

Welcome to Hamburg

We are delighted to welcome you to Hamburg and hope you will soon feel at home in this beautiful city. To help you settle down here, we have put together some information that, we believe, will be useful in dealing with every aspect of life in the city.

If you require any more information (e.g. in other languages), please refer to www.hamburg.de or www.hwf-hamburg.de

Buying a car

Germany has innumerable car dealers. Normally they only sell new cars from one particular manufacturer but most of them sell used cars as well and will also offer you hire-purchase or leasing terms.

Used cars:

You can look for ads in the Automarkt or Gebrauchtwagenmarkt sections of a newspaper. When buying a used car, make sure you take a good look at the TÜV badge (certificate of roadworthiness). This tells you when the next TÜV or roadworthiness test is due - the longer, the better of course. New cars are required to go for a TÜV test after three years, used cars every two years.

If you buy a new or used car from a dealer, he will most probably register it for you as well. If you buy a used car from a private individual, you will have to register it yourself.

Motor insurance

All automobiles in Germany are required by law to have third-party motor insurance. The premiums are dependent on the performance and class of a vehicle. If you can produce your previous insurance documents with evidence of a good no-claims record and no motoring offences, your new motor-insurance company may well be willing to offer you a lower premium. You are well advised to obtain offers from a number of insurance companies as premiums and policies vary. A so-called "green card" may well be required if you take your car to some other European country. ADAC staff can provide you with information about which countries require a "green card". You will have to ask your insurance company for a "green card" if you need one because they may not issue one automatically.

Registering a car

You not only have to register a new car but also if you move house, a car changes owners or major technical modifications are undertaken.

You are required to produce the following documents:

- Passport or ID card
- Proof of residence registration
- Proof of insurance coverage



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- In the case of company car, proof of entry in Commercial Register or registered trade

If you are reregistering a vehicle, you also need the

- Motor vehicle registration book (*Kraftfahrzeugbrief*)
- Motor vehicle certificate (*Kraftfahrzeugschein*).

The motor vehicle registration book is proof of ownership of a vehicle. Legally speaking, if you have this book, you own the vehicle. So you should always keep this book at home and not in the car in case it is stolen. The driver of a vehicle has to be able to produce the motor vehicle certificate on request. So he or she should carry it round with them or leave it in the car.

To register a car you have to pay the registration fee and motor vehicle tax for 12 months. Subsequently, you can pay your motor vehicle tax on a quarterly, six-monthly or annual basis. A reminder of when this tax is due will be sent to you by post.

Number plates:

After you have registered your car, the number plates have to be fixed to the vehicle. If a number plate is damaged or becomes illegible, the owner is required to have it replaced. There are a number of places selling number plates near all the motor licensing (LBV) offices. After appropriate LBV office has issued you with a number and you have obtained your number plates, you will have to return to the LBV office with your motor vehicle registration book and motor vehicle certificate to complete the registration formalities.

If you import a vehicle from another country, you have to have it registered at the LBV offices and obtain a German number plate.

Addresses:

Landesbetrieb Verkehr (=LBV), Licensing Office (Zulassungsstelle)

Hamburg Mitte:	Ausschläger Weg 100, 20537 Hamburg Phone 040/42858 1710/1720/1730, Fax 040/42858 1665
Hamburg Nord:	Langenhorner Chaussee 491, 22419 Hamburg Phone 040/42858 2888, Fax 040/42858 2815
Hamburg Bergedorf:	Brookdeich 26, 21029 Hamburg Phone 040/42891 2599/2398, Fax 040/42891 2906
Hamburg Harburg:	Großmoordamm 61, 21079 Hamburg Phone 040/42871 2240, Fax 040/42871 2691

Opening hours vary from office to office. We advise ringing up your nearest office first.

Road worthiness test centres:

TÜV Nord: Große Bahnstr. 31, 22525 Hamburg Phone 040/85570
Opening hours: Mon.-Thurs. 7.15 am - 3.30 pm, Fr. 7.15 am - 1.30 pm

LBV Technische Prüfstelle:

Hamburg Mitte: Ausschläger Weg 100, 20537 Hamburg,
Phone 040/42858 2322/2332, Fax 040/42858 2316



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Opening hours: Mon./Tues./Thurs., 7 am - 2.45 pm, Wed. 7 am - 5 pm,
Fr. 7 am - 1.15 pm

Hamburg-Harburg: Großmoordamm 61, 21079 Hamburg,
Phone 040/42871 2203, Fax 040/42871 2500

Opening hours: Mon./Tues./Thurs., 7 am - 2.45 pm, Wed. 7 am - 5 pm,
Fr. 7 am - 1.15 pm

Hamburg-Nord: Langenhorner Chaussee 491, 22419 Hamburg,
Phone 040/42858 2888, Fax 040/42858 2815

Opening hours: Mon./Tues./Thurs., 7 am - 2.45 pm, Wed. 7 am - 5 pm,
Fr. 7 am - 1.15 pm

Hamburg-Bergedorf: Brookdeich 26, 21029 Hamburg,
Phone 040/42891 2397, Fax 040/42891 2915

Opening hours: Mon.-Thurs., 7 am - 2.30 pm, Fr. 7 am - 12.30 pm

You are required to bring:

- Passport or ID card, proof of residence registration
- Motor vehicle certificate
- Vehicle to be tested
- Cash or an EC card to pay the fee

Any vehicle registered in Germany is required by law to carry a first-aid kit and red warning triangle. It is also advisable to have a spare set of bulbs and fuses. If your car does not have such equipment, you can obtain it from the ADAC offices, any department store, a vehicle accessories shop, etc.

Servicing a car

If you want to service or repair your car yourself, there are a number of self-help workshops in Hamburg. You can find the addresses in the Yellow Pages (under Autoselbsthilfe). Please note that you are not allowed to wash your car on a street or road in Germany.

Automobile clubs

If you are a member of ADAC, Germany's leading automobile club, you enjoy numerous benefits, e.g. a tow to the nearest garage if your car breaks down, 24-hour emergency service, advice on journeys by car, etc. Non-members have to pay for such services.

The ADAC offices in Hamburg (ADAC Hansa) also offer advice on driving in Germany, insurance policies and travel. Maps are on sale in the ADAC shop and the Technical Service Department may also prove useful.

Address: ADAC Hansa, Amsinckstr. 39-41, 20097 Hamburg. Phone 040/2391919,
24-hour Service Hotline: 0180-5101112.

Germany's other automobile club is Autoverein Deutschlands (AVD).