USER MANUAL

PHP Car Rental

Everything you need to install, configure and run your car rental website: 49 illustrated topics for the website, the member panel and the admin panel.

NetArt Media · 3 November 2026
Online version: https://www.netartmedia.net/manuals/car-rental/

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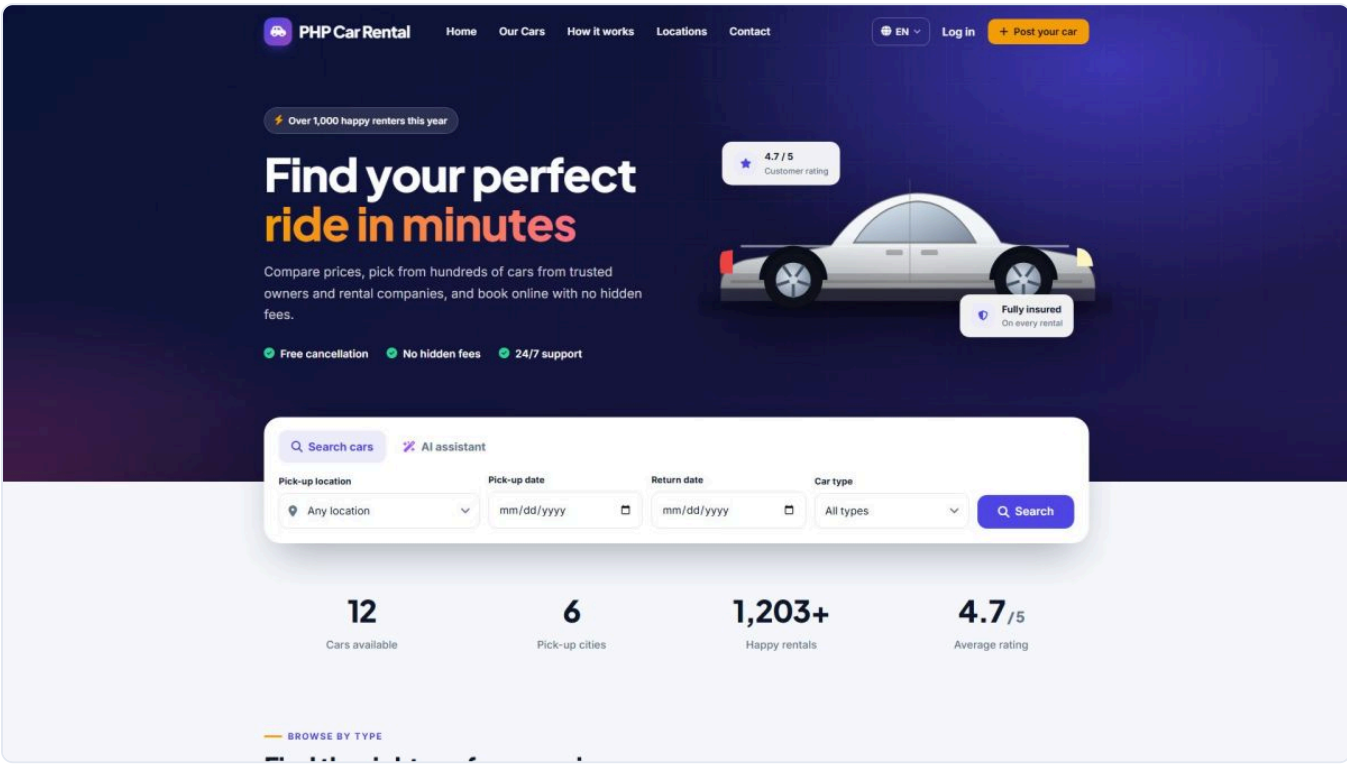
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GETTING STARTED

What is PHP Car Rental?

PHP Car Rental is a complete car rental website script written in plain PHP and MySQL. It gives you a modern customer website, a member area for car owners and renters, and a full admin panel, so you can start a car rental company or a car-sharing marketplace on your own hosting.



The home page of a PHP Car Rental website

Three products in one script

Part	Who uses it	What it does
Website (front end)	Visitors and customers	Search and filter cars, AI search, car pages with a live price calculator, booking requests, reviews, favorites, English and Spanish. See the front end chapter.
Member panel	Car owners and renters	Register, post cars with the AI listing generator, manage booking requests, pay for listings, track own bookings. See the member panel chapter.
Admin panel	You, the website owner	Manage cars, bookings, users, payments, pages, news, languages, AI settings, statistics and permissions. See the admin chapter.

Main features

- **AI search** - visitors describe a trip in plain words and the script builds the search (AI car search).
- **AI listing generator** - owners get the title, description and form fields written for them (AI listing generator).

- **Live price calculator** with seasonal prices, long-rental discounts, extras and coupons (Live pricing).
- **Booking requests** with availability checking and automatic e-mails (The booking process).
- **Paid listings** with Stripe, PayPal or bank transfer (Paid listings and checkout, Payment settings).
- **Multi-language** interface and content, English and Spanish included (Languages on the website).
- **Mobile-first template** that you can recolor from the admin panel (Logo, colors and branding).
- **Statistics, permissions and security** built in (Traffic statistics, Administrators, groups and permissions, Security).

Who is it for?

Car rental companies that want their own booking website, entrepreneurs building a peer-to-peer car rental marketplace, web agencies delivering sites for rental clients, and developers who want a clean PHP base they can edit. The code is intentionally simple: no Composer, no heavy framework, no payment SDKs.

How this manual is organized

The manual follows the product: start with installation and the quick start, then read the chapters for the website, the member panel and the admin panel. Developers will find the technical chapters at the end.

GETTING STARTED

Installation

PHP Car Rental installs with a web installer. You upload the files, open one address in the browser, fill in a short form and the database, demo content and configuration file are created for you.

Server requirements

Requirement	Details
PHP	7.4 or newer (tested on PHP 8.2)
PHP extensions	`pdo_mysql`, `curl`, `gd`, `mbstring`
Database	MySQL 5.7+ or MariaDB 10.3+, with a user that can create tables
Web server	Apache is recommended. `mod_rewrite` is needed only for SEO-friendly URLs
Other	HTTPS is strongly recommended, especially if you accept payments

Install with the web installer

1. Upload the content of the script folder to your hosting, for example to `public_html` or to a sub folder.
2. Make sure the folders `uploaded_images` and `thumbnails` are writable (permissions 755 or 775).
3. Open `https://your-site.com/install/` in the browser.
4. Enter the database data: host, database name, user, password and a table prefix (the default `carrental_` is fine). The installer creates the database if your MySQL user is allowed to.
5. Enter the website name, the administrator e-mail, username and password.
6. Keep **Install demo content** ticked if you want 12 sample cars, reviews, bookings and news to see the site working. You can remove them later.
7. Click **Install now**. The tables are created and `config.php` is written automatically.
8. **Delete the `install` folder** from the server.

Always delete the `install` folder after the installation. It contains an SQL file and the installer script that should not stay on a live website.

Alternative: import the SQL file by hand

If you prefer phpMyAdmin: create an empty database, import `install/PHPCarRental.sql`, then edit `config.php` (see below). The dump contains demo content and the administrator `admin` with the password `admin123`. **Change this password immediately** in *Home → My account* (My account (password and language)).

The config.php file

Variable	Meaning
`$DOMAIN_NAME`	Optional full address used in e-mails and payment return links, for example `www.example.com/rent`. Leave empty to auto-detect.
`$DBHost`, `$DBUser`, `$DBPass`, `$DBName`	MySQL access data.
`$DBprefix`	Prefix of all table names. Keep it if you share the database with another script.
`$DEBUG_MODE`	Set to `false` on a live website to hide PHP and SQL error details.
`$ProductName`	Name shown in the admin panel header.

After the installation

- Open your website and the admin panel at `/ADMIN/` and log in.
- Follow the quick start checklist to brand the site and set up payments.
- Installing in a sub folder works without changes; the script detects its own path.
- To use SEO-friendly URLs, enable them as described in General settings.

GETTING STARTED

Quick start checklist

Use this checklist after the installation to turn the demo into your own business. Each step links to the page that explains it in detail.

1. **Log in** to `/ADMIN/` and change your password (My account (password and language)).
2. **Set the identity of the site**: name, logo, favicon, colors and home page texts (Logo, colors and branding).
3. **Enter your contact data**, e-mail and timezone (General settings).
4. **Configure e-mail** so booking and password e-mails are delivered (E-mail and SMTP).
5. **Add your locations, car types, brands and extras** (Car types, brands and features, Extras, locations and coupons).
6. **Add your first cars** with photos and prices (The car editor). Delete the demo cars when you no longer need them.
7. **Edit your pages**: About us, Terms, Privacy and the menu (Pages and menu).
8. **Choose the currency and payments** if users pay for listings (Payment settings, Packages and transactions).
9. **Switch on AI** by choosing a provider and pasting an API key (AI settings).
10. **Add SEO and tracking** codes and check the site in your language(s) (SEO, tracking and social media, Languages).

Before going live, open the website in a private browser window and test the full path: search a car, send a booking request, register a user, post a car. Then delete the demo users in *Users* (Website users).

Demo accounts

When the demo content is installed, two website accounts exist: `owner@example.com` (a car owner) and `demo@example.com` (a customer), both with the password `demo123`. They are useful to explore the member panel. Remove them on a live site.

GETTING STARTED

Folder and file structure

The script uses a small, readable structure shared with other NetArt Media scripts. Knowing where things live makes customizing easy.

Top level

Path	Purpose
`index.php`	Front controller: loads the classes and shows the requested page or module.
`config.php`	Database access and basic settings.
`include/`	Core classes and helpers (see below).
`extensions/`	One file per website module: home, cars, car, booking, contact, faq, news, login, register, account, payment ... Sections of "My account" are in `extensions/account/`.
`templates/modern/`	The website template: `template.html`, CSS and JavaScript.
`languages/`	Interface texts of the website: `en.php`, `es.php`.
`ADMIN/`	The admin panel.
`uploaded_images/`, `thumbnails/`	Car photos, logo and other uploads (must be writable).
`install/`	Web installer and SQL dump. Delete after installing.
`.htaccess`	URL rewriting rules for SEO-friendly addresses.

The include folder

File	What it does
`DatabasePDO.class.php`	Database class used in all scripts of the family.
`PageController.class.php`	Routing: `?page=slug` shows a CMS page, `?mod=name` runs `extensions/name.php`.
`PageModel.class.php`	Queries for pages and settings.
`TemplateEngine.class.php`	Fills the template tags such as `<site menu/>` and `{{text_key}}`.
`CarModel.class.php`	Car search, prices, availability, bookings, publishing.
`Payments.class.php`	Stripe Checkout, PayPal Orders and bank transfer.
`SiteUser.class.php`	Website users: login, registration, password reset.
`helpers.php`	Links, texts, settings, formatting, e-mail, CSRF.
`ajax_*.php`	AI generator, AI search, live price and favorites endpoints.
`stripe_webhook.php`	Stripe webhook address.

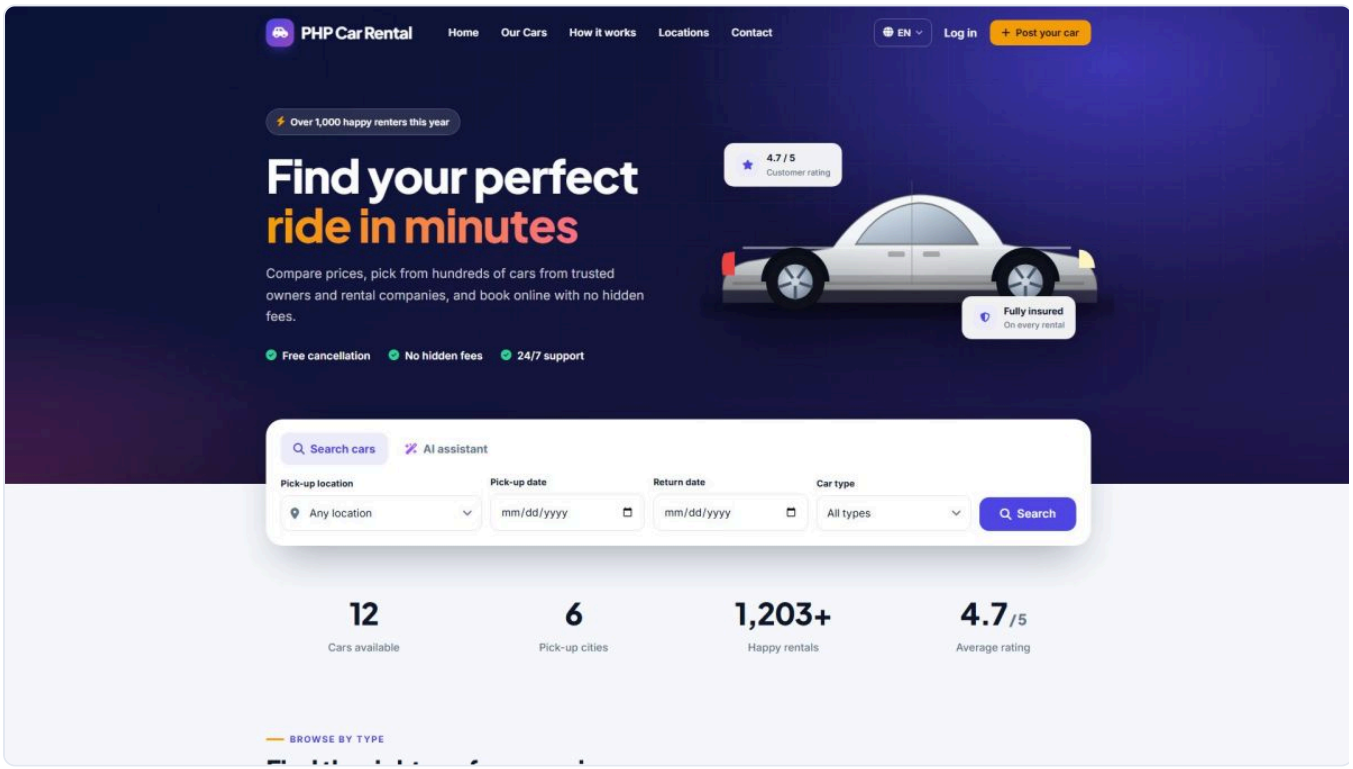
The ADMIN folder

Each admin page is one file in `ADMIN/<category>/<action>.php`, listed in `ADMIN/pages_structure.php`, which builds the menu and the permissions. Shared classes are in `ADMIN/include/` and the interface texts in `ADMIN/en.php` and `ADMIN/es.php`.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

The home page

The home page is built to turn visitors into customers: a strong first screen, a search box that is always visible, and sections that build trust and show your cars.



The hero section with the two search tabs

Sections from top to bottom

Section	What it shows	Where you control it
Hero	Headline, short text, trust points, an illustrated car and the search panel.	Home page texts and image: Logo, colors and branding.
Search panel	Two tabs: **Search cars** (location, dates, type) and **AI assistant**.	AI tab: AI settings. Locations and types: Car types, brands and features.
Numbers	Cars available, pick-up cities, happy rentals and average rating, calculated from your data.	Automatic.
Browse by type	One tile per active car type with the number of cars.	Car types, brands and features.
Featured cars	Up to six cars, featured ones first.	Mark a car as featured in Managing cars.
How it works and Why us	Three steps and six advantages.	Texts in `languages/en.php` (Languages on the website).

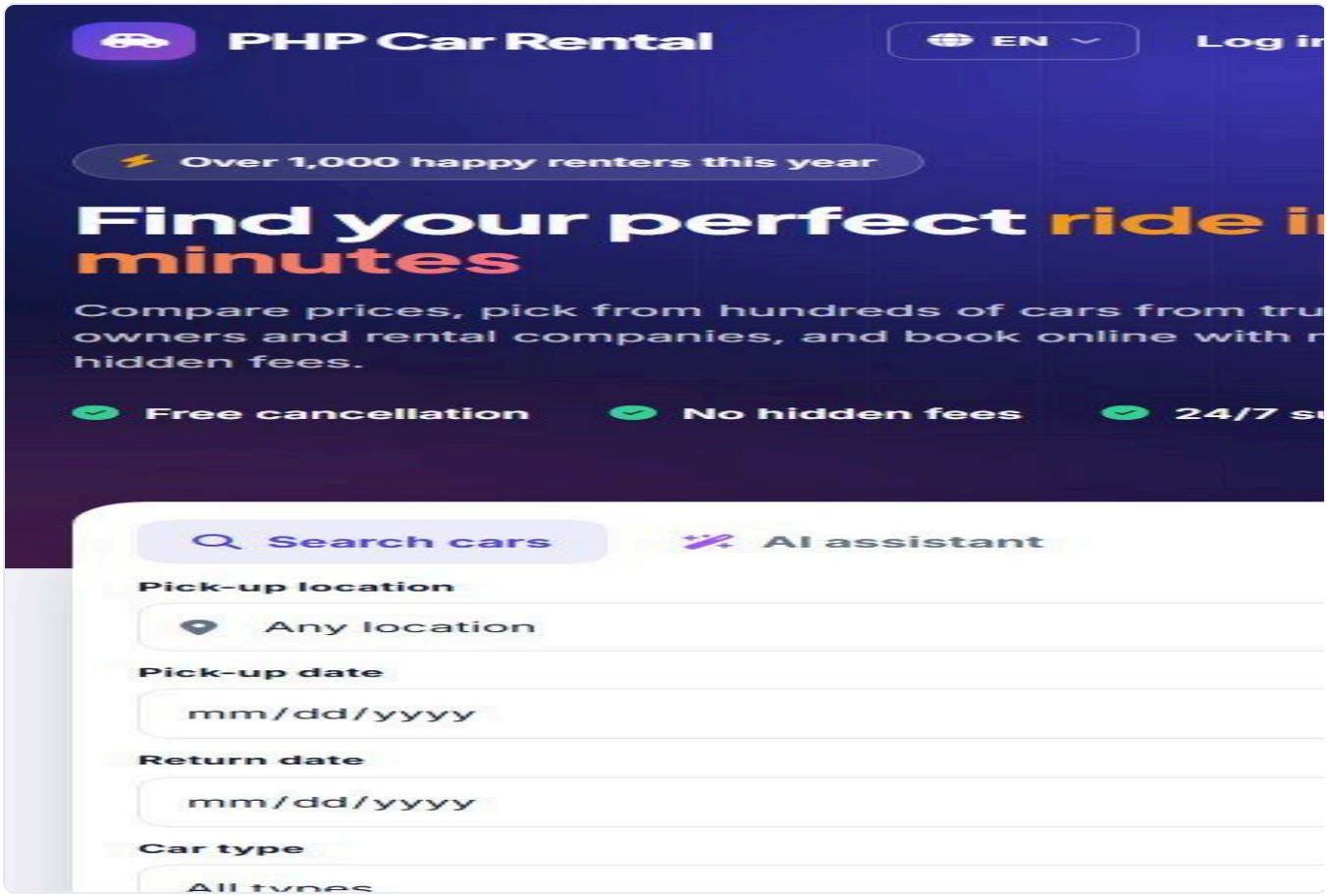
Section	What it shows	Where you control it
Popular locations	Cards for your pick-up places with car counts.	Extras, locations and coupons.
Testimonials	Latest approved reviews with 4 or 5 stars.	Approve reviews in Moderating reviews.
Post your car	Banner that invites owners to list a car.	Shown when *Users can post their own cars* is on (General settings).

Customize the home page

- Change the main color, logo, fonts and the hero background photo in *Website → Logo & colors*.
- Replace the headline and subtitle with your own words in the same page.
- Reorder or hide menu items in Pages and menu.

Mobile and tablet

The template is responsive. On phones the menu becomes a slide-down panel, the search form stacks into one column and car cards become a single column. No separate mobile site is needed.

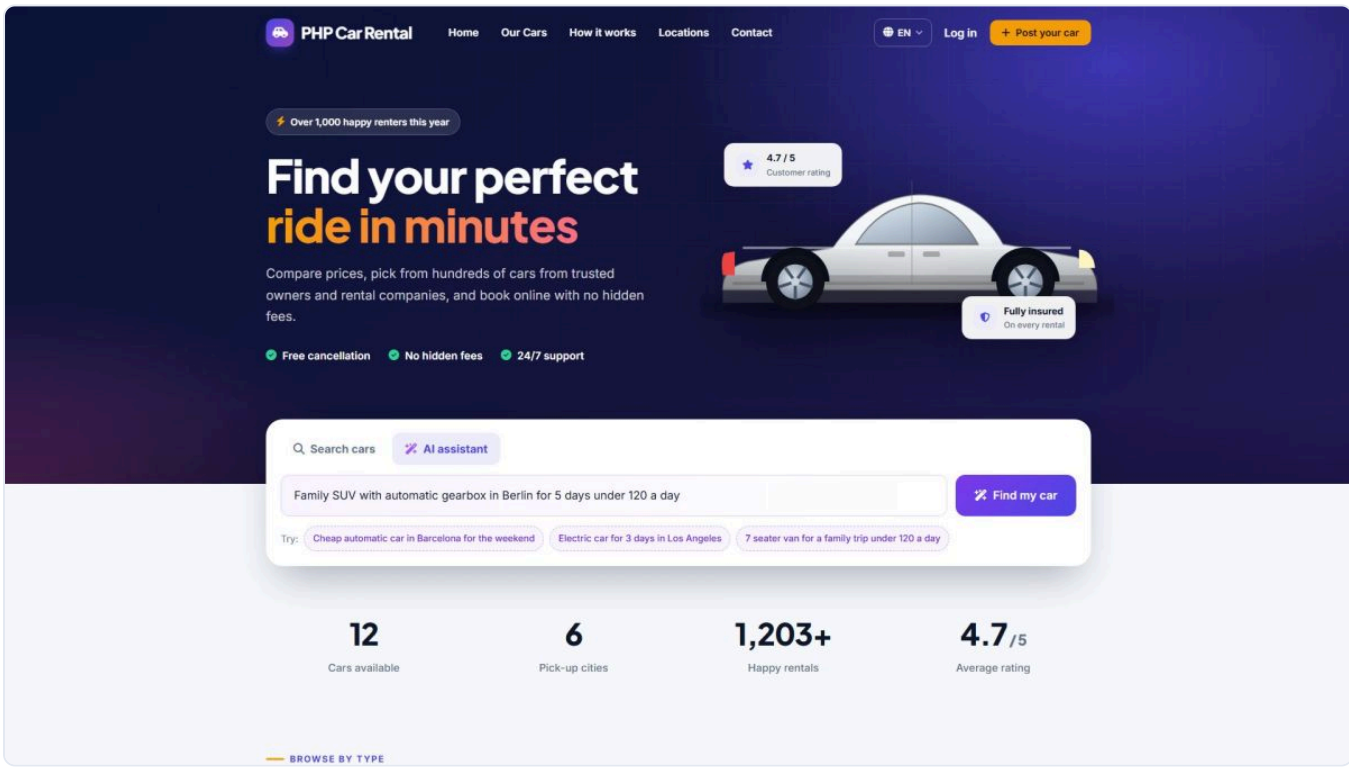


The home page on a phone

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

AI car search

Instead of choosing a location, dates, type and price one by one, a visitor can write one sentence. The AI turns it into search filters and opens the matching cars.



The AI assistant tab of the home page search panel

How a visitor uses it

1. On the home page, click the **AI assistant** tab.
2. Type what you need, for example: *Family SUV with automatic gearbox in Berlin for 5 days under 120 a day*.
3. Press **Find my car**. A short friendly summary appears and the results page opens with the filters already set.

Example sentences are shown under the box as clickable chips and they can be translated in the language files.

What the AI understands

- Car type, for example SUV, electric, van or convertible (mapped to your own car types).
- Pick-up city or location (mapped to your locations).
- Minimum number of seats, automatic or manual gearbox, and fuel type.
- A maximum price per day.
- Dates such as "next weekend", "for 5 days" or "from Friday". The current date is sent to the AI so that relative dates are resolved correctly.

Works without an API key

If no AI provider is configured, a built-in keyword parser still reads the sentence: it finds words such as automatic, electric, "5 seats", "under 90", your car types, your cities and "weekend". The search box therefore never looks broken. Add an API key for much better understanding of free text.

Set it up

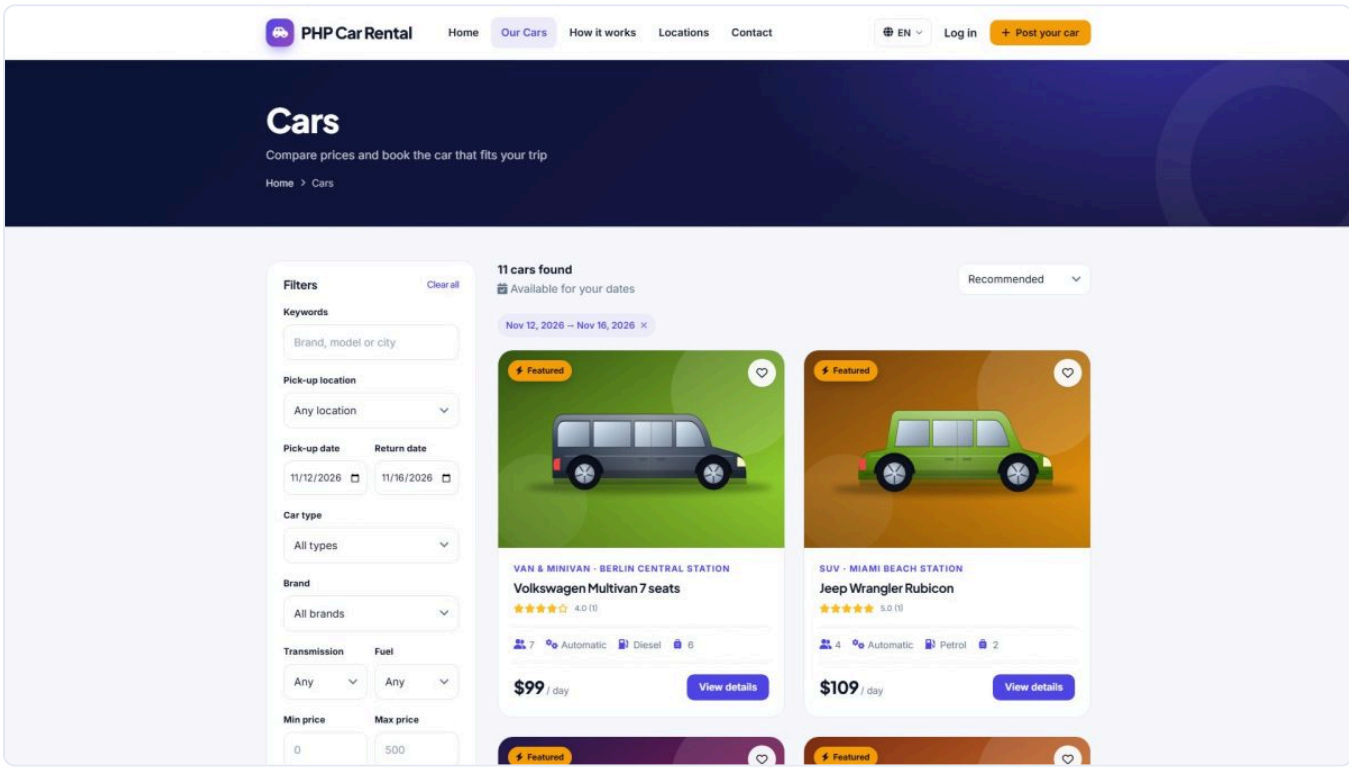
1. Open *Settings* → *AI settings* (AI settings).
2. Choose Groq, DeepSeek or ChatGPT, paste the API key and save.
3. Make sure **AI search on the home page** is ticked.

The API key stays on the server and is never sent to the browser. Requests are rate-limited per visitor and per IP address so nobody can use up your credits.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Search and filters

The Our Cars page combines a filter sidebar with a grid of results. Every filter works together with the others and the address of the page can be shared or bookmarked.



The search page with filters and results

Available filters

Filter	Notes
Keywords	Searches title, model, brand and city.
Pick-up location	Your active locations (Extras, locations and coupons).
Pick-up and return date	Only cars that are really free in that period are shown. Bookings that are pending or confirmed block the dates, up to the number of identical cars you have.
Car type, brand	Managed in Car types, brands and features.
Transmission, fuel	Automatic or manual; petrol, diesel, hybrid, electric, LPG.
Price min and max	Price per day.
Minimum seats	2, 4, 5 or 7 and more.
Features	One checkbox per equipment item (air conditioning, GPS ...). A car must have all ticked items.

Sorting, chips and pages

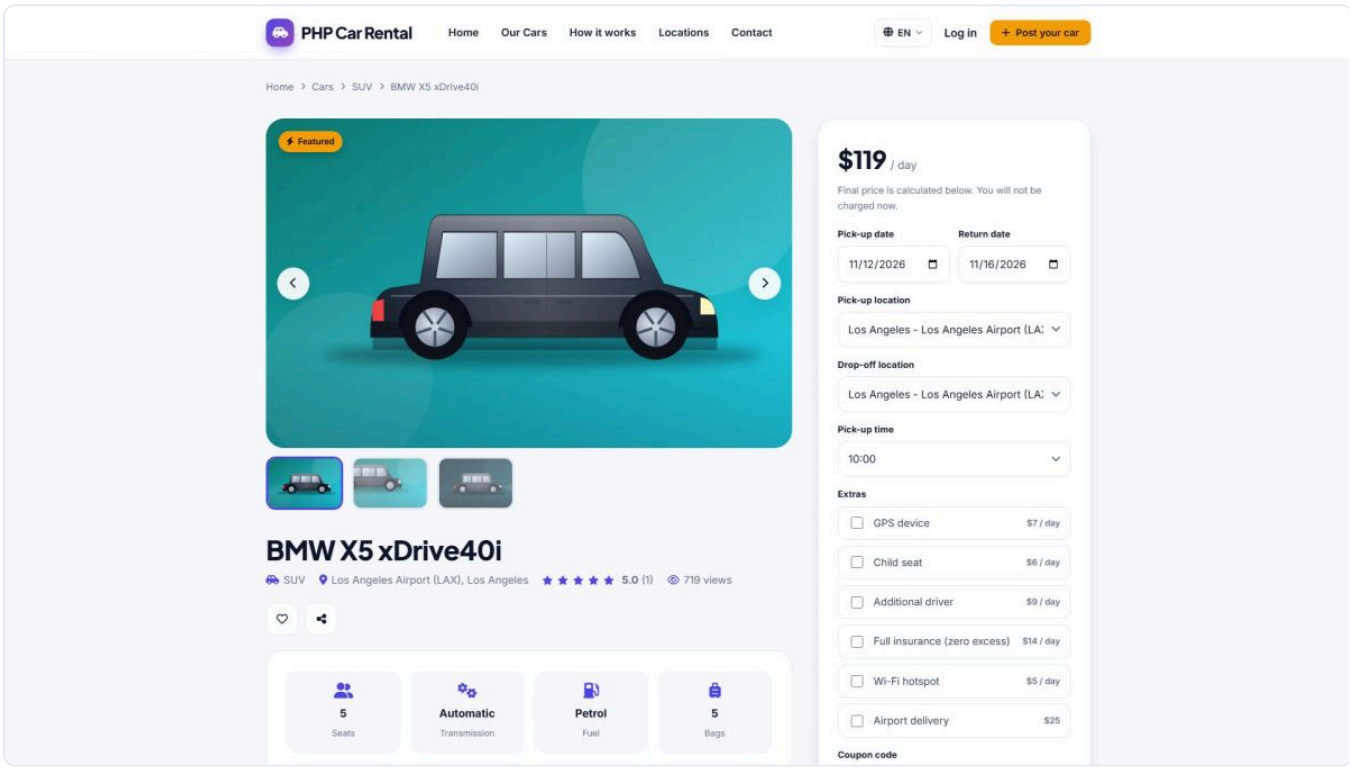
- Sort by recommended (featured first), price low to high or high to low, newest, best rated and most popular.
- Active filters appear as removable chips above the results.
- Pagination uses the *Cars per page* value from General settings.
- When dates are chosen, they are passed to the car page so the booking box is pre-filled.

Link directly to a filtered result, for example all cars of one type: `index.php?mod=cars&category=2`. This is handy for advertising campaigns and menu links.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

The car page

The car page is where bookings are decided. It shows everything a renter wants to know and keeps the booking box visible while the visitor scrolls.



