

Cultural Differences between the USA and Germany

(1) Driving

USA	GERMANY
Traffic regulated by many signs (stop, yield, etc.).	Driver coming from the right has right of way; fewer signs > More...
Passing on the right is OK on the Interstate.	Passing on the right is verboten on the autobahn. > More...
Highway directional signs refer to east, west, north, south – and the next city.	Highway directional signs refer to the next town or city, never mentioning compass directions.
Speed limits are posted everywhere on streets and highways.	No speed limit on some autobahn stretches; standard 50 km/h (31 mph) limit on city streets unless posted otherwise.
The highway patrol is highly visible and uses radar to catch speeders. Automatic radar cameras are not that common.	The <i>Autobahnpolizei</i> is less visible, but many automatic radar cameras also help catch speeders.
It is rare to see a low speed limit zone in cities for noise reduction.	The so-called “30 zone” is very common in towns and cities, limiting speed to 30 km/h (18 mph) for noise reduction and child safety.
Most people use regular or “all-weather” tires. Changing to winter tires is only common in regions with harsh winter weather.	Motorists are required to switch to snow (M+S) tires in winter and can be fined for violations. > More...
Gasoline is relatively cheap, with a low tax rate.	Gasoline costs twice the US rate; fuel tax is high. More...
Diesel fuel for cars is sometimes hard to find.	Diesel fuel for cars is available at almost any gas station.
Most cars have an automatic transmission. “Stick-shift,” manual-transmission cars are rare.	Most cars have a “stick-shift,” manual transmission. Automatic-shift cars are rare. > More...
Most people learn to drive from their parents; license must be renewed periodically.	Drivers must take lessons from a <i>Fahrschule</i> (driving school); license can cost up to \$3,000, but is valid for 15 years (since 2013). More...

<https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/cultural-comparisons/>