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## Everyday life and leisure

### Translation help

**Official documents** such as certificates, marriage or birth certificates may only be translated by state-certified translators in Germany. These translations can be very expensive. It is best to check in advance whether you really need a certified translation.

**There are various online services for a rough translation, such as**

[DeepL](#)

[Google Translate](#)

[Reverso](#)

Here you will find a short video about the Google Translator and how you can use it in everyday life, for example to understand mail that you receive.

[The Google Translator explained](#)

[Google Tap to Translate explained](#)

[Instructions Google Tab to Translate](#)

### Mobile app:

[Google Playstore](#)

[Apple Appstore](#)

**You can search for state-certified translators and interpreters here:**

<http://www.justiz-dolmetscher.de>

## Financial matters and contracts

### Basic information on contracts

💡 **Particularly important:** You have not understood something? You can't read the document? Then don't sign anything. A signed contract often obliges you to pay money. It is sometimes very difficult to cancel this. Always check and compare several offers. Take your time to decide. Don't let anyone pressure you into signing a contract.

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In Germany, there are contracts for many things. For example:

- Renting a flat (tenancy agreement)
- New job (employment contract)
- New mobile phone (mobile phone contract)
- Registering at a fitness centre (membership contract)
- And many more

If the **contract** is signed by **two parties**, it is **legally binding**. Everything agreed in the contract must be honoured by both the buyer and the retailer.

For example, if you have signed a contract with the gym for 2 years, then you must also pay the fees for 2 years. You should therefore consider whether you can pay everything for this period.

Contracts often also contain "**small print**". This is usually written in small print at the bottom of the contract. You must always read through this and agree to it before you sign.

Do not allow yourself to be pressurised into signing a contract. You always have the right to **read through and check everything**. Ask if you can take the contract home with you if necessary. You can then read the contract at your leisure or have it translated.

If you have any disagreements with the other party to the contract, you can also seek legal advice from a lawyer.

## Cancellation

You must give **written notice** of cancellation (usually 3 months before the end of the contract). If you do not comply with the cancellation period, the contract is often automatically extended.

## Insurances

### Social insurances

There are five statutory insurances in Germany. You must have these insurances. This social insurance system protects you against unemployment, illness, the need for care, occupational accidents and old age. You are automatically covered by pension, accident, long-term care and unemployment insurance. You do not have a choice there. For health insurance, you can choose from a wide range of health insurance companies. You can read more about statutory health insurance [here](#).

### Supplementary insurance

There are many other types of insurance in Germany. It is not possible to say in general terms whether an insurance policy makes sense for you. Most of them protect you against financial risks. The [consumer advice centre](#) provides information about these additional insurances. You will also find information on questions relating to insurance. The most important is liability insurance. You should have this in any case.

### Liability insurance

Have you caused damage to a person without intending to do so? This could be a road traffic accident. Or your child has broken a window pane with a ball. Then you must pay compensation in Germany according to the law. This applies to personal injury, property damage and financial losses in the private sector.

In Germany, you can take out private liability insurance. The insurance pays for these damages for you and your family/children. Private liability insurance is very important. Everyone should have personal liability insurance. This is because personal liability insurance protects you from having to pay a lot of money for damages. You can decide for yourself whether you want to take out this insurance. However, we strongly recommend it.

💡 Are you looking for a good offer for personal liability insurance? The [consumer advice centre](#) provides information on this topic in various languages.

## Mobile phone

The mobile phone market in Germany is very large. There are many providers and many different contracts and costs. There are generally two different mobile phone contracts in Germany: Prepaid **contract** and **fixed-term** contract.

- The prepaid contract has no fixed contract term. You top up your mobile phone with money and can use it to access the Internet or make calls.
- With a fixed-term contract, there is a minimum contract period. This is usually 12 to 24 months. This contract is automatically renewed if you do not cancel it. If you do not want the contract to be renewed automatically, you must cancel in writing. Pay attention to the deadline.

💡 Do not sign any contracts if you do not understand them.

Do you want to sign a contract? Check the conditions carefully beforehand. Ask yourself whether a prepaid contract might suit you better.