Gallery on the left, booking box on the right

What the page contains

- **Photo gallery** with thumbnails, next and previous arrows and a full-screen lightbox (keyboard arrows work).
- **Title, type, location, rating and views**, plus favorite and share buttons.
- **Specifications**: seats, gearbox, fuel, bags, doors, year, mileage per day and minimum driver age.
- **Description** written by the owner or by the AI (AI listing generator).
- **Features** with icons.
- **Rental terms**: deposit, minimum rental, mileage and discounts.
- **Owner box** with a *Contact the owner* form. Messages arrive in the owner's Messages and by e-mail.
- **Reviews** and a form to write one (Reviews and favorites).
- **Similar cars** of the same type and similar price.

The booking box

On the right, the sticky box lets the visitor choose dates, locations, pick-up time, extras and a coupon. The price is recalculated instantly (Live pricing) and the **Request booking** button sends the request (The booking process).

Good for search engines

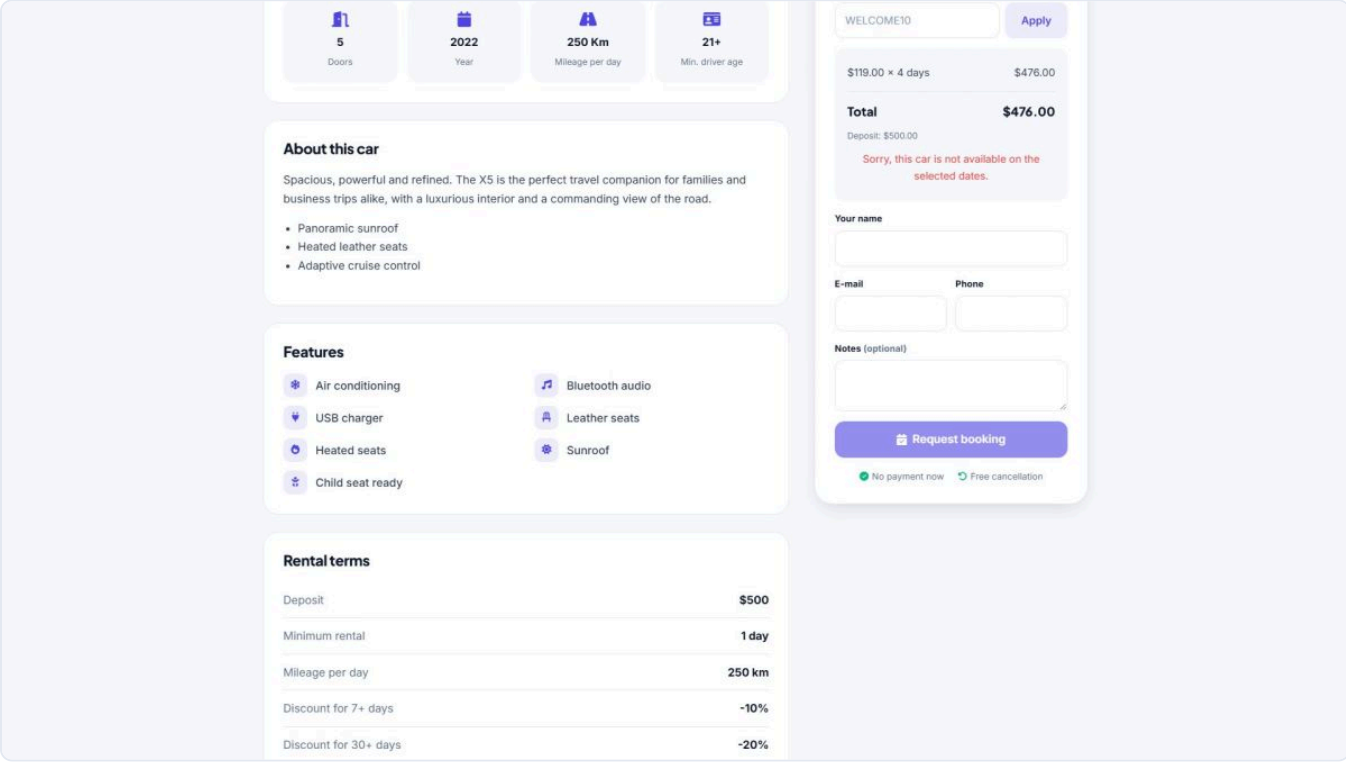
Each car page has its own title, a description taken from the car text, an Open Graph image and structured data (price, brand and rating). With SEO-friendly URLs enabled the address looks like `/car-bmw-x5-xdrive40i-2` (General settings).

Cars that are paused, expired or waiting for approval are hidden from the public. The owner and administrators can still open them to preview.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Live pricing

The total price is calculated on the server and displayed live in the booking box, so the customer always sees what a booking will cost before sending it.



Rental terms shown on the car page

How the total is calculated

1. **Days**: the number of days between pick-up and return (at least 1). The car's *minimum days* is enforced.
2. **Daily prices**: every day uses the normal price per day, or the price of a *seasonal range* if the day falls inside one.
3. **Long rental discount**: 7 days or more applies the weekly percentage; 30 days or more applies the monthly percentage.
4. **Extras** are added: per day (child seat, GPS) or as a fixed price (airport delivery).
5. **Coupon**: percentage or fixed amount, applied to the rental price after the long-rental discount.
6. **Total** = rental after discounts − coupon + extras. The refundable **deposit** is shown separately.

Where each part is set

Item	Set in
Price per day, deposit, minimum days, mileage, discounts	Car form: The car editor or the owner's post a car form.
Seasonal prices	The car editor (administrators).

Item	Set in
Extras	Extras, locations and coupons.
Coupons	Extras, locations and coupons.
Currency symbol and position	Payment settings, tab *Paid listings*.

Availability

The script counts pending and confirmed bookings that overlap the chosen dates. If the number reaches the *number of identical cars* of the listing, the box shows that the car is not available and the request button is disabled.

Use seasonal prices for summer or holidays instead of editing the normal price twice a year.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

The booking process

A booking in PHP Car Rental is a request that the car owner (or you, for your own cars) confirms. The customer does not pay anything at this stage.

Step by step for the customer

1. Choose pick-up and return dates in the booking box of the car page.
2. Select the pick-up and drop-off location, pick-up time and optional extras. Enter a coupon if you have one.
3. Check the price, enter name, e-mail and phone and click **Request booking**.
4. A confirmation page shows the booking code (for example `CR-A1B2C3D`) and the price details.

Guests can book without an account. If you want to require registration, tick *Customers must log in to book* in General settings.

Statuses

Status	Meaning
Pending	New request. It already blocks the dates.
Confirmed	Accepted by the owner or administrator.
Rejected	Declined.
Cancelled	Cancelled by the customer or the owner.
Completed	The rental has ended.

E-mails

- The customer receives an e-mail when the request is received and when it is confirmed, rejected or cancelled.
- The car owner (or the administrator e-mail for company cars) receives a notice about every new request.

E-mails need a working mail setup. See E-mail and SMTP for sender and SMTP settings.

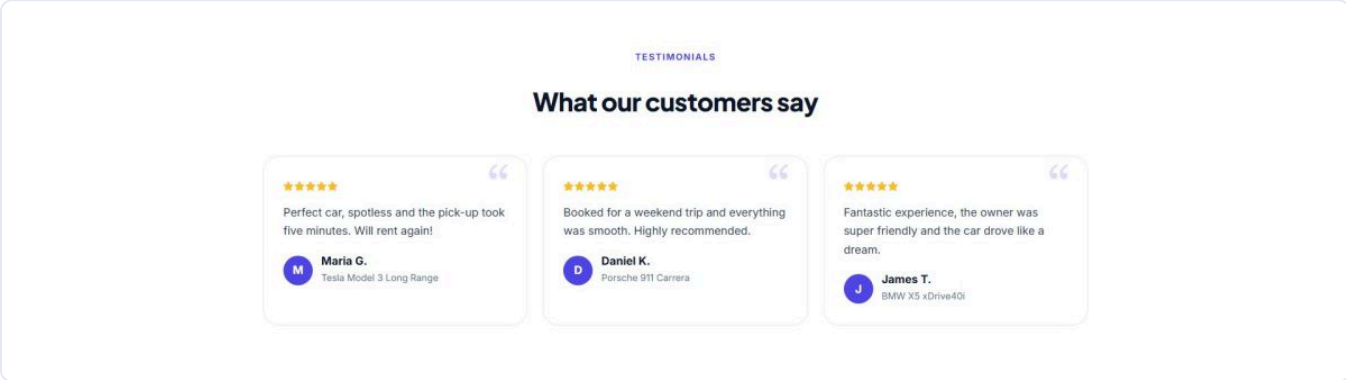
Protection against abuse

The booking form checks a security token and limits how many requests one visitor can send in a short time. Dates in the past and unavailable cars are rejected.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Reviews and favorites

Reviews build trust and favorites bring visitors back. Both are built in and work for registered users.



Approved reviews are shown on the home page

Reviews

- A logged-in user can write one review per car: a rating from 1 to 5 stars and a comment.
- The average rating and the number of reviews are shown on the car card, in search results and on the car page.
- By default new reviews wait for approval. Change this with *New reviews need approval* in General settings.
- Approve, hide or delete reviews in Moderating reviews. Ratings update automatically.

Favorites

- The heart on a car card or car page saves the car to the user's favorites.
- Guests who click the heart are taken to the login page first.
- Saved cars are listed in *My account* → *Favorites* (My bookings, favorites and profile).

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Languages on the website

Visitors choose their language from the globe button in the header. The whole interface and every translated item switches at once, and the choice is remembered.



The same home page in Spanish

What is translated

Content	Where the translations live
Buttons, labels, messages, e-mails	Language files `languages/xx.php`.
Pages and menu	Page form, one tab per language (Pages and menu).
News articles	News form (News and FAQ).
FAQ, car types, features, extras	Their forms in the admin (Car types, brands and features, Extras, locations and coupons).
Car titles and descriptions	Written once by the owner, in the language of the owner.

How switching works

- The switcher adds `?lang=es` to the current address; the language is then stored in the session.
- With SEO-friendly URLs, links of other languages get a prefix such as `/es-car-seat-ibiza-12`.
- Missing texts fall back to English, so a half-translated language never shows empty labels.

- The switcher is shown only when *multi-language* is enabled and at least two languages are active (Languages).

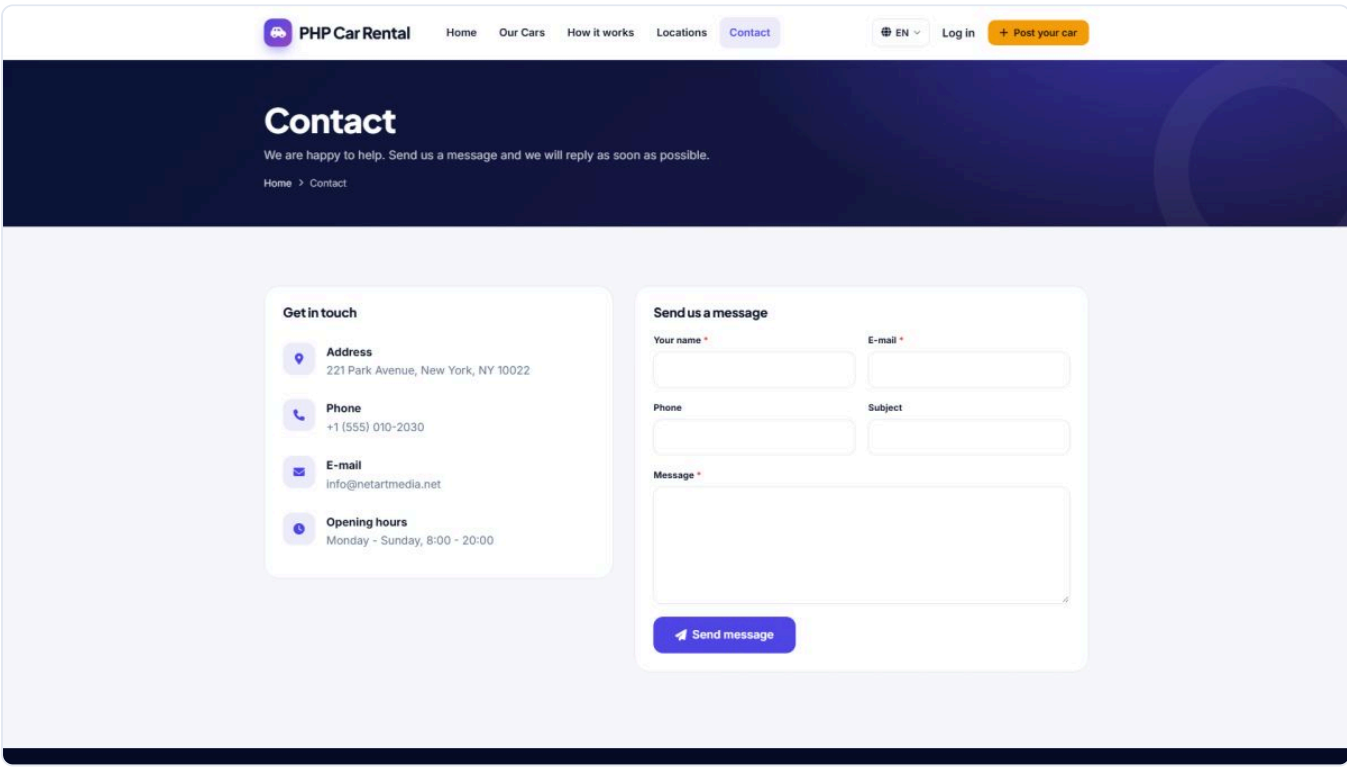
Add a language

Create the language in *Settings* → *Languages*. The script copies the English file to `languages/xx.php`; translate the values (never the keys) and translate your pages, news and FAQ. Details in Languages.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Contact, FAQ, news and locations

Besides cars, the website has ready-made content pages. Each one is a module that you can attach to any menu item.



The contact page

Contact page

Shows your address, phone and e-mail and a form. Messages are saved in *Home → Messages* (Admin login and dashboard) and e-mailed to the contact address. The form includes a hidden spam field, a security token and a limit on messages per visitor.

FAQ

An accordion of questions and answers managed in Website → FAQ. Each item is translated in every language.

News

A simple blog with article cards and article pages, ideal for travel tips and offers. Articles have their own address, summary and translations.

Locations

A list of all pick-up places with the number of cars; each card opens the car search filtered by that place.

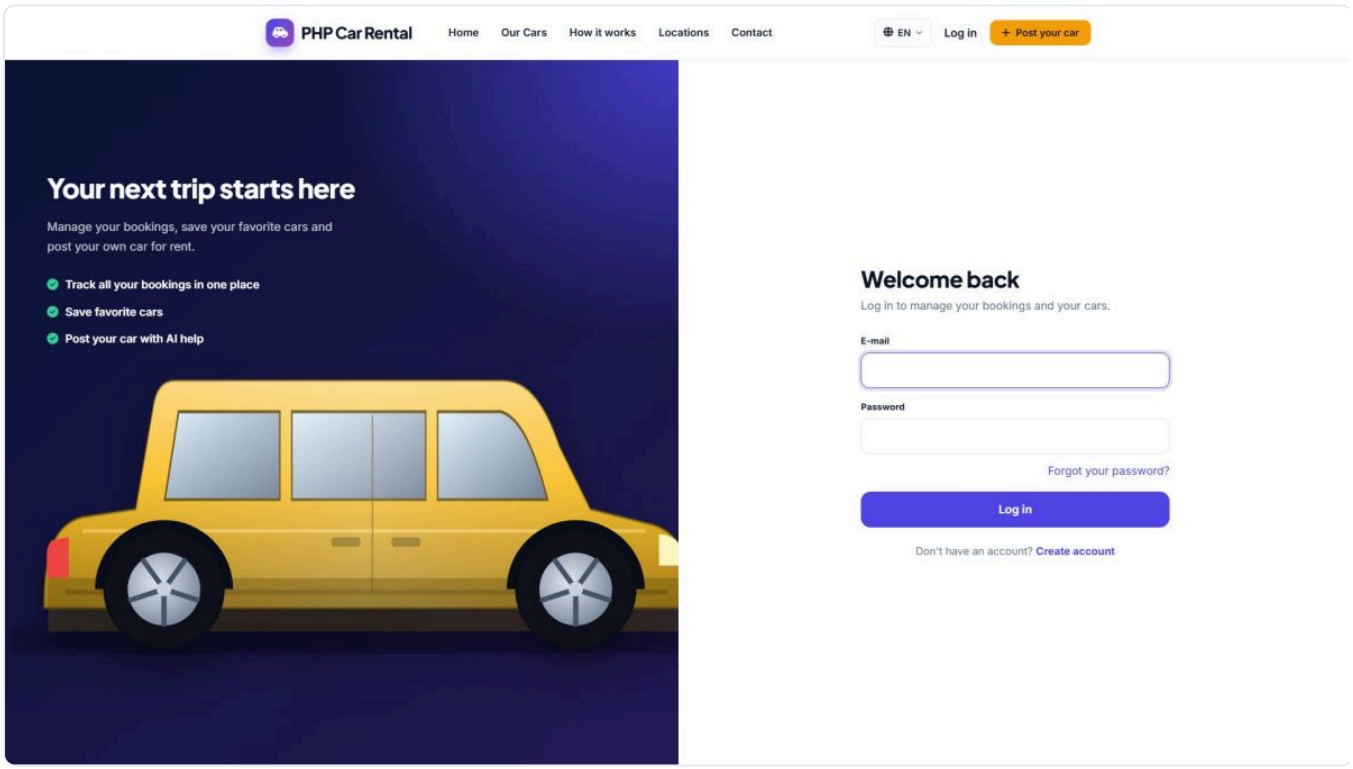
Text pages

Pages such as *How it works*, *About us*, *Terms & Conditions* and *Privacy Policy* are normal pages edited with a rich text editor in Pages and menu. Replace the sample texts before you go live.

WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Registration and login

Visitors can create a free account. The same account can rent cars and post cars, so there is no separate registration for owners.



The login page

Create an account

The register page asks for name, e-mail, phone and a password of at least six characters. The user is logged in immediately and receives a welcome e-mail.

Log in

- E-mail and password. Too many wrong attempts are temporarily blocked.
- If the user was sent to the login page from another page (for example to post a car), they return there afterwards.
- The user menu in the header gives quick access to the dashboard, listings, bookings, favorites and profile.

Forgot password

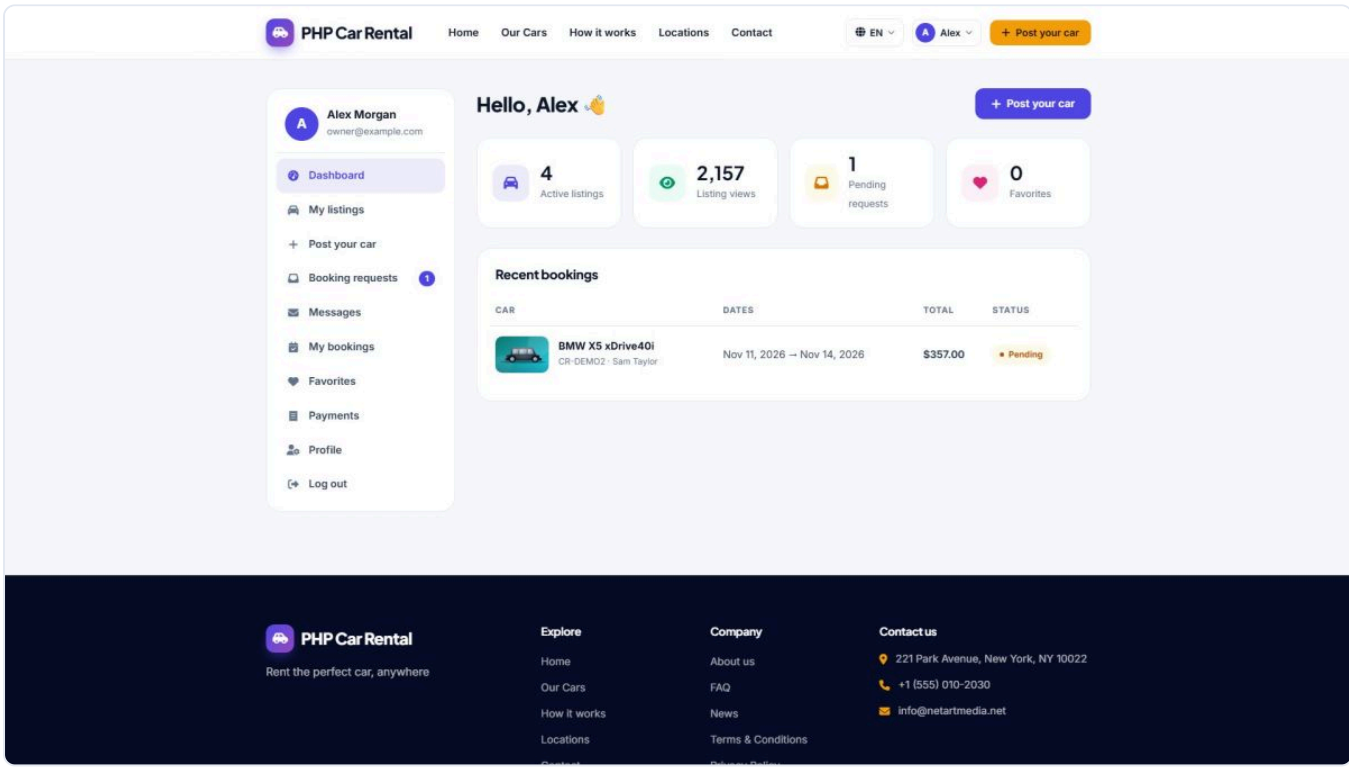
1. On the login page click *Forgot your password?* and enter the e-mail.
2. If the address exists, a link valid for two hours is e-mailed. The message is the same whether or not the address exists.
3. The link opens a form where a new password is set.

Administrators of the admin panel are a separate group of users; see Administrators, groups and permissions.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

Member dashboard

After login, every user lands on the dashboard. It works both for people who rent cars and for people who list their own cars, so it adapts to what the user does.



The dashboard of a car owner

The left menu

Menu item	Purpose	Manual page
Dashboard	Numbers and the latest bookings.	This page
My listings	All cars of the user with status and actions.	Managing listings
Post your car	The form with the AI assistant.	Posting a car
Booking requests	Requests for the user's cars. A badge shows pending ones.	Booking requests and messages
Messages	Questions sent from the car pages. A badge shows unread ones.	Booking requests and messages
My bookings	Cars the user has booked.	My bookings, favorites and profile
Favorites	Saved cars.	My bookings, favorites and profile
Payments	Payments for listings.	Paid listings and checkout

Menu item	Purpose	Manual page
Profile	Personal data and password.	My bookings, favorites and profile

The four numbers

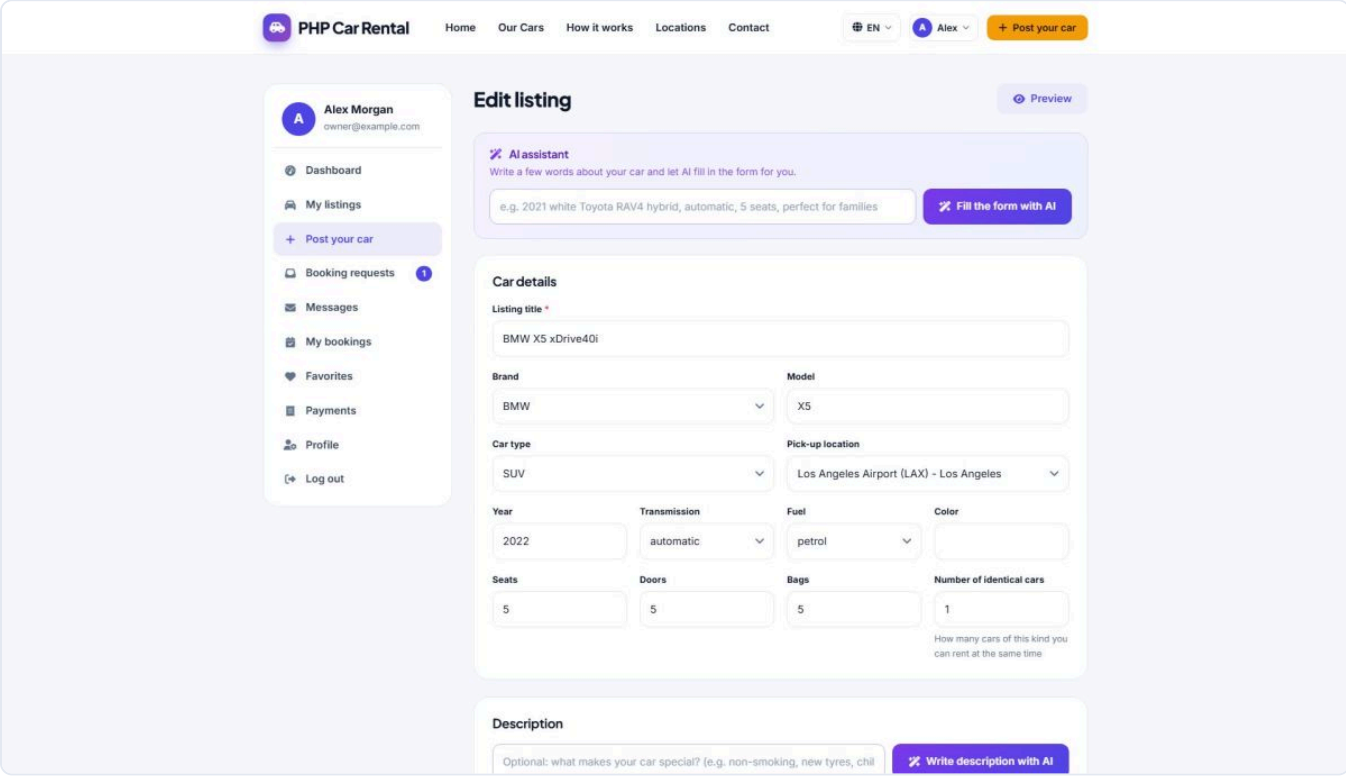
- **Active listings** - cars that are online now.
- **Listing views** - how many times the user's car pages were opened.
- **Pending requests** - booking requests waiting for an answer.
- **Favorites** - cars the user saved.

If you do not want users to post cars, untick *Users can post their own cars* in General settings. The post buttons disappear and the member area becomes a booking and favorites area.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

Posting a car

Owners list a car with one form. It can be filled by hand or with the help of the AI assistant (AI listing generator), and saved as a draft until the owner is ready.



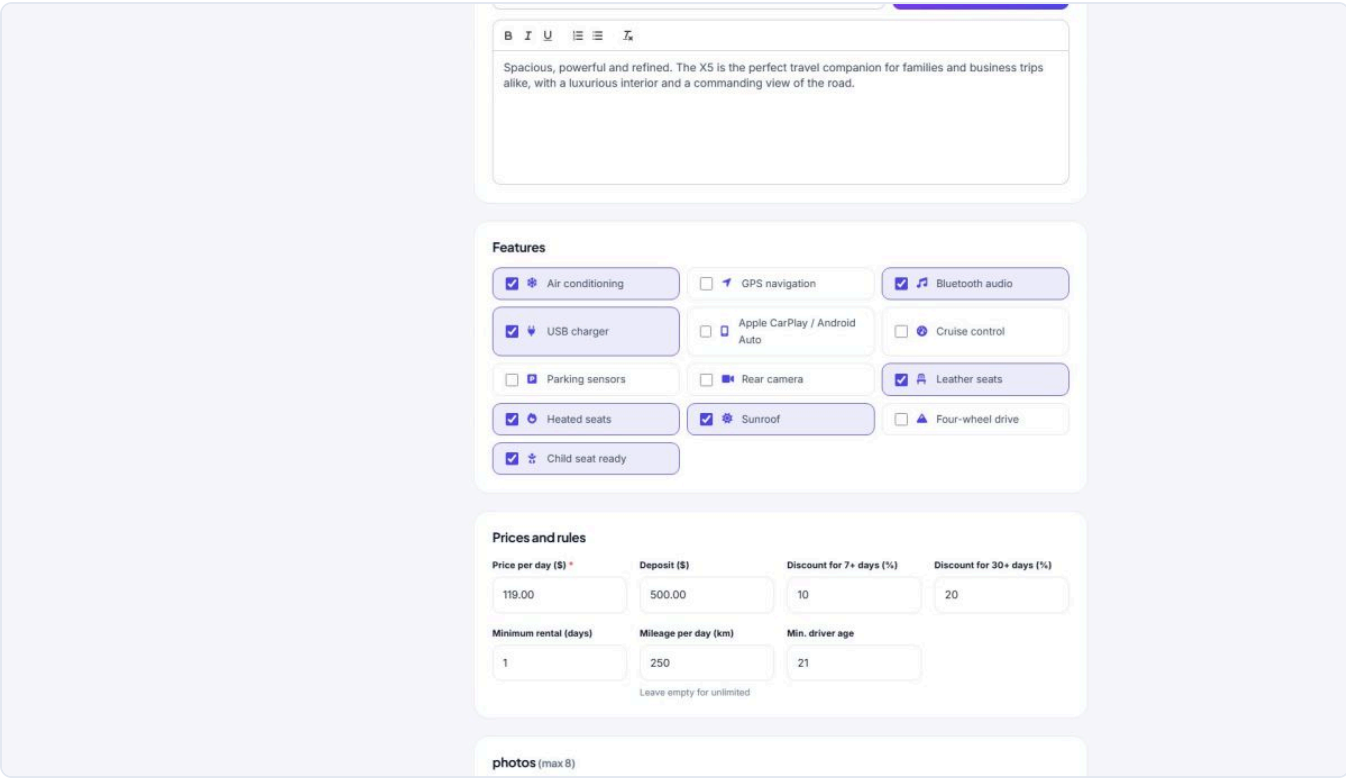
The first part of the listing form

Open the form

Click **Post your car** in the header or in the account menu. Guests are asked to log in or register first.

Fill in the form

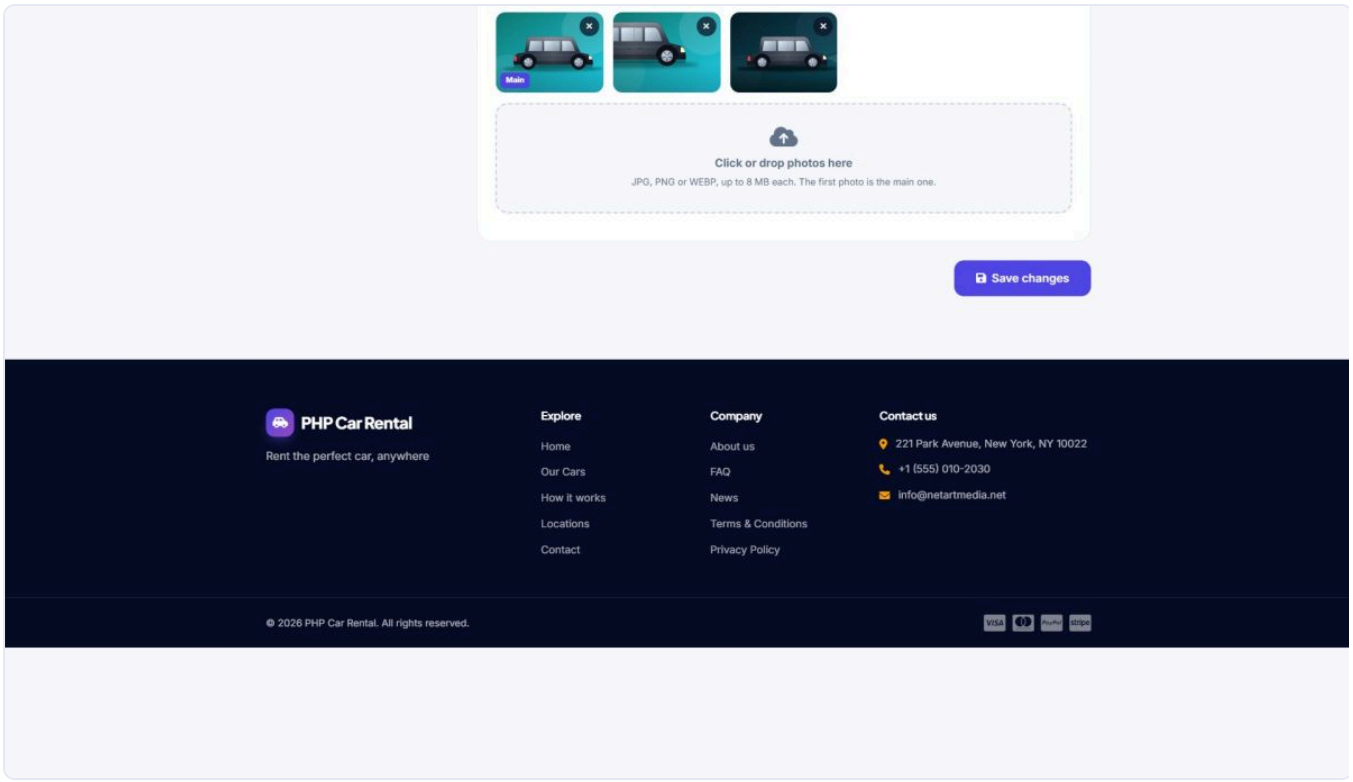
Section	Fields
Car details	Title (required), brand, model, car type, pick-up location, year, transmission, fuel, color, seats, doors, bags, and the *number of identical cars* you can rent at the same time.
Description	Rich text editor. Use *Write description with AI* if you like.
Features	Tick the equipment: air conditioning, GPS, Bluetooth and more. These also feed the search filters.
Prices and rules	Price per day (required), deposit, discount for 7+ days and 30+ days in percent, minimum rental days, kilometers per day (empty = unlimited) and minimum driver age.
Photos	Drag and drop or click to select. JPG, PNG, WEBP or GIF, up to 8 MB each. The first photo is the main one.



