

CAR HIRE. MAJOR PROVIDERS and WHAT THEY WILL WANT from CUSTOMERS.

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS:

- You must have held a full driving licence for at least a year.
- You must be least 21.
- Young drivers (under 25) often cannot have fast or expensive cars.
- Young drivers (under 25) usually have to pay a surcharge.
- Drivers aged over 70 may face restrictions.
- The owner of the card is responsible for the car, whoever is driving.
- Endorsements on your licence using the letters UT or IN will prevent a rental.
- Endorsements on your licence using the letters DD or DR must be 5 years old.
- Bans of over 6 months must be over 5 years old.
- Bans of over 2 years will prevent a rental.
- Licences with 12 current points or more will prevent a rental.
- You will be able to drive anywhere in mainland UK (so not Northern Ireland).
- Rentals to drive further will be by special arrangements with providers like www.nationalcar.com (see also www.nationalcar.co.uk)

WHAT YOU will NEED WHEN YOU COLLECT YOUR CAR or VAN:

- A full driving licence for all named drivers, with details of all endorsements.
- If you hold a UK photo-card licence, you also need to bring the paper counterpart.
- Proof of address like a bank statement
- Non UK residents must produce a full valid passport
- You must have a Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Diners or Visa Delta card. A deposit will be secured against this card. Many companies don't accept Maestro or Visa Electron.

WHAT YOU'LL PAY FOR:

- Daily rental charges
- Third party (basic) insurance
- Damage liability waiver (limits your total responsibility to perhaps the first £1000)
- Road fund tax
- Breakdown cover
- Usually unlimited mileage (but check!)
- Fuel used
- Refundable deposit
- A child's seat if you require one (usually with an extra deposit)
- VAT at 17.5%

MARKET-LEADING CAR and VAN HIRE COMPANIES:

The following 10 companies are all large and will offer a good deal:

- Alamo at www.alamo.co.uk
- Avis at www.avis.co.uk
- Budget at www.budget.co.uk
- easyCar at www.easyCar.com
- Enterprise at www.enterprise.co.uk/car_rental/home.do
- Europcar at www.europcar.co.uk
- Hertz at www.hertz.co.uk
- National at www.nationalcar.co.uk
- Sixt at www.e-sixt.co.uk
- Thrifty at www.thrifty.co.uk