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Ukraine

Information on the war in Ukraine

Information from the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Here you can find out what is important at the moment - for example, what the current [situation](#) is. You can also find rules here if you want to enter Germany or if you need a visa. We have already written down some important questions and answers for you:

I am in Germany without a visa - what can I do now?

If you come from Ukraine, you do not currently need a visa to come to Germany. From the day you arrive, you can stay here for up to 90 days without special permission. You can even stay in Germany without a special residence permit until **4 March 2027**.

During the 90-day visa exemption period, you can consider whether you would like to stay in Germany for longer. There are various options for this:

1. You can apply for a residence permit under Section 24 of the Residence Act within 90 days of your first entry into Germany. This provision specifically regulates the situation for war refugees from Ukraine on the basis of the EU decision. You can find out who is eligible for a residence permit under Section 24 of the Residence Act [here](#). You can find answers to the procedure [here](#).
2. You can apply for a residence permit for another purpose within 90 days of your first arrival in Germany. For example, to study or for gainful employment. This may be more favourable for you. You can seek advice on this from the authorities if you have an appointment, or you can find out more in advance on the website: <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/>.
3. Alternatively, you can apply for asylum. However, this option is not recommended due to the less favourable legal consequences - such as the restriction on taking up employment and the obligation to live in an initial reception centre.

Do you have a valid residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act as of 1 February 2026?

Your residence permit will be automatically extended and will then be valid until 4 March 2027. You do NOT need to visit the immigration office for this. You can find more information on [Germany4Ukraine](#).

What happens when you arrive in Germany?

When you come to Germany, there are a few important steps that you have to take one after the other. This is how it works:

- First, you register - this is called registration.
- If you need help from the state (for example money or food), you will be told where you can live.
- Then you register your new address, i.e. where exactly you now live.

-
- Finally, you apply for a permit so that you can stay in Germany for longer.

You can find more information on this [here](#).

Can I work in Germany with a residence permit for temporary protection?

Yes, you can. However, before you can work, the immigration authority must authorise it. The immigration authority will often already enter in your residence permit that you are allowed to work - even if you do not yet have a job. This is good, because then you no longer need an extra permit from another authority.

The immigration authorities will issue so-called fictitious certificates as soon as you submit your application. These bridge the right of residence until the actual residence title can be issued and granted. The foreigners authority will also enter "Gainful employment permitted" in the fictitious certificate. This fictitious certificate therefore authorises you to work in Germany either as a self-employed person or as an employee. Special professional access requirements (such as a licence to practise medicine or a permit for a trade requiring a licence) naturally apply to persons with temporary protection in the same way as to all others. However, the procedures for recognising foreign professional qualifications are also open to those affected, just like everyone else.

Persons with a residence permit for temporary protection in Germany can also receive counselling and placement services from the employment agencies in accordance with SGB III.

Should people from Ukraine apply for asylum?

No, that is not necessary. The necessary protection is granted in a different, faster procedure. It is therefore recommended that you do not apply for asylum. However, if you want to apply for asylum later, you can still do so.

As a result of the decision to admit war refugees in accordance with Article 5 (1) of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection, a residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG - Residence Permit for Temporary Protection) will be granted to the group of persons covered by the decision upon application.

Registration upon entry does not constitute an application for asylum. The asylum procedure requires an application for asylum to be submitted to the responsible branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

For these reasons, it is not necessary to file an asylum application to secure a right of residence or to claim social benefits.


Information portal of the German government

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland offers a digital information portal in German, English, Russian and Ukrainian. Here you will find all official information about residence and living in Germany.

 [Germany4Ukraine](#)

Embassy of Ukraine in Berlin

 [+493028887128](tel:+493028887128)

 [Albrechtstraße 26, 10117 Berlin](#)

Integreat

About Integreat

Integreat is a guide to support you in your everyday life. You will find important addresses, contacts and tips and tricks to help you find your way around.

This guide has several chapters. Each chapter deals with a different topic. Among other things, you will find information on doctors, schools, German courses and other institutions. There is also a chapter with ideas on what you can do in your free time. The information and leisure activities change. Your local authority updates them regularly. That's why it's a good idea to check your mobile app often. You will always be informed about current activities and events. You can rely on the information in Integreat.

Download Integreat from your [app store](#). You can also use this app offline if you don't have internet access. When you are back online, the app will update itself.

Sharing information

Important information that you want to pass on, for example, can be downloaded as a PDF in the web app and shared. In the mobile app, you can share interesting content directly, for example via WhatsApp, Facebook or e-mail.

The latest news

You can also receive push notifications with the Integreat smartphone app. You can agree to receive them in the app settings. Important or urgent information is sent to you via push notifications.

Feedback

You can contribute to the further development of the Integreat app in your municipality. You can give feedback using the smiley icons. This feedback is sent to the people who create the content. You can praise or criticise. Write down as many details as possible for ideas or criticism.

Read aloud function

The content of the Integreat app can also be read aloud. To do this, the read aloud function must be switched on in the smartphone settings. This works in all languages. Alternatively, the built-in read aloud function in Integreat can also be used via the menu.

We very much hope that we can make your life in Germany easier with this app.

Integreat in sign language (Video)

This video explains how Integreat works in German sign language. You will learn what is possible. Click on the image to watch the video on YouTube.



Making Integreat better: Integreat Community

Do you use Integreat in your everyday life? Do you want to make Integreat better?

We want to hear your opinion. We do interviews or send you a questionnaire. We also organise small workshops. You can help us a lot with little time!

You want to be part of it? Then send us an e-mail with your name to community@integreat-app.de - and we will get back to you!

Frag Integreat

Was ist "Frag Integreat"? - mit Chatberatung


- **Frag Integreat** is a new function in Integreat.
- **Frag Integreat** It works like a chat. You ask your question and receive a helpful answer within a few seconds.
- **Frag Integreat** is currently only available on the integreat.app website. It is not yet available in the apps installed via the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- You can find the chat from **Frag Integreat** by clicking on the speech bubble icon at the bottom right of your screen:




This is how Frag Integreat works:

Ask your question. **Frag Integreat** Integreat will then search through all the content in the Integreat app and provide you with the best answer. This can take up to a minute. **Please be patient.**

The answers from **Frag Integreat** are based exclusively on the official information of the respective region. This way you will always receive reliable and correct answers.

 The robot next to the answer indicates that **Frag Integreat** has automatically found a suitable answer for you in the Integreat content. You are welcome to ask further questions. If there is no suitable answer, you will also be informed of this.

You can also write in the chat that you would like to write to a **person**. Experts on site can read and answer your message. After you have written that you would like to write to a person, you may have to wait a few days for a reply. This depends on when the experts are online.

 The picture of a person next to the reply indicates that a person has given you a reply. You can also write an answer or ask another question. Another person will then reply to you.

Make sure you select the right language and your selected region

Frag Integreat can speak all the languages available in Integreat. It is important that the language in which you ask your question is also currently set - otherwise it will not work properly. **Frag Integreat** will not work properly.

If this happens, proceed as follows:

- Close the chat window
- Select your desired language from the language selection at the top
- Open **Frag Integreat** and ask your question

Frag Integreat can only access the content of the region you have selected. If you need information from another region, please select this region first and then ask your question. The chatbot is not yet available in all regions.

Your data is also Frag Integreat secure.

You do not need to log in to **Frag Integreat** to use it. No personal data is stored. However, please do not enter any sensitive information in the chat. If your question is very specific, we will **Frag Integreat** will try to recommend a suitable counselling centre. You can then safely discuss your personal concerns and documents there.

We protect your data and privacy and never pass it on. We have compiled all the information on data protection on this website: [Website with information on data protection](#). After 6 months we delete your chat data completely from our servers.

Help us, Frag Integreat better!

Frag Integreat is constantly being improved. If an answer is incomprehensible or you discover an error, we look forward to your feedback. Also, if you have ideas on how to make the chat even more helpful, please let us know. You can write a message using the feedback function. You can also reach us via info@integreat-app.de.

Thank you for using **Frag Integreat** use the chat!

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Thank you for using **Frag Integreat** use the chat!

Help for medical emergencies

In the event of **accidents** or **life-threatening conditions**, dial the **emergency number**  [112](tel:112)

It is **important** that you provide this information:

- **Who** is calling?
- **Where** did it happen?
- **What** has happened?
- **How many** people are injured or ill?
- **What** injuries or illnesses are there?
- **Wait** for further questions.


Always remain calm and speak clearly so that you can be better understood. **Do not end the call**. The emergency services or police will end the call when all the necessary information has been provided.

Emergency numbers are **free of charge** and can be called from **all telephones** even **without prepaid credit**. You **do not need a dialling code**.

It is **not an emergency** if, for example, you need a sick note or want to avoid waiting times at the GP.

If the situation is acute but not life-threatening, go to the **emergency department** of the nearest hospital.

Not an acute emergency - but you need a doctor

If you need medical advice outside of consultation hours (e.g. at night, at the weekend or on public holidays) and cannot wait until your GP is available again, call the **medical on-call service** at  [116 117](tel:116117) .

Especially if you have a family, it is good to know how you can help yourself before professional help arrives. You can learn this in **first aid courses**. Many organisations and educational institutions offer first aid courses.

Help for psychological emergencies

What could be signs of mental illness?

- You are not feeling well.
- You have worries.
- Bad memories or thoughts.
- You are homesick.
- You can't sleep.
- Your concentration is poor.
- You are often afraid.

Mental illnesses are depression, anxiety disorders, addictions or trauma.

There is help!

There are specialised doctors for mental illnesses. Or a therapist.

You can also go to a migration counsellor. Some counsellors can also help you with psychological problems and trauma.

You will find offers on this page that you can contact directly now.

Help any day and at any time

Telephone counselling - free help for everyone

The telephone counselling service is a free help service in Germany. You can get help there if you:


- Are sad or lonely
- are afraid
- Have problems with your family
- Have lost your job
- Have other serious problems


Important: Help is free, anonymous and available around the clock. You can call, chat or e-mail the telephone counselling service and be referred to a counselling centre.


Call the telephone counselling service

Always available - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Telephone numbers (all three telephone numbers are from the telephone counselling service):

 [0800 111 01 11](tel:0800 111 01 11)

 [0800 111 02 22](tel:0800 111 02 22)

 [116 123](tel:116 123)

All calls are free of charge.

You remain anonymous.

Even at night and at weekends.

Chat or write e-mails with the telephone counselling service

If you don't want to call, you can also write. The telephone counselling service offers two options for written counselling:

- Chat for immediate help
- E-mail for detailed discussions

Both services are free of charge and completely anonymous. You only need an e-mail address to access them - your personal data remains protected. In the live chat, you can write directly to a counsellor and receive an immediate response. With e-mail counselling, you can write in detail about your concerns and receive a personal reply within 48 hours.

All messages are securely encrypted. You can find access to both services on the website www.telefonseelsorge.de.

Help with psychological emergencies for children and young people

There are many services for children and young people who are experiencing difficulties. We have summarised a selection of services that you can turn to here.

Crisis chat - help around the clock via chat

The crisis chat is always available - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Well-trained counsellors will help you via confidential text messages. The crisis chat is free of charge and there are no long waiting times.

How the crisis chat works:

1. Go to www.krisenchat.de
2. Start a chat
3. Write about your problems
4. A counsellor will answer you quickly

"Number against grief" for children and young people up to the age of 20

The counsellors listen to you and take your concerns seriously. You can talk about any topic. The counselling is free, anonymous and confidential. Young counsellors aged 16-21 also offer advice on Saturdays.

 [116 111](tel:116111)


 Monday to Saturday: 14:00 to 20:00

 www.numm-gegenkummer.de

U25 Germany - email counselling for young people in serious crises

U25 is free, anonymous and helps you with serious crises and suicidal thoughts. You write emails with the counsellors. They take a lot of time for detailed discussions. Free counselling slots are not always available - if you need help quickly, use other services that you can also

find on this page.

 www.u25-deutschland.de and click on "Write a helpmail"

JugendNotmail - Professional email counselling for children and young people in difficult situations

JugendNotmail is a free online counselling service run by volunteer experts. They are trained in psychology and social pedagogy. JugendNotmail is confidential and anonymous. You will be given a nickname. Jugendnotmail will try to answer you within 24 to 48 hours, i.e. within a maximum of 2 days. They will help you with counselling on topics such as depression, self-harm and violence.

 www.jugendnotmail.de click on "Start now" and register.



bke online counselling - support for young people aged 14-21

You've come to the right place for small and big worries, arguments or trouble with parents, problems with yourself, with friends or at school. You've come to the right place for heartache and secrets that are on your mind. At the bke youth counselling service, you will find many other young people with whom you can talk and experienced counsellors who will support you.

In the **email counselling** service, you can write your thoughts and worries in peace without any time pressure. They will respond to your first enquiry within 48 hours (on working days) at the latest. You will always stay with the same counsellor during the counselling session. Completely confidential and readable.