Description, features and prices

Save or publish

- **Save as draft** keeps the listing private so you can finish it later.
- **Save & publish** sends it live. If the website charges for listings, the button reads *Save & continue to payment* (Paid listings and checkout).
- When the administrator approves listings manually, the status becomes *Pending* until approval (Managing cars).



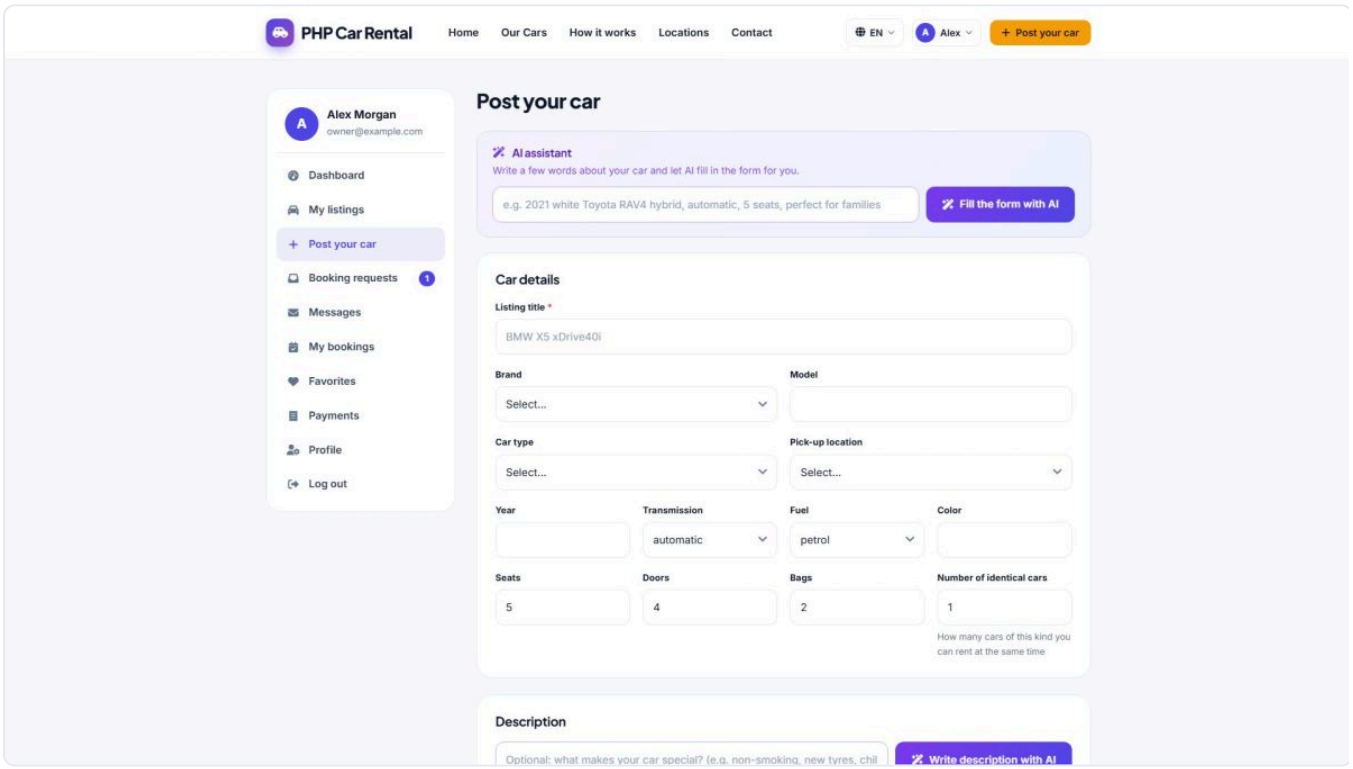
Photos and the publish buttons

Uploaded photos are re-encoded as JPEG, resized to a maximum width and get fast thumbnails automatically. Delete a photo with the cross on its thumbnail.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

AI listing generator

Writing a convincing ad is the hardest part of listing a car. The AI assistant removes it: it can fill the whole form from one sentence and write a polished description.



The AI assistant box at the top of the listing form

Option 1: fill the whole form from one sentence

1. In the **AI assistant** box type a few words, for example: *2021 white Toyota RAV4 hybrid, automatic, 5 seats, perfect for families*.
2. Click **Fill the form with AI**.
3. The title, brand, model, year, car type, gearbox, fuel, seats, doors, bags, color, matching features and a description are filled in.
4. Read everything, correct what you like and add the price, the location and the photos.

Option 2: write only the description

1. Fill in the car details and tick the features first.
2. Optionally type a note in the field above the editor, for example *non-smoking, new tyres, child seat available*.
3. Click **Write description with AI**. The editor receives a description with a short intro, a list of highlights and a closing line.

Good to know

- The text is written in the language the visitor is currently using on the website.

- The AI does not invent technical facts that you did not provide.
- Generated HTML is cleaned so that only simple formatting (paragraphs, lists, bold) is kept.
- Each user can make a limited number of AI requests per hour to protect your credits.

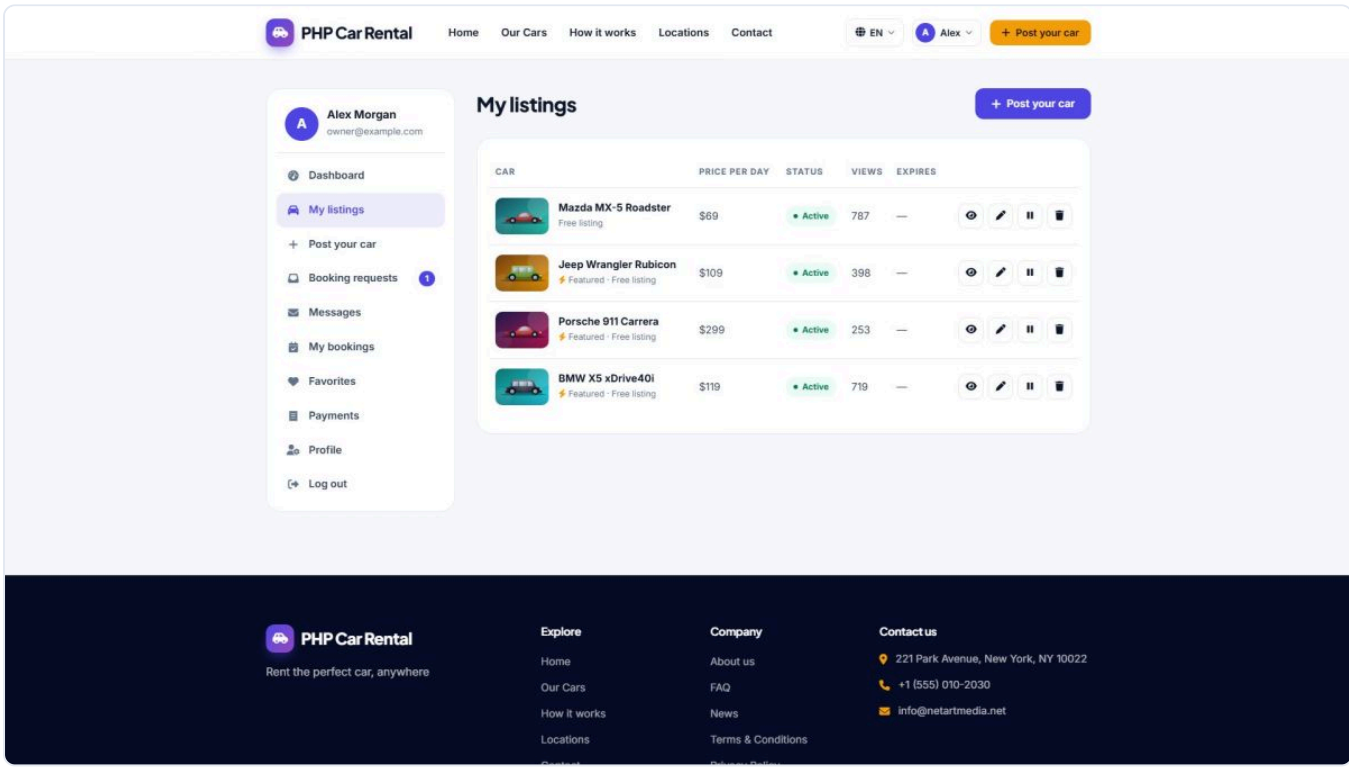
AI buttons work only after the administrator has entered an API key. See AI settings. Without a key users see a message that AI is not configured.

The same generator is available for administrators in the car editor (The car editor).

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

Managing listings

The *My listings* page shows every car of the user with its status, price, views and expiry date.



The My listings table

Statuses

Status	Meaning	What the owner can do
Draft	Saved but never published.	Edit, publish (or pay and publish), delete.
Pending	Waiting for the administrator to approve it.	Edit, delete.
Active	Online and bookable.	View, edit, pause, delete.
Paused	Hidden by the owner.	Resume, edit, delete.
Expired	The time of the listing or package is over.	Publish again (and pay again if listings are charged).
Rejected	Declined by the administrator.	Edit and publish again.

Row actions

- **Eye** opens the public page of the car (a preview for non-active cars).
- **Pencil** opens the edit form; the same form as Posting a car.
- **Pause / play** hides or shows the car without deleting it.
- **Trash** deletes the car with its photos after a confirmation.

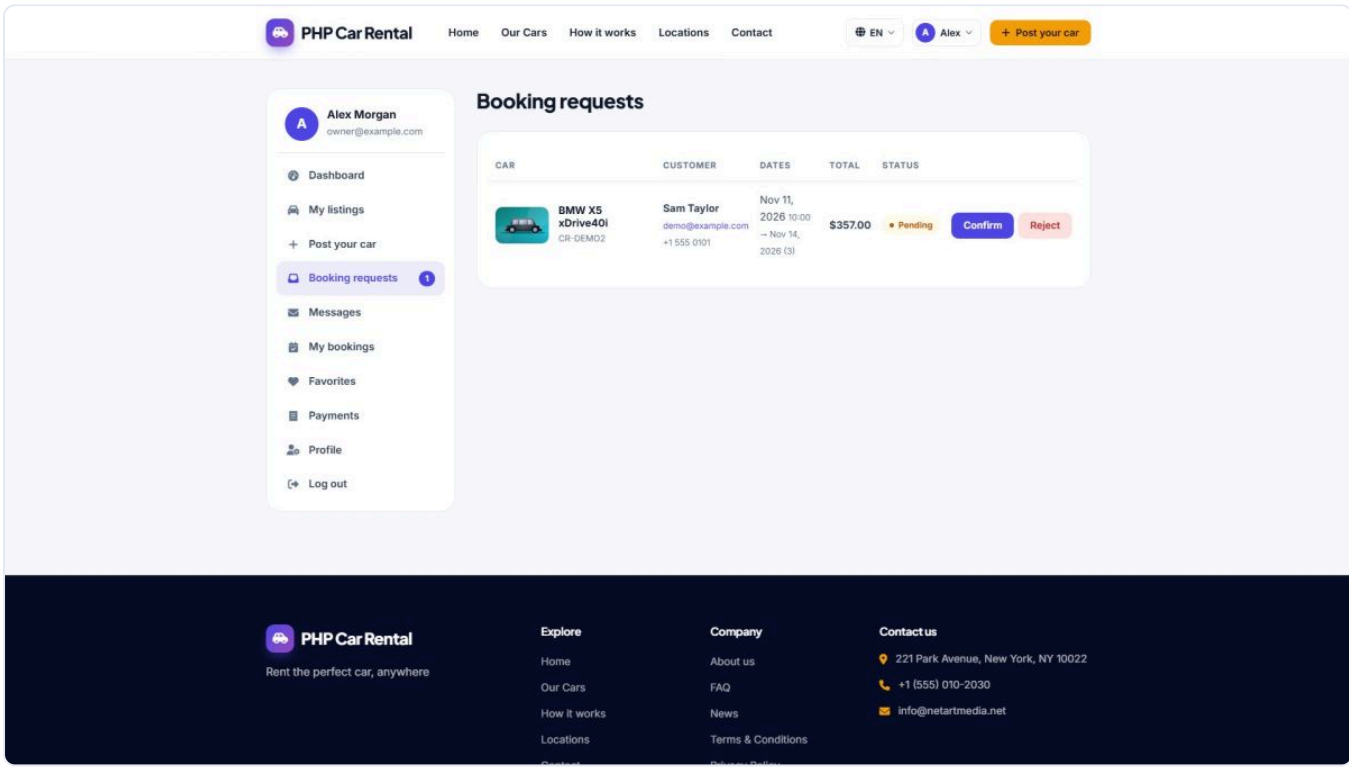
Expiry

Listings stay online for the number of days of the chosen package, or for the default number of days set by the administrator when listings are free (Payment settings). Expired listings are hidden automatically and can be published again.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

Booking requests and messages

Requests for the user's cars arrive in *Booking requests*. Pending requests are listed first and a badge in the menu shows how many are waiting.



Booking requests received by an owner

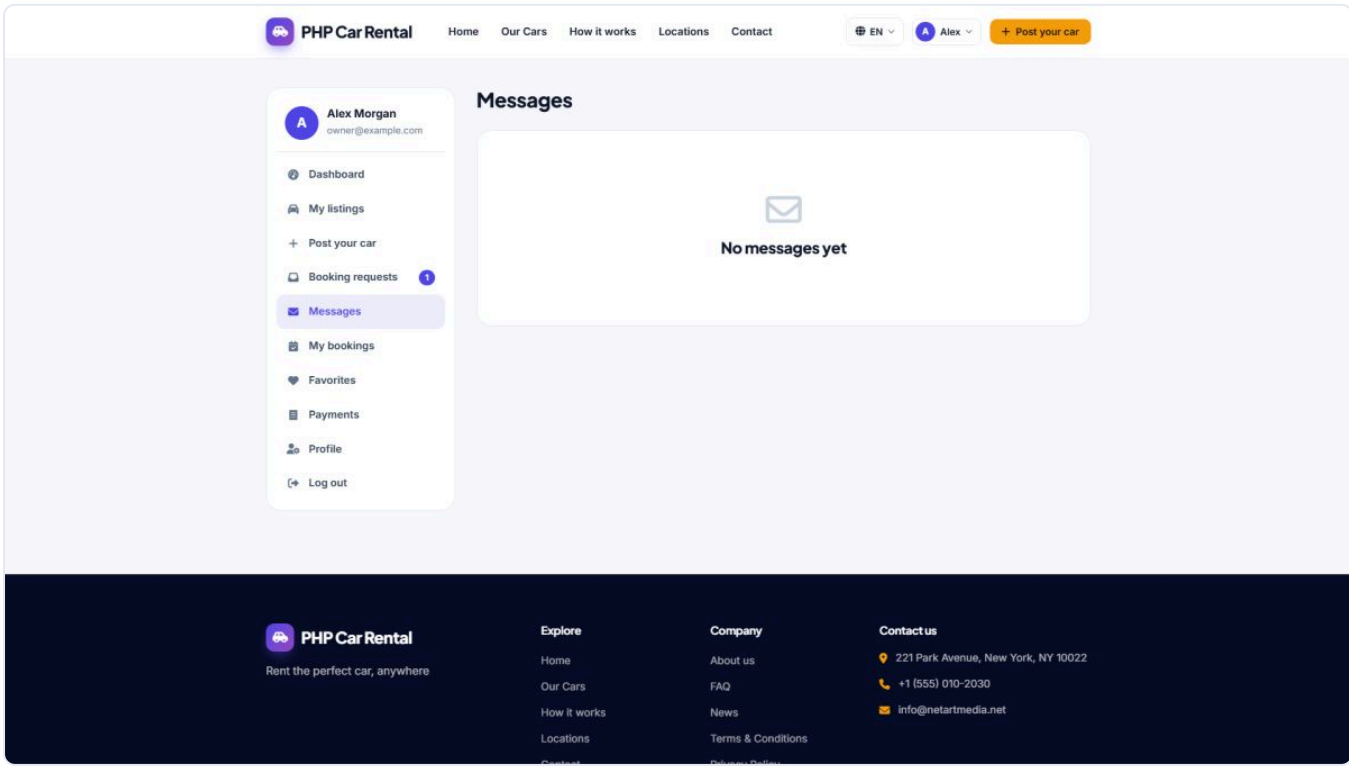
Booking requests

Each row shows the car, the customer (name, e-mail, phone), the dates and pick-up time, the total and the status.

- **Confirm** accepts the request. The customer receives a confirmation e-mail.
- **Reject** declines it (after a confirmation). The customer is informed by e-mail.
- **Mark completed** appears after the return date of a confirmed booking.

Pending requests already block the dates for other customers. Answer them quickly to avoid losing bookings.

Messages



The Messages page

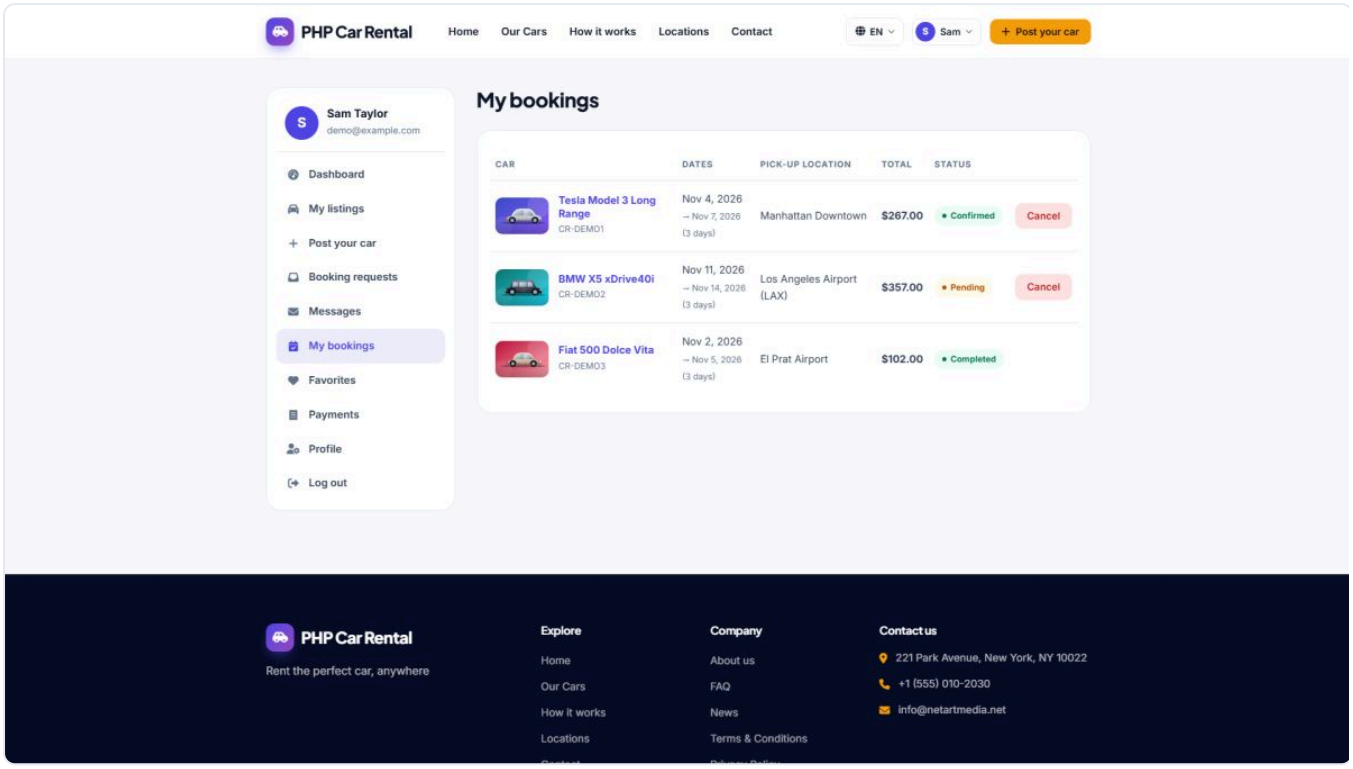
Visitors can use the *Contact the owner* form on the car page. The message is stored here and sent to the owner by e-mail. Use **Reply** to open your mail program, the check icon to mark as read and the trash to delete.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

My bookings, favorites and profile

Renters use the same member area. Their most important pages are their bookings, their favorites and their profile.

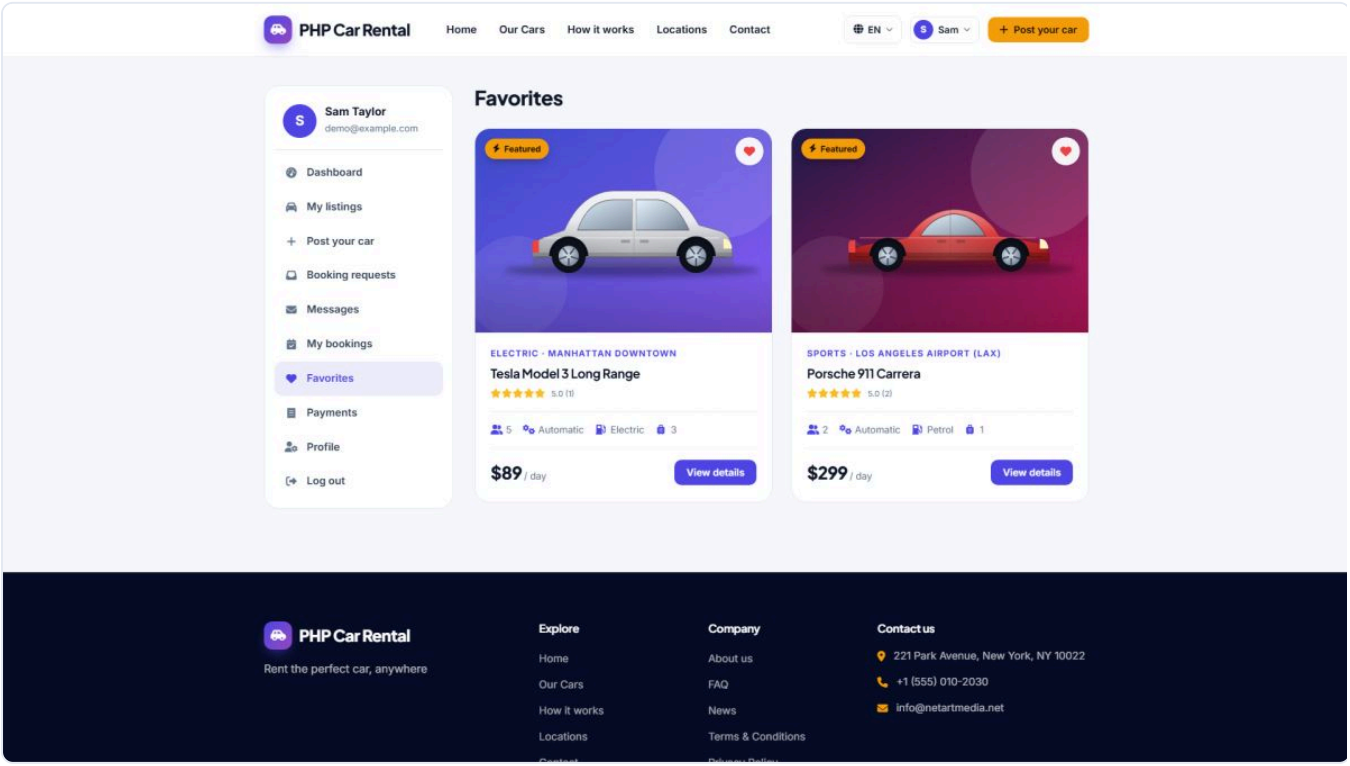
My bookings



The My bookings page

Lists every booking made while logged in, with code, dates, pick-up location, price and status. A pending or confirmed booking can be cancelled until its start date; the owner is notified.

Favorites



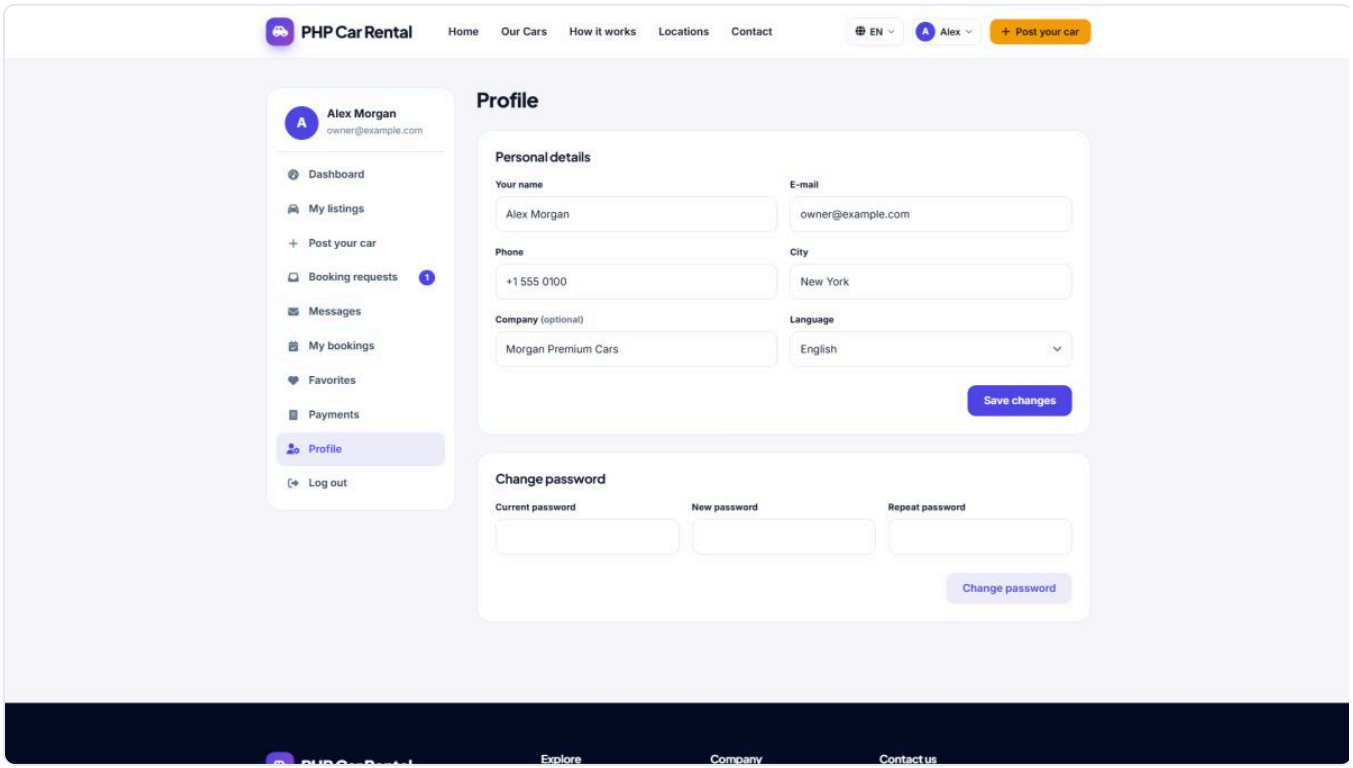
Favorite cars

All cars saved with the heart. Clicking the heart again removes a car from the list immediately.

Payments

Shows the history of payments for listings with method, amount, date and status (Paid listings and checkout).

Profile



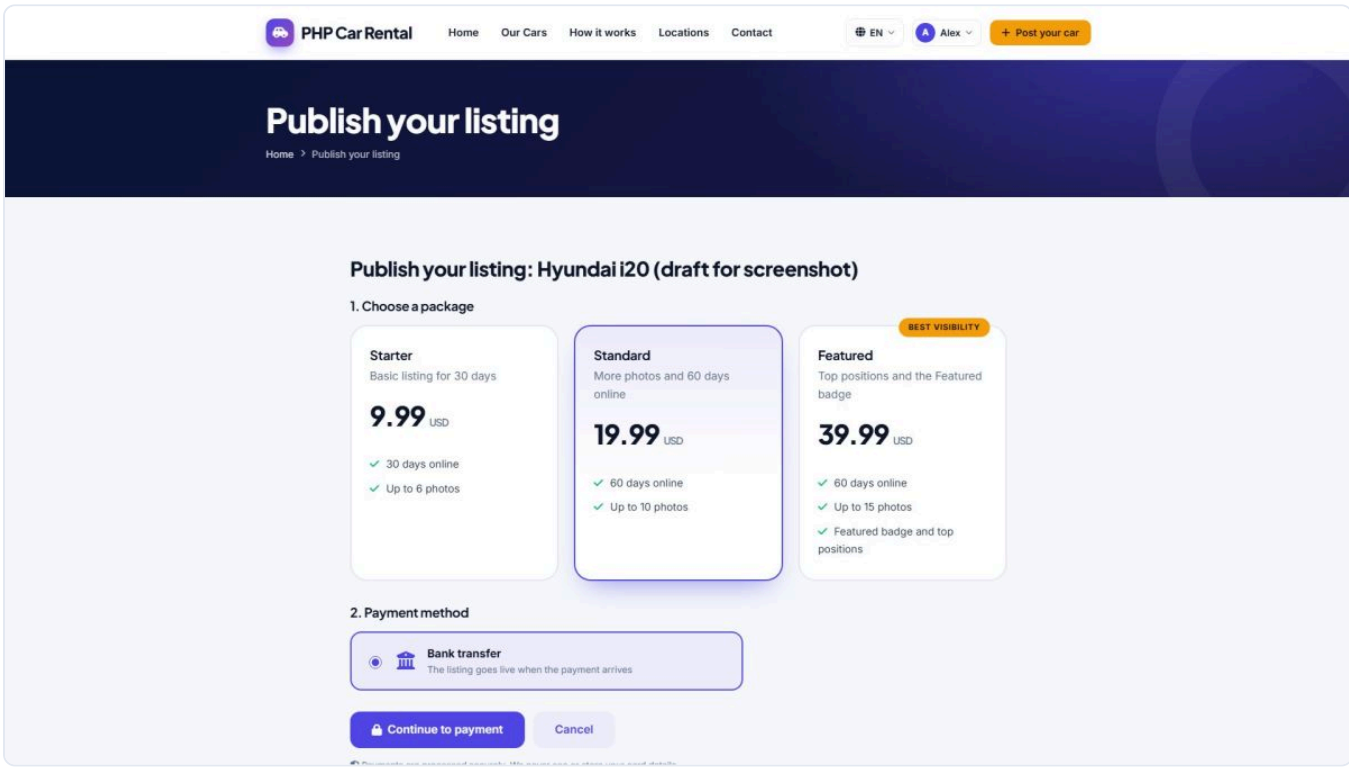
The profile page

- Name, phone, city, company (optional) and preferred language. The e-mail is the login and cannot be changed by the user.
- Change password: the current password and the new one twice.

MEMBER PANEL: CAR OWNERS & RENTERS

Paid listings and checkout

When the administrator switches on paid listings, publishing a car becomes a small checkout: choose a package, choose a payment method, pay.



Choosing a package and a payment method

The user's path

1. Save the listing and click **Save & continue to payment** (or **Pay & publish** in My listings).
2. Choose a **package**: price, days online, number of photos and whether it is featured.
3. Choose a **payment method**: card (Stripe), PayPal or bank transfer.
4. Pay on the secure page of the provider and return to the site.
5. The listing goes live, or waits for approval if the administrator approves listings manually.