With both a fixed-term contract and a prepaid contract, you can choose between three options:

1. With a flat rate, you can make unlimited calls, send text messages and use the Internet up to a certain data volume.
2. With an inclusive package, you have a fixed quota of units for calling and texting and a fixed data volume for Internet use and pay a fixed price for this. When your units are used up, you can book additional units or additional data volume. You will usually have to pay more for this. 💡 **Please note:** With many providers, additional data volume is automatically added when your data volume is used up. This additional data volume can cost a lot of money. It is therefore essential that you switch off the automatic rebooking of data volume (data automatic). You can do this via the online customer portal or your provider's hotline. Ask for written confirmation that you have switched off the automatic data volume.
3. You can also pay directly for every call, every text message and every use of the Internet. This is usually more expensive than with a flat rate or an inclusive package, but you only pay for what you actually use. And there are no hidden costs.

## 10 important questions for signing a contract:

- How high is the basic fee? Does the fee increase after a certain period of time?
- Is there a minimum monthly turnover (minimum costs per month)?
- How long is the contract for (e.g. 12 or 24 months)?
- If I do not cancel the contract, will it be automatically renewed?
- When do I have to cancel if I don't want to extend the contract?
- How much does it cost to set up, switch and deactivate?
- How much does a call cost per minute (external/own network)?
- How much do international calls cost?

- How much does a mobile phone with a contract cost and how much does a mobile phone without a contract cost?
- How much does the Internet cost?


## Current account


### Why do I need an account?

Do you want to pay money via a bank? Then you need a current account. Your money is **always available** in your current account. Would you like to withdraw money from your account? Or would you like to make cashless payments? Then you need to have enough money in your account. Otherwise you will have to pay interest to the bank.

With a current account you can:

- Transfer **money** to **another account**.
- **Receive money** in your own account - payments from public offices / authorities / social benefits are often made cashless, i.e. transferred to a personal current account.
- Set up **standing orders** if, for example, you always have to pay the same amount of money to one person once a month. For example, the money for the rent on your flat. The bank will then automatically and regularly transfer the costs from your account.
- Participate in **direct debiting**. This means that the recipient can automatically deduct money from your account. This is only possible if you authorise it in advance with your signature. For example, with a mobile phone contract.
- Make **cashless payments** with your Girocard/EC/V-Pay/Maestro card, cash cheques.
- **Withdraw cash** at bank counters or ATMs.
- **Print out account statements**. Here you can see your income and expenditure. On the bank statement you can see how much money you have transferred or debited, to whom, when and for what purpose.

 **Important:** Make sure that you have enough money in your account for all withdrawals and payments.

 **Tip:** Different banks offer current accounts with different conditions. Find out exactly how much a current account costs each month and what services the bank offers in return.

### How do I open an account?

Decide **which bank** you would like to have an account with.

Make an **appointment** to open an account.


Bring the **following documents** with you to the appointment:


- one of your identification documents: proof of arrival, residence permit, authorisation to stay, tolerated stay permit, identity card
- If no current address is noted on the legitimisation document: Please bring a registration certificate or a comparable document.

- Your tax ID. You will usually receive this from the [town hall](#) on the first day. If you lose your ID or have not received it, you can apply for a new tax ID [here](#).
- Important: If you do not speak German or English, please bring an interpreter with you.

### Important information:

- After opening the account, you will receive an **EC card/girocard with a four-digit PIN code** by post. Sign the back of the EC card/girocard. Memorise the PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and for withdrawing money from ATMs.  
**Be sure to keep your card and PIN code separate!**
- If you want to withdraw cash: It is best to use the ATMs of the bank where you have your account. Then the withdrawal costs nothing. If the PIN code is entered incorrectly three times at the ATM, the EC card/Girocard will be withdrawn and blocked. In this case, you must ask your bank.
- If your EC card/Girocard is lost or stolen, have it blocked immediately. Tell them your sort code and account number. Then ask your bank for a new EC card/Girocard.

 [116 116](#)

 Around the clock



The consumer advice centre provides a [checklist](#) in German, English, Ukrainian, French, Turkish, Romanian and Bulgarian.

A more detailed overview and explanation can be found [here](#) (German, English, Ukrainian).

