

BEFORE YOU DRIVE

RENTAL CAR ABROAD

The counter is not the time to improvise.

A two-page checklist for the expensive decisions around booking, pickup, driving and return.

10-MIN CHECK

BOOKING + PICKUP



BEFORE YOU BOOK

01



LICENSE + IDP

Check the destination's official driving rules and the rental company's terms. Carry your original license; an IDP, where required, supports it rather than replacing it.

02



CARD + DEPOSIT

CARD TYPE / HOLDER NAME / DEPOSIT / DEBIT RULES

STOP CHECK

Rule unclear? Confirm before paying.

03



INSURANCE

ANSWER THESE BEFORE YOU ACCEPT OR DECLINE COVER:

- 1 What is my excess?
- 2 What is excluded?
- 3 Who pays first after damage?

04



ROUTE RESTRICTIONS

CHECK EACH ONE THAT YOUR ROUTE USES:

CROSS-BORDER

FERRY

TOLL

RESTRICTED ZONE



CHEAPEST DAILY RATE IS NOT ALWAYS THE CHEAPEST RENTAL

Compare the total payable amount: base rate + insurance/excess + required extras + one-way/cross-border fees + fuel policy + deposit/card requirements.



AT PICKUP - BEFORE YOU MOVE THE CAR

- ✓ Photograph every side of the car, wheels, windscreen, roof and visible interior.
- ✓ Make sure every existing scratch or dent is written on the damage sheet or digital inspection.
- ✓ Photograph fuel level, odometer and dashboard warnings.
- ✓ Save the signed rental agreement, emergency or roadside number and return instructions.
- ✓ Confirm the exact fuel policy and the branch's late-return or after-hours procedure.

ON THE ROAD - AVOID THE QUIET COSTS

TOLLS / ZONES / PARKING



Use official toll, parking and city-zone sources. Restricted traffic or low-emission zones can operate differently from ordinary road signs, and rental companies may add administration fees to penalties.

BORDERS / FERRIES / ROADSIDE



Do not cross a border or take the car on a ferry just because the road allows it. Check written permission, insurance validity and roadside coverage first. Save approval in writing.

AT RETURN - CLOSE THE EVIDENCE GAP

- ✓ Take a final walk-around photo or video before handing over the keys.
- ✓ Photograph fuel level and odometer again; keep the final fuel receipt if relevant.
- ✓ If returning after hours, photograph the parked car, bay, branch signage and key-drop point.
- ✓ Keep the final invoice or return receipt and monitor the deposit or card hold until released.

5-MINUTE RETURN PROOF ROUTINE

1 4-SIDE PHOTOS

2 FUEL

3 ODOMETER

4 PARKING POSITION

5 RECEIPT

NEXT: RENTAL CAR ABROAD PACK



Seven working sheets for the parts a checklist cannot store for you: insurance comparison, pickup evidence, deposit tracking, toll/zone notes, cross-border permission, return evidence and dispute email drafting.

FULL RENTAL PACK

\$9 TEST

7 WORKING SHEETS