Payment methods

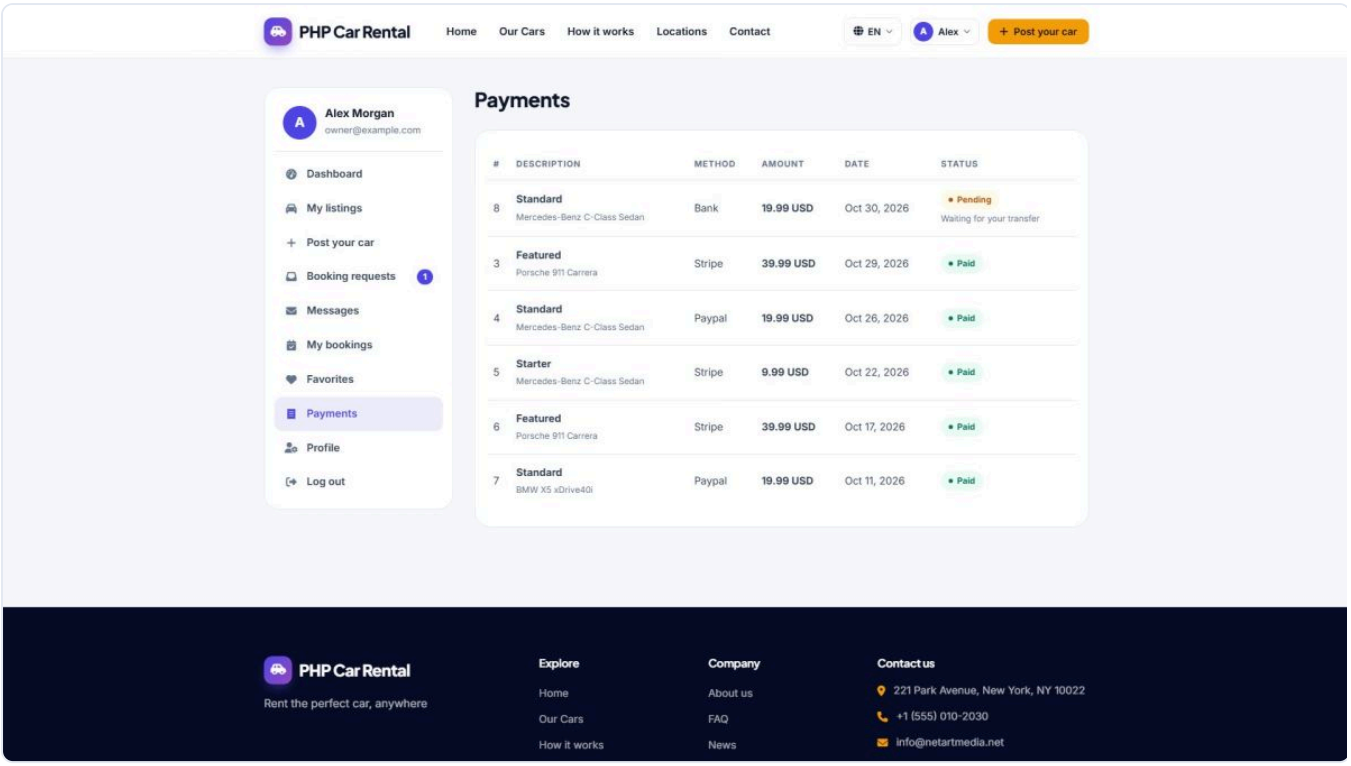
Method	What happens
Card (Stripe)	The customer is sent to the hosted Stripe Checkout page. When back, the payment is verified with Stripe and the listing is published.
PayPal	The customer approves the payment at PayPal. When back, the money is captured and checked.
Bank transfer	The page shows your bank details and a payment reference. The listing is published after the administrator marks the transfer as paid (Packages and transactions).

Card data never touches your server. Amounts always come from the database, never from the browser, and every payment is verified with the provider.

If the user cancels

Nothing is charged. The listing stays a draft and can be published later from *My listings*.

Payment history

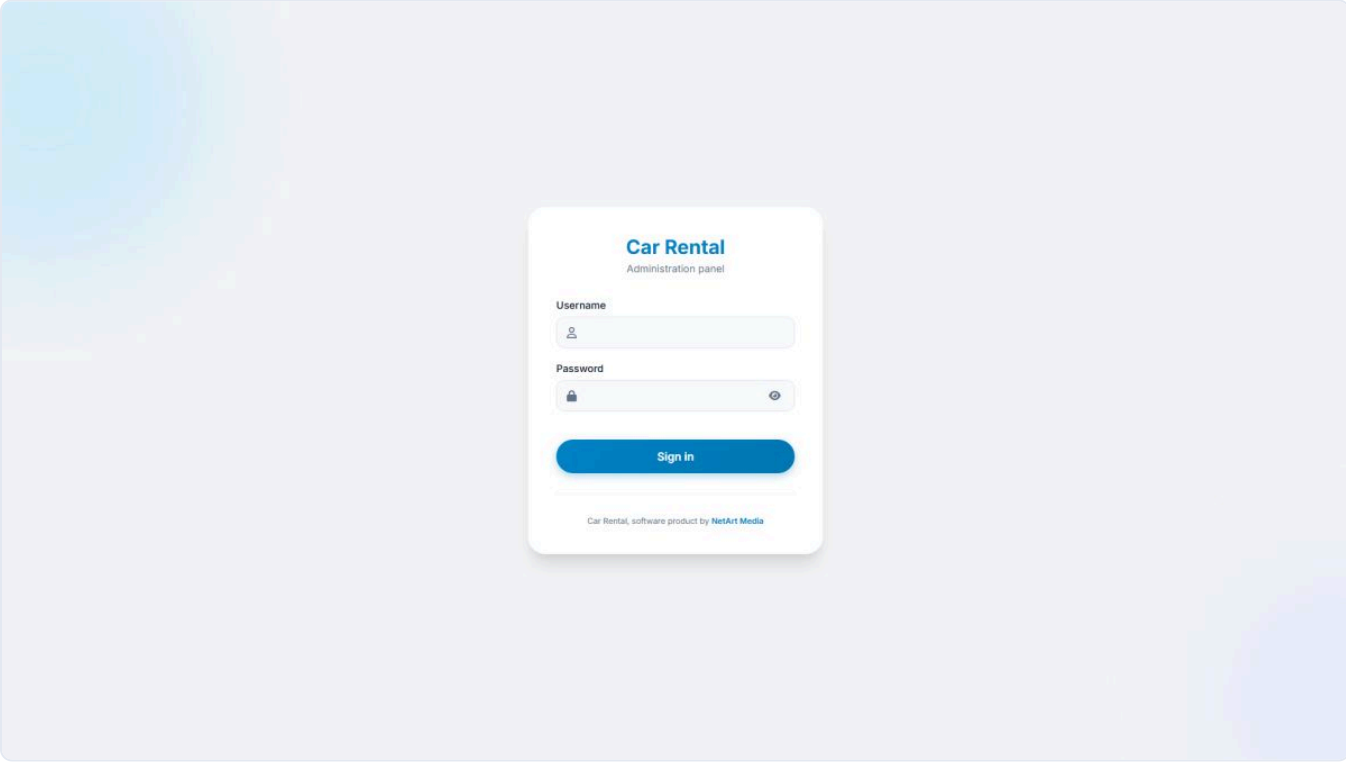


The Payments page of the member area

ADMIN PANEL

Admin login and dashboard

The admin panel is at `/ADMIN/` of your website. It is the control center of your business and uses the same design as the other scripts of the family.

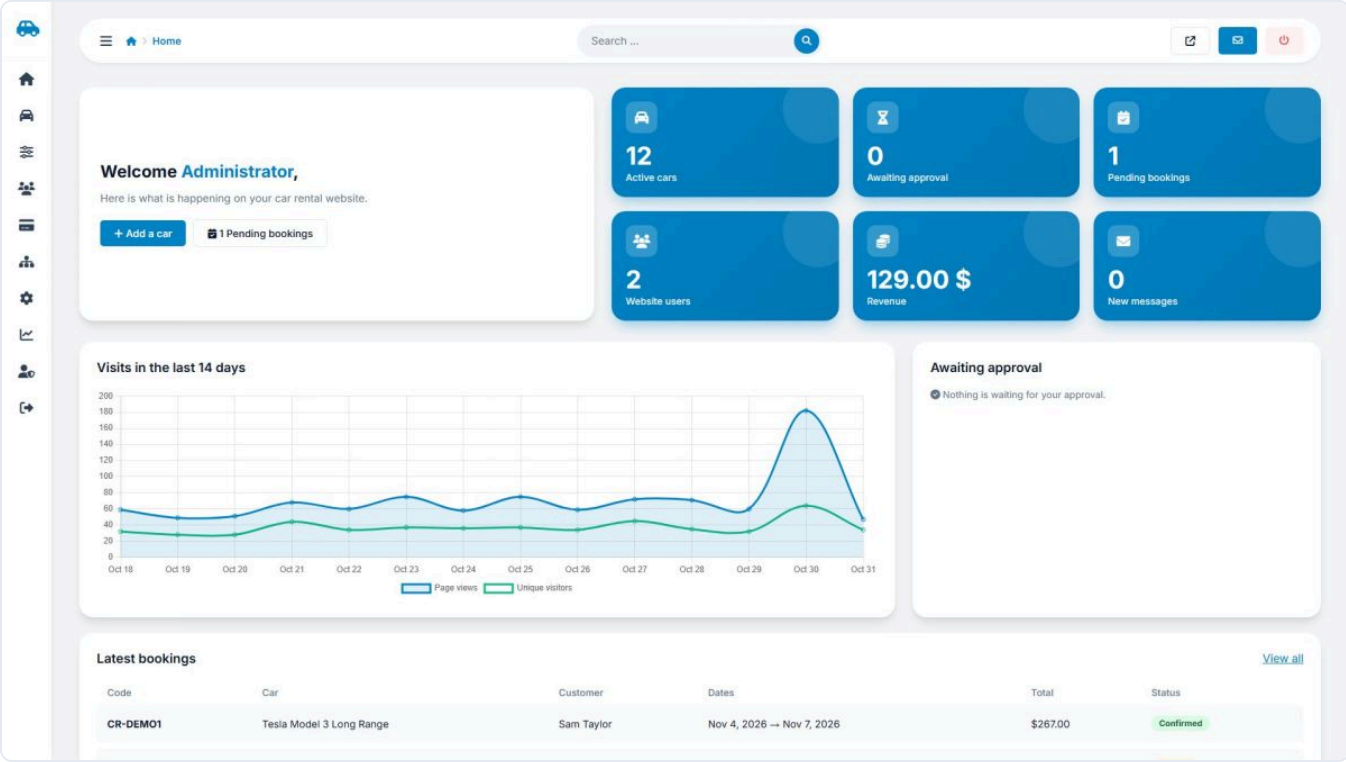


The admin login page

Logging in

- Open `https://your-site.com/ADMIN/` and enter the username and password chosen during installation.
- Sessions last twelve hours of inactivity.
- After eight wrong passwords from the same IP address, logins are blocked for fifteen minutes. Every attempt is recorded in Login logs.

The dashboard



The admin dashboard

Tile	Meaning
Active cars	Cars that are online now.
Awaiting approval	New listings from users waiting for you (Managing cars).
Pending bookings	Booking requests that are not answered yet (Managing bookings).
Website users	Registered accounts (Website users).
Revenue	Sum of paid listing payments (Packages and transactions).
New messages	Unread messages from the contact form (Messages and login logs).

Below the tiles you see a chart of page views and unique visitors for 14 days, the listings awaiting approval and the latest bookings. Click any tile to open the related page.

Menu and top bar

Menu group	Contains	Chapter
Home	Dashboard, messages, login logs, my account	Messages and login logs
Cars	All cars, bookings, reviews	Managing cars, Managing bookings, Moderating reviews

Menu group	Contains	Chapter
Car settings	Car types, brands, features, extras, locations, coupons	Car types, brands and features, Extras, locations and coupons
Users	Website users	Website users
Payments	Payment settings, packages, transactions	Payment settings, Packages and transactions
Website	Pages, news, FAQ, logo and colors	Pages and menu, News and FAQ, Logo, colors and branding
Settings	General, AI, e-mail, SEO, social media, languages	General settings, AI settings
Statistics	Traffic report	Traffic statistics
Admin users	Administrators, groups, permissions	Administrators, groups and permissions

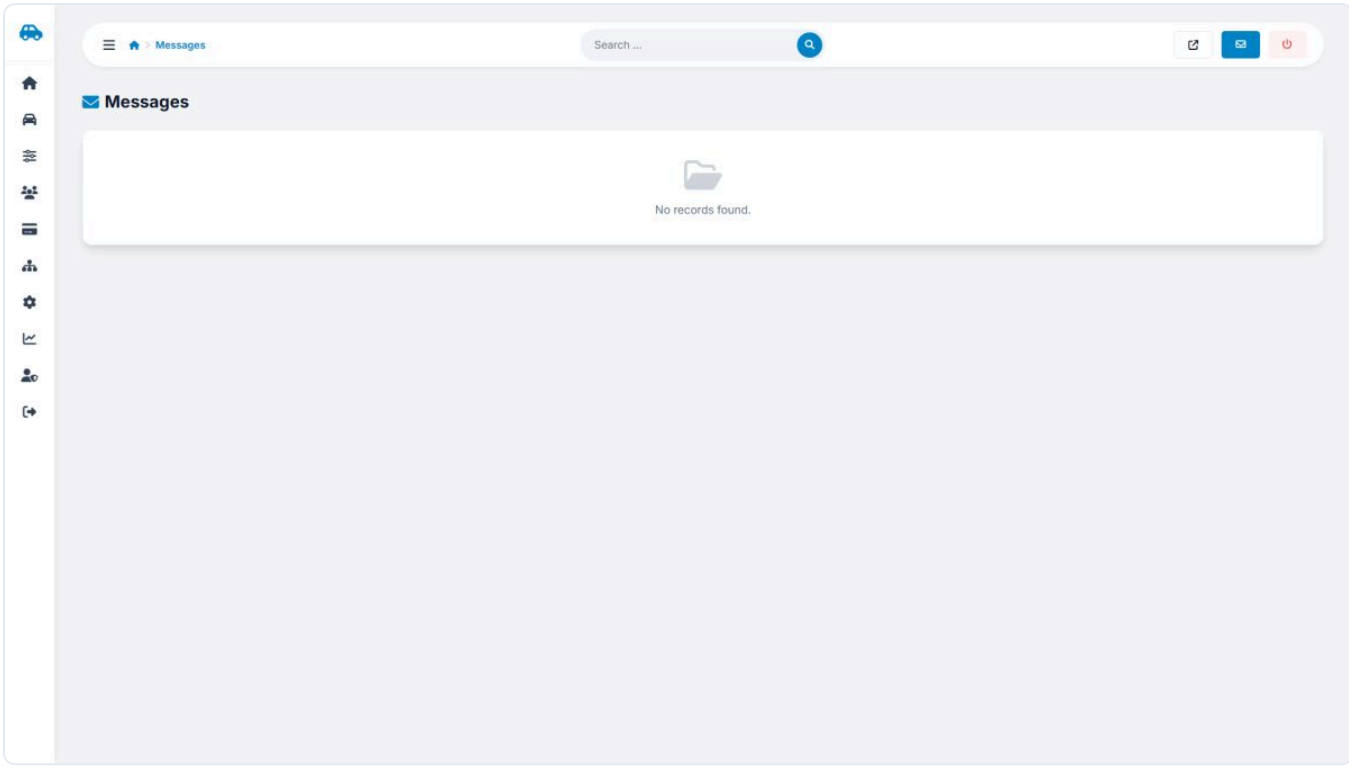
The search box in the top bar finds admin pages by name, so you can type "payment" or "language" instead of browsing the menu. The arrow icon opens your website in a new tab.

ADMIN PANEL

Messages and login logs

Two small pages under *Home* keep you informed: the inbox for visitor messages and the log of administrator logins.

Messages

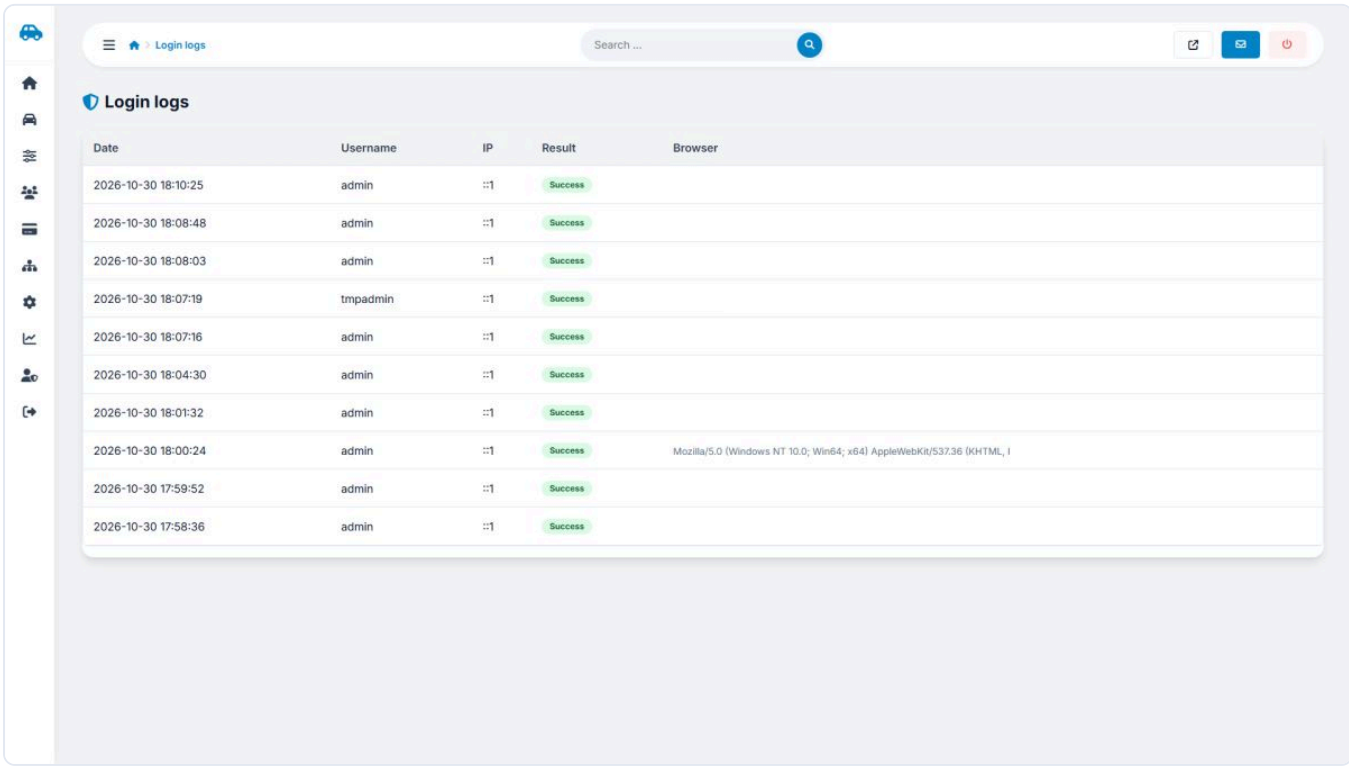


Messages from the contact form

- New messages show a dot before the name. The dashboard tile counts the unread ones.
- Click the pencil to open a message; it is marked as read. The page shows name, e-mail, phone, subject, date, IP address and the text.
- **Reply** opens your mail program with the subject filled in.
- The trash icon deletes a message after confirmation.

Messages sent from the *Contact the owner* form of a car page are not here; they go to the owner of that car (Booking requests and messages).

Login logs



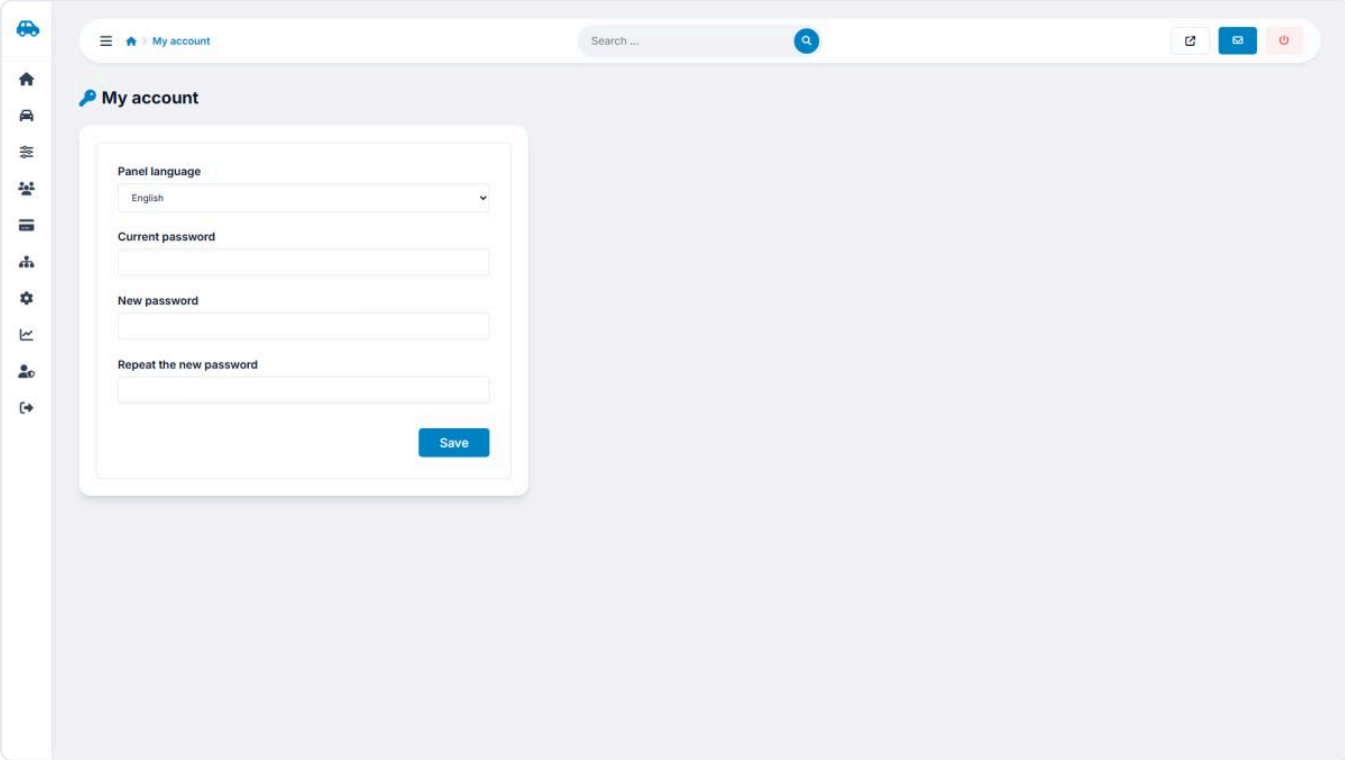
The login log

Every login attempt is recorded: date and time, the username that was typed, IP address, result and the browser. Repeated failures from an unknown address are a sign of a password-guessing attack; the panel already blocks them, but you can also add a rule at server level.

ADMIN PANEL

My account (password and language)

Each administrator manages their own password and interface language on one page.



Home, My account

1. Open *Home → My account*.
2. Choose the **panel language** (English or Spanish) - it applies at once and is remembered for your user.
3. To change the password, enter the current password and the new one twice (at least six characters).
4. Click **Save**.

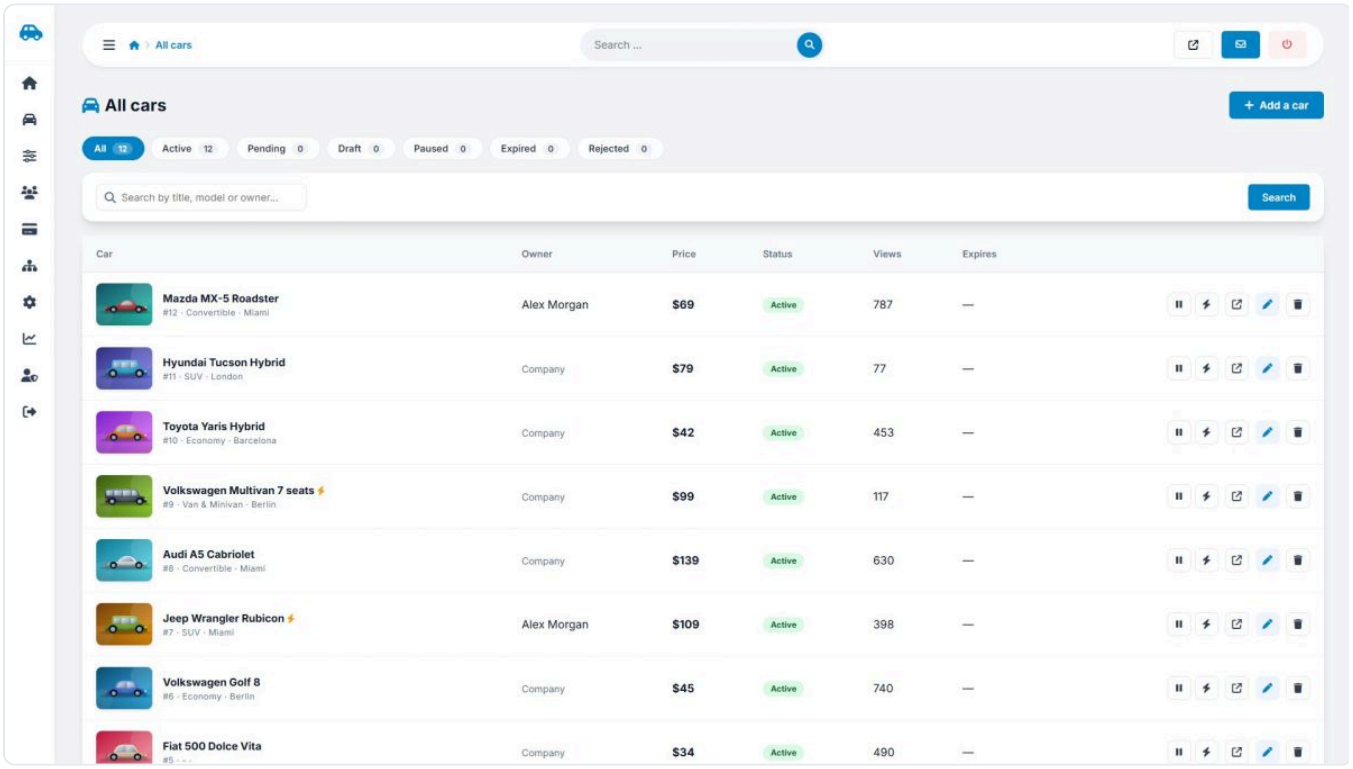
If you imported the SQL dump, the password of the administrator is `admin123`. Change it before the site is online.

To add or remove other administrators use Administrators, groups and permissions.

ADMIN PANEL

Managing cars

Cars → All cars lists the cars of your company and the cars posted by users in one table.



The list of all cars

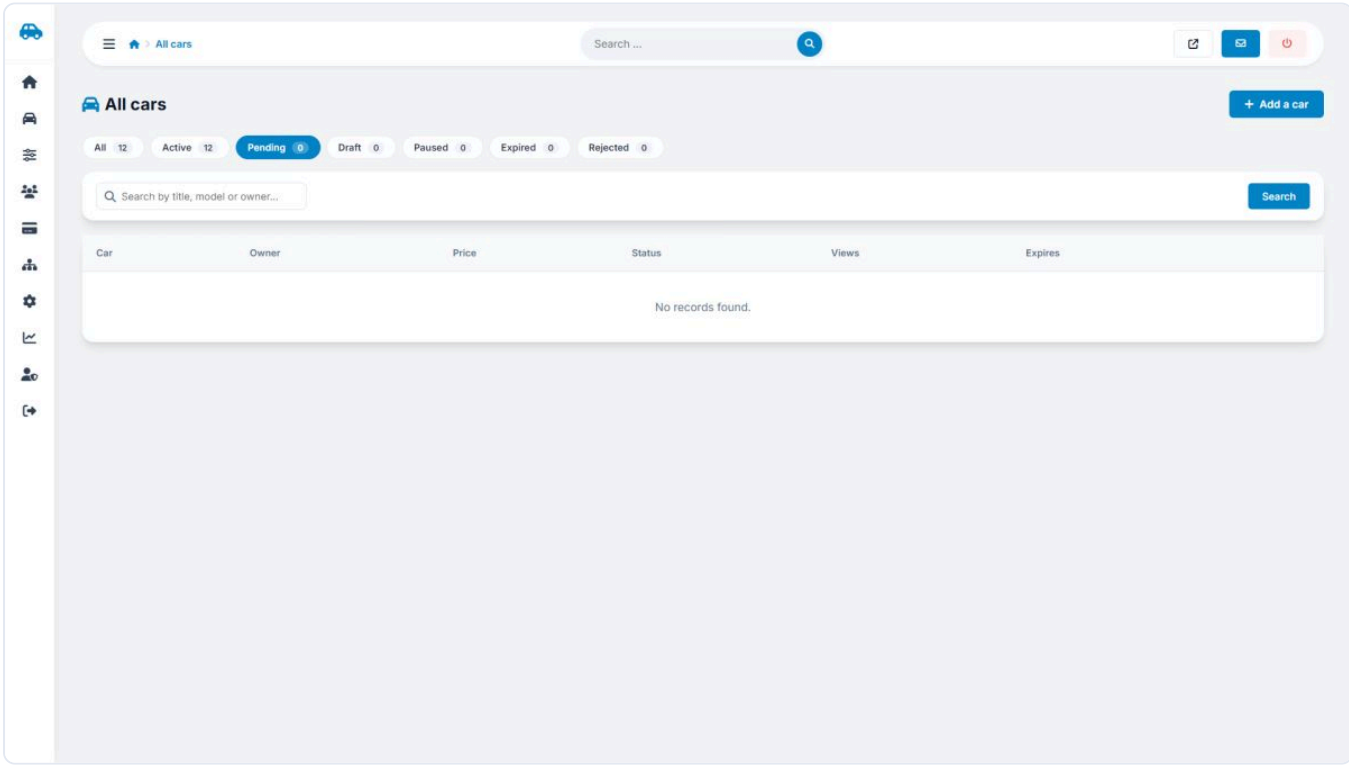
Status tabs and search

Tabs show the number of cars in each status: all, active, pending, draft, paused, expired and rejected. The search box looks in the title, model, owner name and owner e-mail.

Action icons

Icon	Action	Details
Check	Approve	For pending cars. The car goes active; user listings get their expiry date; the owner receives an e-mail.
X	Reject	The owner is e-mailed and can edit and resubmit.
Pause / Play	Pause or activate	Hides or shows a car.
Bolt	Feature	Toggles the featured badge and top positions.
Arrow	View on website	Opens the public page.
Pencil	Edit	Opens The car editor.

Icon	Action	Details
Trash	Delete	Removes the car with its photos, reviews and favorites. Existing bookings are kept for your records.



Filtered by status

Approving user listings

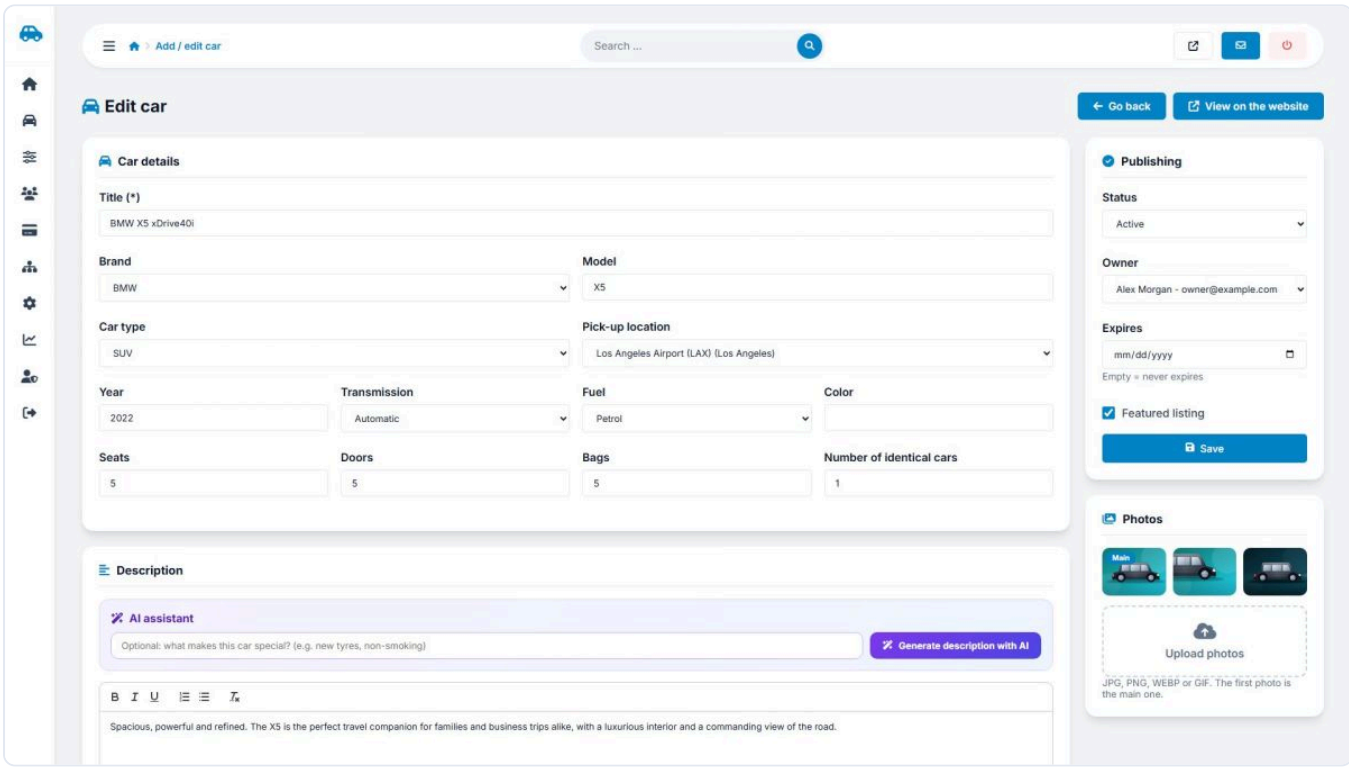
If *Publish listings automatically* is off (Payment settings), new user listings arrive as *Pending*. Pending cars are shown first, the dashboard counts them and you decide with one click.