### International transfers

You can use your bank or other service providers (so-called money transfer services) for international transfers. If you transfer money outside of Europe, there are usually high fees.

The most important facts about money transfer services in brief:

- Money transfer services enable fast money transfers worldwide.
- Sending and receiving cash with money transfer services does not always require a bank account.
- The sender incurs fees for the money transfer service. The actual costs depend on various factors. This can be expensive: Depending on the provider and situation, the total fees can amount to 15 per cent of the transfer amount.

💡 Find out about the costs beforehand!

## Taxes

### What are taxes?

A tax is a sum of money. This is collected by state authorities from all taxable persons to generate income, for example income tax. Almost everyone in Germany pays taxes. Even a company has to pay taxes.

The state receives the taxes because the state uses them to pay for various things. Basically, the tax is there to finance the expenditure of public authorities (cities, federal states, federal government). All citizens of this country use public facilities such as roads or schools. They also benefit from the work of state employees, such as police officers or teachers. The state also helps people if they do not have a job, for example through unemployment benefits from the job centre. People seeking protection (refugees) also receive support in the form of cash benefits, accommodation and counselling. All of this costs money and is financed by taxpayers' money. This also means that citizens in Germany are not solely responsible for themselves, but support each other. This is also known as the solidarity principle. All of this costs money and is financed by taxpayers' money.

💡 You can find more information on the subject of taxes in plain language at the [Federal Ministry of Finance](#). Or in several languages at [handbook germany](#)

### Income tax return

The income tax return shows the tax office your income situation. Based on this, the office can determine the amount of income tax due each month. As a rule, you have to pay income tax if you have a job where you earn more than 520 euros a month.

Not everyone pays the same amount of income tax. If someone earns a lot, they have to pay more tax. If someone earns less, they pay less.

The tax office calculates how much everyone has to pay. It can happen that taxpayers have paid too much tax within a year. You can use your tax return to claim your expenses. Ideally, you will get some of the money back.

Of course, it can also happen that too little tax has been paid. This usually applies to self-employed people. In order to find out, several details must be reported to the tax office.

You can ask the relevant tax office whether you have to submit a tax return.

### Deadlines

Tax returns cannot simply be submitted at any time. There is a deadline that should be strictly adhered to.

An income tax return must always be submitted to the tax office by 31 July of the following year.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, the deadlines for the 2022 and 2023 assessment periods have been extended as follows

- Assessment period 2022: submission deadline 30/09/2023
- Assessment period 2023: Submission deadline 31/08/2024

After that, the usual deadline applies again. The deadline for the 2024 assessment period is therefore 31 July 2025.

💡 The assessment period is the period to which the tax calculation relates. You therefore submit your tax return for this period.

## Help and support

Do you have questions about taxes? Do you need help with your tax return?  
You can get help with your tax return from the [Lohnsteuerhilfeverein](#). Advice is subject to membership (for a fee).

## Living

### Search for a flat

**Would you like to rent a flat? You can search for flats here:**

- via search engines on the Internet
- in the classifieds section of daily and weekly newspapers
- on social media
- ask people you know.

Well-known search engines on the Internet:

- [ImmobilienScout24](#)
- [housing exchange](#)
- [Immowelt](#)
- [Immonet](#)
- [eBay classifieds](#)
- [WG wanted](#)

### Are you interested in a flat?



You will find an e-mail address or telephone number in the adverts. You need to call them and make an appointment to view the flat. You will then view the flat with the landlord or landlady. If you do not yet speak German well, take a friend or acquaintance with you.

When viewing the flat, you can ask the following questions:

How much does the rent cost per month?

How much does electricity, heating, gas and water cost?

Does the flat use a lot of energy?

People with their own income

- After the viewing appointment, you should quickly let the person offering the flat know whether you would like to rent it.
- Before you sign the [tenancy agreement](#) (Mietvertrag), make sure you know how much the rental deposit is (Kaution) (usually 1-3 basic rents) and how the renovation is organised.

