

Obtaining a driving licence

Your driving licence from India (with its translation) is valid for 6 months in Germany. After this you will have to obtain a German driving license. Here is a quick checklist on obtaining a driving licence. A longer description of the procedure is on page 2.

- Find a driving school in your neighbourhood, preferably one that has an English-speaking instructor
- Ask about charges for
 - registration at the school
 - theory lessons (if necessary) (Ger. "Theorie")
 - driving lessons (Ger. "Fahrstunden")
 - registration for theoretical and practical exams
 - the exams themselves
- Purchase material for the theory exam in English, for example from [here](#). You will be able to take the theory exam in English.
- Attend a first aid course (only available in German). Usually they will offer you the eye test too
- Even if you have been driving for some time, take 3 or 4 practical lessons
- Once you are ready, the driving school will register you to take the exams – take your passport with you. The driving exam will be about 2 weeks after the theory one
- You will have to pick up the license from your local council and hand in your Indian one
- Carry your passport or some form of ID with you at all times

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Germany does not require you to have an international driving permit, although you may want to obtain one if you are planning to drive around Europe within the first 6 months as some other countries do. Your driving licence from India, with its translation, is valid for 6 months in Germany. Carry your passport with you at all times to show when you entered the country. After this you will have to obtain a German driving license. Parts of the procedure to obtain a licence can only be done in German, so make sure you have already had some lessons by the time you need it.

The usual licence is a class B one, which includes permission to drive a car and a small scooter and is valid for life. A separate class A licence is necessary for motorcycles.

Obtaining a driving licence can only be done through a driving school, so shop around for one in your neighbourhood. They will charge you (for every step), guide you through the whole procedure and supply you with the material (nowadays an app) to help you study for the theory exam. You could also order the material in English from [here](#). You will be able to take the theory exam in English. An eye test and attending a first aid course (in German) are also required. Even if you have been driving for some time, it is still recommended to take 3 or 4 practical lessons (Ger. "Fahrstunden") to learn about the differences between driving in Germany and in India. Ask your instructor as many questions as possible! Once you are ready, the driving school will register you to take the exam, during which you will have to follow all the instructions from the "TÜV" (Technical Inspection Agency*) evaluator (in German!) for about 30 minutes.

If you don't have a licence yet, it will take longer to obtain it, perhaps about 5-6 months. You will have to attend 12 mandatory theory lessons, which will be in German, at the driving school. Once you have completed most of these, you will start to take the practical lessons. A beginner usually needs about 25-30 lessons. The eye test and first aid course will also be necessary. Don't worry if you fail one or both exams the first time. This is quite common, albeit expensive! The total cost of obtaining a licence is approximately €1600 for beginners and about half that for foreign driving licence holders.

Useful language

German	English
<i>An der Ampel rechts abbiegen.</i>	<i>Turn right at the light.</i>
<i>Halten Sie sich links.</i>	<i>Bear left.</i>
<i>Fahren Sie langsamer!</i>	<i>Slow down!</i>
<i>Bitte holen Sie das nächste Auto über.</i>	<i>Please overtake the next car.</i>
<i>Nehmen Sie die erste Ausfahrt im Kreisel.</i>	<i>Take the first exit at the roundabout.</i>
<i>Die Autobahn ist gesperrt.</i>	<i>The motorway is congested.</i>
<i>Benutzen Sie Ihre Außenspiegel/Rückfahrspiegel.</i>	<i>Use your wing mirrors/rear-view mirror.</i>
<i>Sehen Sie über Ihre linke Schulter, um zu sehen, was in Ihre toter Winkel passiert.</i>	<i>Look over your left shoulder to see what is happening in your blind spot.</i>
<i>Prüfen Sie, dass keine Fußgänger auf dem Zebrastreifen sind.</i>	<i>Check to see there are no pedestrians on the zebra crossing.</i>
<i>Verkehrsschild</i>	<i>Road signs</i>
<i>Fahrersitz/Beifahrersitz</i>	<i>Driver's/passenger's seat</i>
<i>Sicherheitsgurt</i>	<i>Seat belt</i>
<i>Tempolimit</i>	<i>Speed limit</i>

*the same authority that will inspect your car.

This information was written by Germans for our Indian guests. It is intended as an aid. We assume no liability for translation errors, currentness or accuracy of the information provided. Thanks for your understanding.