



Frequently asked questions about buy a car for France

How does the registration process work?

It depends what country your car is coming from and which country you want to register it in. There is wide variation. France, for example, penalises “high polluting” vehicles – this being calculated by a combination of its level of emissions and its brake horsepower - so costs of registration for imported vehicles there can be high. A solution in that case would be to source a French registered car. Don’t worry, we can provide advice on this to ensure there are no nasty surprises and we can undertake all or most of the process for you to make it easier.

Will I need temporary plates, and why?

Sometimes it’s impossible for the registration of your car to a new address in another country to be achieved beforehand. For example, you will have a delay in proving proof of residence in the country you’re going to and you need legal plates to bridge the gap. Talk to us about the issues and we can usually find a way to make things work.

Will I have to pay VAT for my car in the country where I’ll be using it?

VAT (sales tax) is paid on new vehicles. If you’re buying a new vehicle and then importing it to another country, you would usually have to produce a document to prove VAT has been paid or else you may be taxed in the new country. This doesn’t apply to second-hand vehicles.

Will there be any additional charges on top of what I’m quoted?

We offer free delivery between certain countries but, where very long distances are involved, we may need to make a charge for delivery. We will always tell you this, where it applies, and give you a fully inclusive price for the vehicle, its registration, delivery to one of our branches or to an address of your choice, and any other charges that apply.

Is there any negotiation on prices?

We source our cars from a large network of suppliers, usually buying them wholesale from people we know and trust. When we source one for you and quote a price, we have normally already

negotiated the best deal we can for you, but sometimes there is a little bit of wriggle room. If you are not happy with the price, we can try to find you something different that fits your budget, but you might have to be a little bit flexible on model, mileage, age, specification on something else. In most cases, we can deliver to our buyer's brief – as long as it's not unrealistic - and leave them happy.

Where do you deliver to?

We can usually arrange to move a vehicle from and to any country. Talk to us about your needs and we can advise you about the costs and other things you might need to know.

What documentation will come with my vehicle?

Your car will come with valid certificates such as the equivalent of an MOT certificate, a warranty and service history.

How can you help with insurance?

We have a trusted insurance company who we deal with all the time. They will be happy to provide a quote for you and your vehicle. If you prefer, you can arrange your own insurance of course.

Will my insurance be for a fixed time or is it flexible?

It depends on the country. In the UK, policies are annual. In France they are not for a fixed period and you can change at any time if you find cover that you like better. Talk to us and we will be able to put you in the picture about the rules in the country where your vehicle will be based.

Will I need to pay road tax for my car?

Again, this varies. In the UK, rates are linked to the type of car you drive and to its emissions. France doesn't currently have any road tax. We'll be able to tell you whether it will apply in your case.

What does the warranty cover?

Our standard warranty is six months and covers....

How would I make a claim on the warranty when I'm in another country?

You would need to contact us directly before making any claim. If you purchase the car on Spanish plates, a local warranty will apply.

When do I pay for my vehicle?

You will pay 20 per cent of the cost upfront, at the time when we agree the deal. You will pay the balance on delivery/collection of the vehicle. You are welcome to pay by credit/debit card or by bank transfer. We will be unable to handover the vehicle until you have paid the full amount.

How long does it take from the point of ordering the vehicle to it being ready for collection/delivery?

It varies but we can usually have your new vehicle at your chosen destination in a week or two.