People in receipt of benefits

- You must not sign the tenancy agreement yet!
- The [tenancy agreement](#) or the landlord's certificate must be submitted to the benefits authority for approval. This can be the job centre (Jobcenter), the social welfare office (Sozialamt) or the asylum seeker benefits authority (Asylbewerberleistungs-Behörde) sein. They will check whether the flat is suitable. If approval is granted, you may sign the tenancy agreement and move.
- You may have to send further documents to the benefits authority or the landlord. You should do this as soon as possible.

💡 Before you move, organise transport for your belongings. If you need additional furniture, you should submit an application for initial furniture (Antrag auf Erstausrüstung) to the job centre in good time.

Please remember to inform the following institutions of your change of address:

- Jobcentre
- Residents' registration office of the new place of residence
- Immigration office of the new place of residence
- Bank
- Health insurance company
- Pension fund
- if you have children: School and kindergarten
- family benefits office

💡 It is advisable to set up a [forwarding application](#) (Nachsendeantrag) at the post office. Your mail will then be forwarded to your new address.

💡 Important shortcuts for finding accommodation can be found [here](#).

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## Social housing

In many cities and municipalities there is also social housing (Sozialwohnungen). These are subsidised by the state and are only rented to people with [a residence entitlement certificate](#) (Wohnberechtigungsschein) rented out. If you are interested in social housing, you must apply for a certificate of eligibility from your local authority or municipal administration (Rathaus). For further information, please contact your [local authority \(town hall\)](#).

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## For refugees

As soon as you have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis), you are generally obliged to move out of the shared accommodation or the municipality's flat. You must find your own accommodation. As long as you do not have a job and therefore do not earn any money, the job centre will pay your rent. However, only if you are in need of assistance.

💡 Once you have found a flat, you are not allowed to sign the tenancy agreement straight away. The job centre must check and approve the tenancy agreement before you sign it.

## Rent and rental agreement

### The tenancy agreement (Mietvertrag)

The tenancy agreement regulates the rights and obligations. You have rights and obligations. And your landlord (Vermieter) or landlady has rights and obligations. For example, you have to pay money every month. This is the rent (Miete). Your landlord or landlady must let you use the flat. He or she must also take care of repairs to the flat.

The tenancy agreement is an important document. It states the price of the flat. It also states whether you are allowed to smoke or do laundry in the flat. Everything is set out in writing in the contract. Don't understand something in the contract? Ask about it. It's best to do this before you sign the contract.

### What does the rent consist of?

**Basic rent** (Kaltmiete): Rent per square metre (sqm) of living space per month. Some cities and municipalities have a rent index. You can find the local rent per square metre in this rent index.

**Service charges** (Nebenkosten): Costs for heating, hot water, cold water, rubbish charges, caretaker/janitor and so on (= operating costs).

**Cold rent + ancillary costs = warm rent** (Warmmiete)

**Electricity, telephone and internet** costs must be **paid separately**.

For your information: Every year you will receive a **service charge statement** (Nebenkostenabrechnung). This shows how high the annual service charges are. You may have to pay an additional amount (for example, because you have used more heating than previously calculated). However, you may also receive a refund (for example, because you used less hot water than previously calculated).

**Important:** Before you sign a tenancy agreement, take a close look! This [checklist](#) can help you do this. The checklist is available in German, French, Ukrainian and Turkish.

## Deposit, initial furnishing, transfer and re-registration

The **deposit** (Kaution) must be paid separately. It is a security deposit for the landlord or landlady. The maximum amount for the deposit is 3 basic rents (Kaltmieten). You will receive the deposit back when you move out if you leave the flat without any defects.

Are you receiving benefits from the job centre? Then you can submit an application for **initial equipment** (Erstausstattung) to the job centre. You will then receive a lump sum from the job centre, which may vary depending on the number of people and the size of the flat. If your previous tenant leaves various items in the flat, you can buy them from them (**Ablöse**).

Caution: It may take a few weeks for the money to be paid out by the job centre!

💡 As soon as you have moved into your new home, you must register with your new [municipal or local authority \(Rathaus\)](#) within two weeks. This is also called **Ummeldung**. To do this, you will need a landlord's certificate from your landlord (Vermieterbescheinigung). If you miss the two-week deadline, you may be penalised.

