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Bußgeld — Traffic Fines in Germany

Guide to German traffic fines (Bußgeld), penalties for speeding and violations, Flensburg penalty points system, and driving bans (Fahrverbot).

Deutsche Begriffe: Bußgeld | Bußgeldbescheid | Punkte | Fahrverbot | Blitzer

Bußgeld — Traffic Fines

Most Common Violations

Speed Violations (Built-up Areas):

| Speeding | Fine | Points | Driving Ban |
|---------------|------|--------|-------------|
| up to 10 km/h | 30€ | - | - |
| 11-15 km/h | 50€ | - | - |
| 16-20 km/h | 70€ | - | - |
| 21-25 km/h | 115€ | 1 | - |
| 26-30 km/h | 180€ | 1 | 1 month* |
| 31-40 km/h | 260€ | 2 | 1 month |
| 41-50 km/h | 400€ | 2 | 1 month |
| 51-60 km/h | 560€ | 2 | 2 months |
| > 70 km/h | 800€ | 2 | 3 months |

*upon repeat offense

Outside Built-up Areas — Lower Penalties (e.g., 21-25 km/h = 70€)

Other Violations:

| Violation | Fine | Points |
|----------------------------|------|--------|
| Red light (< 1 sec.) | 90€ | 1 |
| Red light (> 1 sec.) | 200€ | 2 |
| Phone in hand | 100€ | 1 |
| Unbuckled seatbelt | 30€ | - |
| Parking on sidewalk | 55€ | - |
| Blocking ambulance passage | 240€ | 2 |

Bußgeldbescheid — What to Do?

- 1. Check deadline** — you have 14 days to appeal
- 2. Photo from speed camera** — is it you? You can request the photo
- 3. Appeal (Einspruch)** — if you disagree

Flensburg Points

- 1-3 points: ok, be careful
- 4-5 points: **Ermahnung** (warning)
- 6-7 points: **Verwarnung** + mandatory training
- **8 points: LOSS OF DRIVING LICENSE**

Points expire after 2.5-10 years.

Driving Ban (Fahrverbot)

- 1-3 months
- You must surrender your license
- Driving during this time = criminal offense!

Blitzer (Speed Cameras)

Where are they?

- blitzer.de — app and website
- Radio — warns about mobile cameras

Don't Pay the Fine?

- 1.** Reminder
- 2.** Bailiff enforcement
- 3.** Possible substitute imprisonment (Erzwingungshaft)

Fines from abroad (e.g., Polish) will find you too!