



Open borders – But not open season!

If you know before travelling that you intend to bring a particular item back from your holiday destination, ask Customs for advice. They will tell you which German legal provisions you have to observe on your return journey, which souvenirs pose no problems whatsoever and which goods are definitely taboo.



You can find answers to these questions and many more online at www.zoll.de



If you have specific questions on the provisions of customs law, Customs' central information unit will be pleased to assist you further. You can contact the unit on:

Tel.: +49 (0) 3 51 / 4 48 34 - 5 10
Fax: +49 (0) 3 51 / 4 48 34 - 5 90
E-mail: info.privat@zoll.de

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PUBLISHER'S INFORMATION

Published by:
Bundesministerium der Finanzen
– Abteilung III –
Am Propstthof 78a
53121 Bonn

Photos:
MEV.CC

Design and production:
The federal revenue administration's
training and knowledge centre

Registration number:
90 SAB 202 22/09



Bundesministerium
der Finanzen

Zoll

Duty-free allowances when travelling within the European Union





Up to the following quantities of goods are assumed to be for private use:



If it's for private use, it's probably duty-free

With the exception of a few specific regions where special regulations apply, you may bring goods with you duty-free when you travel, provided they are destined for your personal use.

Guideline levels

For goods subject to excise duty, such as cigarettes and alcohol, certain guideline levels must be observed. If these levels are exceeded, proof is required that the goods are indeed for private use.

Special regulations

Special regulations apply to the Canary Islands (La Gomera, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, El Hierro, La Palma, Lanzarote and Tenerife), the French overseas departments (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Réunion) as well as St. Pierre and Miquelon, the Åland Islands, Mount Athos and the Channel Islands.

Although these regions belong to the European Union's customs territory, they are not part of the fiscal territory for excise duties and value-added tax.

Any goods you have bought in these regions are subject to the limits on quantity and value that apply when travelling from outside of the European Union.

Tobacco products:

- 800 cigarettes
- 400 cigarillos (cigars weighing not more than 3g each)
- 200 cigars
- 1 kg of smoking tobacco

Alcohol and alcoholic beverages:

- 10 litres of spirits
- 20 litres of intermediate products (e.g. liqueur wine, vermouth)
- 90 litres of wine (of which no more than 60 litres may be sparkling wine)
- 110 litres of beer

Coffee:

- 10 kg of roasted coffee or soluble coffee

Special arrangements for new EU Member States

For a transitional period, special arrangements still apply to certain countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004 or 1 January 2007.

This is the case for Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania.

Duty-free allowances for tobacco products transported from the new EU Member States by travellers:

| Country | Quantity | End of transitional period |
|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| Bulgaria | 200 | 31.12.09 |
| Latvia | 200 | 31.12.09 |
| Romania | 200 | 31.12.09 |

Where no quantities are stated, the guideline levels for personal use specified in the table above apply.

Quantities in excess of the duty-free allowances are subject to tax and will be seized.