Cars with no owner are your own company cars. Users never see or edit them.

ADMIN PANEL

The car editor

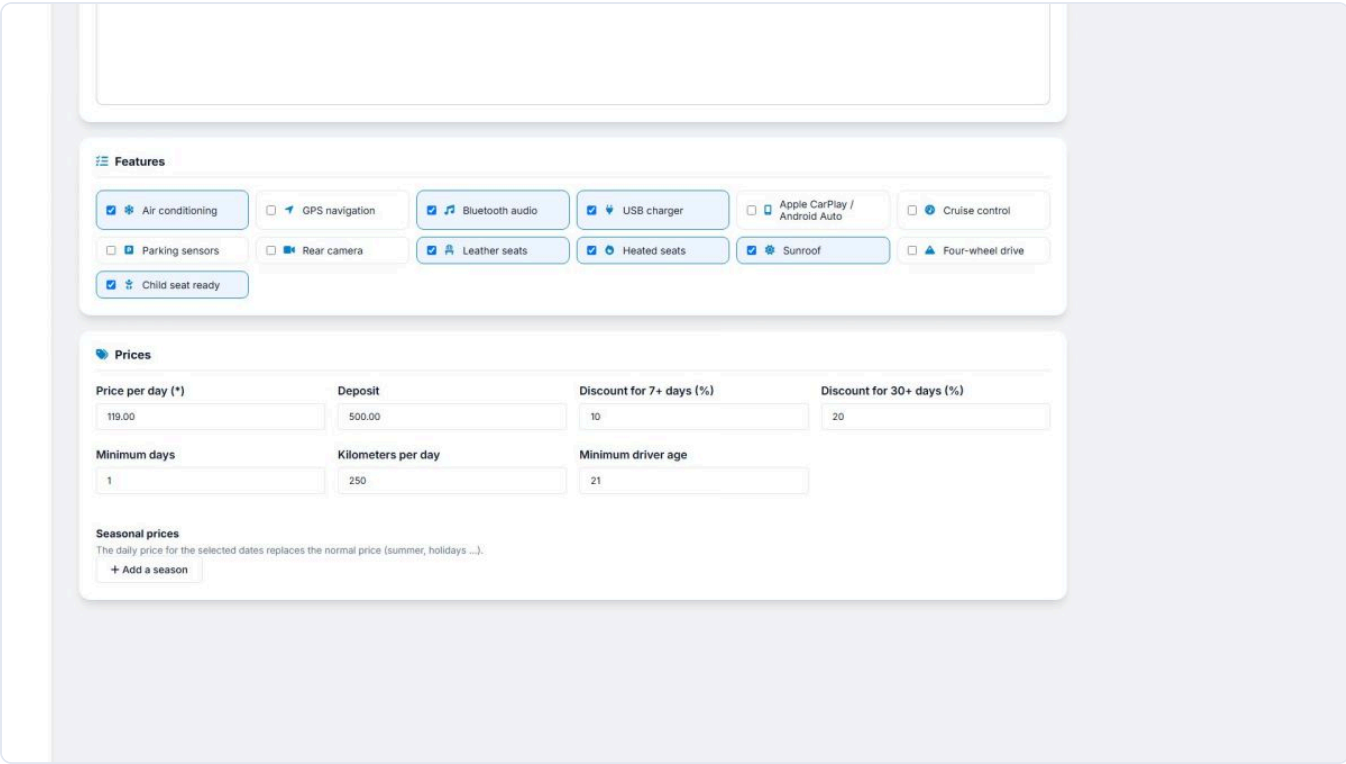
The editor has everything the owner form has, plus the extra controls only an administrator needs: owner, status, expiry and seasonal prices.



Car details on the left, publishing and photos on the right

Main column

- **Car details**: title, brand, model, type, location, year, gearbox, fuel, color, seats, doors, bags, number of identical cars.
- **Description**: a rich text editor. The **AI assistant** field and *Generate description with AI* button write a description from the data above (AI settings).
- **Features**: tick the equipment.
- **Prices**: price per day, deposit, discounts for 7+ and 30+ days, minimum days, kilometers per day and minimum driver age.



Description, features and prices

Seasonal prices

Click **Add a season**, choose the first and last date and the price per day. For those dates the seasonal price replaces the normal price in every quote (Live pricing). Remove a row with the trash icon and save.

Side column

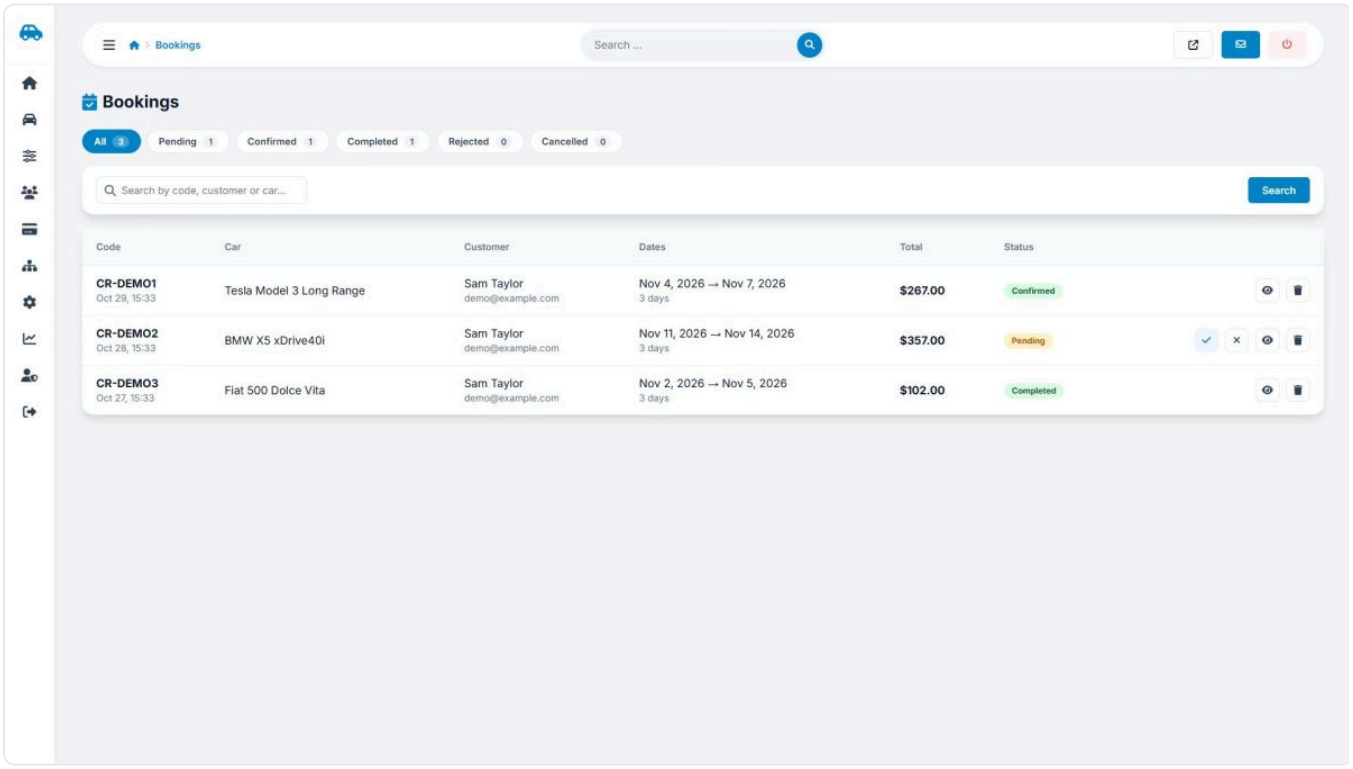
Field	Use
Status	Draft, pending, active, paused, rejected or expired.
Owner	Choose a website user or "Company" for your own cars.
Expires	Date after which a user car is hidden. Empty means never.
Featured listing	Shows the badge and ranks the car first.
Photos	Upload several at once (up to 30). The star makes a photo the main one, the trash deletes it.

Photos are resized and converted to JPEG; thumbnails are generated for lists. The first photo is used on cards and in search results.

ADMIN PANEL

Managing bookings

Cars → Bookings shows every request, from your own cars and from users' cars.

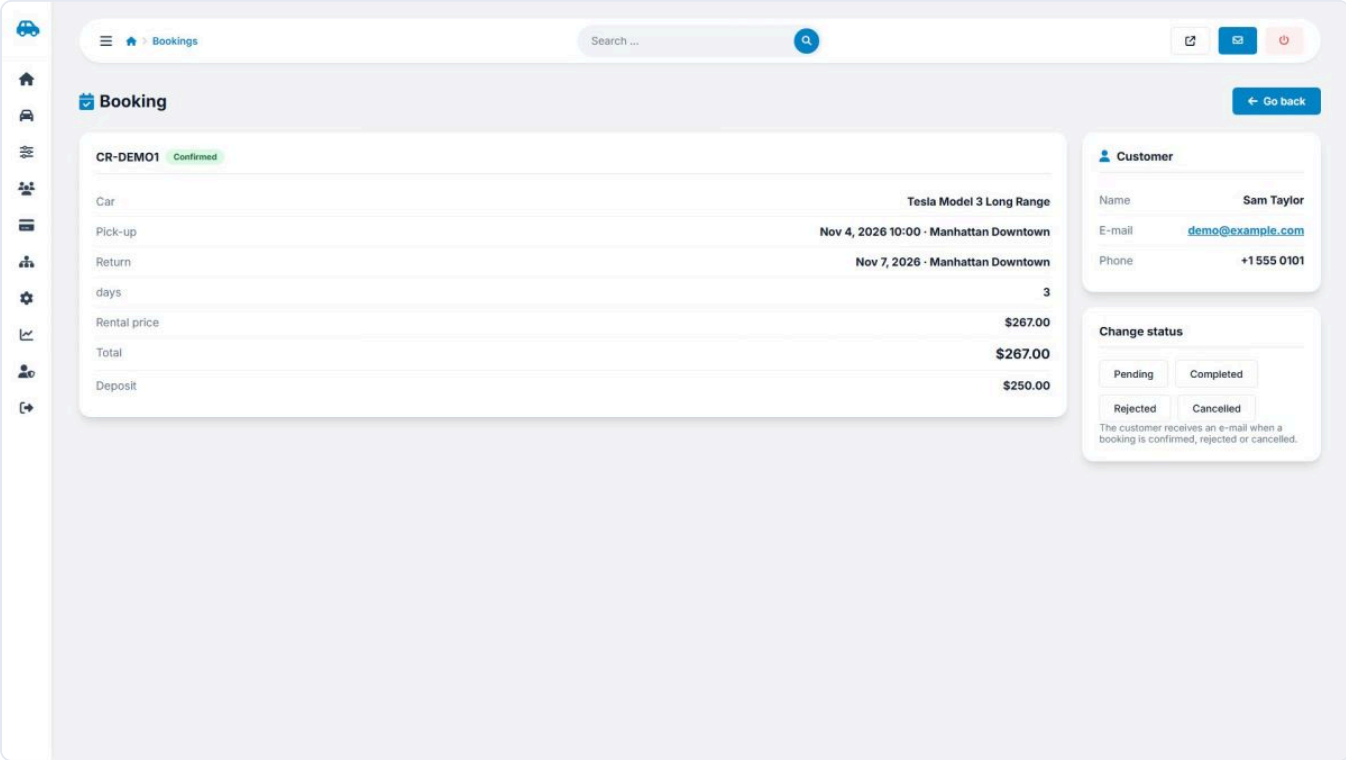


The bookings list

The list

Search by code, customer or car, or click a status tab. Pending bookings show quick confirm and reject buttons. The eye icon opens the details and the trash icon deletes a booking.

Booking details



Details of one booking

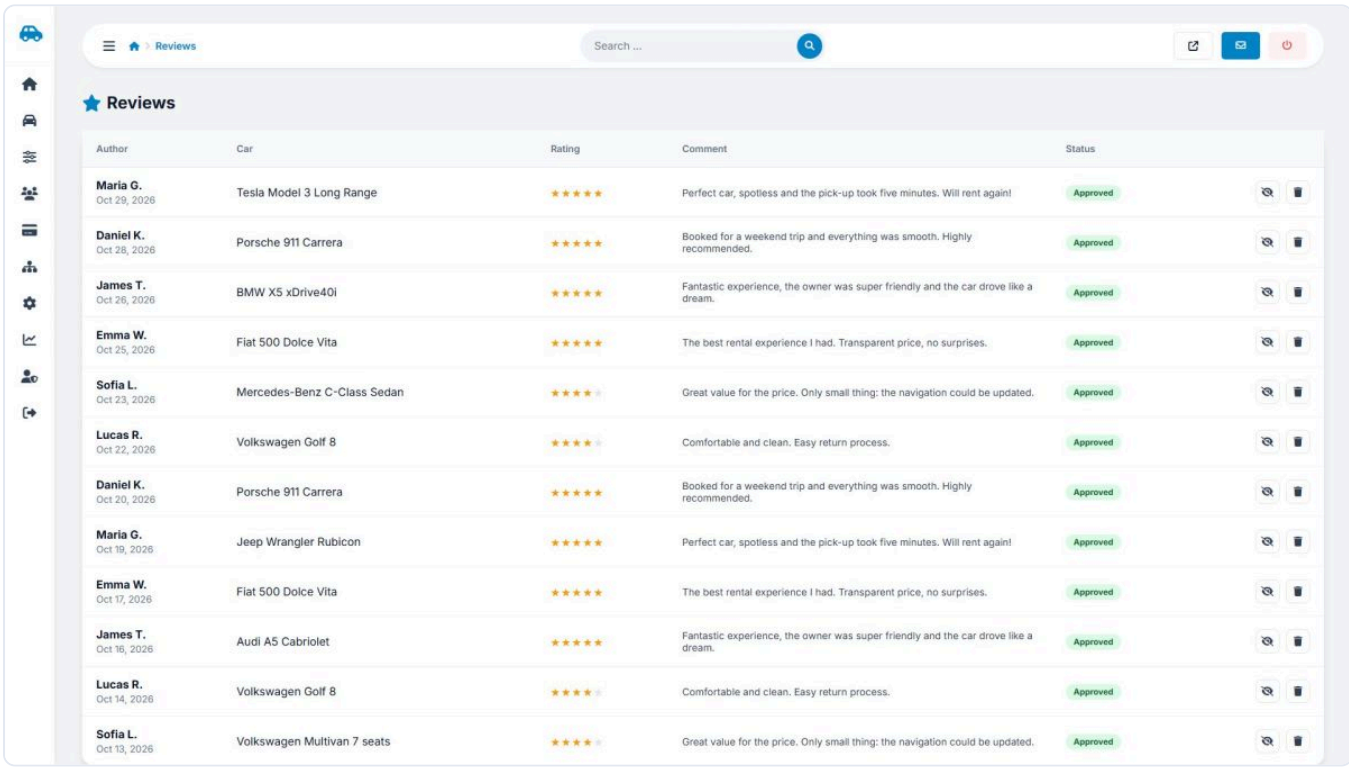
- Car, pick-up and return date, locations, number of days, price breakdown with extras and coupon, total and deposit, and the customer's notes.
- Customer name, e-mail (clickable) and phone.
- The **Change status** buttons set pending, confirmed, completed, rejected or cancelled.

The customer is e-mailed automatically when a booking becomes confirmed, rejected or cancelled. Pending and confirmed bookings block the car for those dates.

ADMIN PANEL

Moderating reviews

Reviews written by logged-in users appear here. Approved reviews are shown on the car page and the home page.



Cars, Reviews

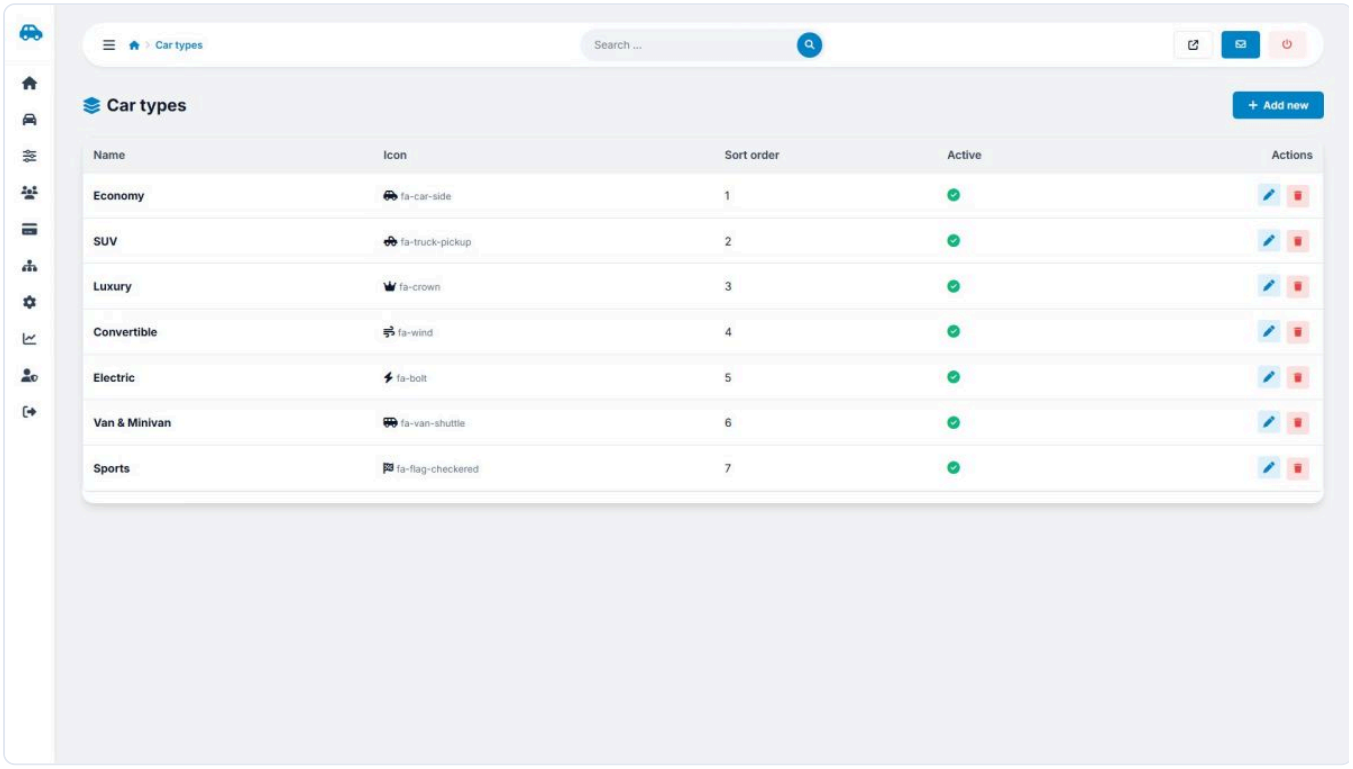
- Waiting reviews are listed first with a yellow label.
- **Check** approves a review; **eye-slash** hides an approved one; **trash** deletes it.
- The average rating and the review count of the car are recalculated after each change.
- To publish every review at once, untick *New reviews need approval* in General settings.

ADMIN PANEL

Car types, brands and features

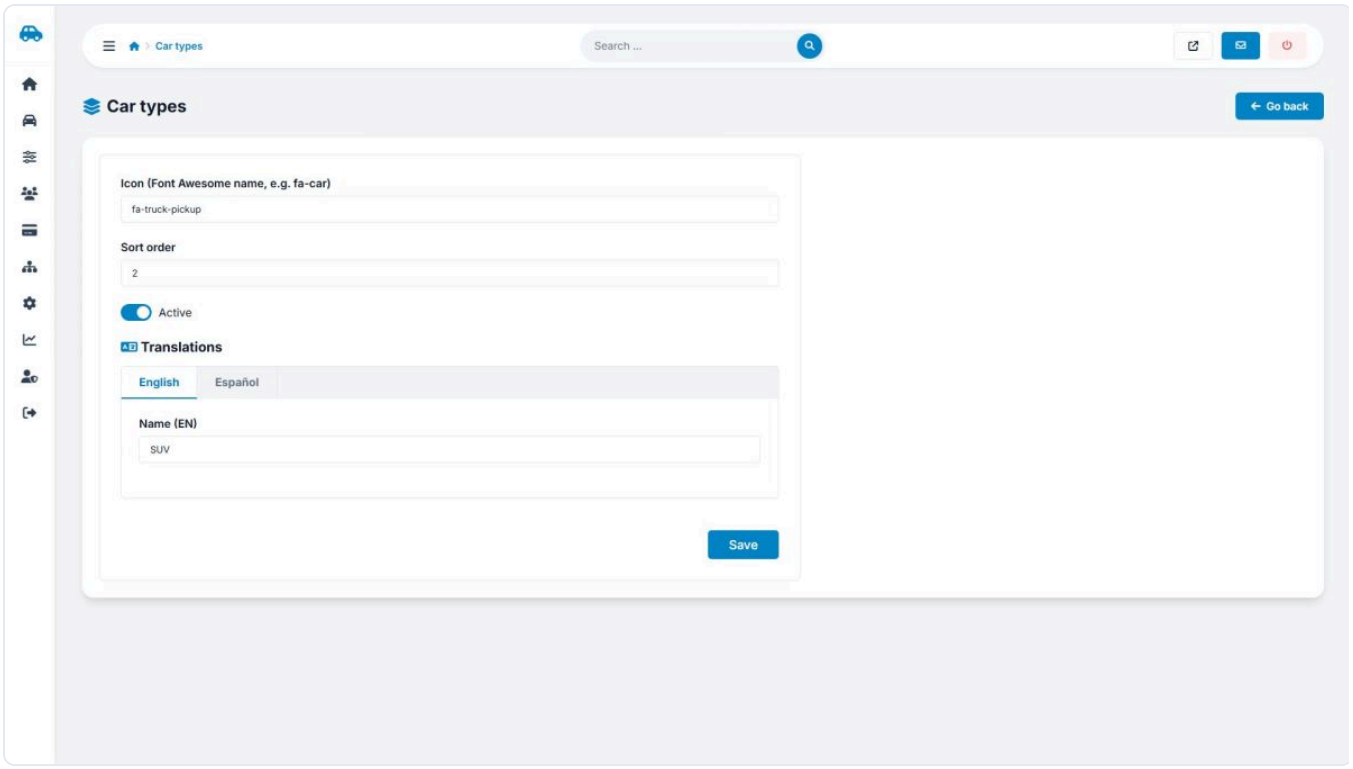
Three small lists define how cars are classified. They appear in the search filters, on the car forms and on the home page.

Car types



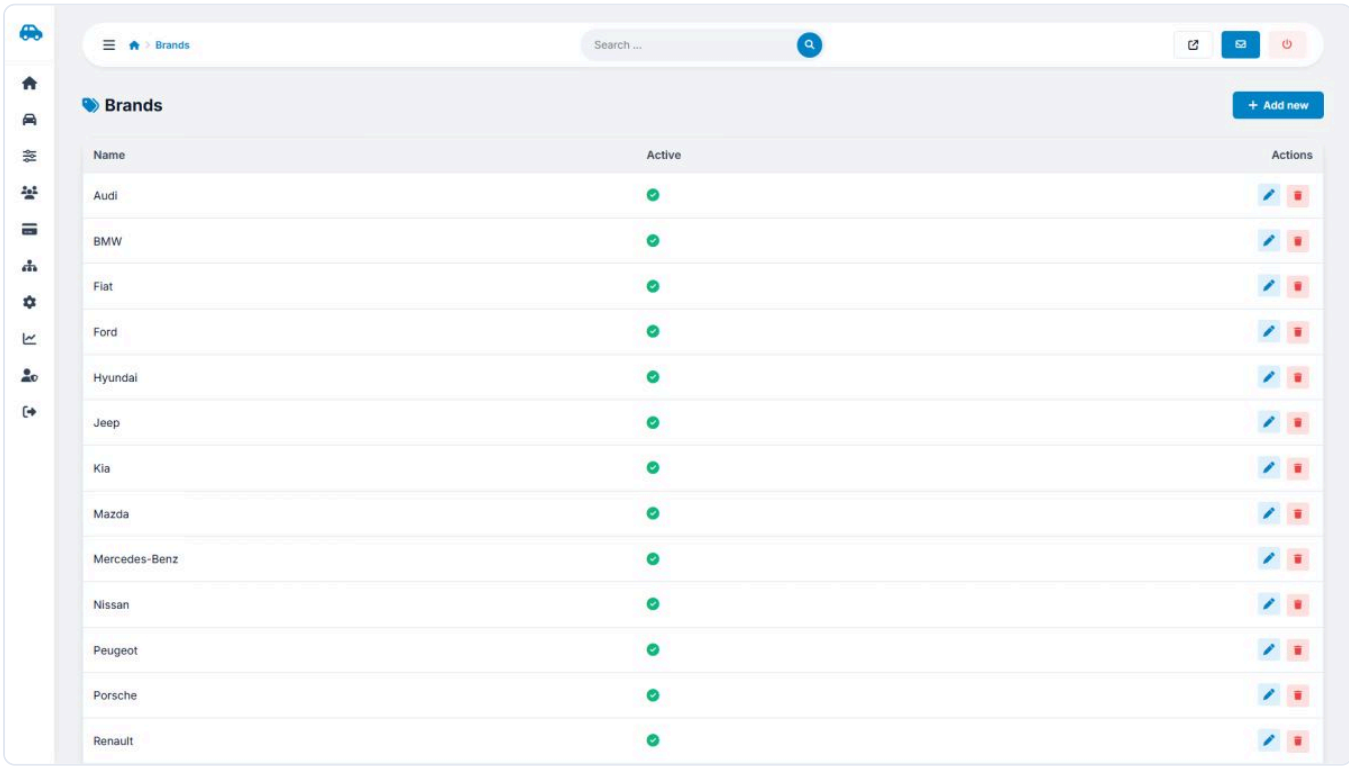
Car settings, Car types

Each type has a Font Awesome icon (for example `fa-car-side`), a sort order, an active switch and a **name in every language**. Click the pencil to open the form with one tab per language.



The form with a name field per language

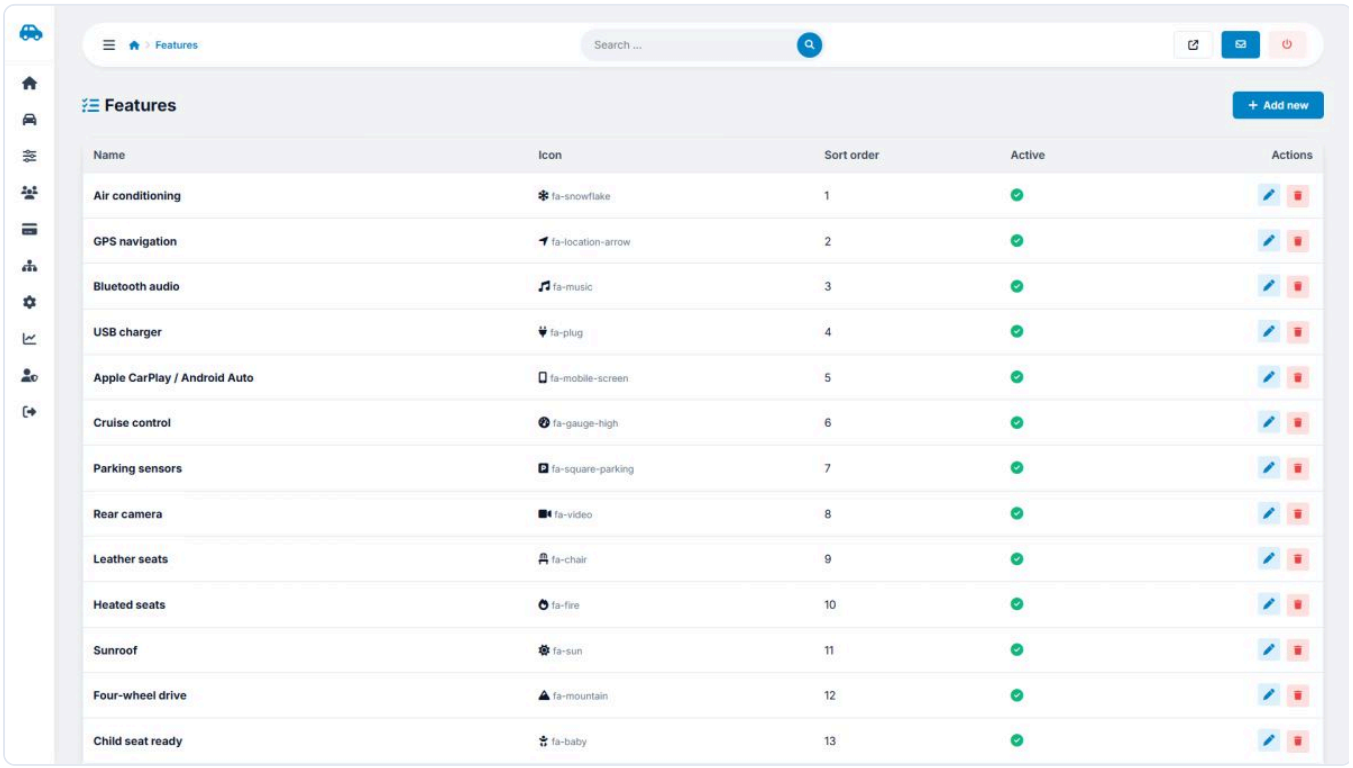
Brands



Car settings, Brands

Brands have a single name and an active switch (brand names are the same in all languages).

Features



Car settings, Features

Equipment such as air conditioning, GPS, sunroof or child-seat readiness. Choose an icon, a sort order and a translated name. Owners tick these on the car form and visitors filter by them.

Deleting a type or brand does not delete cars; the cars simply have no type or brand afterwards. Use the active switch to hide an item instead of deleting it.

