it is recommended that one be fitted to allow for riding on the right.

DO - remember to **ride on the right!**

Your Guide to Riding in Germany Cont.

Other stuff: Most fuel station accept visa or Mastercard. We recommend bringing at least some cash (in Euros) as a back up.

As a fail-safe measure a length of siphon hose under the seat may never be needed but you will be glad its there if you do.

Road Signs: Most road signs in Germany are the same, or very similar to those found in the UK. Here are some exceptions that you may find useful.



Motorway
Autobahn
(out-o-barn)



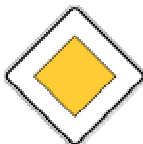
Police Station
Polizei
(pol-its-eye)



Speed Limit
Similar to UK. Varies
according to situation



Found directly under a
speed limit sign. Indicates
speed limit in effect **ONLY**
when wet



Priority Road
Usually seen as you
approach a junction means
that you have priority



Priority Road
Usually seen as you
approach a junction means
that you have priority



30kmh Zone
Found in some residential
areas.
Usually means roads
coming in from the right
have priority



One way road
(aye-n-barn-strarser)



City/Town/Village starts
Usually denotes 50kmh
limit



City/Town/Village ends
Usually denotes end of
50kmh limit



Diversion
Umleitung
(um-lie-tung)



End of Diversion



Oil Spill



Loose Chippings



Uneven Surface



Mud on Road

Other useful info:

For years German police cars were easily recognized by their silver colour with broad green stripe or panels.



BEWARE - Police cars in Germany are changing!

Many police forces in Germany are adopting the more usual blue uniforms with broad blue stripes on silver cars. For the moment you may encounter blue OR green liveried police cars.