

Google provides information about the use of maps and any costs in different ways and in different sources.

As a result of the multitude of information, that can sometimes be confusing.

We regularly receive questions about this. Which information is correct? Is free usage valid for up to \$ 200 a month or up to \$ 300 for 90 days? And is the free use only valid for 90 days? Or is it valid longer?

Here are the answers:

In principle, the use of the API key in Google Maps is free up to an amount of \$ 200 each month.

Example: creating a route over 165 km and 13 waypoints 'costs' about \$ 0.98

To get the API key it is necessary to

- sign in to the Google Maps Platform
- provide payment information.

More information can be found here: <https://cloud.google.com/maps-platform/pricing/>

At the same time as you register, a trial period of 90 days starts and you get \$ 300 credit. Should the \$ 200 exemption limit be exceeded in a month, the excess amount will be deducted from the \$ 300 credit.

Transparency:

Every month, Google sends an invoice documenting usage and resulting costs. During the free trial period, the final amount is always 0.00

Safety:

Usage ends automatically after the trial ends (90 days or \$ 300 credit used up).

In order to be able to continue using it, the 'passive' billing account must now be switched to 'active'.

From this point on:

- \$ 200 per month are free
- Exceeding amounts will be invoiced

More information can be found here: <https://cloud.google.com/free/>

If you want to be absolutely sure that you never get a bill, you can set a restriction on usage:

- Go to this page: <https://console.cloud.google.com/google/maps-apis/api-list>
- And click on the word 'Quotas' on the left to set a maximum.

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