 You can register at <https://www.bke-beratung.de/jugendberatung/online...>


In **chat counselling**, you have several options to get in touch with the counselling team immediately and directly: In the live chat without registration, in the individual chat counselling with registration and in the group or topic chat. In the group and topic chats, you can talk to other young people as well as the counsellors.

 <https://www.bke-beratung.de/jugendberatung/chatte...> You can also find the opening hours of the chats here 

Help for psychological emergencies in Bavaria

Krisendienst Bayern - Free help for everyone in Bavaria

The Bavarian Crisis Services help with mental health crises. They offer free and confidential telephone support for people in mental distress or suicidal crises in over 120 languages.

Call the number  [0800 / 655 3000](tel:08006553000) . Interpreters are available for counselling in languages other than German. Simply say your preferred language as soon as you are connected to the counsellors. The interpreters are usually on the line within a few minutes.


The call to Crisis Services Bavaria is always free of charge. The interpreter is also free of charge.

The Bavarian Crisis Services are always available - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Important: Crisis Services Bavaria can only be reached by telephone if the call is made from a mobile phone or landline within Bavaria.

If you do not live in Bavaria, we recommend calling the crisis hotline for your current place of residence. You can find more information on the website of the [Bavarian Crisis Service](#).

 [0800 655 3000](tel:0800 655 3000)

 [https:// www.krisendienste.bayern/mental-health-support-in-over-120-languages/](https://www.krisendienste.bayern/mental-health-support-in-over-120-languages/)


Help with violence

Violence can take many forms - physical, psychological or sexualised - and it can affect people of all genders and ages. There are contact points where you can get help - anonymously, free of charge and, if you wish, in several languages. You are not alone.

"Violence against women" helpline

- Available around the clock (24/7)
- Free of charge and anonymous
- Counselling in German and on request in 18 other languages via interpreting service.
- For women who are affected or threatened by violence - also for relatives and professionals
- Languages: German, English, Arabic, Turkish, Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Kurmanji, Romanian, Polish, Albanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Vietnamese, Chinese

 [08000 116 016](tel:08000 116 016)

 at any time around the clock

 ww.hilf.etelefon.de


Women's refuge - protection and accommodation


Women's refuges offer safe shelter for women and their children.

Admission is usually possible around the clock.

They also receive support in dealing with the authorities, finding accommodation, separation and trauma.

Regional referrals can be made via the helpline (08000 116 016)

 [08000 116 016](tel:08000 116 016)


 at any time around the clock


 ww.frau.enhauskoordinierung.de


Help hotline for men - help with violence

- Counselling for men who are experiencing or have experienced violence
- Confidential, free of charge, anonymous
- Online counselling possible

-
- Note: Telephone counselling is currently provided in German. If there are language barriers, we recommend using a trusted person or a counselling centre with translation services.

 [0800 123 99 00](tel:08001239900)

 Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

 [www.maen](http://www.maen.nerhilfetelefon.de) nerhilfetelefon.de

In acute emergencies, call the police 110


 [110](tel:110) Emergency call police

If you are in danger or witness violence: Call the police immediately.

Labour

Immigration of skilled labour

For professionals

 **Definition of specialist:** Do you have a university degree? Or have you completed vocational training? Did your training last at least two years? Does it qualify you for a profession? Then you are a skilled worker. Do you want to be officially recognised as a skilled worker? Then you must apply for this. Your qualifications must be recognised by the competent authority in Germany.

Job search

Entering the labour market:

Entering the labour market is made easier: As a skilled worker, you must provide three things. You need an employment contract. You must have a concrete job offer. And you need a qualification that is recognised in Germany. It is no longer checked whether there is a German person for the job. The Federal Employment Agency will continue to check the working conditions.

Skilled workers with a university degree:

Skilled workers with a university degree can work in any qualified profession. This means that skilled workers must work in a profession that requires training/studies. For the EU Blue Card, you need a job that corresponds to your qualifications.

Skilled workers with vocational training:

Skilled workers with vocational training can work in any qualified profession. This means that skilled workers must work in an occupation that requires training/studies.

Rules for entry

Entry to seek employment:

Skilled workers with vocational training can enter Germany. You can enter the country to find a job here. You will receive a residence permit for up to six months. Their qualifications must

be recognised in Germany. You must be able to support yourself during your stay. You must already speak German well enough to be able to work in your profession. German language skills at level B1 or better are normally required. Would you like to try out a job first? Then you can work up to 10 hours a week. This way you can find out whether you like the job. Your employer can get to know you. Skilled workers with a recognised academic qualification can also do trial work. You can find more information at [Make-It-In-Germany](#).

Stay for qualification measures:

You will be given more opportunities so that you can gain qualifications in Germany. Have you tried to have your qualifications recognised? The authorities have identified problems? Your qualifications do not match the German ones? Then you need sufficient knowledge of German. This is knowledge at level A2. Then you can apply for a visa. With this visa you can come to Germany for 18 months. You can gain qualifications during this time. The authorities can extend the visa once for 6 months. After that, you can apply for another visa. For example, for an apprenticeship. Or for studying. Or for work. You can find more information at [Make-It-In-Germany](#).

Settlement permit for skilled workers from abroad:

Foreign skilled workers can obtain a settlement permit in Germany after just four years. You can find more information [here](#). There are sometimes different conditions for skilled workers and EU Blue Card holders.

For training and studies

Entering the country to look for an apprenticeship: Would you like to do an apprenticeship? Then you can enter the country to look for a training place. You need German language skills at level B2. You also need a school-leaving certificate that authorises you to enter higher education. You must be no more than 25 years old. You must be able to pay for your own living costs in Germany.

Extended transfer options for international students in Germany: International students can obtain a new residence permit before they have completed their studies. For example: You want to learn a profession after your studies. You will then receive a residence permit for this. The new law for skilled workers makes this change easier: Are you studying? And you want to have a job? Then you can take a job. To do so, you must fulfil special conditions. The Federal Employment Agency sets these conditions. Once everything has been checked, you will receive a new residence permit.

Settlement permit for graduates of a vocational training programme in Germany: Under the new law, foreign graduates of a vocational training programme in Germany, just like university graduates, can obtain a settlement permit after just two years.

💡 **German language course** to prepare for training: Do you have the right visa? Then you can attend a German course. This German course will prepare you for your training.

EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card is a residence permit for people with a university degree who do not come from the EU and wish to work in Germany. This requires a university degree and an employment contract with a certain minimum salary.

- For bottleneck professions and career starters: at least €45,934.20 per year (2026).

-
- For all other professions: at least €50,700 per year (2026).

Who can get the EU Blue Card?

Do you have a recognised university degree?

If you studied abroad, the degree must be recognised or equivalent in Germany.

Tip: You can check whether your degree is recognised on the "[anabin](#)" website.

You don't have a university degree?

Then you need to have completed at least three years of training after leaving school. This must correspond to at least level 6 of the German or European education system - for example as a master craftsman/master craftswoman or educator.

Employment contract or binding job offer in Germany:

- The job must last at least six months.
- The work must match your degree.
- The salary must be at least €50,700 per year (2026).

For shortage occupations, a salary of €45,934.20 (2026) is also sufficient if the Federal Employment Agency agrees. You can find a list of these professions [here](#).

Special case for career starters

If your degree is less than three years old, you can obtain the EU Blue Card with a salary of €45,934.20 (2026) - regardless of the profession. Here, too, you need the approval of the Federal Employment Agency.

Special case of IT specialists without training

Are you an IT specialist or IT manager without an official qualification? Then you can still get the EU Blue Card if:

- You have a concrete job offer in IT in Germany (at least 6 months).
- You earn at least €45,934.20 per year (2026).
- you have had at least 3 years of high-level professional experience in IT in the last 7 years.

Prospects with the EU Blue Card

The EU Blue Card is valid for as long as your employment contract plus three months - for a maximum of four years. It can be extended. After 27 months of working in Germany, you can apply for a permanent residence permit. If you speak German at level B1, this is possible after just 21 months. You can leave Germany with your family members for up to 12 months without your EU Blue Card becoming invalid. After one year with the EU Blue Card, you can also move to another EU country (except Ireland and Denmark) and apply for a new EU Blue Card there within one month.

Do you have an EU Blue Card and want to change jobs?

That is possible. You can work for a new employer with your valid Blue Card. Important: If you change jobs in the first year, you must inform the Immigration Office. The authority will then check whether you still fulfil all the conditions for the new job. If not, you may receive a different residence permit.

Find a job

Labour market access

EU citizens and persons with a residence permit

💡 You come from the **EU**? Do you now live in Germany? And you would like to work? Then you can do so without any problems. As an EU citizen, anyone can work in Germany. Without restrictions.

💡 If you have been **recognised** by the BAMF as a person entitled to asylum, refugee status or subsidiary protection, the foreigners authority will issue you with a residence permit. This entitles you to pursue any gainful employment and thus grants you full access to the labour market.

Asylum seekers or tolerated persons

Have you fled to Germany? Then your residence status is important. It determines whether you are allowed to work. We explain the differences below. You will also find the relevant advice centres below.

Asylum seekers with proof of arrival or authorisation to stay:

Would you like to work? The foreigners authority can authorise you to do so. You must submit an application there. The Federal Employment Agency (BA) must give its approval. You must observe the following rules so that the authority can make a decision.

📍 Are you living in an initial reception centre (EAE)? Then the following applies:

- 6 months work ban from entry
- After that, you are normally allowed to work. Submit an application to your authority.
- The BA will then check the working conditions.

💡 Has your asylum application been rejected as manifestly unfounded or inadmissible? Then you are not allowed to work.

📍 Are you living in your own home or with family? Then the following applies:

- 3 months work ban from entry
- After that you are normally allowed to work. Submit an application to your local authority.
- The BA will then check the working conditions.

Asylum seekers from safe countries of origin

Do you come from a safe country of origin? These include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ghana, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Serbia. Did you apply for asylum after 31 August 2015? Then you are not allowed to work.

Tolerated people

The foreigners authority always decides whether you are allowed to work. You must therefore submit an application to the foreigners authority. The foreigners authority can impose a general work ban on you. There are certain rules that you must observe.

💡 Persons with a tolerated stay permit due to unclear identity (§ 60b AufenthG) are always prohibited from working.

📍 Are you living in an initial reception centre (EAE)? Then the following applies:

- 6 months work ban
- Your tolerated stay has already lasted 6 months? Then the foreigners authority will decide whether you are allowed to work. Submit an application to your authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will check your working conditions.

📍 Are you living in your own home or with family? Then the following applies:

- 3 months work ban
- Has your tolerated stay permit already lasted 3 months? Then the foreigners authority will decide whether you are allowed to work. Submit an application to your authority.
- The Federal Employment Agency will check the working conditions.

Important!

💡 Different rules apply to self-employment! The prerequisite for the above applications is ALWAYS a concrete job offer.

Labour contract

Anyone who starts a job is given an employment contract. This regulates the most important conditions of your work. It states when you work. How much holiday you get. It states how much money you will receive. Both sides - employee and employer - must honour these agreements. The contract becomes legally binding when you sign it. Only sign it once you have fully understood the content.

Types of contract:

Open-ended employment contract

There is usually a probationary period of three or six months. During this period, an employment relationship can usually be terminated within two weeks. The employer can terminate the contract. You as an employee can also give notice. At the end of the probationary period, a permanent employment relationship begins. This has longer protection against dismissal. Working hours are normally a maximum of 40 hours per week.

Fixed-term employment contract

The employment relationship ends at the agreed time without the need for notice of

termination.

Mini job

The maximum earnings per month are € 603 and are tax-free.

Labour law:

There are many laws in Germany that regulate and safeguard the rights of employees. These include, for example

- Regulation of working hours
- minimum wage
- holiday entitlement
- Protection against dismissal
- Company representation of interests (works council)
- Regulation of the work of trade unions
- and some more

Taxes and social security contributions:

Every employee in Germany pays a portion of their wages in taxes. The federal, state and local authorities use this to finance their expenditure. Employers, in turn, are obliged to pay social security contributions for their employees. These social security contributions finance the social security system in Germany. The system guarantees that you will receive money from the state if you are out of work.

Tax identification number:

The tax ID is an 11-digit number and is used for income tax purposes. The number is valid for your entire life. The authorities can always identify you with this number. Your place of work requires this number. You do not have this number in your documents? You can obtain it in person from the registration office. Or by filling in a form at the [Federal Central Tax Office](#).

National insurance number:

You need a national insurance number for a job. You can obtain this from your health insurance company (e.g. AOK, DAK).

Illegal work:

You have a job that is paid. But this work is not registered with the tax office and health insurance fund. You therefore do not pay taxes and social security contributions. This is **illegal**. You could face fines and imprisonment! Do you receive social benefits or unemployment benefit? But you are still working? You haven't told the social welfare office, the employment agency or the job centre? That is also **illegal**. You are wrongly receiving state benefits even though you are in paid work.