👤 Only you have a **key** to your flat. Take good care of the key. Have you lost the key? Then a locksmith must come to (Schlüsseldienst). A locksmith can be expensive. Sometimes the landlord or landlady needs access to your home. Sometimes other people also need access to your home. You need to be informed about the visit. This is often done by post or telephone. This may be particularly necessary if a tradesperson needs to enter your home. They want to repair something in your home. Or the municipal utilities or your energy supplier need to read how much water or electricity you have used.

## Do you want to give notice?

Germany protects tenants and landlords. You can't simply give notice overnight. You must give your landlord or landlady at least three months' notice. Always give notice of cancellation in writing. Have your cancellation confirmed. Do you need help? Then go to your help centre. The [tenants' association](#) can also help. But you will have to pay money.

## Do you receive money from the job centre or social welfare office?

💡 Important: You may not sign the tenancy agreement yet, but must first have it approved.

Firstly, you must obtain an Wohnungsgeberbescheinigung from your future landlord.

This should include

- The amount of the rent (costs)
- The amount of ancillary costs (heating, water, electricity)
- The amount of the deposit
- Possible graduated rent (automatic rent increase)

You must go to Jobcenter / Sozialamt with the tenant's licence. They will check the cost estimate.

If everything is in order, they will approve it.

If you do not have a residence requirement (Wohnsitzauflage) in your document for refugees or electronic residence permit (elektronischer Aufenthaltstitel), you may sign the rental

agreement.

If you have a residence requirement, you must submit an application to the foreigners [authority \(Ausländerbehörde\)](#).

The rental agreement (Mietvertrag) must contain the following points:

Kaltmiete: The rental costs for the living space per month

Nebenkosten: Operating costs such as stairwell cleaning, rubbish charges, caretaker costs, etc.

Heizkosten: Costs for heating and hot water (note: electricity and heating costs must always be paid by you!)

Size of the flat, number of rooms, address, landlord

💡 The warm rent is made up of the above-mentioned components. It is therefore significantly higher than the basic rent.

## Housing benefit & housing entitlement certificate

### Housing benefit (Wohngeld)

Housing benefit is a subsidy for renting or owning accommodation. If you earn little money, you can apply for housing benefit. However, you must not receive any benefits from the job centre (Bürgergeld), Grundsicherung or Asylbewerberleistungen.

To determine how much housing benefit you receive, the following is taken into account:

- How many people live in your household.
- How much money you earn in total.
- How high your rent is for which you would like to receive the allowance.

These factors are important when calculating your housing benefit. The allowance is usually paid for 12 months.

You will only receive housing benefit if you submit an application. You can obtain the documents for this from Landkreis Cuxhaven or from your Rathaus.

If you live in the city of Cuxhaven, the city is responsible. If you live in another municipality in the district of Cuxhaven, the Landkreis is responsible.

You can find out which documents are required from the application form or in a personal consultation with the responsible contact persons at Landkreises and Stadt Cuxhaven.

💡 Use the [housing benefit calculator](#) (only available in German) to get an initial idea of whether you may be entitled to housing benefit.

💡 [Main application for housing benefit \(for rent\)](#)

🔗 [Information, contact persons and forms of the district of Cuxhaven](#)

🔗 [Information, contact persons and forms of the city of Cuxhaven](#)

## Housing entitlement certificate (Wohnberechtigungsschein = WBS)


You can rent a Sozialwohnung with a certificate of eligibility for housing (WBS). A council flat is a flat that is subsidised by the state. To obtain a certificate of eligibility, you must submit an

application. It will be checked whether you are entitled to social housing. In particular, they will check your income and whether the size of the flat is appropriate. The housing entitlement certificate is valid for 1 year. You must then apply for it again.

If you live in the Stadt Cuxhaven, the Stadt Cuxhaven is responsible. If you live in another municipality in the district of Cuxhaven, the Landkreis is responsible.

 [Information, contact persons and forms of the district of Cuxhaven](#)

 [Information, contact persons and forms of the city of Cuxhaven](#)


 Both the issue and the rejection of a WBS cost money. Commissions and brokerage fees are not permitted for flats with WBS.

## **Tenants' association**

The German Tenants' Association (Deutscher Mieterbund = DMB) represents the interests of tenants and provides information on tenancy law issues.


