
Renting off-airport

Posted by nikki - 2007/04/11 23:33

I've heard that it's often much less expensive to rent a car in the nearest city or town, rather than at the airport when traveling in Europe. Curious whether any Gemutlichkeit travelers have recently compared prices and found this to be true?

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by annv - 2007/04/12 09:10

I don't know of an airport in Europe that doesn't charge a fee for car rentals that commence there. In France, it is "only" about \$45, but in Germany it's 19% of the total rental. Italy, Switzerland and Austria are almost as high. My advice: take public transport to an off-airport location and at the end of the rental return the car to the airport.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by traveldroid0503 - 2007/07/02 14:28

Hi Nikki - Yes, airport fees vary by country, and often it is well worth the extra effort to avoid airport pick-up. In most countries there is no fee for airport return. Use the link below to view airport fees for your destination....(this would be a link to our FAQ page)

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by rbestor - 2007/07/03 00:13

Andy, who does most of the European car rental bookings for Gemut.com, can suggest rental offices near airports in various cities. This will enable you to avoid the tax. Call him at 800-521-6722. It's important to remember that the airport fee is always charged for rentals that commence at airports. You can always return your car there for no extra charge.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by basketman - 2007/07/14 13:51

Do the rental companies provide a shuttle to these off-airport locations?

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by bbestor - 2007/07/14 13:57

Unfortunately, no. Virtually all European airports, however, have excellent public transportation options; rail, bus, and taxi. Of course, some rental companies such as Thrifty don't have an airport presence in Munich or Frankfurt and so you must take a shuttle a couple of miles or so both when you pick up and return the car.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by bbrn - 2007/07/16 07:50

I was on holiday in Switzerland last year. I flew into Zurich (Kloten) airport. I found the price (from Europcar) to be MUCH lower if I picked it up in the town of Kloten vs. the airport. It is a short taxi ride from the airport to the agency in Kloten. I returned the car to the airport when finished-no extra charge. Hope this is of some help.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by freebie - 2007/07/16 20:38

We returned from 4 weeks in Germany at the end of May. We rented our car from Avis through Gemut. We flew into Frankfurt airport and had arranged to pick the car up at the nearby town of Kelsterbach. Taxi to Kelsterrbach was 14 Euro and took about 10 minutes. Excluding taxi fare we saved about \$130 by picking the car up off airport. The night before we left we stayed at the Ibis Hotel in Kelsterbach, drove to the airport that night, turned the car in and took the Ibis shuttle back to the hotel. We took the shuttle back to the airport the next morning. All in all the best rental car experience we have had in all our trips to Europe

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by jabjutte - 2007/08/05 23:16

Interesting. I have rented a car from Thrifty at the airport and was charged the tax as well as the VAT tax. But it was STILL cheaper than anything else I could find. I do need to take a shuttle to wherever Thrifty is located so if it is not at the airport why am I charged the tax?

I am awaiting a quote from gemut.com on a car. Remains to be seen if they can beat the Thrifty price.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by jabjutte - 2007/08/07 19:47

Just received a quote from Andy and he beat the Thrifty rate by \$136! Worth a taxi ride to the rental agency I'd say. Now if the exchange rate would just go down!!!

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by jajesper - 2007/09/03 19:53

We are planning a trip to Germany in October, and this sounds like just the info I am looking for. Did you arrange for the hotel reservation through Gemut, also, or should we make sure to get a room reserved in advance?

Thanks!

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by ikon - 2007/09/18 15:07

There are car rental companies that offer "free-of-charge" delivery of the car to the airport, even if they don't have an office there. Same goes for returning the car.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by traveldroid0503 - 2007/09/26 13:35

Hi Ikon - Which company will do that?? I'd like to know because I am travelling w/ my elderly mother and would really like to avoid the 19% tax, but taxi/train really is not an option for us.

I currently have a reservation w/ Avis, but they said I'd be responsible for getting myself to the off-airport location! They don't even offer a shuttle! Guess they really want to collect that 19%!

Anyhow, please let me know which company you use.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by rbestor - 2007/11/25 16:49

No car rental company in Europe that I know of will provide transport from to their off-airport offices. Some companies such as Thrifty, however, don't have airport offices and will provide a shuttle. Of course, they have only a few offices and if you have a breakdown you can't exchange the car at the nearest town.

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Re:Renting off-airport

Posted by CAPTAIN - 2008/01/17 16:29

In your comments you said you took the Ibis shuttle back to the air port from Kelsterrbach. Question : Can one take the Ivis Shuttle from the airport to Keisterrbach? Do you know how often and what time it starts and stops for the day? Is Keisterbach close to Darmstadt?

Thanks
JOE

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