Applications and job interviews

Would you like to start an apprenticeship or work in Germany? Then you must apply in writing.

Many companies publish job adverts. Either in the newspaper or on the Internet. The company is therefore looking for new employees. The job advert states what kind of work or training is involved. It also states what expectations the company has of the new employee. You will find information on where and how to apply.

Have you been invited to an interview? Then the company is interested in you. You can introduce yourself at the interview. Please allow enough time for the journey to the appointment. Make sure you arrive on time for the appointment. It is best to prepare in detail for the interview beforehand. You can also gather important information about the company. Visit the website and read through the company's history. Find out about the products or services. Do you want to show your interest in the job? Then ask questions during the appointment. This will show that you have done your research. You show that you are motivated.

An application usually consists of three parts:

Cover letter: In your personal cover letter, you briefly introduce yourself. You explain why you are suitable for the vacancy. For example, describe what experience you have already gained in your home country. Find out more about the company and describe why you would like to work there. Your cover letter should fit on one page. Sign your cover letter. There are many templates and aids on the Internet. It is important that you do not simply copy and paste. Your cover letter must suit you and the position.

Curriculum vitae: The CV lists all your experience. It is structured like a large table. Write from when to when you worked at which company. Write where you completed your training or studies. Write where you went to school and what school-leaving qualification you obtained. You don't have to include a photo in your CV, but many companies like it if you do. You can have your CV created on the [Europass website](#). The site is available in many languages. You enter your details. You write down your experience. At the end you will receive a CV. CVs look different in every country. It is important that you use the format that is used in Germany. You can select this at Europass.

Certificates and supporting documents: It is important that you send copies of your certificates (no originals!). Certificates are your school leaving certificate, your degree and work references from the past. The certificates should be in German or English, otherwise they should be translated. You should also send proof of internships, further training relevant to the job or certificates from your German course.

💡 The job advert will tell you how to apply. Please read it carefully.

In writing: Buy a nice application folder and put your cover letter, CV and certificates in it. Then send the application to the address given in the job advert.

E-mail: Many applications are now sent by e-mail. Combine your cover letter, CV and references into one PDF file and send this as an attachment to the e-mail. In the e-mail, write a short text addressed to the person who will receive your application.

Online: Large companies have their own website where you have to apply. You have to register there with your e-mail address and can then send your application there.

🌐 You can find helpful tips for your application at [Planet Beruf](#).

🌐 [Europass](#) is a multilingual online portal (over 20 languages) that helps migrants to visualise their skills and knowledge. It offers a free online tool to create a language passport or a CV (see above). You can also find important tips for good job applications on Europass.

🌐 At [Bewerbung.net](#), [StepStone](#) and [Lebenslauf2go](#) you can create a CV and cover letter free of charge. In some cases, you can also import your data from Xing or LinkedIn. It is also possible to write your own texts in the template or import files.

🌐 You can find information and templates for cover letters at [Bewerbung2go](#), [BewerbungsWissen](#), [Karrierebibel](#)

Language exercises

🌐 On the [VHS learning portal "I want to learn German"](#) and the [Goethe-Institut](#) website "[Deutsch für dich](#)" you will find exercises on the subject of job applications and the world of work in general. This will help you learn about the world of work and improve your German language skills.

Finding work with the online platform socialbee

The online platform socialbee supports people with refugee and migration experience in getting into work or further training. The offer is digital and available throughout Germany - regardless of residence status or funding.

Who for: For refugees and migrants living in Germany who are looking for a qualification and/or work.

Support on your path to a job:

- Free online courses: learn specifically what suits your goals - from job training to application assistance.
- Language training for your job: German and English courses (level A1 to C2) specifically for everyday working life.
- Help with job applications: Support with your documents and preparation for job interviews.
- Suitable job offers: Search for jobs and direct contact with companies.
- Personal counselling: Support with questions about documents, work permits and even after you have started your job.

How it works in 3 steps:

- Register online at: <https://jobs.socialbee.org/register>. You will then become part of the talent pool and your goals will be analysed.
- Opportunity to take part in online training and language courses.
- As soon as you are ready, socialbee takes over the job search and places you with suitable companies.

🗣️ The [website](#) is available in German and English.

Payment card

The payment card is a new form of benefit provision for those entitled to benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

It is issued directly to newly assigned persons. Subsequently, it will also be gradually issued to asylum seekers who are already in reception centres. The payment card can continue to be used there even after distribution to the local authorities.

The use of the payment card is different in each federal state. This is because the individual federal states decide how the card works locally.

What is the payment card?

- The payment card is like a bank card.
- Benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) are transferred to the payment card as a credit balance.
- You can use the payment card to pay in shops and withdraw cash.
- You can only spend as much money as is on the card.

Who gets the payment card?

- All adults who receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG) receive a payment card.

Where can I get my payment card?

- If you receive benefits, the social welfare office will send you a letter with all the information and an appointment to collect it.
- If you are applying for benefits for the first time and they are approved, you will receive a payment card right from the start.
- There may be differences depending on where you live. Ask at your local authority.

Where can I shop with the payment card?

- You can pay with the payment card in most shops.

Are there any problems with certain transactions?

- Yes, certain transactions are not possible.
- For example, you cannot use the payment card with money transfer services such as Western Union, MoneyGram or PayPal.
- In special cases, contributions (e.g. for mobile phone contracts, VAG or Deutsche Bahn) can be transferred or collected. You must then provide the necessary proof in good time.

Can I withdraw cash with the payment card?

- Yes, you can withdraw cash.
- You can withdraw cash from ATMs. You can also withdraw cash at the till in many shops.
- You may only be able to withdraw certain amounts. This depends on where you live.

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- In some federal states, you can only withdraw money twice a month.

Electronic patient file (ePA)

On **15 January 2025**, a new digital patient file called the **electronic patient file (ePA)** was introduced in Germany. This file stores all important health data, such as what the doctor has found out about your health, what medication you are taking or what examinations you have had.

Everyone with statutory health insurance automatically receives this ePA. If you do not want this, you can object.

Doctors and patients can access health data quickly and easily via the ePA. But only people who are authorised to do so are allowed to see the data. This keeps the data secure.

How can insured persons refuse to set up an ePA? What deadlines apply?

If someone no longer wants to use the ePA at a later date, they can have it deleted. The aim is to enable doctors and patients to work together faster and better to improve health.

If someone wants to refuse the ePA, they must inform their health insurance company. If they do not do this, the EPR will be created automatically.

Important details about the ePA. What do you need to bear in mind?

Contents of the EPC:

- All important information from your visits to the doctor is automatically included in the EPR if it is available in digital form. This means, for example, that findings or diagnoses that the doctor writes down are transferred to the EPR.
- You can also upload information such as vital signs (e.g. your height or weight) or older medical documents to the ePA yourself.
- Since 15 January 2025, there has been a digital list of medications you are taking in the ePA. This will be supplemented by a special medication plan in the course of 2026.
- The medication plan will not only show which medication you have been prescribed. It will also explain how you should take the medication and at what time.

Access rights:

- You can specify which doctors or hospitals are authorised to access your ePA. If you want to make changes, you can do so via the ePA app or contact the ombudsman's office of your health insurance company.
- If your health card is read at a doctor's surgery or hospital, they will have temporary access to your ePA for 90 days unless you object.

Use and accessibility:

- You can manage the ePA via a special app on your smartphone. Each statutory health insurance fund offers its own ePA app, which you can download free of charge from the App Store (for iOS) or the Google Play Store (for Android).
- If you do not have a smartphone, you can get support from pharmacies or special centres to access your ePA.

Legal regulations:

- The ePA for all was first launched in some regions on 15 January 2025. These include Hamburg and parts of North Rhine-Westphalia, for example. From 29 April 2025, the ePA was gradually introduced throughout Germany. Since 1 October 2025, doctors' surgeries, hospitals and pharmacies, for example, have been required to use the ePA.
- Privately insured persons can also use an ePA. Whether this is possible depends on the private health insurance provider.

Advantages:

- The ePA facilitates communication between doctors, hospitals and other medical facilities. It gives you a better overview of your health data.
- The ePA also increases the safety and accuracy of medication.

Challenges:

- Not all documents, such as old paper medical reports, are automatically digitised. However, you can ask your health insurance provider whether they can take over digitisation.
- There may be technical difficulties at the beginning because some doctors have to adapt their practice software.
- Another problem is that there is no multilingual information, i.e. no translations into other languages.

The ePA is an important step towards digitalisation in the healthcare sector. It should improve medical care. It also provides a basis for research.

Would you like to find out more? You can find more information here:

 [Questions and answers on the electronic patient file \(ePA\) by the KBV](#)

 [Information from the consumer advice centre about the ePA](#)

Child benefit and supplementary child allowance

Child benefit in Germany is money from the state and part of the family benefit equalisation system. The [Family Benefits Office of the Federal Employment Agency](#) supports you with child benefit, child supplement and other financial assistance.

You can receive child supplement if your income is sufficient to cover your own living expenses, but not enough or only just enough to cover all your family's needs.

In 2026, child benefit amounts to 259 euros per month for each child. Since 1 January 2025, the child supplement has been up to 297 euros per month per child. However, it depends on your family's situation. This includes the immediate supplement of 25 euros per month per child.

You can apply for child supplement and child benefit directly [online!](#)

You can apply for child benefit if...

- your child is under the age of 18 (under certain conditions, you can also apply for and receive child benefit for children of full age),

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- you look after your child regularly and they live in your household (this also applies to stepchildren, grandchildren or foster children) and
 - your place of residence is in Germany, another EU country, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland or Switzerland. You can find out more on the page [Child benefit for people living in or from abroad](#).

The payment of child benefit is not dependent on your income!

You can receive child supplement if...

- Your child lives in your household, is under 25 years old and is not married or in a registered civil partnership,
- you receive child benefit (or a comparable benefit) for your child,
- Your family's gross income is at least 900 euros (couples) or 600 euros (single parents),
- you would have enough money to support your family if you received child supplement and possibly housing benefit in addition to your income.

Tip! If you want to find out quickly whether you can receive child supplement: Simply enter your personal details in the [interactive video tool "KiZ-Lotse"](#) and find out your entitlement!

ID cards and passport photos: Changes from May 2025 in Germany

Since May 2025, there have been new rules for ID documents and passport photos in Germany. Here is a simple explanation of the most important points:

Passport photos only digital:

- Passport photos for ID cards may no longer be brought on paper.
- They must be taken digitally and sent directly to the authorities.

This works.

- at special photo machines at the Citizens' Registration Office (cost: approx. 6 euros).
- at authorised photographers and drugstores.

The pictures are stored in encrypted form:

- The authorities can retrieve the image online using a special code.
- This protects against identity theft and makes ID cards more secure.

These ID documents are affected:

- Passport
- identity card
- Electronic residence permit
- Travel documents

Further information:

- Since May 2025, ID cards can also be sent home by post.
- It is possible to receive e-mail reminders shortly before the expiry of the ID card.
- Simple change of address:
Sending a security sticker to be stuck into the ID card itself.

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- Since January 2024, children aged 6 and over must also provide fingerprints, there are only passports with a chip.

Mobility (Baden-Württemberg)

Mobility is part of everyone's everyday life. It means being able to move around freely and reach important places.

Whether in the city or in the countryside, mobility makes it possible to participate in life and remain independent.

Baden-Württemberg aims to make mobility possible for everyone. It should be environmentally friendly, affordable, barrier-free, safe and suitable for everyday use.

There are many ways to be mobile in Baden-Württemberg. On foot, by bike, by bus and train or by car.



Baden-Württemberg
Ministerium für Verkehr

KEA-BW
DIE LANDESENERGIEAGENTUR



NÄCHHALTIGE
Mobilität

Sustainable mobility

Sustainable mobility means:

We move around in a way that is good for us and has a low impact on the environment. Sustainable mobility means less noise and fewer exhaust fumes. This improves our lives in the countryside and in the city.

There are many ways of travelling sustainably:

- Walking or cycling: Both are healthy and produce no harmful exhaust fumes, as well as being quiet.
- Use buses and trains: They often run in large and smaller cities and make it easier to get around without a car.
- Carsharing (Car sharing): Means that several people use the same car. But at different times. So there are fewer cars on the roads. Not everyone needs their own car. Car sharing is a way to save high costs for purchase, insurance, tax, maintenance and parking.
- Electric cars: When driving, electric cars do not emit any exhaust fumes and are therefore better for the environment.

Baden-Württemberg wants to enable sustainable mobility for everyone: environmentally friendly, affordable, barrier-free, safe and suitable for everyday use.