Do you have the feeling that your service charge bill is incorrect? Do you have a dispute with your landlord? Do you have questions about tenancy law? Then simply contact the tenants' association.


The Tenants' Association is only authorised to advise members.


 Please note that you must be a member! Membership costs money.

## **Deutscher Mieterbund Cuxhaven, Stadt und Landkreis e.V.**

 [DMB Cuxhaven](#)


 Kaemmererplatz 1, 27472 Cuxhaven


 [0472152823](tel:0472152823)

 Tuesdays and Wednesdays 08:00 - 10:00 for administrative matters  
Thursdays 16:00 - 18:00, consultation hours by appointment only


## **Bremerhaven Tenants' Association**

 [Bremerhaven Tenants' Association](#)

 Fritz-Reuter-Str. 6, 27576 Bremerhaven


 0471/3001630


 [info@mieterverein-bremerhaven.de](mailto:info@mieterverein-bremerhaven.de)

 Office hours: Monday to Friday 07:30 - 12:30

## **Stade and surrounding area tenants' association**

 [Tenants' Association Stade](#)

 Wilhadi-Kirchhof 3, 21682 Stade

 04141677 47

 [info@mieterverein-stade.de](mailto:info@mieterverein-stade.de)

 Advice: Saturdays 09:00 - 12:00

## Important abbreviations in flat adverts

### A

Abl = redemption

App = Flat (small flat in the size of a room, kitchenette, bathroom)

AR = storeroom

Ausst = Equipment

### B

bezugsf = house or flat ready for occupancy

Bd. = bathroom

Bj = Year of construction

BK = Operating costs (also called ancillary costs)

BLK / Blk = Balcony

BW / BaWa = Bathtub

Bung. = Bungalow

bzb. = available

### C

Ct = brokerage fee

### D

DB / D`bad = shower room

DG = attic storey

DH = Semi-detached house

DHH = Semi-detached house

Do.-Gge. = Double garage

DT = Roof terrace

Du. = Shower

### E

EBK = fitted kitchen or one-room flat with bathroom and kitchen

EFH = detached house

EG = Ground floor

ELW =Granny flat

Etg. / ETG = Floor

ETW = Condominium

ET-Whg = Apartment

EZW = one-room flat

### F

FB-Hzg = underfloor heating

## **G**

Gart. = garden  
Gash. = Gas heating  
Gge. = Garage  
G-WC = Guest WC  
gr. = large  
Grdst. / Grd. = Property

## **H**

HK = heating costs  
HM = caretaker  
HP = raised ground floor (floor set about half a storey high)  
Hs. = House  
HZ = Heating

## **I**

inkl. = inclusive

## **K**

KDB = kitchen, shower, bathroom  
KM = basic rent (without utilities and heating!)  
Komf. = Comfort  
KoNi = Kitchenette  
KP = Purchase price  
KT / Kt. = Deposit  
Kü. = Kitchen  
Kzi. = Children's room

## **L**

Lg. = Location

## **M**

MC = estate agent's commission  
ME = Rental income  
MFH = Apartment block  
MM = monthly rent  
2MM = 2 monthly rents  
möbl. = möbliert  
MS = security deposit  
mtl. = monthly  
MV = Tenancy agreement

## N

NB, NB-Hs. = new building, new house  
NK = Service charges (also called operating costs)  
NkVz = Advance payment of service charges  
NKM = Net cold rent  
NM = new tenant  
NR = Non-smoker  
Nutzfl. = Usable floor space

## O

OG = Upper floor  
1. OG = First floor  
OH, öZH = Oil central heating  
OT = District

## P

P / PP = car park  
p.a. = per annum/per year/annually  
prov.-fr = commission free  
Prov. / PV = commission

## R

renov.bed = renovierungsbedürftig  
rep.-bed. = in need of repair  
RH = terraced house  
RMH = mid-terrace house  
REH = end terraced house

## S

S-balk. = south-facing balcony  
S-Lg. = south facing  
sof. frei = available immediately  
Stpl. / SP = parking space  
ST-W = basement flat (one floor half sunk into the ground)  
ST = Floor  
SZ = bedroom