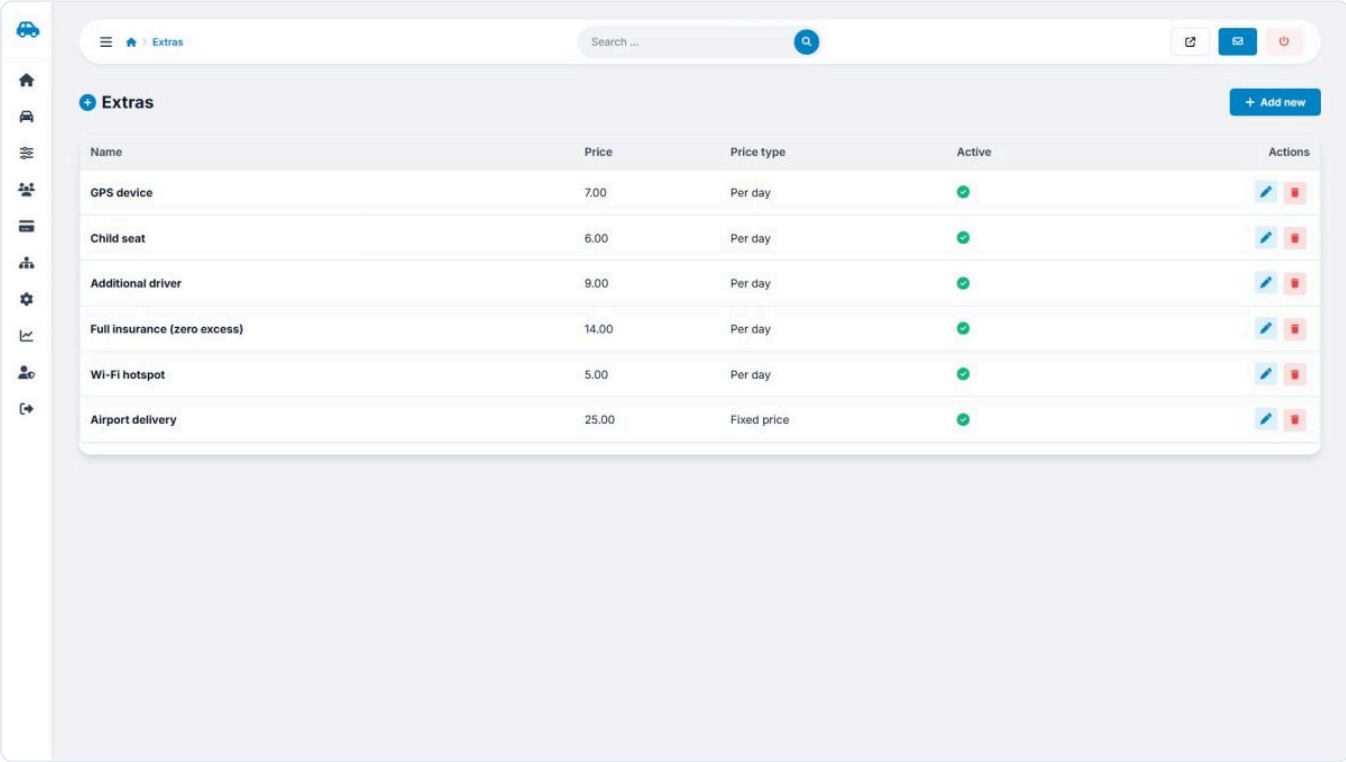
The icon names come from Font Awesome 6 Free. Use the name of a "solid" icon, for example `fa-snowflake`.

ADMIN PANEL

Extras, locations and coupons

Extras, locations and coupons increase revenue per booking and make the offer flexible.

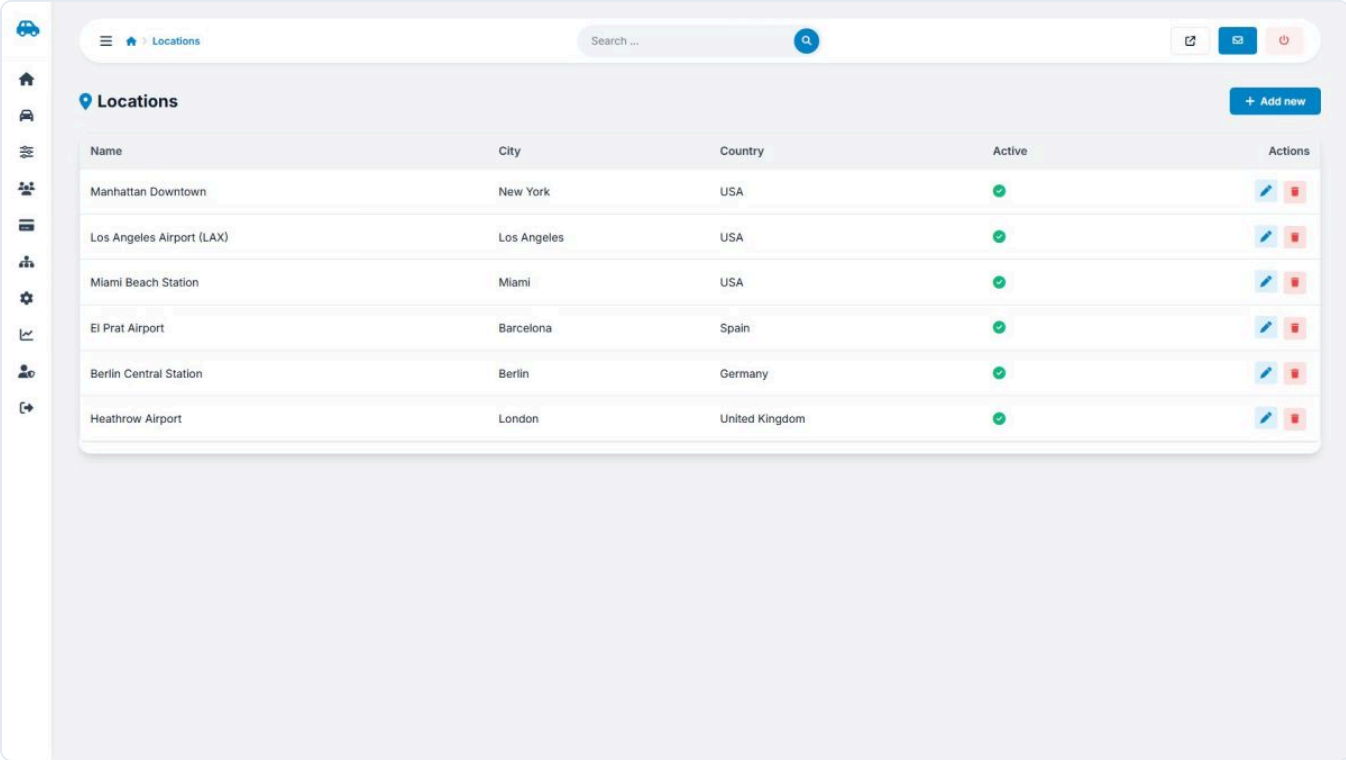
Extras



Car settings, Extras

Each extra has an icon, a translated name, a price and a **price type**: *per day* (child seat, GPS, additional driver) or *fixed* (airport delivery). Extras apply to all cars and are chosen in the booking box.

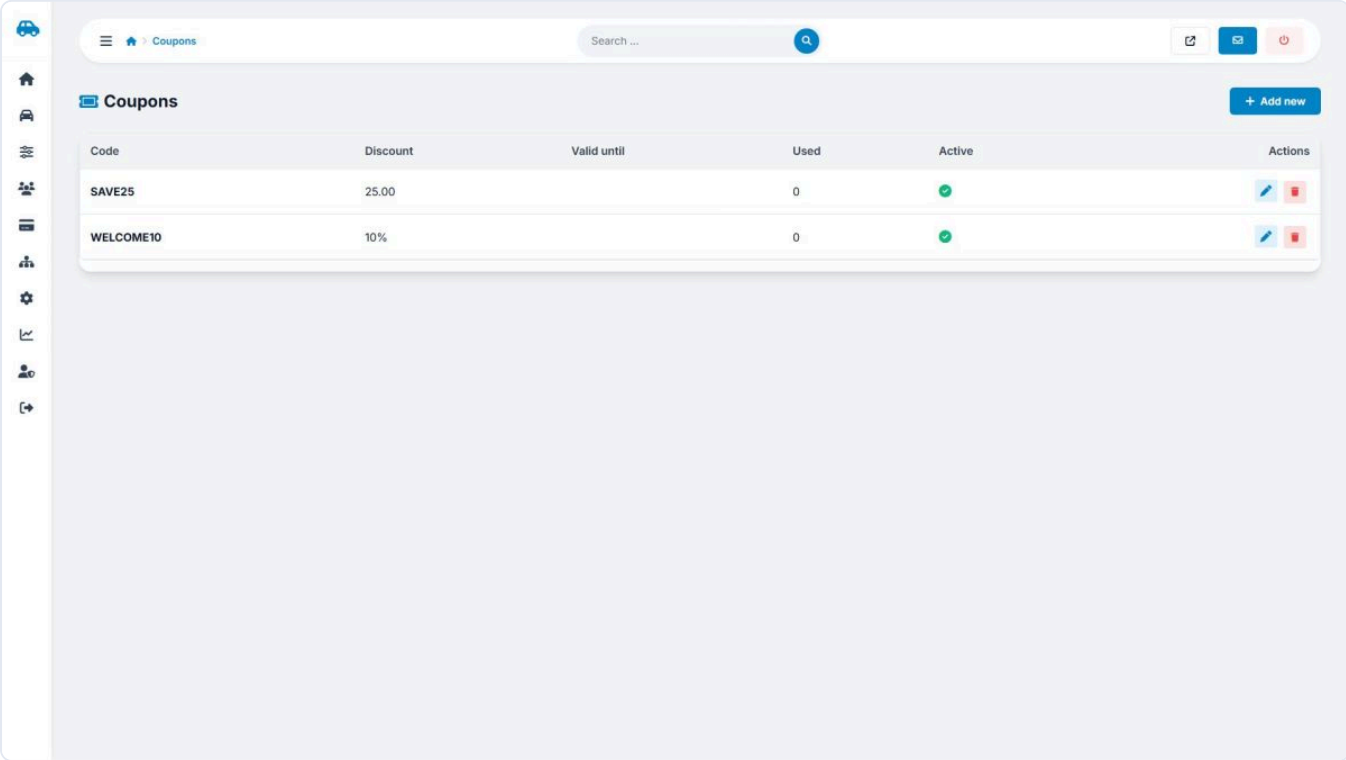
Locations



Car settings, Locations

Name, city, country and address of every pick-up and drop-off place. The city is shown on the home page cards, in the locations page and in the search filter. Each car has one pick-up location; the customer can choose another drop-off place.

Coupons



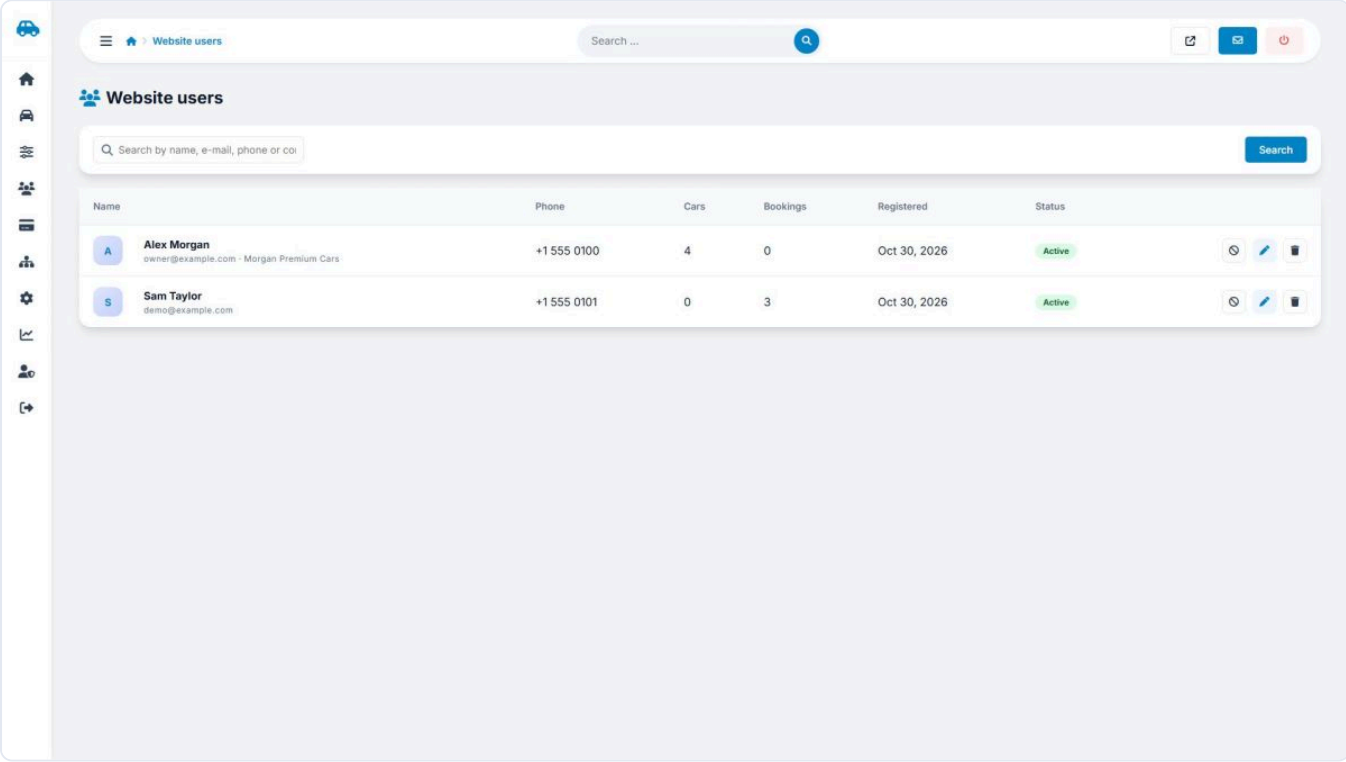
Car settings, Coupons

Field	Meaning
Code	Entered by the customer. Saved in capital letters, for example `SUMMER10`.
Discount type and value	Percent of the rental price or a fixed amount.
Valid from / until	Optional dates.
Usage limit	Maximum number of bookings; 0 means unlimited. The list shows how many times it was used.
Active	Switch off to stop a campaign.

ADMIN PANEL

Website users

Users → Website users lists everyone who registered on your site. These are not administrators (Administrators, groups and permissions).



The users list

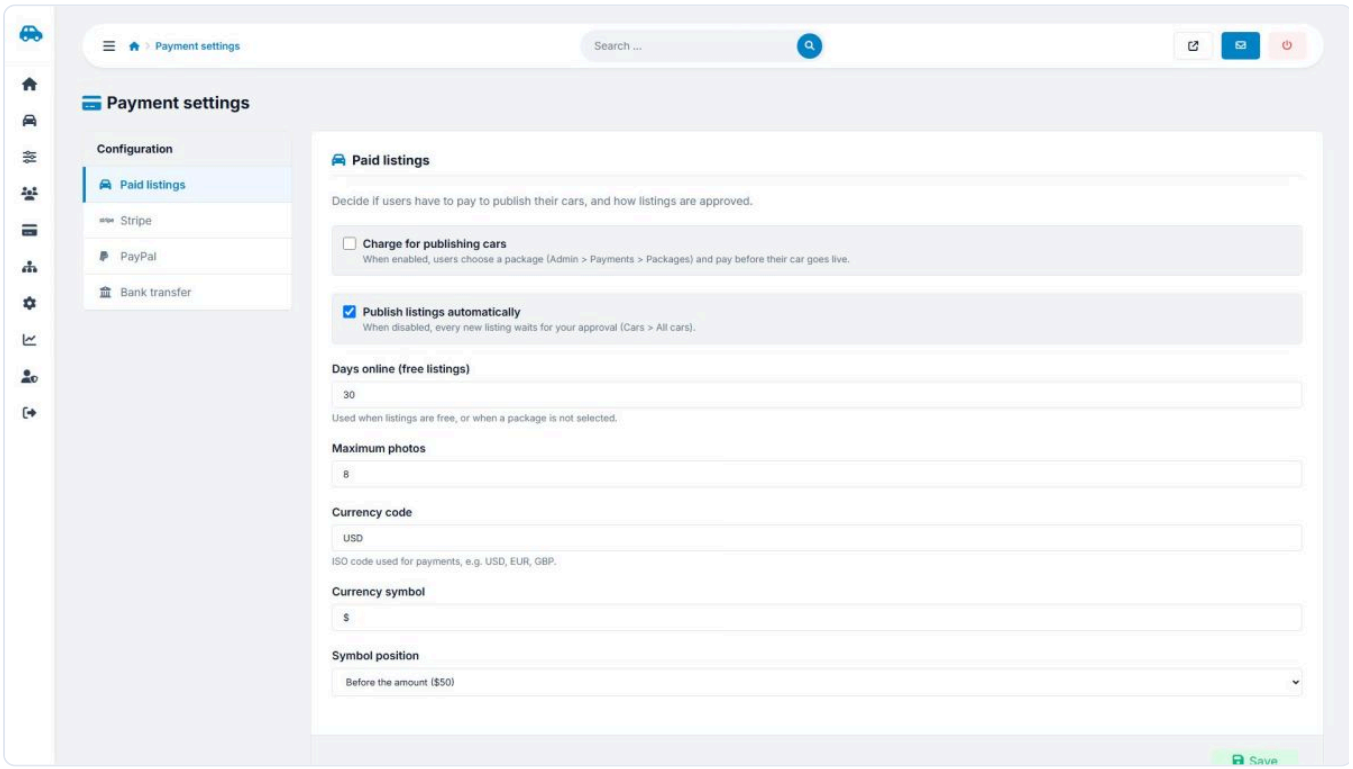
- Search by name, e-mail, phone or company.
- The columns show how many cars and bookings each user has.
- **Block** prevents login; unblock restores access.
- **Edit** changes name, e-mail, phone, company and city, and can set a new password.
- **Delete** removes the user and all of their cars with photos. Use with care.

To give a user's car to your company, open the car in The car editor and set the owner to Company before deleting the user.

ADMIN PANEL

Payment settings

Payments let you earn money from car owners who post on your platform. All settings are on one page with four tabs.



Payments, Payment settings

Tab: Paid listings

Setting	What it does
Charge for publishing cars	On: users choose a package and pay before the car goes live. Off: publishing is free.
Publish listings automatically	Off: every new listing waits for your approval in Managing cars.
Days online (free listings)	How long a free listing stays online.
Maximum photos	Photos allowed when no package is chosen.
Currency code	ISO code used by Stripe and PayPal: USD, EUR, GBP ...
Currency symbol and position	How prices look on the website: $50 or 50 €.

Tab: Stripe

1. In your Stripe dashboard open *Developers* → *API keys* and copy the **secret key** (`sk_...`).
2. Paste it here, set the mode and tick **Accept payments with Stripe**.

3. Recommended: add a webhook in *Developers* → *Webhooks* pointing to `https://your-site.com/include/stripe_webhook.php` with the event `checkout.session.completed`, and paste its signing secret (`whsec_...`) here.

Customers pay on the hosted Stripe Checkout page, so card numbers never reach your server. The return page and the webhook both verify the payment with Stripe.

Tab: PayPal

1. Create a REST app on developer.paypal.com and copy the **Client ID** and **Secret**.
2. Choose *Sandbox* for tests or *Live*, paste the keys and tick **Accept payments with PayPal**.

The script uses the PayPal Orders v2 API. When the customer returns, the order is captured and the amount and currency are checked before the listing is published.

Tab: Bank transfer

Enter the account holder, bank name, IBAN or account number and instructions. They are displayed to the user after choosing this method. The payment stays pending until you mark it as paid (Packages and transactions).

Saved secret keys are never shown again. Leave a key field empty to keep the stored value. Test with Stripe test keys or PayPal Sandbox before switching to live.

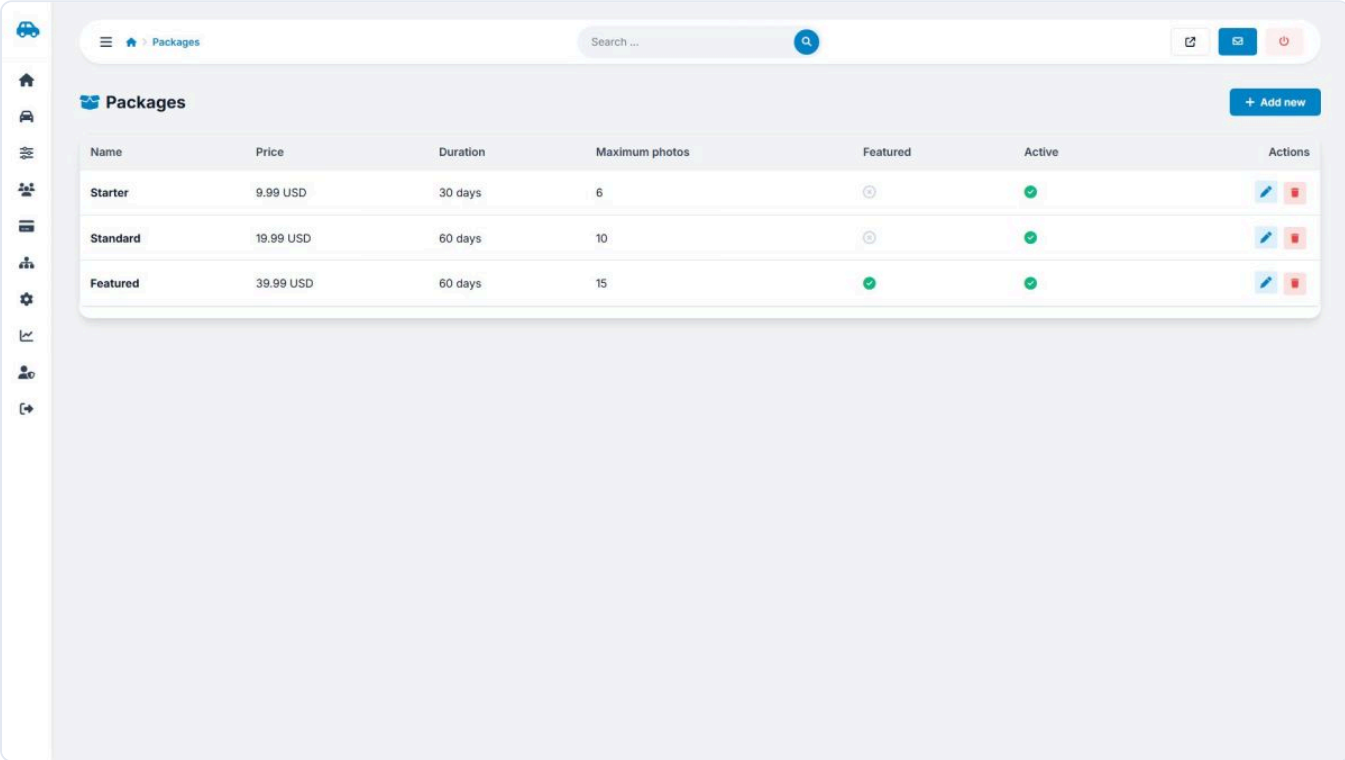
Use HTTPS on your website when you accept payments.

ADMIN PANEL

Packages and transactions

Packages are what users buy; transactions are the record of what they paid.

Packages

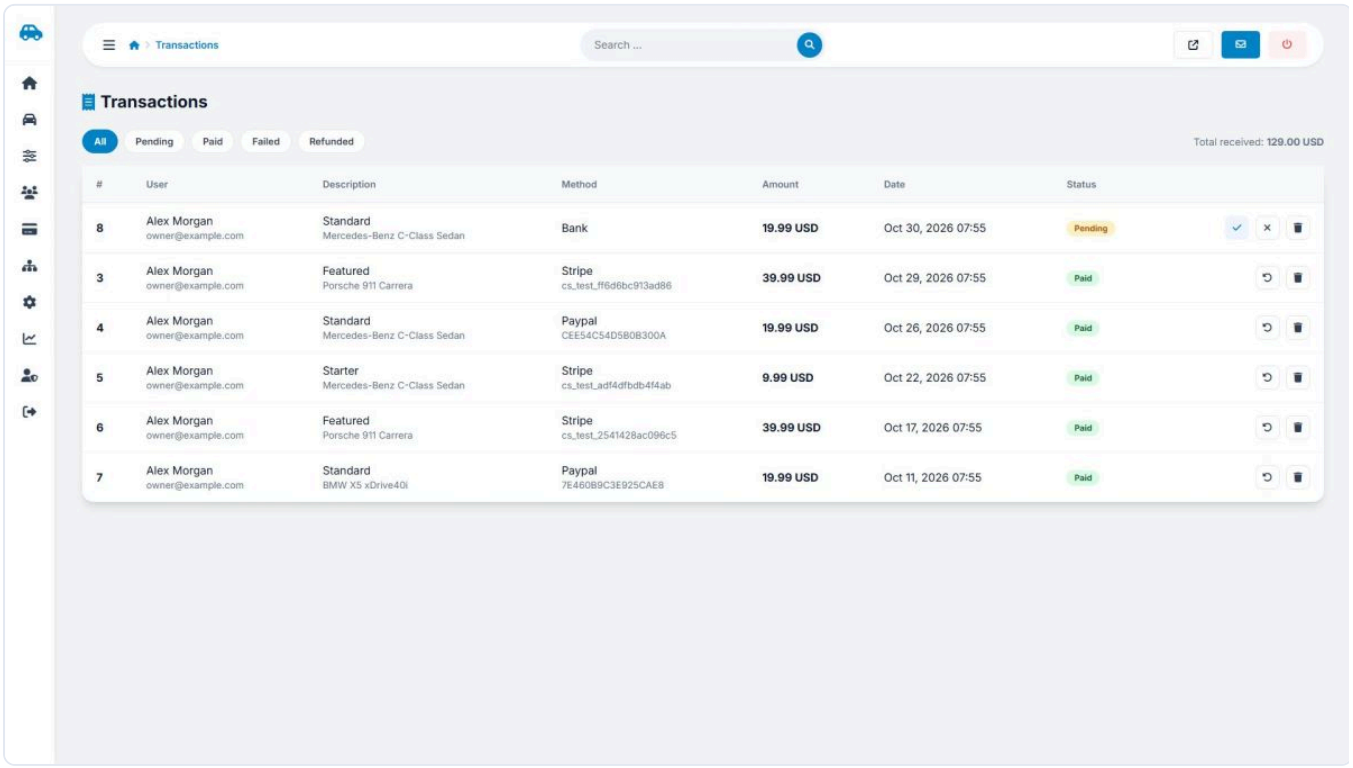


Payments, Packages

Field	Meaning
Name, description	Shown on the checkout page.
Price	In the currency set in Payment settings. Price 0 creates a free package.
Duration	Days the listing stays online.
Maximum photos	Photo limit for the listing.
Featured listing	The car gets the featured badge and appears first.
Sort order, active	Order on the checkout page and visibility.

Three sample packages (Starter, Standard, Featured) are installed with the demo data.

Transactions



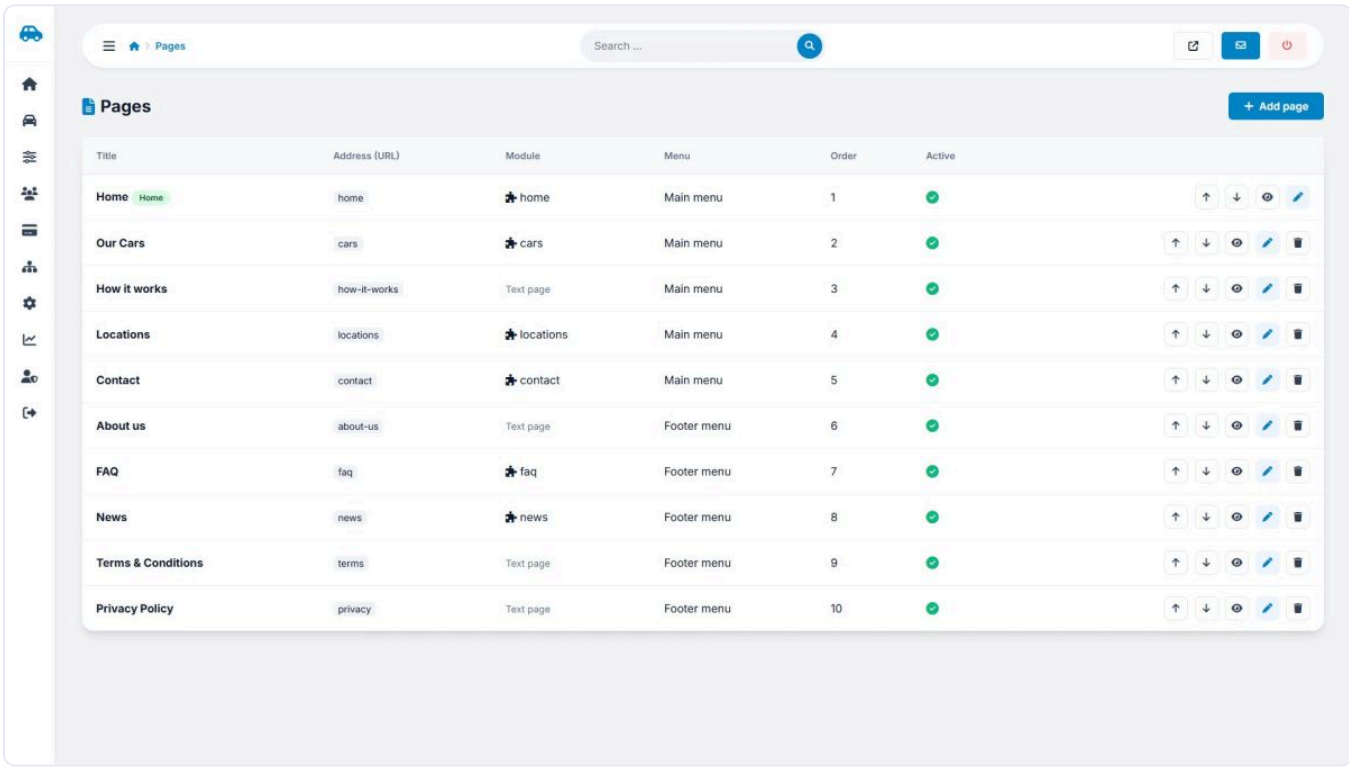
Payments, Transactions

- Tabs filter by status: pending, paid, failed, refunded. The total received is shown on the right.
- Columns show the user, package, method (Stripe, PayPal, bank), provider reference, amount and date.
- **Mark as paid** (check icon) confirms a bank transfer. The car is published (or goes to pending approval) and the user gets a receipt e-mail.
- **Mark as failed** closes a payment that will not arrive.
- **Mark as refunded** pauses the car; return the money from your Stripe, PayPal or bank account, because refunds are not sent automatically.

ADMIN PANEL

Pages and menu

Every item of the website menu is a page. A page can be plain text, a module (like the car search) or both.

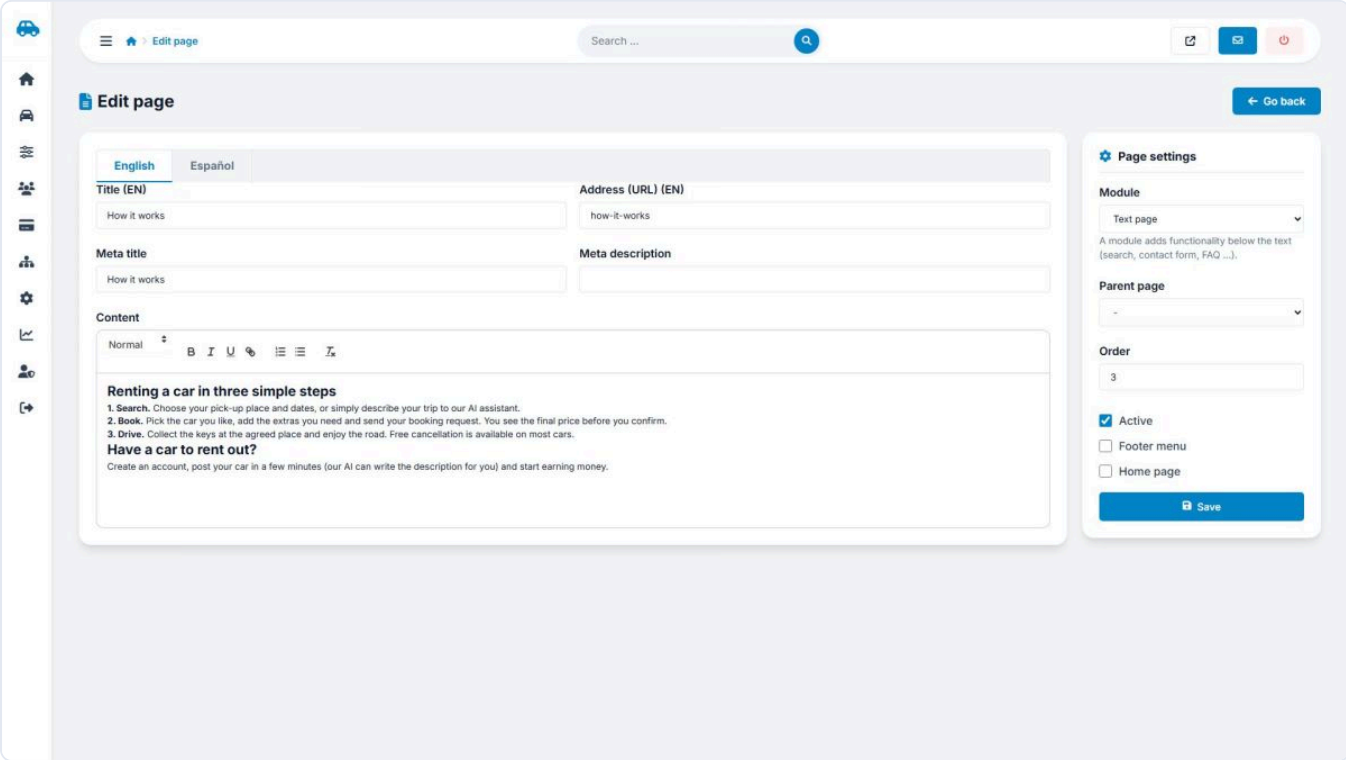


Website, Pages

The pages list

- The arrows change the order, the eye shows or hides a page, the pencil edits, the trash deletes (the home page cannot be deleted).
- The *Menu* column tells if a page is in the main menu or the footer menu.