It's about travelling flexibly and in combination. Whether on foot, by bike, on the train or in a car-sharing car. This allows us to reach our destination quickly and conveniently while protecting the environment.

Sustainable mobility therefore not only means protecting the environment, but also travelling safely and comfortably.

Carpooling and carpooling

Travelling together

Carpooling is a good way to travel flexibly and cheaply. Several people travel together in one car. They have the same destination or travel to work together. This saves money, reduces traffic and protects the environment.

Advantages of carpooling

- **Save money:** All carpoolers share the costs. For example, for petrol or parking. Everyone pays less.
- **Less traffic:** When more people drive together, there are fewer cars on the road. There are fewer traffic jams and the air is cleaner.
- **More social contact:** People who carpool easily strike up conversations and meet new people.

How can I find a carpool?

There are many websites and apps for this. Some transport associations or cities also offer such platforms. There is a website for the whole of Baden-Württemberg. [Here](#) you can find many carpooling offers at a glance.

Car

The car is an important means of transport. Especially in regions where buses and trains run infrequently, a car is often necessary. But it doesn't always have to be your own car. In many cities there is Carsharing, where several people share a car. Carpooling is also possible when people travel together in one car. This is a flexible way to get from place to place.

Baden-Württemberg aims to make car transport more environmentally friendly and safer.

Driving licence

There are many different ways to be mobile in Baden-Württemberg. In cities in particular, you can use bicycles, buses and trains or Carsharing services. There are also alternatives in the countryside, such as on-call buses or carpooling.

A car and a driving licence can still be very useful. If buses and trains only run infrequently or if you have to travel long distances, a vehicle is helpful. The important thing to remember is that you don't necessarily have to have your own car. Many mobility options can also be easily combined.

Public transport (ÖPNV)

Local public transport takes people from one place to another. This includes buses, trams, suburban trains and regional trains. You can use them to get to work, school, the doctor or the shops.

Buses and trains are convenient and often cheaper than a car. Baden-Württemberg has special tickets for this. They are inexpensive and particularly good for young people, families and many other groups.

The aim of Baden-Württemberg is to ensure that buses and trains run punctually and reliably.

Local public transport

Many cities have buses, underground trains and trams.
This is called local public transport.

Public transport is a good way to get from one place to another.
For example, to work, school, the doctor or the shops.

From early in the morning until late at night (but not continuously), buses and trams transport many people across the region every day.

They help to make everyday life more convenient. Without the need for a car.

Which means of transport are part of local public transport?

- Buses
- Trams (trams)
- Underground trains
- suburban trains
- Regional trains (for short distances in the neighbourhood)

Where can I get a ticket?

You need a ticket if you use local public transport.

If you do not have a valid ticket and you are checked, you will have to pay a fine.

Tickets are checked by staff on the bus, on the train or on the platform.

You can buy tickets:

- At ticket machines,
- Via the internet or an app (for example with the bwegt app),
- At the sales points of the transport companies,
- At the Deutsche Bahn travel centre. Deutsche Bahn travel centres are gradually being expanded into bwegt passenger centres.
- Also directly with the driver on the bus.

Children on public transport

Children under the age of 6 are generally transported free of charge. Discounted tickets are available for children between the ages of 6 and 14.

People with season tickets can take children with them free of charge at certain times.

Dogs on public transport

Dogs also need their own ticket on buses and trains. Police dogs, guide dogs, assistance dogs and small dogs in containers can travel free of charge.

Carriage of bicycles

Bicycles are carried free of charge on local public transport in Baden-Württemberg. On Mondays to Fridays, bicycles are free of charge before 6 a.m. and from 9 a.m. onwards. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, transport is free all day.

How do I behave on buses and trains?

- Before boarding: Buy and validate your ticket.
- Leave seats free for older people, pregnant women and people with disabilities.
- Take rubbish with you. Please do not leave any rubbish lying around.
- If you are listening to music or watching videos, please use headphones.
- Talk or make phone calls at a reasonable volume. This will keep everyone comfortable on the bus or train.
- When getting off: press "Stop" in good time or go to the door.

Where can I get information?

If you are travelling by bus or train, you want to know
When does my bus leave? Where do I have to change? Which ticket do I need?

Timetables and route network

Timetables are displayed at bus stops. You can see them there:

- When the bus or train leaves,
- Where it stops,
- How often it runs.

Many transport companies offer a route network map.
There you can see the stops and connections between different lines.

Apps and the internet

Many cities have transport apps that you can use free of charge (for example the bwegt app).
In the apps you will find:

- Departure times and connections,
- Information on delays,
- recommendations for the best connection,
- ticket purchase and prices.

The apps often show information in real time. In other words, completely up-to-date.

Tip:

There is free WLAN at many large railway stations.

This means you can call up information on your mobile phone even without mobile internet.

Information at the station or on the train

There are electronic displays with departure times at railway stations.

Many trains and trams have announcements,

- Where you are at the moment,
- Which station is next,
- When you can get off at a station to continue to the airport, the exhibition centre or other important places.

These announcements are often also available in English.

Bahnhofsmision (Station mission)

The station mission helps people directly at the station. Free of charge and without registration.

It provides support, for example:

- With information and assistance with communication,
- Boarding the train,
- Carrying luggage,
- Finding the right platform.

There are station missions at many large railway stations.

Look out for the station mission logo. You will find help there.

[Here you will](#) find further information in many languages.

Other services at the station

Large railway stations often offer more than just transport. There are:

- Supermarkets for your daily shopping,
- snack bars, bakeries or cafés for a short break,
- shops for buying clothes, magazines or travelling supplies,
- pharmacies and toilets.

So you can make good use of the waiting time or do something quickly.

Smoking is not permitted in railway stations. In some cases, there is a specially signposted area where smoking is permitted.

Comfort on the bus and train and at the stop

Many trains and buses have:

- WLAN (free of charge or with login),

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- Air conditioning so that it is not too hot in summer and pleasantly warm in winter,
 - sockets for charging mobile phones or laptops,
 - space for pushchairs, wheelchairs, bicycles or luggage.

There are bus shelters at many stops:

- Bus shelters or waiting shelters for sheltering in the rain or wind,
- benches to rest on.

Supplementary offers to local public transport

Many transport associations offer further options for travelling flexibly:

- Rental bikes or e-scooters,
- **Car sharing** (borrowing a car without owning it),
- community buses and cars on demand.

Long-distance transport

If you want to travel far, you can use the long-distance services of Deutschen Bahn.

These trains are part of the long-distance service:

- ICE (Intercity-Express): very fast, with few stops.
- IC (Intercity): fast, stops at more stations.
- EC (Eurocity): connects German cities with other countries. For example with Switzerland, Austria or France.

Long-distance trains take you quickly and comfortably to large cities, even across state and national borders.

Where can I get a ticket?

You can get tickets for long-distance transport online at www.bahn.de or in the app "DB Navigator" app, at ticket machines in the station or at the Deutsche Bahn travel centre (ticket counter in the station). In Baden-Württemberg, the Deutsche Bahn travel centres are gradually being expanded into bwegt passenger centres.

Depending on the offer, the tickets are only valid for a specific train and a specific connection.

To buy a ticket online or with the "DB Navigator", you need:

- A bank account with SEPA direct debit,
- A PayPal, Apple Pay or Bonvoy account or
- A credit card or payment card.

You can also pay in cash at the ticket counter.

To pay online, you usually need a customer account at Deutschen Bahn. You can create one free of charge in the app or at www.bahn.de.

What can you do with the DB Navigator?

The DB Navigator app is the Deutschen Bahn app.

You can use it to easily search for train connections, buy tickets and plan your journey. All on your mobile phone or PC.

Search for connections:

Enter from where to where you want to travel. The app will show you suitable trains, changes and times.

Buy tickets:

You can buy a ticket directly in the app - for ICE, IC, EC, regional trains or even the Deutschlandticket.

Save tickets:

You can find your purchased tickets in the app. You don't need to print out a paper ticket. Simply show the ticket in the app at the ticket inspection.

See delays & tracks:

You can see if the train is on time, if the track has changed or how long you have to change trains.

Book a seat:

You can also book a seat or reserve one afterwards.

Facilities on the train:

- Most long-distance trains have WLAN, power sockets and air conditioning.
- There are toilets and usually also an on-board bistro or dining car.
- There are barrier-free seats for people with disabilities.
- There are separate family areas for families. It is advisable to reserve a seat at peak times, i.e. when the trains are full.

You do not have to reserve a seat, but it often makes sense - especially on long journeys or at peak times, it is not guaranteed that you will get a free seat. You can also book a seat reservation (online, via app or at the ticket counter).

There is then an electronic display on the seat with the message "Reserved".

You can take your bike on some long-distance trains - but only with a bike ticket and reservation.

Ask in advance whether bicycle spaces are available on the desired train.

Mobilitätsservice the Deutschen Bahn

If you are travelling with Deutschen Bahn, you can book assistance in advance.

This is called Mobilitätsservice.

The railway will then organise, for example

1. Help boarding the train
2. Assistance when changing trains
3. Help getting off the train

You must register Mobilitätsservice before travelling, preferably a few days in advance.

Your personal contact to the Mobilitätsservice centre (MSZ)

☎ Telephone: +49 (0) 3065212888

@E-mail: msz@deutschebahn.com

🌐 [online](#)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 6-22 hrs,

Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays 8-20 h

Baden-Württemberg ticket

Baden-Württemberg-Ticket (Baden-Württemberg-Ticket) - flexible travel without a season ticket

With the Baden-Württemberg-Ticket you can travel through the region for a whole day for as many journeys as you like.

If you are travelling from one region to another, you will normally need several tickets. This is because there are many transport regions in Baden-Württemberg. Each region has its own tickets and prices.

With the Baden-Württemberg-Ticket, a single ticket is sufficient for the entire journey on local and regional transport.

What is the Baden-Württemberg-Ticket?

- The ticket allows you to travel and change trains throughout Baden-Württemberg. Even if you are travelling there and back. Or if you take detours or take longer breaks.
- The ticket is valid for one day. From Monday to Friday, however, only from 9 am. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 0 am. You can always travel until 3 a.m. the next day.
- The Baden-Württemberg-Ticket is not a season ticket (subscription). You only buy a ticket when you need it.
- The ticket is valid for the entire journey on local and regional transport. For example, on all city trains, trams and buses. And on IRE, RB, RE and MEX trains.
- The ticket is not valid on long-distance trains such as ICE, IC, EC or with private providers such as FlixTrain.
- You can also buy a ticket for a group of up to 5 people. The more people travelling, the cheaper it is per person.
- Up to 3 children between the ages of 6 and 15 can travel free of charge.
- Children under the age of 6 do not need a ticket.
- There is also a Baden-Württemberg-Ticket Young for young people under the age of 27. It is a little cheaper.

Where can I get a Baden-Württemberg ticket?

- At the ticket machines in railway stations.
- At the Deutsche Bahn travel centre. The Deutsche Bahn travel centres in Baden-Württemberg are gradually being expanded into bwegt passenger centres.
- In customer centres of the transport associations.
- Online at www.bahn.de or in the app "DB Navigator"
- In the ticket apps of the transport associations or at bwegt-App.

Bicycle transport:

From Monday to Friday, bicycles can be taken on almost all local and regional trains in Baden-Württemberg free of charge. This applies to the period before 6 a.m. and from 9 a.m. onwards. For the time in between, you need an extra ticket for the bicycle. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, transport is free all day.

The ticket is also valid on selected routes in neighbouring federal states and Switzerland. If you want to take a bicycle with you, you will need an extra ticket on routes in other federal states and Switzerland.

Germany ticket

Deutschlandticket (Deutschlandticket) - travelling simply and cheaply

The Deutschlandticket costs 63 euros per month (as of January 2026). The Deutschlandticket is cheaper than many monthly travelcards. With this ticket, you can use all buses, S-Bahn trains, underground trains, trams and regional trains (e.g. IRE, RE, RB, MEX, etc.) throughout Germany.

Important to know:

- The ticket is not valid on long-distance trains such as ICE, IC, EC or with private providers such as FlixTrain.
- It is a subscription that is automatically renewed every month.
- You need a bank account with SEPA direct debit for the subscription. You can also get the ticket without a bank account with SEPA direct debit. But then not as a subscription (see below).
- The cost of the ticket will be deducted from your bank account each month.
- If you no longer need the ticket, you must cancel it by the 10th of the month. You can cancel the subscription in writing by e-mail or letter. But also online if you have a customer account. Or if you have ordered the ticket via an app.
- The ticket is only available digitally. It is stored on a chip card or smartphone.
- If you take out a subscription or buy the ticket once, you can use the ticket immediately.

Where can I buy the ticket?

- Online on the websites and via the apps of the transport associations.
- Online at www.bahn.de or in the app "DB Navigator".

