



CAR RENTAL IN THE EU

When hiring a car, one needs to remember about the need to be able to provide the necessary documents then picking up the car, as well as to have the appropriate card to make the payment at the rental desk.

When it comes to documents, if you hold an EU-issued driving licence, this will be recognised as valid in the other EU member states. If your driving licence was issued in a non-EU country, you need to make sure that it will be accepted by the car hire company. You may need to obtain an **international driving licence** (which is a separate document issued on the basis of your existing licence) in some cases.

With regards to the card required to pick up the car, most car hire companies will require you to have a **credit card issued in the name of the main driver (!)**. Whilst some car hire companies do accept debit cards for this purpose, it is more of an exception than anything else. You may wish to check carefully if your card meets the requirements, which may differ significantly between companies.

IMPORTANT: debit cards can be used to make pre-payments when pre-booking the hire, but you will still be expected to come with a credit card issued in the name of the main driver to be able to pick up the car in most cases!

When you come to the rental desk, you should be offered the choice between leaving a deposit for potential damage or paying for additional insurance. Taking the option of leaving the damage excess deposit may result in being charged for the damage to the car, usually up to the sum of your excess deposit.

There are many agents that offer booking of car hire. They may offer to sell you an insurance, which is meant to cover the charges imposed by the car hire company for damage. Please note that buying such insurance **does not mean** that you will not have to leave the deposit or pay for the insurance at the rental desk. When arriving at the rental desk, you need to consider such offers carefully, bearing in mind what insurance you may already have.

When agreeing to buy insurance package, please make sure to know what is covered, as these packages **may have some exemptions**.

When picking up and dropping of the car, it is advisable to make sure that pre- and post-rental inspection is carried out and all the damage is marked on the inspection sheets. It is also advisable to take date- and location-stamped photos of the vehicle

Car hire bookings can only be cancelled in accordance with Terms and Conditions of the agreement. Traders are expected to provide the necessary information when you make the booking and confirm the most important aspects in durable form (e-mail, etc.). Such confirmations will usually include the information about the requirements, cancellation and no-show policies, etc.