Edit a page



The page editor

Field	Meaning
Title, address (URL), meta title, meta description	One set per language tab. The address is created from the title if empty. These fields control the SEO of the page (SEO, tracking and social media).
Content	Rich text. It is shown above the module (if any).
Module	Adds functionality below the text: cars, contact, faq, news, locations, home ... (the files in `extensions/`).
Parent page	Makes the page a drop-down item under another page.
Order	Position in the menu.
Active / Footer menu / Home page	Visibility, menu position and the page shown first.

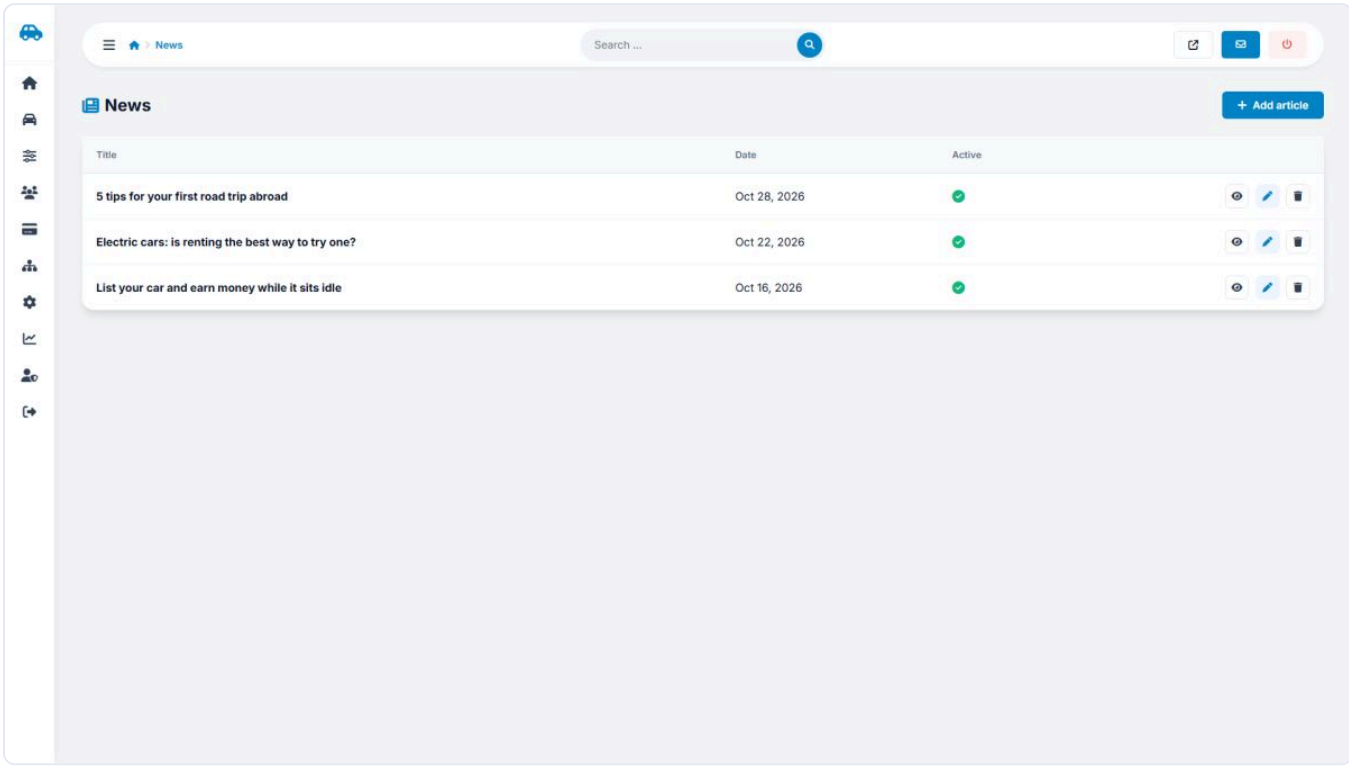
To add a landing page for advertising, create a text page, put it in the footer menu (low priority) and link to it from your campaigns. Pages that are not active cannot be opened at all.

ADMIN PANEL

News and FAQ

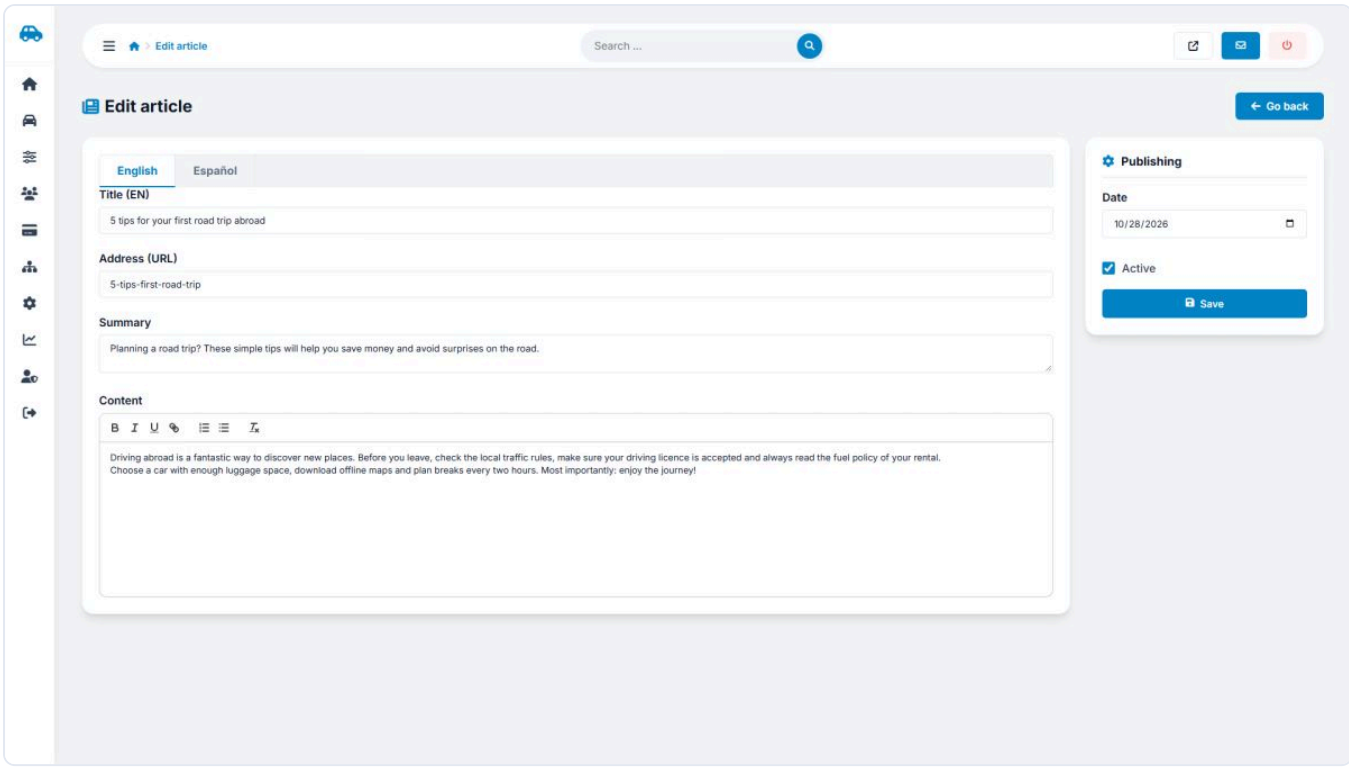
Fresh content helps visitors and search engines. News and FAQ are managed from the *Website* menu.

News



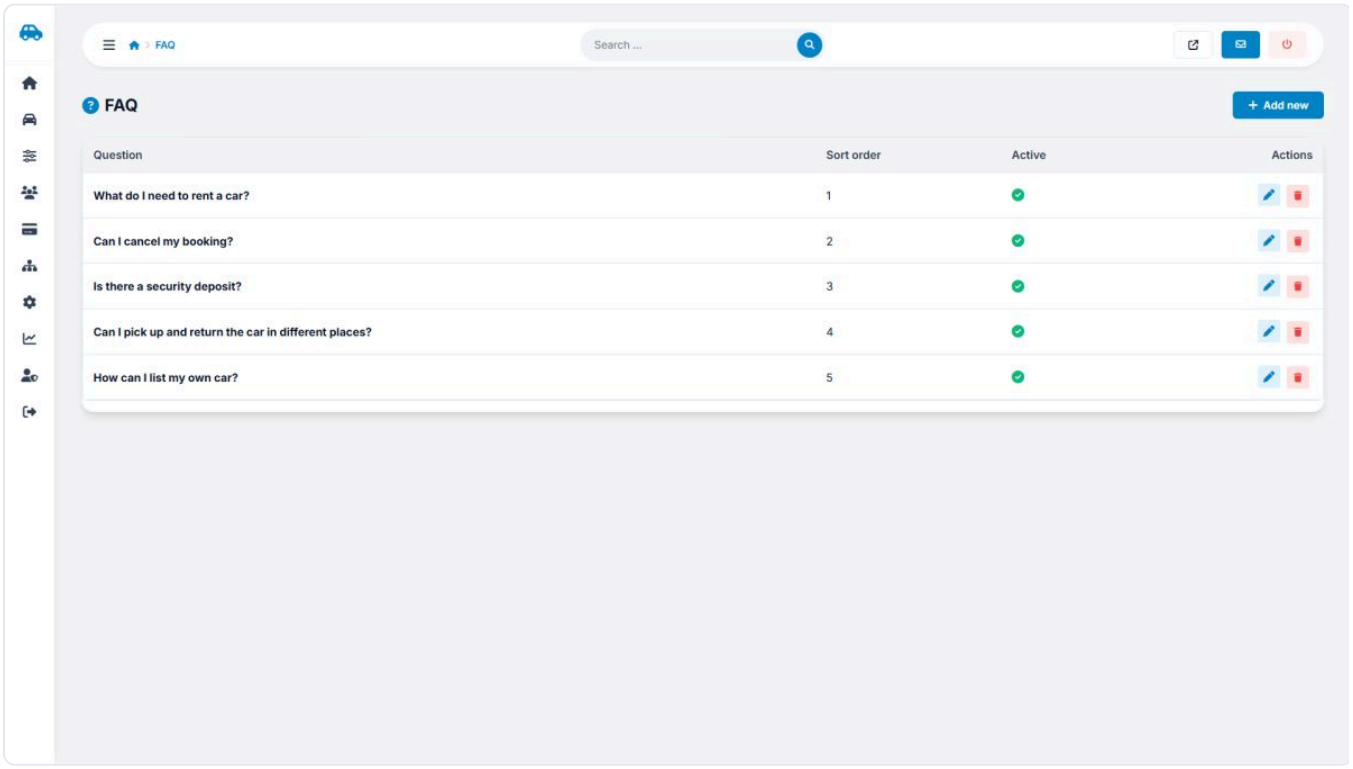
Website, News

Add an article with the button at the top. Each language tab has a title, an address (URL), a short summary shown on the cards and the full text in the rich text editor. Set the date and the active switch on the right.



The article editor

FAQ



Website, FAQ

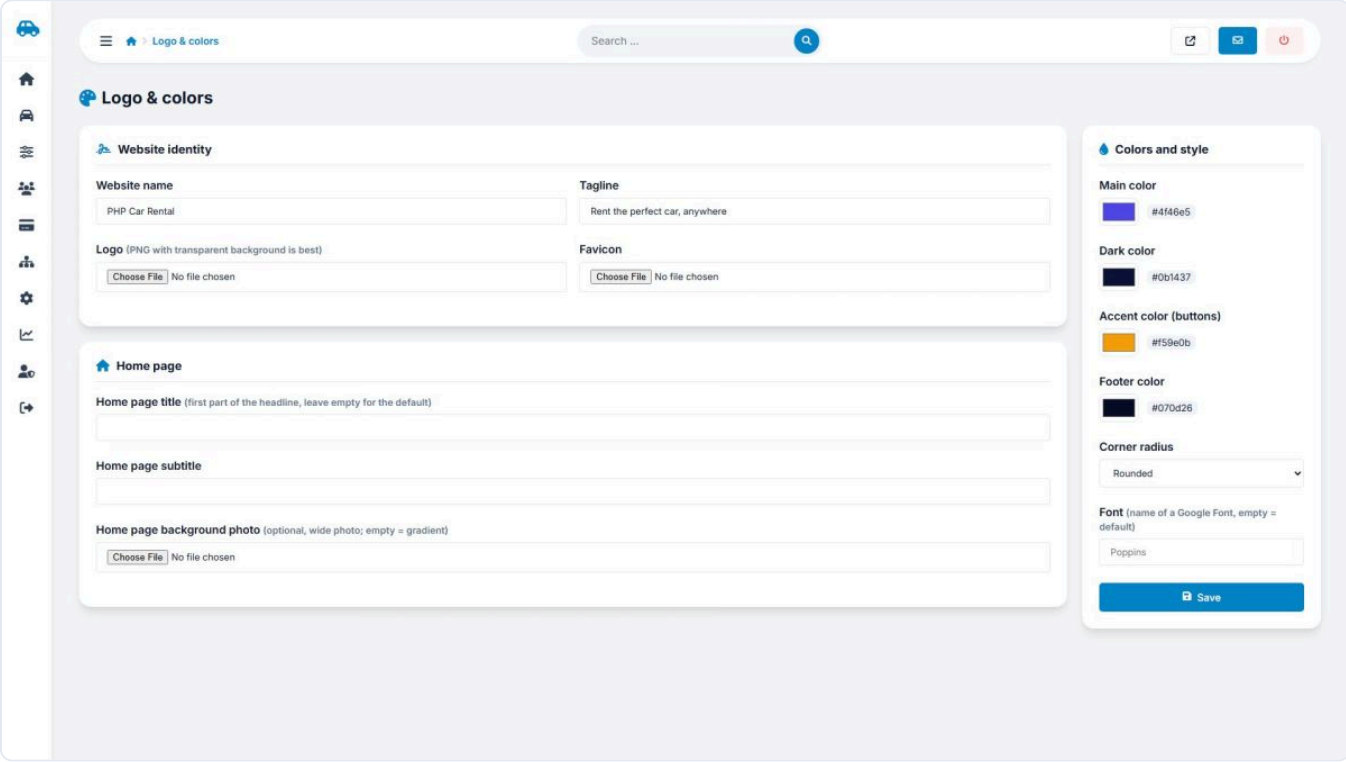
Each FAQ item has a question and an answer in every language, a sort order and an active switch. The questions are shown as an accordion on the FAQ page.

Write answers to the real questions customers ask by e-mail. They are also good for search engines.

ADMIN PANEL

Logo, colors and branding

The whole template follows a few settings, so a complete redesign takes minutes and needs no code.



Website, Logo & colors

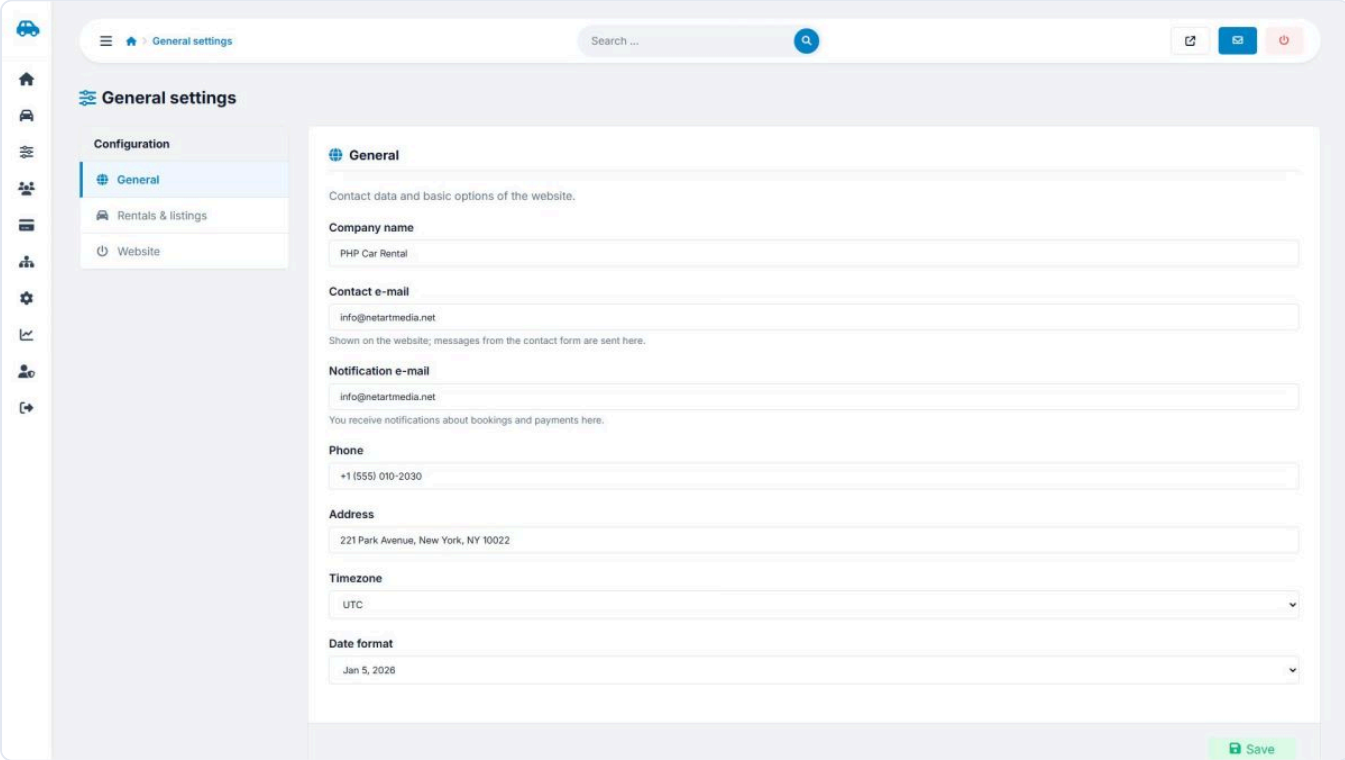
Setting	Effect
Website name and tagline	Shown in the header (when no logo image), the footer and the page titles.
Logo	PNG with a transparent background looks best. Replaces the text logo in the header and footer.
Favicon	The small icon in the browser tab.
Home page title and subtitle	Replace the headline and subtitle of the hero. Leave empty for the default texts.
Home page background photo	A wide photo behind the hero. Empty shows the gradient.
Main color	Buttons, links, icons and highlights.
Dark color	Hero, page banners and the footer base.
Accent color	Call-to-action buttons.
Footer color	Background of the footer.
Corner radius	Square, soft, rounded or very rounded corners.
Font	The name of any Google Font, for example `Poppins`. Empty uses the default.

Tick *Delete the current image* next to the logo, favicon or hero photo and save to remove it.

ADMIN PANEL

General settings

Settings → General settings holds the options that affect the whole site, in three tabs.



Settings, General settings

Tab: General

Setting	Meaning
Company name, phone, address	Shown in the footer and on the contact page.
Contact e-mail	Shown on the website; messages from the contact form are sent here.
Notification e-mail	You receive booking, payment and system notices here.
Timezone	Used for dates and times.
Date format	How dates are displayed.

Tab: Rentals & listings

Setting	Meaning
Cars per page	Results per page in search.
Users can post their own cars	Turns the post-your-car features on or off.
Customers must log in to book	Disables guest bookings.
New reviews need approval	Moderation switch (Moderating reviews).

Tab: Website

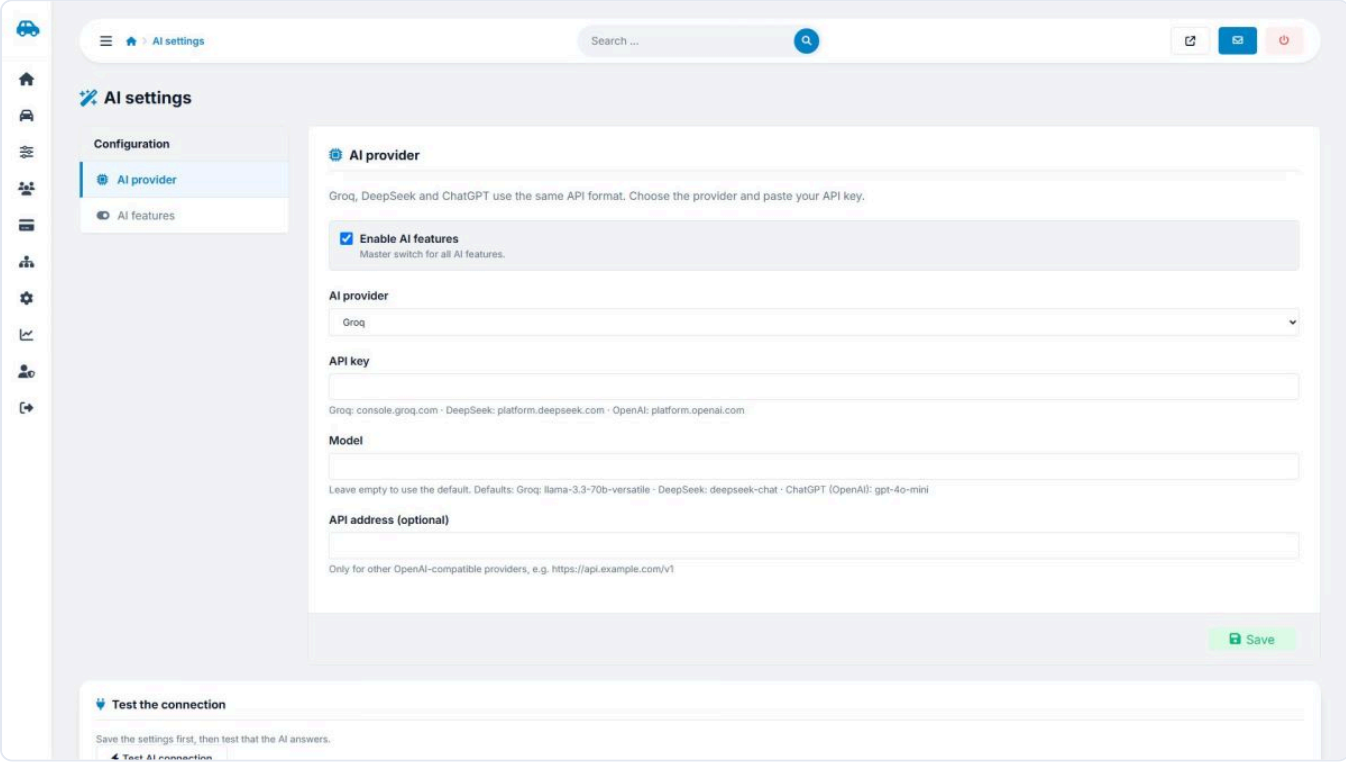
Setting	Meaning
SEO friendly URLs	Addresses like `/car-bmw-x5-2` instead of `index.php?mod=car&id=2`. Needs Apache `mod_rewrite` and the included `.htaccess` file.
Show the Home link in the menu	Hides or shows the first menu item.
Maintenance mode	Visitors see a "We will be back soon" page with a 503 status. You can still browse the site while logged in to the admin panel.

If the site shows "not found" after enabling SEO friendly URLs, your server does not read the `.htaccess` file. Disable the option again and ask your host to enable `AllowOverride All` and `mod_rewrite`.

ADMIN PANEL

AI settings

AI is optional and controlled from one page. Groq, DeepSeek and ChatGPT use the same OpenAI-compatible API, so switching provider only needs a different key.



Settings, AI settings

Configure

1. Open *Settings → AI settings*.
2. Tick **Enable AI features** (the master switch).
3. Choose the **AI provider**.
4. Paste the **API key**. Get one at console.groq.com, platform.deepseek.com or platform.openai.com.
5. Optional: enter a **model** name. Empty uses the default of the provider (Groq: `llama-3.3-70b-versatile`, DeepSeek: `deepseek-chat`, OpenAI: `gpt-4o-mini`).
6. On the *AI features* tab choose where AI is used and save.
7. Click **Test AI connection** at the bottom. A green check means it works.

Feature	Where it appears
Listing generator	Post a car form for users (AI listing generator) and the car editor (The car editor).
AI search	The AI assistant tab on the home page (AI car search).

Other providers

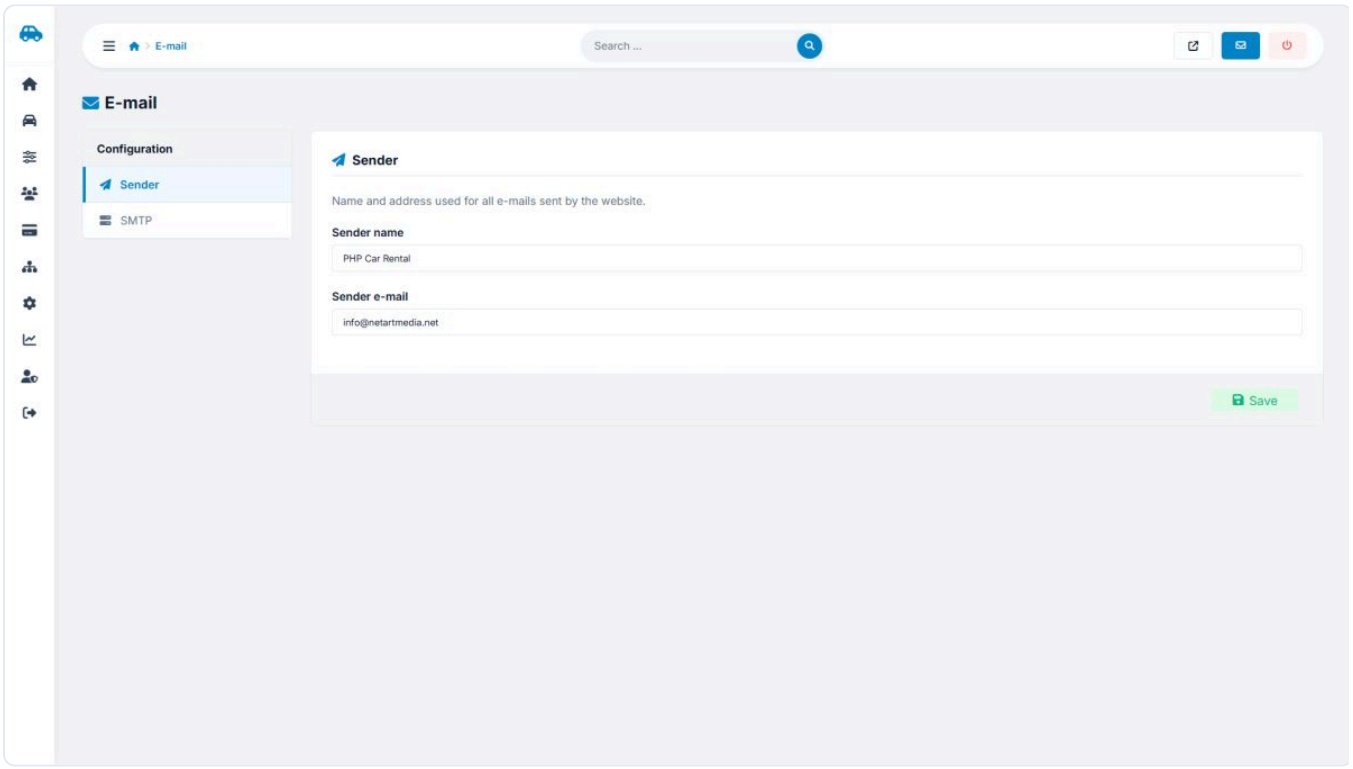
Any service with an OpenAI-compatible `/chat/completions` endpoint can be used: enter its base address (for example `https://api.example.com/v1`) in *API address* and its model name.

The key is stored in the database and is never shown again after saving. Usage is limited per visitor and per IP address. Monitor your usage in the dashboard of your provider.

ADMIN PANEL

E-mail and SMTP

The script sends e-mails for bookings, registrations, password resets, messages and payments. Good delivery needs a correct sender and, ideally, SMTP.



Settings, E-mail

Sender

Enter the sender name and an address on your own domain, for example `bookings@your-site.com`.

SMTP

1. Copy PHPMailer (`PHPMailer.php`, `SMTP.php`, `Exception.php`) to `include/php-mailer/`.
2. Tick **Send e-mails through an SMTP server**.
3. Enter server, port, security (SSL or TLS), username and password from your mail provider.
4. Save and send a test: register a new user or submit the contact form.

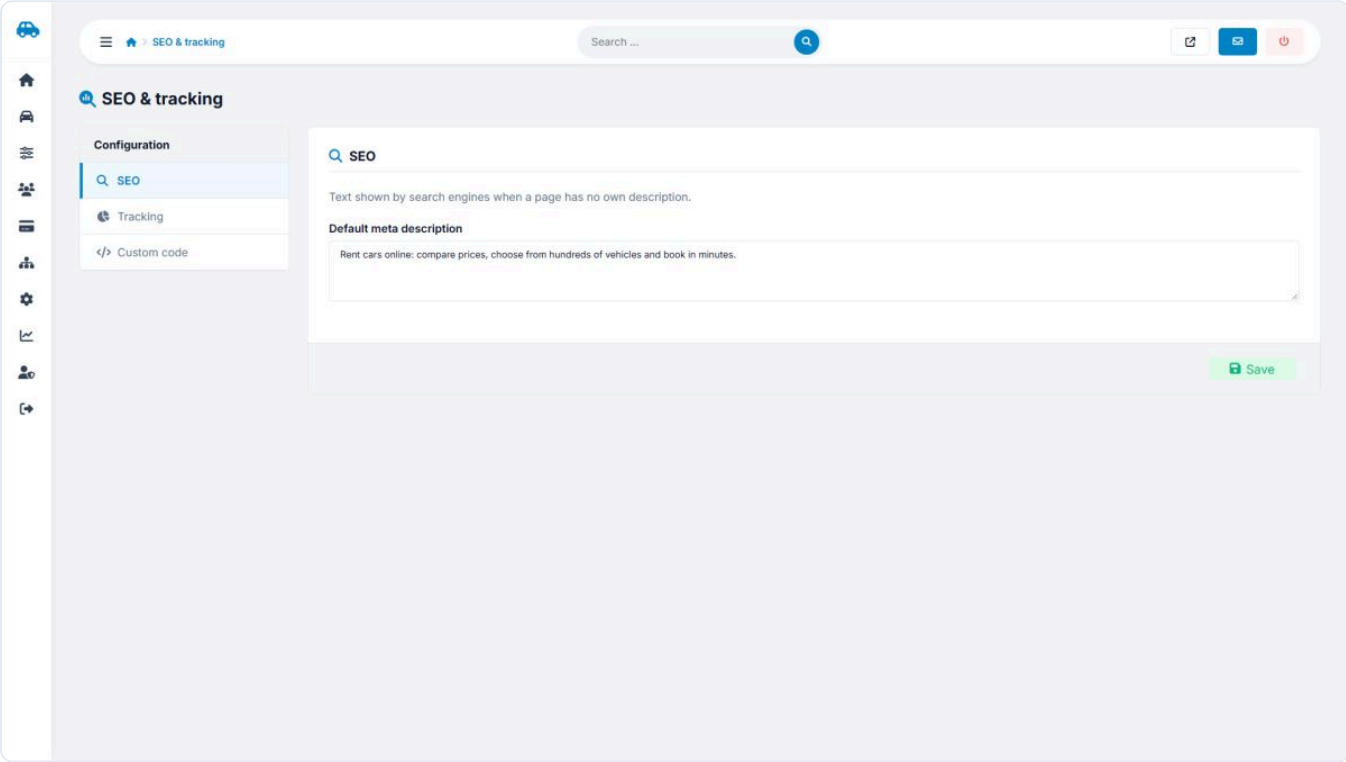
Without SMTP the PHP `mail()` function of your server is used. This is fine for tests, but messages from it often land in spam.