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- To buy a season ticket online, you need a bank account with SEPA direct debit. The Deutschlandticket can also be purchased online using the payment card. However, only if a Visa card is accepted as a means of payment in the provider's payment system.
 - If this is not the case, you can purchase a Deutschlandticket locally at a Deutsche Bahn travel centre. In Baden-Württemberg, the Deutsche Bahn travel centres are gradually being expanded into bwegt passenger centres. These are usually located at major railway stations in large cities. You can pay for your Deutschlandticket there in cash, with a payment card or by credit card. However, you will not receive the Deutschlandticket as a subscription. You have to buy a new one every month.
 - The ticket can also be purchased online using another person's account. You can use it if your name is entered at the time of purchase.
 - In many cases, it is not possible to buy a Deutschlandticket at local transport association sales points. It is best to ask at the local offices of the transport associations whether this is possible.

Who can use the ticket?

Anyone who lives in Germany or is visiting here can buy the Deutschlandticket. It cannot be passed on to other people. It can therefore only be used by the person whose name is on the ticket. Children under the age of 6 can travel free of charge.

Are there discounts?

For young people in Baden-Württemberg there is the discounted D-Ticket JugendBW.

Additional benefits:

In some regions, Deutschlandticket holders receive discounts, for example for visiting leisure facilities.

D-Ticket JugendBW

The ticket for young people

What is the D-Ticket JugendBW (D-Ticket JugendBW)?

The D-Ticket JugendBW is a low-cost season ticket (subscription) for young people in Baden-Württemberg.

It is for example for:

- Pupils,
- trainees,
- students,
- people doing voluntary service.

What does the D-Ticket JugendBW offer?

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- **Validity:** With this ticket, young people can use all local and regional transport throughout Baden-Württemberg and Germany. This includes all buses, suburban trains, underground trains, trams and regional trains (e.g. IRE, RE, RB, MEX etc.). The ticket is not valid on long-distance trains such as ICE, IC, EC or with private providers such as FlixTrain.
 - **Price:** The D-Ticket JugendBW is an **annual subscription**. It costs 540 euros per year [as of January 2026]. This means you pay 45 euros per month.
 - **Cancellation:** You cannot cancel the subscription in the first year. After that, it can be cancelled every month. If you move house, you can sometimes cancel the ticket earlier. This is decided by the transport association.

Who can use the D-Ticket JugendBW?

The D-Ticket JugendBW is for all young people who live in Baden-Württemberg but do not work:

- Going to school (up to the age of 21),
- Studying (up to 27 years),
- Doing an apprenticeship (up to 27 years),
- or doing voluntary service (up to 27 years).

The ticket always belongs to a specific person. The name is on it and the person is not allowed to pass it on.

Where can I buy the D-Ticket JugendBW?

- Online on the websites of the transport associations in Baden-Württemberg.
- On site in the customer offices of the transport associations.
- Online at www.bahn.de or in the app "DB Navigator".
- At railway stations or at Deutsche Bahn travel centres. The Deutsche Bahn travel centres in Baden-Württemberg are gradually being expanded into bwegt passenger centres.
- You can also order the ticket by post using an order form.

Important:

- You need a bank account with SEPA direct debit for the subscription. The cost of the ticket will be deducted from your bank account each month.
- The subscription is automatically renewed for an indefinite period. At most, however, until the end of the training period or until you turn 27.
- The ticket is issued either on a chip card or on your smartphone.

Advantages of the D-Ticket JugendBW

- **Favourable price:** only 540 euros per year. This is particularly attractive for young people who regularly use public transport.
- **Valid throughout Baden-Württemberg and Germany:** The ticket is valid for all local and regional public transport in the state.
- **Easy to use:** No need to buy tickets all the time - you always have a valid ticket to hand.

bwegt app

With the **bwegt-App (bwegt app)** you can conveniently travel and pay for bus and train journeys throughout Baden-Württemberg. All on your mobile phone. Without having to buy a ticket at a ticket machine or from the driver.

Timetable and connections in real time

With the **bwegt app**, you can easily search for a connection to your destination and plan your journey.

- **The app shows real-time data:** you can see immediately whether your bus or train is on time, delayed or cancelled.
- **Live map:** The live map shows you nearby stops, routes, car-sharing vehicles and bicycle parking spaces.
The app provides you with up-to-date information on your journey. For example, disruptions, roadworks or tips for excursions. It is available in German and English.
- **Ticket purchase:** Use the app to buy your ticket for the journey at the same time.

Simply buy your ticket with CiCoBW

CiCoBW is included in the bwegt app. With CiCoBW you can check in when boarding and check out again when alighting - simply by swiping your mobile phone. The app then automatically calculates the best price for your journey.

How does CiCoBW work?

1. You download the bwegt app onto your mobile phone, create a customer account and set up the CiCoBW function.
2. Before boarding, swipe your mobile phone to check in.
3. When you get off, swipe again to check out.
4. The app automatically calculates the cheapest price for your journey.

If you change trains, the app recognises this automatically. It also automatically recognises when you end your journey and checks you out.

During the journey, the app displays a ticket on your mobile phone. You show this at an inspection.

You don't need a subscription or any prior knowledge of tickets or prices. You can simply set off. Completely flexible.

Important:

To use the function, you need a bank account with SEPA direct debit, a credit card or a payment card.

Advantages of the bwegt app:

- **Clear:** see timetables immediately, no long searches.

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- **Practical:** Buy tickets without fare knowledge thanks to CiCoBW.
 - **Individual:** save favourites, personalise settings

The app is valid on all local and regional transport in Baden-Württemberg, in all transport associations and across all transport networks with bwtarif. This means on buses, suburban trains, underground trains, trams and regional trains (e.g. IRE, RE, RB, MEX etc.).

You can download the bwegt app here:

[To the App Store](#)

[To Google Play](#)

Be mobile

Go on foot

Travelling on foot - easy, healthy and suitable for everyday use

Walking is part of everyday life.

You walk to the bus stop, to the shops or take the children to school.

Walking is uncomplicated. It costs nothing and keeps you fit.

In Baden-Württemberg, around one in four journeys are made on foot. This shows how important walking is for everyday life.

Why walking is good

- It's easy and cheap.
- You don't need a ticket or technology.
- Walking strengthens the circulation, muscles and balance.
- It helps you stay fit and can reduce stress.
- Even short journeys on foot are good for you and help you stay independent. For example, to the doctor or the supermarket

Tips for safe walking

- Always walk on the pavement if there is one.
- Watch out for cars and bicycles when crossing the road.
- Always use the zebra crossing or traffic lights to cross the road.
- Wear light-coloured clothing or reflectors in the dark so that you can be seen more easily.
- Do not look at your mobile phone when you are walking. Stay alert.

Better paths - safe and comfortable

Many cities and municipalities are improving paths for people who walk.

For example:

- More benches to rest on in between.

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- Wider pavements and fewer obstacles.
 - Safer crossings. For example zebra crossings or traffic lights.
 - Signposts so that you can orientate yourself better.
 - In traffic-calmed zones, cars are only allowed to drive slowly. People can move more safely and freely there. This is particularly important for children, older people and people with disabilities.

Many towns and municipalities provide walking maps on the internet. Or maps for people who have a disability and are dependent on a wheelchair, for example.

Mobility (Germany-wide information)

Mobility is part of everyone's everyday life. It means being able to move around freely and reach important places.

Whether in the city or in the countryside, mobility makes it possible to participate in life and remain independent.

There are many ways to be mobile. On foot, by bike, by bus and train or by car.



Car

Electromobility

What is electromobility?

Electromobility means driving with vehicles that run on electricity instead of petrol or diesel. These include electric cars, e-bikes, electric motorbikes, e-buses and e-trucks. These vehicles have a motor that runs on electricity from batteries. These batteries can be recharged at special charging stations. They therefore do not emit any exhaust fumes when driving.

They are also quieter than vehicles that run on petrol or diesel. This is why electromobility is important for making our lives in towns and villages more pleasant.

Electricity is often cheaper than petrol or diesel. So you can save on fuel costs in the long term.

Many Carsharing cars are also electric cars. So you can simply give electric driving a try. Without having to own a car.

Charging electric vehicles

Most electric cars are charged at home or at work.

There are also public charging stations for electric vehicles. **You can find all registered charging stations in Germany on [this map](#):**

There are special car parks so that electric cars can be charged at charging stations. In many cases, only electric vehicles are allowed to park in these car parks. Anyone who parks in these spaces must expect a fine if it is not permitted. In some places, parking fees for electric cars are also cheaper than for other cars.

With an electric car, you are not dependent on traditional petrol stations.

Range

Electric vehicles today have a significantly greater range and shorter charging times than just a few years ago. Most models achieve a range of between 200 and 500 kilometres on a single charge. The range depends on the driving style, the weather and the vehicle's equipment. Today, you can also buy used electric cars at more favourable prices. This makes it easier to buy an electric car. Even if you don't want to spend a lot of money.

Car sharing

What is Carsharing (car sharing)?

Car sharing means that several people use the same car one after the other. Everyone drives at their own time.

You don't have to own your own car. If you need a car, you can borrow one. Car sharing cars can be borrowed at any time, day or night.

There is a wide range of cars available. For example, vans for removals, 9-seaters for excursions or even convertibles for the summer. Many providers also have electric cars. This is good for the environment and makes our cities quieter.

Why does car sharing make sense?

- **Save space:** One car sharing car replaces many of your own cars. Sometimes up to 16 of them. This means fewer cars on the road. There is more space for cycle paths, trees or playgrounds.
- **Save money:** If you only need a car occasionally, car sharing saves you the high costs of purchase, insurance, tax, maintenance and parking.
- **Protect the environment:** Car sharing results in fewer cars on the roads. As a result, there are fewer traffic jams and the air is cleaner.

How does car sharing work?

1. **Registration:** You register with a car sharing provider and create a customer account. This is usually done online or via an app. You will need your driving licence and ID. There is usually a fee for registering.

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2. **Book a car:** You select an available vehicle via the app or website. Some providers have small cars, estate cars or vans. You choose the car you need at the time.
 3. **Open the car:** You usually open the car with a chip card or your mobile phone.
 4. **Drive and return:** Some providers require you to return the car to the same station (station-based car sharing). With other providers, you can park it anywhere in the city (free car sharing).
 5. **Payment:** You pay for the time and kilometres driven. In most cases, petrol or electricity is already included in the price. You can usually pay by credit card, SEPA direct debit or PayPal. A bank account is therefore necessary.

Where can I find car sharing offers?

- In many cities. For example, at railway stations or bus stops.
- There are often dedicated car parks for car sharing cars.
- You can find the locations and available cars via apps or the providers' websites.

Public transport (ÖPNV)

Local public transport

Many cities have buses, underground trains and trams.
This is called local public transport (ÖPNV).

Public transport is a good way to get from one place to another.
For example, to work, school, the doctor or the shops.

From early in the morning until late at night (but not continuously), buses and trains transport many people through the region every day.
They help to make everyday life more convenient. Without the need for a car.

Which means of transport are part of local public transport?

- Buses
- Trams (trams)
- Underground trains
- suburban trains
- Regional trains (for short distances in the neighbourhood)

Where can I get a ticket?

You need a ticket if you use local public transport.
If you do not have a valid ticket and you are checked, you will have to pay a fine.
Tickets are checked by staff on the bus, on the train or on the platform.

You can buy tickets:

- At ticket machines,
- Via the internet or an app,

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- At the sales outlets of the transport companies or at the Deutsche Bahn travel centre,
 - Also directly from the driver on the bus.

Children on the ÖPNV

Children under the age of 6 are generally transported free of charge. Discounted tickets are available for children between the ages of 6 and 14.

People with season tickets can take children with them free of charge at certain times.

Dogs on ÖPNV

Dogs also need their own ticket on buses and trains. Police dogs, guide dogs, assistance dogs and small dogs in containers can travel free of charge.

How do I behave on buses and trains?

- Before boarding: Buy and validate your ticket.
- Leave seats free for older people, pregnant women and people with disabilities.
- Take rubbish with you. Please do not leave any rubbish lying around.
- If you are listening to music or watching videos, please use headphones.
- Talk or make phone calls at a reasonable volume. This will keep everyone comfortable on the bus or train.
- When getting off: press "Stop" in good time or go to the door

Where can I get information?

If you are travelling by bus or train, you want to know

When does my bus leave? Where do I have to change? Which ticket do I need?

Timetables and route network

Timetables are displayed at bus stops. You can see them there:

- When the bus or train leaves,
- Where it stops,
- How often it runs.

Many transport companies offer a route network map.

There you can see the stops and connections between different lines.

Apps and the internet

Many cities have transport apps that you can use free of charge.

In the apps you will find

- Departure times and connections,
- Information on delays,
- recommendations for the best connection,
- ticket purchase and prices.

The apps often show information in real time. In other words, completely up-to-date.

Tip:

There is free WLAN at many large railway stations.

