General Information

In Germany all vehicles, bicycles included, must use the right side of the road.

A bike helmet is recommended. It protects your head from injury.

Pay attention to the safety of others travelling on the road or on the path.

Be ready to stop: Watch for cars crossing your path when they go in and out of parking lots, driveways, etc.

Be careful: Trucks and vans often don’t see cyclists. Therefore stay behind them.

About the ADFC

With over 155,000 members, the General German Bicycle Club (Allgemeine Deutsche Fahrrad-Club e.V. (ADFC)) is the largest bicycle advocacy group in Germany and in the world. It provides advice on any question related to bicycles: Legal, technical or tourist-related. Politically, the ADFC actively promotes bicycle traffic on the regional, national and international level.

Travelling safely by bike

The most important Traffic Rules for Bicycles

Version Englisch

Attention: Cars turning right

Cars and trucks turning right may not see cyclists going straight.

Important: Even if I have the right of way, I only proceed if the driver has seen me. If not, I wait!

If I want to make a turn

I clearly and timely use hand signals (the arm is extended out to the right or to the left). Before turning, I look around (including behind me) and pay attention to cars and people on foot. When turning left, I watch for traffic coming from the opposite direction.

Passing

When passing other cyclists, I make sure to have sufficient space between me and the cyclists I am passing. Before passing someone, I use the bell to tell them I am approaching on the left.

Where can I ride my bicycle?

On the street (with cars)

If there is no indicated path for bicycles (by traffic sign), cyclists are allowed to use the street/road. They have to stay on the right side of the road.

Monetary fines for violating the traffic rules

Cyclists, who do not respect the traffic rules may be fined quite a lot of money, even if no accident occurs!
Important signs on the road

Bicycle Path (obligatory!)
Cyclists must use bicycle paths indicated with this sign. They are not allowed to use the road where this sign is present.

Separate path for walking and for bicycles
The walk way and the bicycle path are next to each other. Bicycles must stay on the side indicated by this sign! Do not use the walk way, not even when passing other cyclists. Bicycles may not use the road where this sign is present.

One path for walking and for bicycles
Cyclists must use the bicycle path. Cyclists and pedestrians must share the path. Cyclists may not use the road where this sign is present.
Therefore: Respect pedestrians. Ring your bell to let them know that you would like to pass.

Walking Path
Get off the bicycle and push it. You may not ride on the walk way if you see this sign. Bicycles are not allowed on the path, even if there is no such sign. If there is no bicycle path, cyclists must use the road (with the cars.)
Exception: Children up to 8 years old must use the walk way. Children between 8 and 10 years old may also use the walk way.

Pedestrian Zone
No riding here. Get off the bicycle and push it if you see this sign.
Exception: If this sign is included below the pedestrian zone sign, cyclists are allowed to ride on the walk way or in the pedestrian zone, but only at the same speed as those walking. Pedestrians have priority!

In which direction may I ride?
Cyclists must always use the right side on all paths and roads. You may not cycle against the flowing traffic on a bicycle path!
Exception: Where this sign is present, cyclists may ride in both directions on this path.

One way street
All vehicles may ride only in the direction indicated.
Exception: This sign allows two-way traffic for bicycles.

Do not enter
You may not enter streets with this sign. You may push a bicycle on the sidewalk.
Exception: This sign indicates that bicycles are allowed to enter the street and ride in both directions. But watch out for cars coming towards you!

Bicycles or other vehicles are not allowed
No cycling here. Get off the bicycle and push it.

All vehicles are not allowed
No vehicles are allowed. Get off the bicycle and push it.

Give way: Others have the right of way
Other vehicles have the right of way and are allowed to go first. If there is no sign at street corners indicating the right of way, the rule is: Those approaching from the right have the right of way and can go first (priority to the right).

Stop – others have the right of way
Stop and give others the right of way.

Traffic lights
At many intersections, traffic is regulated by traffic lights.

Meaning of the colors:
Red: Stop and wait!
Green: You can move on.
Yellow: Indicates that the light will change immediately from Red to Green or from Green to Red.

The walk way often has special traffic lights for pedestrians;
The bicycle path also may have combined traffic lights for cyclists and pedestrians;
or special traffic lights for bicycles:

If there is no signal for cyclists on the bike path follow the signal for pedestrians.

Slow traffic area (children playing)
All vehicles, including bicycles, may travel only at walking speed. Be careful! Children often play in these streets.

Crosswalk
This sign indicates that pedestrians crossing the street have the right of way.
All vehicles, bicycles included, must wait.