ADMIN PANEL

SEO, tracking and social media

Help search engines understand your site and measure what works.

SEO and tracking

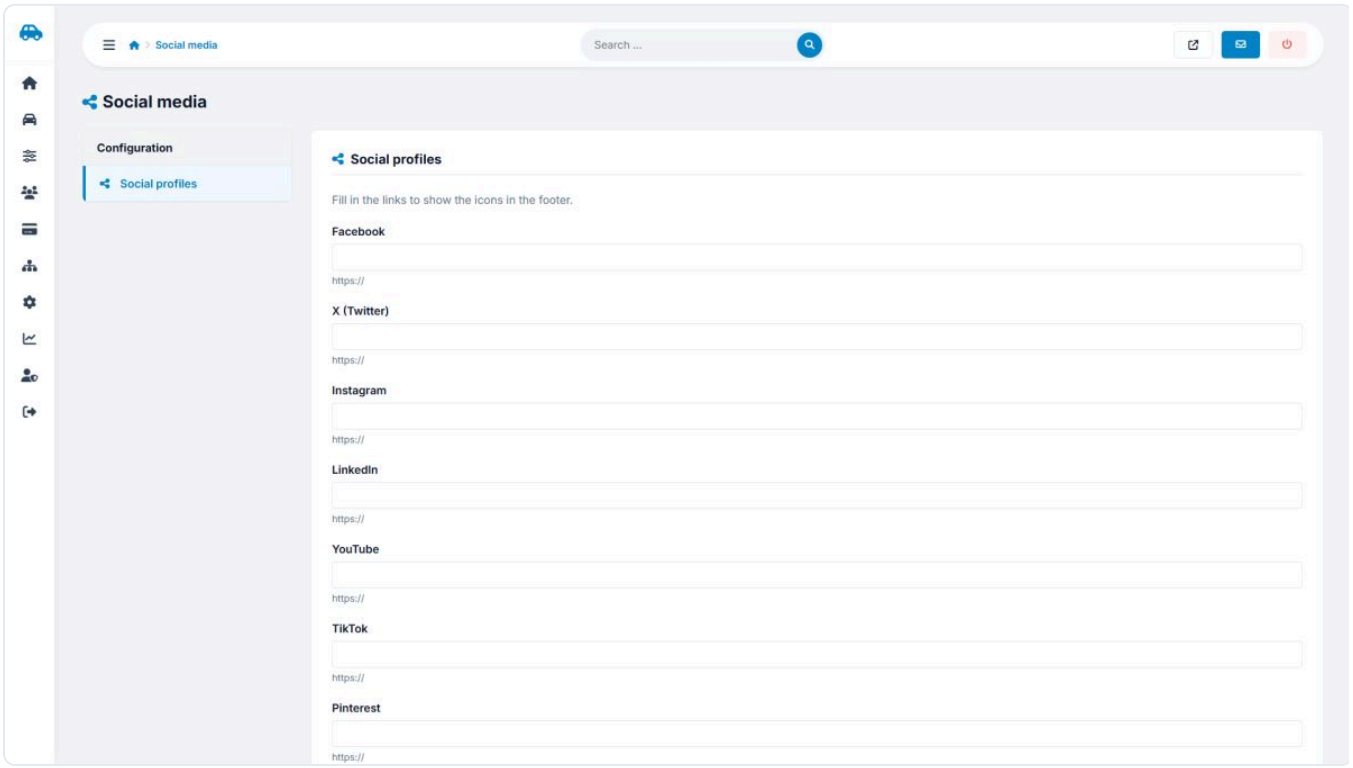


Settings, SEO & tracking

Setting	Use
Default meta description	Used by search engines when a page has no description of its own.
Google Analytics ID	For example `G-XXXXXXXXXX`. The tracking script is added to every page.
Facebook Pixel ID	Adds the Pixel base code.
Code in the head / before </body>	Any HTML or JavaScript, for example a chat widget or a verification tag.

Per page titles and descriptions are set in the page form (Pages and menu). Car pages create their own title and description from the car data.

Social media



Settings, Social media

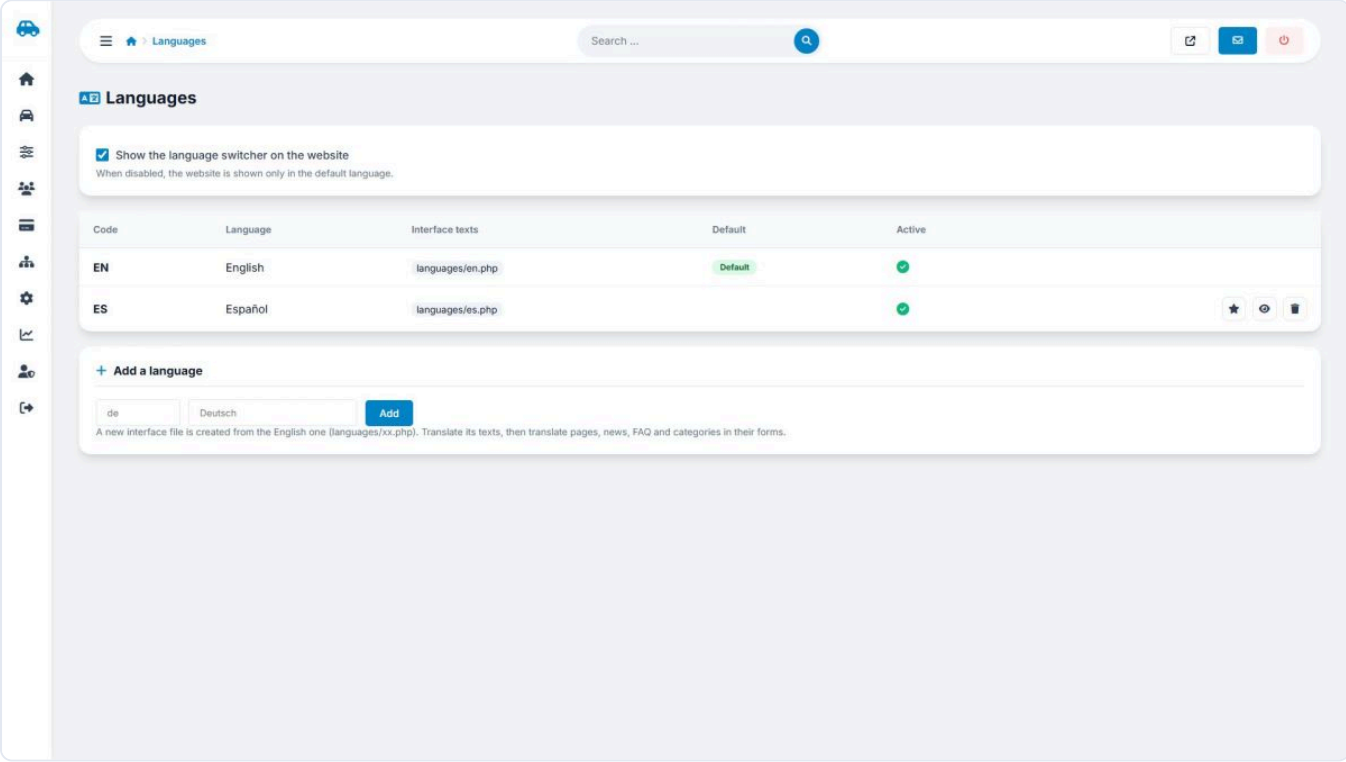
Enter the addresses of your Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok and Pinterest profiles. Icons for the filled ones appear in the footer.

Enable SEO friendly URLs (General settings) and submit your website in Google Search Console for the best results.

ADMIN PANEL

Languages

English and Spanish are included. Adding another language takes a few minutes plus the time to translate.



Settings, Languages

Add a language

1. Enter a two-letter code (for example `de`) and the name (`Deutsch`) and click **Add**.
2. The file `languages/de.php` is created as a copy of the English file. Open it and translate the **values** (the text after `=>`); never change the keys.
3. For the admin panel, copy `ADMIN/en.php` to `ADMIN/de.php` and add the code to the panel language list in `ADMIN/home/password.php` if you want it.
4. Translate your pages, news, FAQ, car types, features and extras: each form now has a tab for the new language.

Options

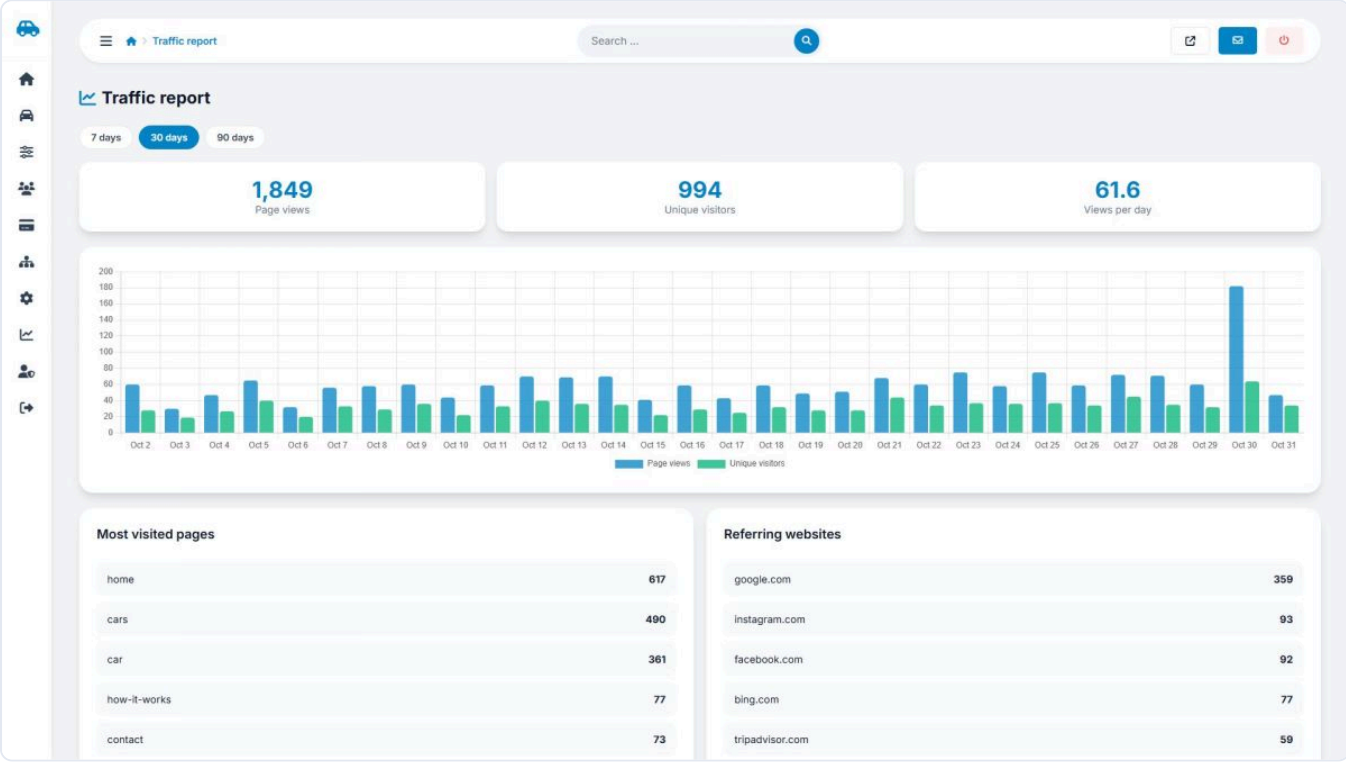
- **Show the language switcher** turns the multi-language mode on or off.
- The **star** makes a language the default (used when the visitor has not chosen one).
- The **eye** hides a language; the **trash** deletes it with all of its translations (English cannot be deleted).

Any missing text falls back to English, so you can publish a language before it is fully translated.

ADMIN PANEL

Traffic statistics

You do not need an external service to see how many people visit your site. The script logs every page view (bots excluded) and shows it in the admin.



Statistics, Traffic report

- Choose 7, 30 or 90 days with the tabs.
- Three numbers: page views, unique visitors and average views per day.
- A bar chart per day.
- Tables: most visited pages, referring websites, devices (desktop, mobile, tablet) and browsers.

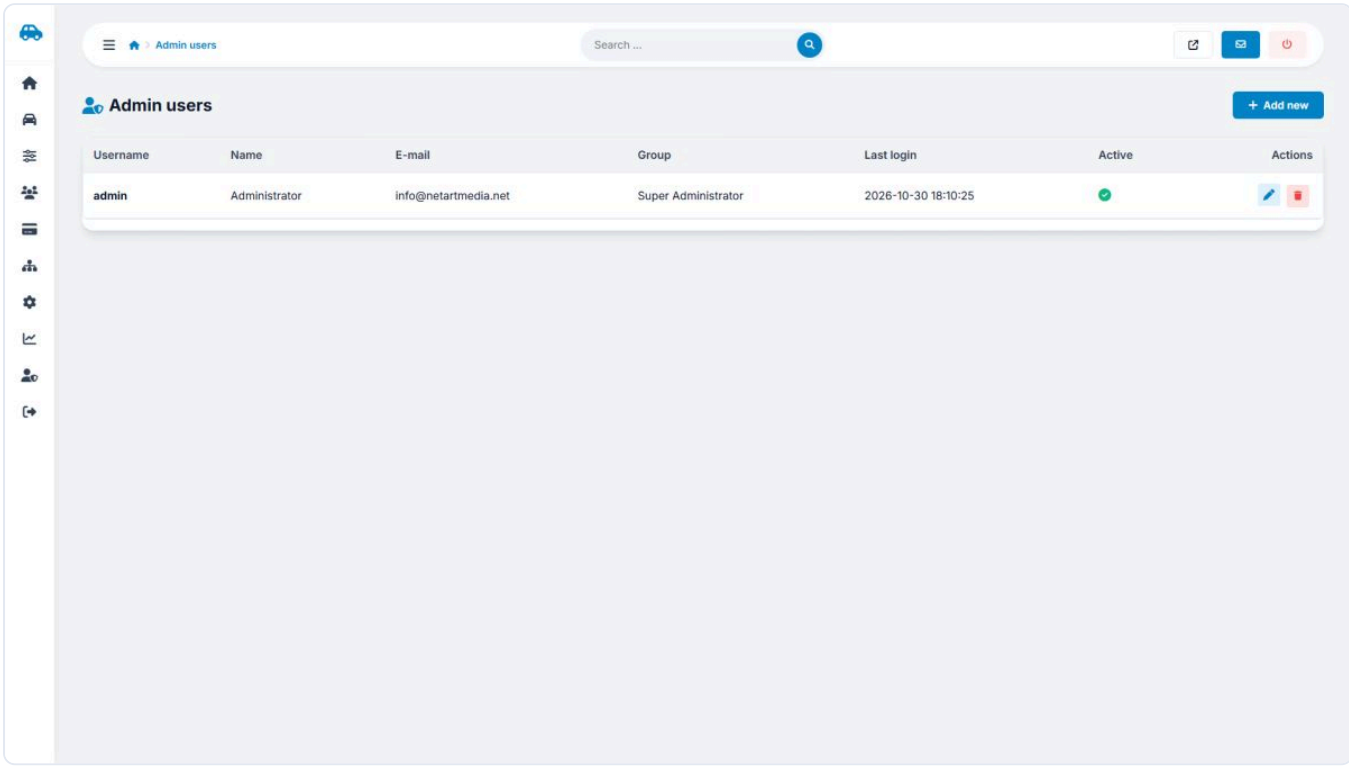
The statistics show only the data collected by this script. Use Google Analytics in addition if you need campaign reports. IP addresses are stored; mention this in your privacy policy.

ADMIN PANEL

Administrators, groups and permissions

Your staff do not need full access. Create groups, give each group only the permissions it needs, and assign administrators to groups.

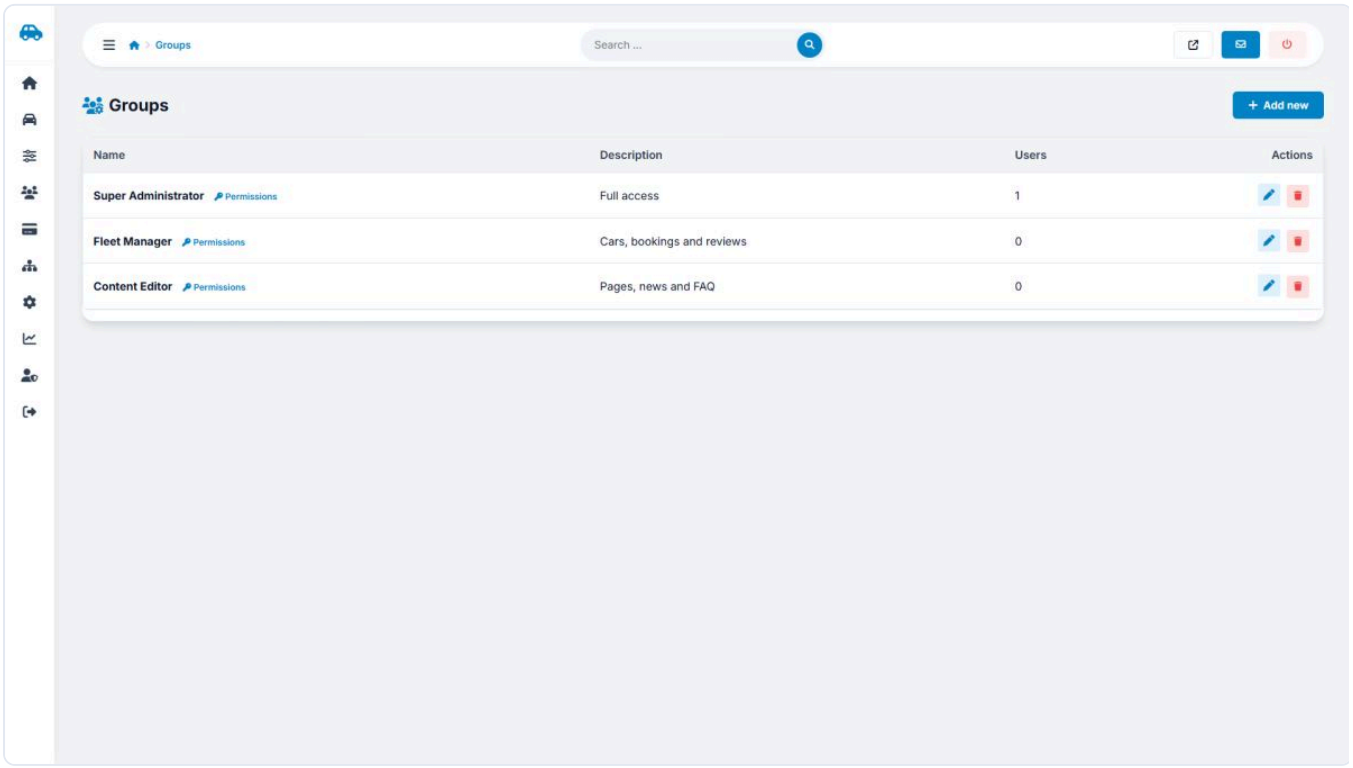
Administrators



Admin users, Admin users

Add an administrator with username, name, e-mail, password, group and the active switch. You cannot delete your own account, change your own group or delete the last Super Administrator.

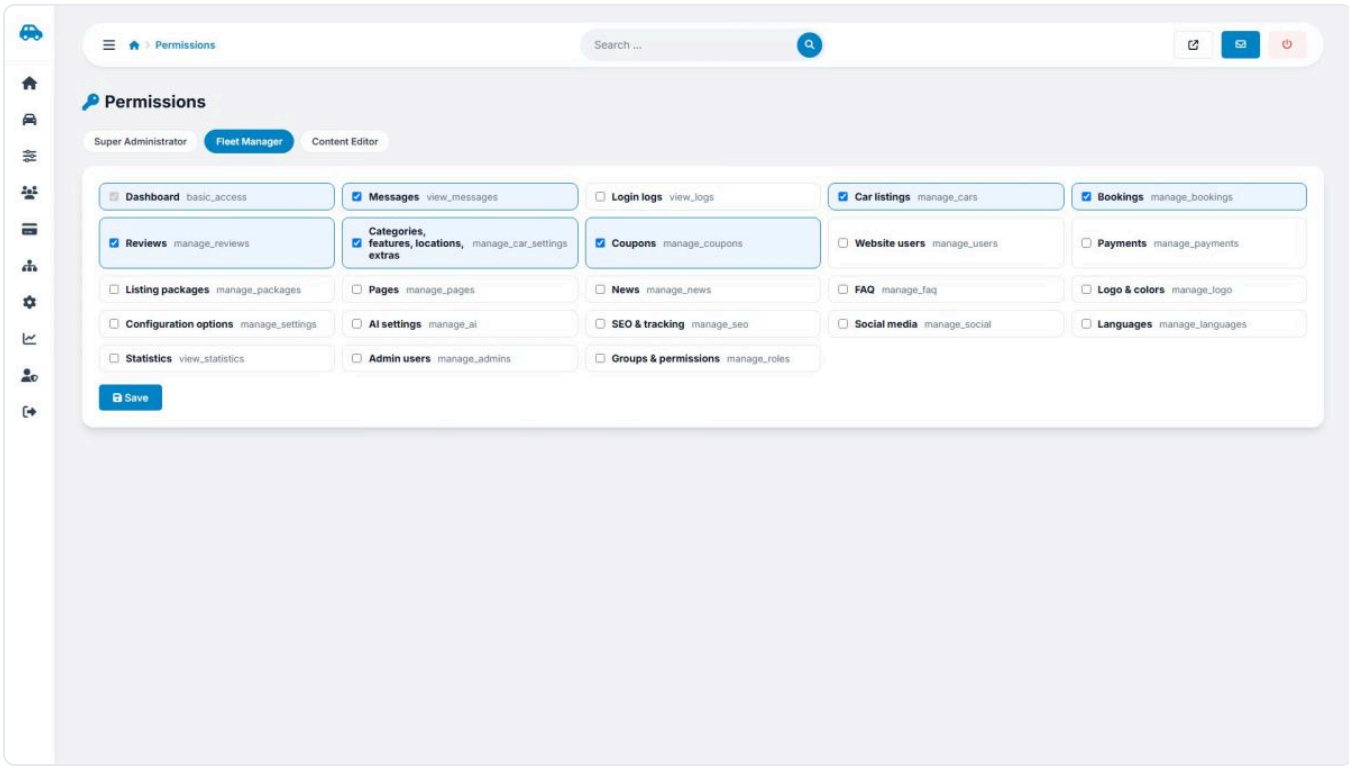
Groups



Admin users, Groups

Three groups exist after the installation: **Super Administrator** (everything), **Fleet Manager** (cars, bookings, reviews, catalogue, coupons) and **Content Editor** (pages, news, FAQ, branding, SEO). Add your own groups with the button at the top.

Permissions



Admin users, Permissions

Choose a group in the tabs and tick what it may open: cars, bookings, reviews, car settings, coupons, users, payments, packages, pages, news, FAQ, logo and colors, settings, AI, SEO, social media, languages, statistics and so on. The Super Administrator group always has everything. Every administrator can open the dashboard.

Pages the group cannot open are hidden from the menu and return "403 Forbidden" if typed in the address bar.

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Customizing the template

The template is plain HTML and CSS. You can change it with any text editor and no build tools.

Where the template is

`templates/modern/template.html` is the page frame (header, menu, footer). Styles are in `assets/css/style.css` and scripts in `assets/js/app.js`. The content of each page is inserted at `<site content/>`.

Template tags

Tag	Replaced with
`<site logo/>`	Logo (image or text with icon).
`<site menu/>`, `<site mobile_menu/>`, `<site footer_menu/>`	Menu links from the Pages list.
`<site user_menu/>`	Login link or the user drop-down.
`<site languages_menu/>`, `<site current_lang/>`	Language switcher and the current code.
`<site title/>`, `<site description/>`, `<site robots/>`, `<site og_image/>`	SEO values of the current page.
`<site contact_phone/>`, `contact_email`, `contact_address`, `company_name`, `tagline`	Values from the settings.
`<site social_media/>`	Social icons.
`<site post_car_url/>`, `<site home_url/>`	Frequently used addresses.
`<site content/>`	The page content.
`{{text_key}}`	An interface text of the current language from `languages/xx.php`.

Colors and spacing

The top of `style.css` defines CSS variables (`--primary`, `--secondary`, `--accent`, `--radius` ...). The values are overridden by the branding settings (Logo, colors and branding), so edit the CSS only for structural changes.

Create a new theme

1. Copy `templates/modern` to `templates/mytheme` and edit the files.
2. Set the theme name in the database: `UPDATE carrental_settings SET setting_value='mytheme' WHERE setting_key='active_theme';`.
3. Reload the website.

Custom tags

A tag `<site banner/>` in the template runs `extensions/banner_tag.php` and inserts its output. This is a simple way to add dynamic blocks such as a list of the newest cars.

Change interface texts such as the hero headline in `languages/en.php`: find the key (for example `hero_title_a`) and edit the value.

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Adding modules and admin pages

The script is meant to be edited. Adding a module or an admin page takes one file.

A new website module

1. Create `extensions/my_module.php`. Print the HTML you want; it is placed in the template.
2. Open it with `index.php?mod=my_module`, or attach it to a page in Pages and menu (field *Module*).
3. Set `$pageData['title']`, `$pageData['subtitle']`, `$pageData['meta_description']` inside the file to control the title banner and the SEO.

```
<?php
if (!defined('IN_CMS')) die('');
$pageData['title'] = 'Special offers';
$cars = new CarModel($database);
foreach ($cars->featured(3) as $car) {
    echo render_car_card($car);
}
```

Inside a module these variables are available: `$database`, `$DBprefix`, `$website` (current language and settings) and `$pageData`. Useful helpers: `setting()`, `__()`, `e()`, `money()`, `mod_link()`, `car_link()`, `csrf_field()`, `send_mail()`.

A new admin page

1. Create `ADMIN/<category>/<action>.php`.
2. Add it to `ADMIN/pages_structure.php` with a label and a permission slug.
3. Add the permission to the `admin_permissions` table so you can give it to groups (Administrators, groups and permissions).

In an admin page, `$admin` is the UI object (`ui_title()`, `ui_table()`, `ui_form()`, `show_pagination()`) and `$database` the database. Two helpers save a lot of code: `admin_crud()` builds a complete list + add/edit/delete screen from a small configuration, and `admin_settings_form()` builds a tabbed settings page. See `ADMIN/car_settings/brands.php` (14 lines) and `ADMIN/settings/mail.php` for examples.

Every POST form in the admin gets a security token automatically; in your own front end forms add `<?= csrf_field() ?>` and check it with `csrf_check()`.

Database access

Use the class `DatabasePDO`: `$database->Query($sql, $params)` with **prepared parameters**, `DataArray()`, `SQLCount_Query()` and others. Table names carry the prefix from `config.php`.

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Security

Security is built into the code. This page lists what is protected for you and what you must do on your server.

Built in

Protection	How it works
CSRF tokens	Every form of the website and of the admin carries a token; forms without a valid token are refused.
SQL injection	All queries use prepared statements with bound parameters.
Passwords	Stored with PHP `password_hash()`; never in plain text.
Login throttling	Admin logins are blocked after repeated failures; website logins, registrations, contact and AI requests are rate-limited per session and per IP address.
Uploads	Only real images are accepted, re-encoded as JPEG or PNG (this removes hidden code) and stored with generated names. `.htaccess` files forbid running scripts in the upload folders.
HTML from users	Descriptions are filtered to a short list of safe tags without attributes. Output is escaped everywhere else.
Payments	Amounts come from the database; Stripe and PayPal payments are verified with the provider; webhook signatures are checked.
Access control	Admin pages check the permissions of the group; users can edit only their own cars and bookings.
Spam	Hidden honeypot fields and rate limits on registration, contact and booking forms.

Your checklist

- Delete the `install` folder and change the default administrator password.
- Set `$DEBUG_MODE=false` in `config.php`.
- Use HTTPS and keep PHP updated.
- Use a database user that has rights only on the script's database.
- Make sure `config.php` is not readable by other users of the server (permission 640 or 600 where possible).
- Remove demo users and demo content before going live.
- Back up the database and the upload folders regularly (Backup and moving to another server).

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Backup and moving to another server

A complete backup consists of the database and a few folders. The same files are all you need to move the site.

What to back up

Item	Contains
MySQL database	Cars, bookings, users, settings, pages, translations, payments. Export it with phpMyAdmin (format SQL).
`uploaded_images/` and `thumbnails/`	Car photos, logo, favicon and hero image.
`config.php`	Database access and settings.
`languages/`, `templates/`	Only if you changed them.

Move to a new server

1. Export the database from the old server.
2. Create a database and a user on the new server and import the SQL file.
3. Upload all files (including the upload folders) to the new hosting.
4. Edit `config.php` with the new database data (and `$DOMAIN_NAME` if the address changed).
5. Check the folder permissions of `uploaded_images` and `thumbnails`.
6. Open the website, the admin panel, and test a booking and an e-mail.
7. Update the Stripe webhook address and the PayPal settings if the domain is new (Payment settings).

Do not run the installer again on an existing database; the import above is all that is needed.

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Combining with other scripts

The script is built on the same small framework as the other products of the family. That makes combining two products into one website or one admin panel much easier than usual.

What is shared

- `DatabasePDO`, `PageController`, `PageModel` and `TemplateEngine` keep the same names and public methods.
- The admin panel uses the same template, `AdminUI`, `AdminRouter` and `AdminUser` classes and the same admin tables (users, groups, permissions, settings, pages, languages).
- Every table has a configurable prefix, so two scripts can live in one database.
- Language files are arrays of keys and values in the same format.

Typical steps

1. Install both scripts with different table prefixes, or merge into one prefix.
2. Copy the `ADMIN/<category>` folders of one script into the other and merge the arrays in `pages_structure.php`.
3. Copy the extension files of the second script to `extensions/` and attach them to pages (Pages and menu).
4. Merge the permission rows so that groups can open the new pages (Administrators, groups and permissions).
5. Copy `ADMIN/include/admin_helpers.php` and `ADMIN/assets/admin-extra.css` if you use pages that depend on them.

The car pages of the admin use CSS classes starting with `ax-` from `admin-extra.css`, so merged panels do not need inline styles.

CUSTOMIZING & TECHNICAL

Troubleshooting and FAQ

Most problems have a simple cause. Start by setting `$DEBUG_MODE=true` in `config.php` so that PHP and SQL errors are shown, then find your symptom below. Switch it off again afterwards.

Symptom	Likely cause and solution
Blank white page	A PHP error is hidden. Enable `$DEBUG_MODE`. Check that your PHP version is 7.4 or newer and the extensions `pdo_mysql`, `curl`, `gd`, `mbstring` are on.
"Database connection failed"	Wrong host, user, password or database name in `config.php`, or the MySQL user has no rights on the database.
The installer says it cannot write config.php	Make the file or its folder writable, run the installer again, then restore the permissions.
Photos do not upload	Folders `uploaded_images` and `thumbnails` are not writable, the file is larger than 8 MB or than `upload_max_filesize` in `php.ini`, or the GD extension is missing.
"Security token expired"	The page was open for a long time or cookies are blocked. Reload the page and try again.
Logged out too soon	Your server removes sessions quickly. Raise `session.gc_maxlifetime` in `php.ini`.
E-mails do not arrive	Set a sender on your own domain and use SMTP (E-mail and SMTP). Check the spam folder.
Pages show "not found" with SEO URLs	Apache does not read `.htaccess`. Enable `mod_rewrite` and `AllowOverride All`, or switch off *SEO friendly URLs* (General settings).
Language switcher is missing	It needs at least two active languages and the option to show it (Languages).
AI says the key is not configured	Open AI settings, paste the key, save and use the test button. Check the credit balance of your provider.
Stripe: "could not start the payment"	The secret key is wrong or belongs to another mode. Check the key and the currency code (Payment settings).
Payment done but the listing is not live	The listing may be waiting for approval (Managing cars). For bank transfers, mark the payment as paid (Packages and transactions).
A car does not appear on the website	Its status is not Active, it has expired, or it is outside your search filters. Check Managing cars.

Frequently asked questions

Can I use the script on shared hosting?

Yes. It needs only PHP, MySQL and the common extensions. No command line, Composer or Node.js is required.

Do I need an AI key?

No. Without a key the AI buttons show a message and the home page search uses a simple keyword parser. See AI settings.

Can customers pay for the rental online?

In this version online payments are used for *paid listings* (owners paying you). Customers send booking requests that the owner confirms; rental payment is arranged at pick-up.

Can I use my own template?

Yes, see Customizing the template.

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