This means you can call up information on your mobile phone even without mobile internet.

Information at the station or on the train

There are electronic displays with departure times at railway stations.

Many trains and trams have announcements,

- Where you are at the moment,
- Which station is next,
- When you can get off at a station to continue to the airport, the exhibition centre or other important places.

These announcements are often also available in English.

Bahnmissionsmission (Station mission)

The station mission helps people directly at the station. Free of charge and without registration.

It provides support, for example:

- With information and assistance with communication,
- Boarding the train,
- Carrying luggage,
- Finding the right platform.

There are station missions at many large railway stations.

Look out for the station mission logo. You will find help there.

[Here you will](#) find further information in many languages.

Other services at the station

Large railway stations often offer more than just transport. There are:

- Supermarkets for your daily shopping,
- snack bars, bakeries or cafés for a short break,
- shops for buying clothes, magazines or travelling supplies,
- pharmacies and toilets.

So you can make good use of the waiting time or do something quickly.

Smoking is not permitted in railway stations. In some cases, there is a specially signposted area where smoking is permitted.

Comfort on the bus and train and at the stop

Many trains and buses have:

- WLAN (free of charge or with login),
- Air conditioning so that it is not too hot in summer and pleasantly warm in winter,
- sockets for charging mobile phones or laptops,
- space for pushchairs, wheelchairs, bicycles or luggage.

There are bus shelters at many stops:

- Bus shelters or waiting shelters for sheltering in the rain or wind,
- benches to rest on.

Supplementary offers to local public transport

Many transport associations offer further options for travelling flexibly:

- Rental bikes or e-scooters,
- Carsharing (borrowing a car without owning it),
- community buses and cars on demand.

Long-distance transport

If you want to travel far, you can use the long-distance services of Deutschen Bahn.

These trains are part of the long-distance service:

- ICE (Intercity-Express): very fast, with few stops.
- IC (Intercity): fast, stops at more stations.
- EC (Eurocity): connects German cities with other countries. For example with Switzerland, Austria or France.

Long-distance trains take you quickly and comfortably to large cities, even across state and national borders.

Where can I get a ticket?

You can get tickets for long-distance travel online at www.bahn.de or in the app "DB Navigator", at ticket machines in the station or at the travel centre at Deutschen Bahn (ticket counter in the station).

Depending on the offer, the tickets are only valid for a specific train and a specific connection.

To buy a ticket online or with the "DB Navigator", you need:

- A bank account with SEPA direct debit,
- A PayPal, Apple Pay or Bonvoy account or
- A credit card or payment card.

You can also pay cash at the ticket counter.

To pay online, you usually need a customer account at Deutschen Bahn. You can create one free of charge in the app or at www.bahn.de.

What can you do with the DB Navigator?

The DB Navigator app is the Deutschen Bahn app.

You can use it to easily search for train connections, buy tickets and plan your journey. All on your mobile phone or PC.

Search for connections:

Enter from where to where you want to travel. The app will show you suitable trains, changes and times.

Buy tickets:

You can buy a ticket directly in the app - for ICE, IC, EC, regional train or also the Deutschland-Ticket.

Save tickets:

You can find your purchased tickets in the app. You don't need to print out a paper ticket. Simply show the ticket in the app at the ticket inspection.

See delays & tracks:

You can see if the train is on time, if the track has changed or how long you have to change trains.

Book a seat:

You can also book a seat or reserve one afterwards.

Facilities on the train:

- Most long-distance trains have WLAN, power sockets and air conditioning.
- There are toilets and usually also an on-board bistro or dining car.
- There are barrier-free seats for people with disabilities.
- There are separate family areas for families. It is advisable to reserve a seat at peak times, i.e. when the trains are full.

You do not have to reserve a seat, but it often makes sense - especially on long journeys or at peak times, it is not guaranteed that you will get a free seat. You can also book a seat reservation (online, via app or at the ticket counter).

There is then an electronic display on the seat with the message "Reserved".

You can take your bike on some long-distance trains - but only with a bike ticket and reservation.

Ask in advance whether bicycle spaces are available on the desired train.

Mobilitätsservice the Deutschen Bahn

If you are travelling with Deutschen Bahn, you can book assistance in advance.

This is called Mobilitätsservice.

The railway will then organise, for example

1. Help boarding the train

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2. Assistance when changing trains
 3. Help getting off the train

You must register Mobilitätsservice before travelling, preferably a few days in advance.

Your personal contact to the Mobilitätsservice centre (MSZ)

☎ Telephone: [+49 \(0\) 3065212888](tel:+49(0)3065212888)

@E-mail: msz@deutschebahn.com

🌐 [online](#)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 6-22 hrs,

Saturday, Sunday and national public holidays 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Germany ticket

Deutschlandticket (Deutschlandticket)- travelling simply and cheaply

The Deutschlandticket costs 63 euros per month (as of January 2026). The Deutschlandticket is cheaper than many monthly travelcards. With this ticket, you can use all buses, S-Bahn trains, underground trains, trams and regional trains (e.g. IRE, RE, RB, etc.) throughout Germany.

Important to know:

- The ticket is not valid on long-distance trains such as ICE, IC, EC or with private providers such as FlixTrain.
- It is a subscription that is automatically renewed every month.
- You need a bank account with SEPA direct debit for the subscription. You can also get the ticket without a bank account with SEPA direct debit. But then not as a subscription (see below).
- The cost of the ticket will be deducted from your bank account each month.
- If you no longer need the ticket, you must cancel it by the 10th of the month. You can cancel the subscription in writing by e-mail or letter. But also online if you have a customer account. Or if you have ordered the ticket via an app.
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- If this is not the case, you can purchase a Deutschlandticket locally at Deutsche Bahn travel centres. These are usually located at major railway stations in large cities. There you can pay for the Deutschlandticket in cash, with a payment card or by credit card. However, you will not receive the Deutschlandticket as a subscription. You have to buy a new one every month.
 - The ticket can also be purchased online using another person's account. You can use it if your name is entered at the time of purchase.
 - In many cases, it is not possible to buy a Deutschlandticket at local transport association sales points. It is best to ask at the local offices of the transport associations whether this is possible.

Who can use the ticket?

Anyone who lives in Germany or is visiting here can buy the Deutschlandticket. It cannot be passed on to other people. It can therefore only be used by the person whose name is on the ticket. Children under the age of 6 can travel free of charge.

Additional benefits:

In some regions, Deutschlandticket holders receive discounts, for example for visiting leisure facilities.

Discounted tickets for people on low incomes

Support for local public transport

Many people use buses and trains.
For example, to get to work, school or the shops.

But:

Bus and train tickets cost money.
For some people, this is too much money.

That's why many towns and municipalities offer assistance.
With this support, people can travel by bus and train more cheaply.

What is the assistance?

You can use the assistance to, for example:

- Buy tickets, such as a monthly travelcard, more cheaply.
- Get a special card. This card not only gives you discounts on tickets, but also discounts on leisure activities.

This support is called something different in every city.
The rules are also different.

Who can get this support?

For example:

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- People with little money.
 - People who receive help from the authorities.
 - People with a disability.

What do you have to do?

You have to submit an application to the office. You can do this by post or online. You need proof for this. For example, a notification of housing benefit or from the job centre or proof of benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.

Be mobile

Everyone should be able to get around easily: cheaply, safely, without obstacles and simply in everyday life.

What does mobility mean?

Mobility means being able to move freely. For example, travelling to work or school. To go shopping or meet friends. Mobility is important for our lives. You can reach so many places around your home. Those who are mobile can participate more in life. That's why it's worth giving it some thought: How can I get from A to B easily?

For example, with a bus and rail travelcard (season ticket), by bike or by car.

You can combine different modes of transport. For example: walk to the station and then take the train or a car-sharing car. That way you can get to your destination quickly and conveniently. And it's also sustainable.

Sustainable mobility means travelling in a way that is good for us and has a low impact on the environment. Sustainable mobility means less noise and fewer exhaust fumes. This improves our lives in the countryside and in the city.

There are many ways of travelling sustainably:

- **Walking or cycling:** Both are healthy and produce no harmful exhaust fumes, as well as being quiet.
- **Use buses and trains:** They often run in large and smaller cities and make it easier to get around without a car.
- **Carsharing/Shared transport:** Means that several people use the same car. But at different times. So there are fewer cars on the roads. Not everyone needs their own car and saves the high costs of purchase, insurance, tax, maintenance and parking.
- **Electric cars:** When driving, electric cars emit no exhaust fumes and are therefore better for the environment.

Go on foot

Travelling on foot - easy, healthy and suitable for everyday use

Walking is part of everyday life.
You walk to the bus stop, to the shops or take the children to school.
Walking is uncomplicated. It costs nothing and keeps you fit.

Why walking is good

- It's easy and cheap.
- You don't need a ticket or technology.
- Walking strengthens your circulation, muscles and balance.
- It helps you stay fit and can reduce stress.
- Even short journeys on foot are good for you and help you stay independent. For example, to the doctor or the supermarket

Tips for safe walking

- Always walk on the pavement if there is one.
- Watch out for cars and bicycles when crossing the road.
- Always use the zebra crossing or traffic lights to cross the road.
- Wear light-coloured clothing or reflectors in the dark so that you can be seen more easily.
- Do not look at your mobile phone when you are walking. Stay alert.

Better paths - safe and comfortable

Many cities and municipalities are improving paths for people who walk.

For example:

- More benches to rest on in between.
- Wider pavements and fewer obstacles.
- Safer crossings. For example zebra crossings or traffic lights.
- Signposts so that you can orientate yourself better.
- In traffic-calmed zones, cars are only allowed to drive slowly. People can move more safely and freely there. This is particularly important for children, older people and people with disabilities.

Many towns and municipalities provide walking maps on the Internet. Or maps for people who have a disability and are dependent on a wheelchair, for example.

Mobility with restrictions

Many people have physical or health restrictions. But they still want to get out and about. For example, by bus, train or car. In Germany, there are special aids for this.

What does mobility with disabilities mean?

Some people sit in a wheelchair. Others have difficulty walking, seeing or hearing. Still others have difficulties orientating themselves or understanding information. And some people simply need more time to get on and off the bus.

It is important for everyone:

Mobility should be possible without obstacles. Everyone should be able to get from A to B easily and safely.

What support is available?**Disabled parking spaces**

Many towns and municipalities have special car parks for people with disabilities.

These car parks are wider and closer to the entrance. For example, at the supermarket, railway station or town hall. They can be recognised by a blue sign with a white wheelchair symbol. This sign is usually directly in front of the car park. Often the wheelchair symbol is also painted on the ground in white.

**Who is allowed to park there?**

Only people with a blue parking permit. This can be obtained with a severely disabled person's pass with the symbol "aG" (exceptionally disabled) or "BI" (blind). The parking permit must be applied for at the city or district office.

Important:

The parking permit must be visible behind the windscreen. You are not allowed to park there without a valid permit, otherwise you may be fined.

Disabled parking bays help people with disabilities to participate more easily in everyday life.

Barrier-free vehicles and railway stations

Many buses, trams and trains have ramps or low entrances. This means that wheelchair users or people with walking frames can also get on. At railway stations, there are often lifts and special paths that are barrier-free.

Information for barrier-free routes

Cities and municipalities often provide maps or plans. They can be seen there:

- Which stops or paths are easily accessible by wheelchair,
- Where there are steps, steep paths or no lifts.

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- This makes it easier to plan accessible routes.

Apps for more orientation

There are special apps for mobile phones that support people with visual impairments or blindness.

These apps speak information out loud, for example

- Which bus route is coming,
- When the train leaves,
- Where to change trains.

The apps can be downloaded directly onto your mobile phone. They help you to travel safely and independently.

Transport services or vouchers

If people with disabilities are unable to use normal local transport, some cities offer special transport services.

Sometimes there are also travel vouchers that can be used to travel more cheaply by taxi, for example.

Personal assistance at the railway station

Bahnhoftsmission

The Bahnhoftsmission helps people directly at the railway station. Free of charge and without registration.

It provides support, for example:

- With information and assistance with communication,
- Boarding the train,
- Carrying luggage,
- Finding the right platform.

Bahnhoftsmissionen are available at many large railway stations.

Look out for the Bahnhoftsmission logo. You will find help there.

[Here](#) you will find further information in many languages.

Mobilitätsservice of Deutsche Bahn

If you are travelling with Deutsche Bahn (trains with the DB symbol), you can register for help in advance.

This is called Mobilitätsservice.

The railway will then organise, for example

- Help with boarding,

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- Assistance when changing trains,
 - help getting off the train.

You must register Mobilitätsservice before travelling, preferably a few days in advance.

Your personal contact at Mobilitätsservice-Zentrale (MSZ):

☎ 030 65212888

@msz@deutschebahn.com

[🌐 online](#)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 6-22 hrs.

Saturday, Sunday and national public holidays 8-20 hrs.