## T

teilmbf. = partly furnished  
Tel. = Telephone number  
T€ = Thousand Euro  
Terr. = Terrace  
TG = Underground car park



## U

UG = basement  
Uml. = Charges  
UM = Subtenant

## V

v. Priv. = from private, without estate agent, commission-free  
VB, VHB = basis for negotiation  
VR = Storage room  
VS = matter for negotiation

## W

WB = Bathroom with bathtub  
WBS = Housing entitlement certificate  
WE = Residential unit  
Wfl / Wohnfl. = Living space  
WG = shared flat  
Whg = flat  
WM = Warm rent  
WM-Anschl. = Washing machine connection  
WoKü = Kitchen/living room

## Z

ZH = central heating  
Zi = Room  
1ZiApp = 1 room flat  
ZKB = Apartment with room, kitchen, bathroom  
2ZKB = 2 rooms with kitchen and bathroom  
ZKBB = Room, kitchen, bathroom + balcony  
ZKBD = Room, kitchen, bathroom + hallway  
ZÖV = Central oil supply  
ZB = Room with bathroom

### Drinking water

Carbonated or not. Fresh drinking water from the tap can be drunk in Germany almost without hesitation. This is because drinking water in Germany is of very good quality.

### Means of transport

#### Bus and train

There are many buses and bus stops in the district of Cuxhaven. You can travel anywhere by bus. Each bus has its own [timetable](#). There are different bus tickets. The tickets vary in price. You need a ticket for the bus. You can buy tickets from the bus driver or online.

There is also a train in the district of Cuxhaven. Depending on where you live, there may be a railway station near you. You also need a ticket for the train. You buy this before boarding the train.

If you travel without a ticket, you will have to pay a fine. This is around 60€.

## Tickets

Check exactly which ticket you need and which ticket is the cheapest for you. There are a large number of different tickets.

There are, for example

- Single tickets
- Day tickets
- Weekly or monthly tickets

There are also tickets, for example:

- for children
- for pupils (including trainees)
- for students
- for adults
- for families
- for groups

Information on travel connections and tickets is available...

- at the station travel centres (please note that there is not a travel centre at every station. Please also check the opening hours of the ticket counters).
- at the ticket machines at the station or stop
- via the [Deutsche Bahn app](#) or [the Deutsche Bahn website](#)
- on the bus: here you can buy your ticket directly from the bus driver

Timetable information is available [here](#).

## Deutschland-Ticket

The Deutschland-Ticket is always valid for one month. This means you pay €58 once a month and can then use the ticket on buses and trains for a whole month. However, it is only valid for local transport (routes up to 50km). So **not** for ICE trains, for example. The Deutschland-Ticket is a subscription. You have to buy it online and then pay €58 every month until you cancel the subscription. You cannot buy the ticket at a ticket machine.

You can find more information about the Deutschland-Ticket [here](#).

## Bicycle transport

You can also take your bicycle on the train. However, you will need an extra ticket for this. In Germany, there are different regulations for taking bicycles on trains everywhere. You should therefore check with Deutsche Bahn in advance about your train connection.

You can find more information about taking bicycles on trains in Lower Saxony [here](#).

## Anruf-Sammel-Taxi (AST)

Anruf-Sammel-Taxi (AST) at Landkreis Cuxhaven is a service that supplements local public transport. It runs according to a fixed timetable, but only on request, similar to a taxi. Journeys with the AST must be booked in advance, either by telephone or online.

### Ordering:

☎ +49 (0) 47215512655 (except Stadt Cuxhaven)

🌐 [Local transport Cuxland](#)

For questions and bookings for the AST of Stadt Cuxhaven please select

☎ +49 (0) 4721797779

### Important notes:

- Journeys must be booked at least 60 minutes before the desired departure time.
- There is a special fare for the AST.
- The AST departs at fixed times from fixed stops.
- It can also be ordered directly to the front door if this is stated when registering, especially for severely disabled persons with an exceptional walking disability (entry aG).
- In the city of Cuxhaven, there is a separate AST service with its own fare structure and online booking option.
- For more information, timetables and fares, please visit the [Cuxland local transport](#) website.