

# DRIVING IN GERMANY

## Most asked questions by first time drivers in Germany:

### *QUESTION: What is an AUTOBAHN?*

Answer: They are the European equivalent to our interstate highways. The major difference is that speed limits are much higher than those found in the states. In some areas there are no posted speed limits and it is not uncommon to see POV's traveling at speeds well above 100 mph.

### *QUESTION: How fast is safe on these autobahns?*

Answer: Safe speeds depend on the skill of the driver, the car being driven, traffic density, and the weather conditions. Any speeds over 130 kilometers per hour (KPH) or 80 MPH are considered dangerous. Many sections of the autobahns now have posted speed limits. When posted, these limits must be followed.

### *QUESTION: What is the traffic like?*

Answer: Traffic is very heavy in Germany. The traffic density is that of New York. The traffic moves very fast, yet there are large numbers of slow moving vehicle on the roadways. As a result, traffic jams or STAUs are

commonplace on all major highways. High speed driving normally only gets you to the next traffic jam faster than the slower traffic.

- ⇒ *Visibility to less than 50 meters, drivers must reduce their speeds to less than 50 KPH.*
- ⇒ *Rainstorms come very quickly and can cause water to remain standing on the roadway. This can cause your car to hydroplane, or lose contact with the road. During periods of rain, drivers must be careful to reduce speeds and ensure that tires have adequate tread depth to prevent losing control of the car.*
- ⇒ *Black Ice is very common during the months September through April. This condition is when ice forms on the road surface in very thin layers. This ice is difficult, if not impossible, to see. During cold mornings and nights is the most dangerous time for black ice.*
- ⇒ *Snow and ice are another weather-related cause for accidents. Don't be in a hurry and allow extra driving time to makeup for the slow down in traffic is the smart way to plan.*
- ⇒ *Improper passing causes accidents. Don't pass on the*

*right, make sure the road ahead is clear and there is enough time to pass. Be alert to other drivers passing you from the rear -- before passing you must clear all*

- ⇒ *Traffic to include traffic from the rear. When approaching curves, expect that another driver from the opposite direction may be passing. Stay to the right side of the road an*