Safely to school

Safe on the way to school

Parents want their children to get to school safely. There are many ways to make the journey to school safe. Children can also remain independent and active.

What can parents do to make the journey to school safe?

- **Always walk on the pavement:** Children should always use the pavement and not walk on the road.
- **Cross the road correctly:** Children must always look left and right before crossing the road. It is safer if they wait for a moment when no cars are coming.
- **Use pedestrian crossings (Zebrastrreifen) and traffic lights:** Children should use pedestrian crossings and traffic lights when crossing the road. These are safer because drivers know that pedestrians are crossing.



- **Be clearly visible:** Especially when it is dark or when it is raining, children should wear light-coloured clothing or reflectors. This makes them more visible to drivers.

It is better if children walk or cycle to school. This reduces traffic in front of the school and makes the journey to school safer.

Further recommendations for safety

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- **Accompaniment on the way to school:** Where possible, children should walk in groups or with other children. This is safer and more fun. It is advisable to define and practise a safe route to school together with the children.
 - **Form walking groups:** Parents and children can organise so-called walking buses to get to school. Stops are arranged among themselves for this purpose. The children meet here and can walk to school together.
 - **Road safety education:** Parents can teach their children how to behave correctly in traffic. This teaches them how to recognise dangers and stay safe.
 - **Cycling:** If your child rides a bike to school, make sure they always wear a helmet and ride carefully. Children up to the age of 8 must ride on the pavement. Children up to the age of 10 may still use the pavement.
 - **Scooters and e-scooters:** In addition to bicycles, children can also ride to school on a scooter or e-scooter. A scooter is like a small, simple vehicle that you push with your feet. Children must also ride safely when riding a scooter. It's important to always wear a helmet and ride carefully, especially on the pavement.
 - **Form car pools:** Especially in rural areas, school journeys are sometimes very long and children have to be taken to school by car. Carpooling with several children reduces the emission of pollutants. And also chaotic traffic situations in front of the school.

Carpooling and carpooling

Travelling together

Carpooling is a good way to travel flexibly and cheaply. Several people travel together in one car. They have the same destination or travel to work together. This saves money, reduces traffic and protects the environment.

Advantages of carpooling

- **Save money:** All carpoolers share the costs. For example, for petrol or parking. Everyone pays less.
- **Less traffic:** When more people drive together, there are fewer cars on the road. There are fewer traffic jams and the air is cleaner.
- **More social contact:** People who carpool easily strike up conversations and meet new people.
How can I find a carpool?

There are many websites and apps for this. Some transport associations or cities also offer such platforms.

Mobile stations

What is a mobile station?

A mobile station is a place where you can easily switch between different modes of transport. You can use the bus, train, bike, e-scooter or a Carsharing car. Depending on what suits your journey best.

There are often stops at a mobile station:

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- Bus and train stops
 - Secure bicycle parking spaces or bicycle boxes
 - Rental bikes or e-scooters
 - Carsharing-cars
 - Charging stations for electric cars

Why are mobile stations important?

Mobile stations help you to leave your car at home more often. Even without your own car, you can get to your destination at a mobile station, for example with a hire bike.

You can also combine several modes of transport, for example:

- You ride your bike to the mobile station, park it safely there and continue your journey by bus.
- Or you can arrive by train and change to a hire bike or a Carsharing car.

Mobile stations are easy to recognise. They have good lighting, clear signposting and information on site.

Typical of modern mobile stations:

- Standardised signs with the mobile station symbol
- Digital displays with departure times
- Barrier-free access
- Sometimes also:
 - Bicycle repair stations
 - Seating facilities
 - Lockers or small service offers

Mobility on demand

On-demand transport

The next bus or train won't be back for another hour?

Use on-demand buses or shared taxis. These do not run according to a fixed timetable. You order the journey when you need it. Usually via an app or by phone.

These services are particularly practical in rural areas. Or at times of day when there are no regular buses. But they are also available in large cities.

How does an on-demand journey work?

- You register with a provider and create a customer account. This is usually done online or via an app. If you want to book your journeys by phone, you also need to register once. You can also register by phone.
- You select the starting point and destination in an app or call a booking centre.

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- The app shows you when the vehicle will arrive and where you can board. If you book a journey by phone, you will receive the information over the phone.
 - A minibus is usually sent, which you share with other passengers.
 - The driver picks you up at an agreed location and takes you to your destination either directly or with short stops in between.
 - Payment is usually made directly via the app. Depending on the provider, you can also buy a ticket from the driver or show your public transport ticket.
 - In some cities, there are also free services for people who are unable to travel themselves. These are, for example, for refugees, people with little money or wheelchair users.

The on-call buses do not run at all times of the day or night and not everywhere. You can find out when and where the on-call buses operate from the providers.

Advantages of on-demand journeys

- Travels when you need it. No timetable is necessary.
- Easy to book. Via app or call
- Depending on the provider, a regular public transport ticket is sufficient. The Deutschlandticket can also be shown to the driver.

Bicycle

Why cycling is good

Cycling is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to get around. It keeps you fit, costs little money and helps to protect the environment.

Especially in cities, you can often get to your destination faster by bike than by car. What's more, you can park your bike anywhere, as there are many extra parking facilities, such as bike racks or special multi-storey car parks. This saves you parking fees and you don't have to search for a parking space for long.

Traffic rules for cyclists

Important rules when cycling

- **Always cycle on the right-hand side of the road**

Cyclists use the right-hand side of the road on all paths and roads.

- **Only ride on the cycle path or road**

You are not allowed to ride on the pavement. The pavement is for people walking. If there is a cycle path with a blue cycle sign, you must use it and may not ride on the road.



- **Cycle paths without compulsory use**

If the blue sign is missing, you can use the cycle path but you do not have to. You can often recognise these cycle paths by the fact that there is a footpath next to them. In some cities, they are also paved in a different colour than the pavement, often red. Or they are marked with a painted bicycle symbol.

- **Separate cycle path and pavement**

Here the cycle path and pavement run side by side. The sign is usually placed between the two paths. Cyclists may not use the pavement, not even to overtake. The cycle path must be used. Cyclists may not ride on the road.



- **Shared footpath and cycle path**

Cyclists are not allowed to ride on the carriageway, but must share the path with pedestrians. Cyclists do not have priority, but pedestrians must allow them to pass. **Therefore:** show consideration for pedestrians and ring the bell so that you can pass.



- **Cycle lane**

A cycle lane is primarily intended for cyclists. They are allowed to ride side by side and have priority. Cars may only use the road if this is permitted by an additional sign and must show special consideration.



- **Pay attention to traffic lights and signs**

Traffic lights and signs also apply to bicycles.

If you see a traffic light on the cycle path, it applies to you. On cycle paths without traffic lights for cyclists, the traffic lights that also apply to motorists apply.

- **Give hand signals**

If you want to turn (left or right), you must hold out your arm.

This lets others know what you intend to do.

- **Do not ride side by side**

Ride one behind the other. Especially on narrow paths or roads.

You may only ride side by side if there is enough space and you are not obstructing traffic.

- **Lights are mandatory**

You need lights when cycling - white at the front, red at the rear.

There are fixed lights on bicycles. Detachable lights are also permitted.

This allows you to see your surroundings clearly and other people can see you better.

You must use the light when it is dark or raining.

- **Do not ride with your mobile phone**

You must not have a mobile phone in your hand while driving.

It is dangerous and forbidden.

- **No headphones with loud music**

You must be able to hear the traffic.

Music must not be so loud that you can no longer hear anything.

- **Children under the age of 8 riding on the pavement**

Children under the age of 8 are not allowed to ride on the road or cycle path.

They must ride on the pavement. An adult may accompany them on the pavement.

Children between the ages of 8 and 10 may also ride on the cycle path or on the road.

From the age of 10, children must ride on the cycle path or on the road.

- **Secure your bike properly**

Place a bicycle in such a way that nobody can trip over it.
And lock it with a lock.

- **Caution:** Lorries easily overlook cyclists. Try to ride within the lorry driver's field of vision.
- Ride with **sturdy shoes** (no flip-flops!).
- **Alcohol limits** also apply on bicycles.

Cycling in practice

Learn to ride a bike - courses for adults and children

Not everyone can ride a bike. That is quite normal.

Many people have not had the opportunity to learn or feel unsafe on the roads.

In many cities, there are therefore courses where you or your child can practise cycling safely.

Such courses are offered, for example, by

- Bike workshops
- Organisations such as ADFC (Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club)
- Road safety centres
- Adult education centres (VHS)

The courses are often free or cost very little money.

For example, you can practise starting off, braking, turning safely or riding in traffic.

There are also special programmes for women, older people or refugees.

Bicycle workshops

Bicycle workshops make it possible for more people to use a bicycle. Many cities have bicycle repair shops that offer a wide range of services:

- **Self-help:** If your bike breaks down, you can repair it yourself with the help of experts. The tools are usually available.
- **Borrow and buy:** Even if you have little money or don't own a bike. You can often hire or buy bikes at favourable prices.
- **Information:** Many bike repair shops will give you tips on where to go and where to buy a bike. They will also show you how to cycle safely.
- **Courses:** Some workshops offer courses for adults and children if you want to learn how to ride a bike.

Hire bikes via apps

In many cities, you can also hire bikes via apps. You can find a bike nearby, hire it and return it after your journey. This is a quick way to get around the city.

How does bike hire work?

- **Registration:** You register with a provider and create a customer account. This is usually done online or via an app. Some providers may charge a fee for registration.

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- **Book a bike:** The app then displays the available bikes in the vicinity, which can be unlocked.
 - **Ride and return:** After the ride, the bike can be returned to a designated station. With some providers, the bike can also be returned outside the station.
 - **Payment:** As a rule, you can pay by credit card, SEPA direct debit or PayPal. A bank account is therefore necessary. There are different tariffs. Usually you pay a certain amount per minute. You can also take out a subscription and receive certain benefits. This can be the use of electric bikes, cargo bikes or free minutes.
A cargo bike is a special bike that has a lot of space to transport things. Instead of using a large boot like a car, you can use a cargo bike to transport shopping, bags or children, for example. It is like a normal bike, but there is a large box or basket at the front or rear.

Combining cycling and public transport

Bikes and trains or buses can be easily combined.

- **Take your bike to the train station:** There are often secure parking facilities there, such as bike boxes or large bike car parks.
- **Take your bike on the train:** You can take your bike with you on many regional trains. There are separate areas on the train for this purpose.

Please note: In some cases, you will need an extra ticket for your bike.

Bicycle equipment

A safe bike - what you need to consider

When you buy a bike, make sure that your bike is safe.

A roadworthy bike needs:

- Front (white) and rear (red)**lights**
- **Bell** - so that you can make yourself noticed
- Two functioning **brakes** - one for the front, one for the rear
- **Reflectors:**
front and rear
on the pedals
and on the wheels (2 per wheel)

These items are mandatory.

Only with this equipment is your bike roadworthy.

If something is broken, have it repaired soon.

Because: You are not allowed to ride on the road without a roadworthy bike.

If you are checked by the police, you will have to pay a fine if your bike is not safe.

Child seat

If you want to take a child with you on your bike, you will need a child seat or a bicycle trailer. A child seat is attached to the back or front of the bike - depending on the model.

It is important:

- The seat must be firmly attached to the bike.
- Your child must wear a helmet - even in the child seat.
- Make sure that the child is properly strapped in.
- The bike must be stable and roadworthy.

A child seat is generally suitable for children up to around 22 kilograms - this is also stated on the seat.

Larger children are often better off travelling in a bicycle trailer.

Tip:

Ask the bike shop for a roadworthy bike. Have your bike checked there regularly.

Driving licence

There are many different ways to be mobile in Germany. In cities in particular, you can use bikes, buses, trains or car-sharing schemes. There are also alternatives in the countryside, such as on-call buses or carpooling.

A driving licence can still be very useful. If buses and trains only run infrequently or if you have to travel long distances, a vehicle is helpful. The important thing to remember is that you don't necessarily have to have your own car. Many mobility options can also be easily combined.

Driving licence transfer

Driving licence from abroad - this applies in Germany

If you have obtained your driving licence in a country outside of Europäischen Union (EU), you may only drive driving licence in Germany for only six months.

These six months start from the day you first register with the city or municipality - i.e. from the moment you officially take up residence in Germany.

The following applies during this time:

- You may drive with your foreign driving licence
- You must always have your driving licence with you when you are behind the wheel of a vehicle.
- You also need a translation of the driving licence into German - unless the licence is issued in English.

You can obtain a translation from the [ADAC](#) (Allgemeiner Deutscher Auto-Club), for example.

If you still want to drive yourself after these six months, you must have your driving licence transferred.

This means that you apply for a German driving licence at the driving licence office.

Who is responsible for the transfer?

The driving licence authority at your place of residence is responsible for the transfer.

This is the driving licence office, e.g. in the town hall or district office.

Fees are charged for the transfer of the driving licence. The fee charged by the driving licence office depends on the country in which you obtained your driving licence.

Important: Make sure you submit the application in good time before the six months are up. After the deadline, your foreign driving licence is no longer valid. And you will no longer be allowed to drive.

Driving without a valid licence is a criminal offence in Germany and can be punished with a fine or even a prison sentence.

An exception applies if you can prove that you have lived in Germany for a maximum of 12 months. In this case, you can apply for an extension and do not have to have your driving licence transferred. You must also submit an application for this.

If you are only visiting Germany, you may drive with your foreign or international driving licence.

During your asylum procedure, all your documents will remain at BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees). They will normally only be returned to you once your asylum procedure has been completed. As long as your driving licence is at BAMF, you are not allowed to drive yourself.

How does the transfer work?

Contact the driving licence office and apply for a transfer. Processing can take several weeks - usually around four to six weeks. You must come to the driving licence office in person and hand in various documents.

Which documents you need depends on which country your driving licence comes from.

It is best to ask the driving licence office what you need to bring with you.

Generally required documents:

- Your identity card or passport.
- Your first registration confirmation (proof of registration in Germany).
- A biometric passport photo. Biometric passport photos can be taken by photographers, at some drugstores or in special photo booths. It is important that the pictures fulfil the official requirements. It is best to say in advance that the picture is for an ID card or passport.
- Your foreign driving licence (with translation if it is not from EU or a country of Europäische Wirtschaftsraums (EWR)).

The following applies to driving licences from a EU or EWR country:

You will need additional certificates if you have a driving licence for a specific driving licence category (C, D or DE) converted. This applies to driving licences that allow you to drive a bus or lorry.

- Proof of your physical and mental fitness (from a doctor).
- An eye test or a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optician.

Further information from the Federal Ministry of Transport:

- In [German language](#)
- In [English language](#)
- In [French language](#)
- In [Spanish language](#)
- In [Russian language](#)
- In [Arabic language](#)

For driving licences not from EU, EWR or any other country:

- Proof of your physical and mental aptitude (from a doctor) if you wish to have a driving licence of a certain category transferred (C, D or DE).
- An eye test or a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optician.
- Confirmation of participation in a first aid course. You can find a course in your area at Malteser or at Deutschen Roten Kreuz. You must be present on site for the first aid course. A course that you have completed online is not valid. As a rule, a first aid course comprises 9 lessons lasting 45 minutes.
- Specify a driving school - because in most cases you will have to take a theory and practical test.

Further information from the Federal Ministry of Transport:

- In [German language](#)
- In [English language](#)
- In [French language](#)
- In [Spanish language](#)
- In [Russian language](#)
- In [Arabic language](#)
- In [Chinese language](#)

Do I always have to take an exam?

Whether you have to take an exam depends on which country you come from. In some cases, one exam is sufficient (theory only or practice only), in other cases both exams are necessary.

Preparing for the test

It is helpful to attend a driving school beforehand - even if you already know how to drive. There are many traffic rules and signs in Germany that may be different from those in your country of origin.

Driving lessons are not compulsory, but recommended.

If you have to take a theory or practical test, you must register for this via a driving school.

Driving licence test

How to get a driving licence in Germany

To get a driving licence in Germany for the first time, you need to take several steps.

Find a driving school:

Register with a driving school. At a driving school, you will take a theory test and a practical test. In many cities there are driving schools that also offer lessons in another language - for example Arabic, English, Russian or Turkish. You can find offers on the Internet.

Simply ask in advance whether theory lessons are possible in your language.

Important: The practical driving test is always held in German. The examiners speak simple sentences so that you understand them well.

Prepare documents:

As a rule, the driving school will register your driving licence with the relevant driving licence authority at your place of residence.

You will need the following to register:

- Your identity card or passport
- Your confirmation of registration (proof of registration in Germany).
- A biometric passport photo. Biometric passport photos can be taken by photographers, at some drugstores or in special photo booths. It is important that the pictures fulfil the official requirements. It is best to say in advance that the picture is for an ID card or passport.
- Confirmation that you have attended a first aid course. You can find a course in your area at Malteser or at Deutschen Roten Kreuz. You must be present on site for the first aid course. A course that you have completed online is not valid. As a rule, a first aid course comprises 9 lessons lasting 45 minutes.
- Proof of your physical and mental aptitude (from a doctor) if you wish to obtain a driving licence in a certain category (C, D or DE).
- An eye test or a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optician.

Tip: Ask your driving school if they can help you collect the documents.

Theory lessons and test:

You attend theory lessons at the driving school (at least 14 double lessons).

There you will learn the most important traffic regulations in Germany.

There are learning materials and test sheets for the theory test in various languages.

At the end, you will take a theory test on the computer (at TÜV or DEKRA on site). On the day of the test, you will need your identity card or passport and a certificate from the driving school.

This test can be taken in many languages - for example in English, Turkish, Arabic, Russian or French. Find out about the exact options in advance.

You will receive the test result shortly after the test. If you pass, you have 12 months to take the practical test. If you make too many mistakes, you will have to take the test again.

Driving lessons and practical test:

After the theory, driving lessons start with a driving instructor. There are certain compulsory types of driving, e.g. driving at night, on the motorway and on country roads.

When you are ready, you take the practical test.

An examiner drives along and tells you what to do - the instructions are in German, but simply worded. If you pass the test, you will receive your driving licence.

The entire training usually takes between three and six months, depending on how often you take lessons. The cost of the driving licence can vary depending on the driving school. It is advisable to find out about the requirements and costs from the driving school at an early stage.

You can obtain a driving licence in Germany from the age of 17 (category B - this allows you to drive most cars). However, you must be accompanied in the car. For mopeds (driving licence category AM) you can get a driving licence from the age of 16.

Can my driving licence be revoked?

If you disregard important traffic rules, you can lose your driving licence. A distinction is made here between a driving ban and the withdrawal of your driving licence.

If you are banned from driving, you must surrender your driving licence to the fines office for several months. During this time, you are not allowed to drive yourself. After the period has expired, you can collect your driving licence again.

If your driving licence is revoked, it loses its validity. This means that you are no longer allowed to drive yourself and may not obtain a new driving licence for a certain period of time (suspension period).

If, for example, you drive too fast or use your mobile phone while driving, you will receive penalty points. The penalty points are also known colloquially as "points in Flensburg". If you have collected 8 points, your driving licence will be revoked.

If you have a new driving licence, you will be on probation for two years. If you break the traffic rules during the probationary period, you will have to attend an advanced training seminar. You may also have to undergo psychological counselling. Your probationary period will also be extended by a further two years. If you do not attend the seminar or counselling, your driving licence will be revoked. Examples of a traffic offence are, for example, driving through red traffic lights, driving at night without lights, drunk driving. Wrong parking is not a traffic offence. In this case, you only have to pay a fine.

Parking

Parking - what you should know

If you are travelling by car, you have to park it somewhere. In other words, park it safely and according to the rules.

There are clear rules in Germany to ensure that nobody is hindered and that traffic functions smoothly.

Basic traffic rules

Where can you park - and where not?

You are allowed to park if:

- There is a car park sign ("P"),
- The roadside is clear and there are no signs prohibiting parking,
- You are in a marked parking space,
- you are in a multi-storey car park or in a private car park where parking is permitted (e.g. at supermarkets, public authorities or clinics - for a limited time).

In residential areas, you may park on the roadside unless parking is prohibited. Pay attention to signs and markings.

Parking is prohibited:

- On pavements if no sign or marking expressly permits it,
- On cycle paths or bus lanes,
- In front of entrances and exits to properties,
- In fire lanes (often marked with a red sign),
- On bends or in narrow places on the road,
- In disabled parking spaces if you do not have a corresponding parking permit,
- In stopping or no-parking zones (sign: blue circle with red border and line or cross).

If you park there anyway, your car may be towed away and you will have to pay a fine.

Parking ticket, parking disc and fees - how does it work?

Parking ticket (parking disc)

There are parking ticket machines in many cities.

You have to pay for parking there if the sign says:

"Parkschein lösen" or "Mit Parkschein".

This is how it works:

1. Go to the machine (near the car park).
2. Choose how long you want to park for.
3. Pay with coins, card or by app (depending on the machine).

4. Take the parking ticket and place it visibly behind the windscreen.

Important: If the parking ticket is not visible, this can be regarded as "without a ticket" - and you could be fined or have your car towed away.

Parking disc

Some car parks are free of charge, but you are only allowed to park there for a certain amount of time - for example 30 minutes or 2 hours.

Then you need a parking disc.

This is how it works:

1. Set the time you arrived on the disc (rounded up to the nearest half hour).
2. Place the disc clearly visible behind the windscreen.
3. Pay attention to the sign: it states the maximum time you are allowed to park.

Parking with a resident's permit

There are residents' parking zones in many residential areas.

These can be recognised by an additional sign under the parking space sign. For example: "Only with parking permit no. 5" or "Residents with permit".

What does this mean?

Only people who live in the street or area are allowed to park there - and only with a special parking permit.

How do you get the permit?

You submit an application to the residents' office or the city council.

You must prove that you live there. For example, with a registration certificate.

You will then receive a resident parking permit with a number and period of validity.

The permit must be visible in your car.

You are not allowed to park there without a valid permit - otherwise you may be fined or have your car towed away.

People who are registered in a residents' parking area can also apply for visitor parking permits for a visit.

Special car park areas

Multi-storey and underground car parks

There are often multi-storey and underground car parks in cities. These are buildings with several floors where you can park safely and protected from the weather.

This is how it works:

1. You drive up to the barrier and press a button.

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2. You receive a parking ticket.
 3. You look for a free parking space.
 4. Before leaving the car park, pay for the ticket at the payment machine in the building (with cash or debit card).
 5. You can use the paid ticket to open the exit barrier.

Tip:

Many car parks offer parking spaces for women, disabled parking spaces and e-car charging stations.

Special parking areas

Disabled parking spaces: Only permitted with a blue EU parking permit. This can be obtained with a severely disabled person's pass with the symbol "aG" (exceptionally disabled) or "Bl" (blind).

Short-stay car parks: For example in front of pharmacies or bakeries - often with a parking disc.

Women's car parks: For example in multi-storey car parks - well lit and near exits.

Car parks with electric charging stations: Only for electric cars when charging.

Park-and-ride car parks (P+R): On the outskirts of the city. You park your car and continue your journey by bus or train. These are often cheap or free.

Parking in special situations

In residential areas

- Park in such a way that nobody is obstructed.
- Make sure there is enough space for refuse collection, ambulances and delivery vehicles.
- Do not park directly on corners or in front of driveways.

In the city centre

- There are often few free spaces.
- It is best to use multi-storey car parks or P+R car parks with good bus and train connections.
- Pay particular attention to signs and charges.

Near schools and nurseries

There are often special zones, for example:

- Stopping bans,
- parent stops,
- school roads with a driving ban at certain times,

These zones protect children. Only park there if it is permitted - and only for a short time.

What happens for parking offences?

Fines

If you park incorrectly, you often have to pay a fine.

Towing away

You will be towed away if, for example:

- Park in a fire lane,
- park in a disabled parking space without authorisation,
- or park in a dangerous place

In these cases, your car may be towed away. This is often very expensive.

Safety when parking

- Watch out for traffic - cars, cyclists and pedestrians - when getting in and out of your car.
- Open the door carefully - especially on the side of the road.
- Always lock the car.
- Do not leave any valuables visible in the car.

In Germany, parking is well regulated and clearly signposted.

There are many options - from roadside to multi-storey car parks.

If you stick to the rules, you can park safely, stress-free and without a fine.

Park + Ride

What does Park + Ride mean?

Park + Ride means: You drive your car to a P+R car park. These car parks are often located on the outskirts of towns or at railway stations. You park your car there and continue your journey by bus or train.

This avoids traffic jams in the city centre and the long search for a parking space.

Advantages of Park + Ride

- **Less stress:** You don't have to search for a parking space in the city centre.
- **Save time:** Buses and trains are often faster than cars.
- **Save money:** Many Park+Ride car parks are free or cost very little.
- **Protect the environment:** Fewer cars in the city means less exhaust fumes and cleaner air.

Where can I find Park+Ride spaces?

Park+Ride-You can often find parking spaces:

- Near railway stations,

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- At major bus and train stops,
 - On the outskirts of towns or on major roads,
 - You can search for P+R car parks directly using the search function on Google Maps.
 - They are well signposted. Signs with the "P+R" symbol show you the way.



How does Park + Ride work?

1. You drive your car to the Park+Ride car park.
2. Park your car there.
3. Then change to the bus or train and travel into the city.
4. At the end, you return to the car park and collect your car.

There are often cheap combined tickets:

You pay once and pay for parking and a ticket for the bus or train.